Comhdáil Blaintuill 2020
CLG Dhún Na nGall

Donegal GAA County Convention 2020

Choiste Dhún na nGall CLG
# Comhdháil Bhliantúil CLG Dhún nan Gall 2020

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Standing Orders for Annual Convention
1. The proposer of a resolution or an amendment shall formally propose the resolution or amendment.
2. A resolution or amendment shall require a formal seconder in order to establish a live debate.
3. The proposer of a resolution or an amendment may speak for five minutes but not more than five minutes.
4. A delegate speaking to a resolution or an amendment must not exceed three minutes.
5. The proposer of a resolution or amendment may speak a second time for three minutes before a vote is taken, but no delegate may speak a second time to the same resolution or amendment.
6. The Chairman may, at any time he considers a matter may be fully discussed, call on the proposer for a reply and when that has been given a vote must be taken.
7. A delegate may, with the consent of the Chairman, move “that the question be now put” after when the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
8. Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on the Clár, except by consent of a majority equal to 60% of those present and entitled to vote.

VOTING PROCEDURES
1. Election Procedures
In accordance with Rule 3.11 (f ), T.O. 20, voting to fill Elective Positions at Annual County Convention shall be on the basis of the Proportional Representation System. For such positions, delegates shall vote for the candidates running, in the order of their choice. A quota will be established based on the number of valid votes cast. The candidate who reaches this quota either though first preference votes or subsequent transfers at a second or subsequent count will be deemed elected. The quota for election is the next highest number to the total number of valid votes divided by the number of vacancies plus one, e.g. in the case of one vacancy to be filled, where 300 valid votes have been cast, the quota would be 151.

2. Voting when more than one position is to be filled
Under the Proportional Representation System, the same overall process is followed where there are two or more positions to be filled. Again, delegates shall vote for the candidates running, in the order of their choice. Similarly, the quota for election is established based on the number of valid votes cast. In cases where two positions are to be filled, the quota for election is the next highest number to the total number of valid votes divided by the number of vacancies plus one, e.g. where 300 valid votes have been cast, the quota would be 101. Candidates who reach this quota either though first preference votes or subsequent transfers at a second or subsequent count will be deemed elected.
Miontuairiscí Chomhdhail Bhliantuíl 2020

Mick Mc Grath, chairperson welcomed everyone to County Convention for 2019. Chairperson of Club Aodh Rua, Cúl na gCurridín, Denis McGill addressed County Convention, and welcomed all to Jackson’s Hotel and wished everyone a very successful convention.

Fr. Arkinson said the opening prayer.

Paul Callaghan addressed Convention to give an outline of the upcoming Club Audit being undertaken by Ulster Council and the importance of clubs completing it.

Standing Orders for County Convention were adopted on the proposal of Gerry Rushe, Robeirt Eomidou and seconded by Fiona Shiels, Gaeil Fhanada.

Glacadh le miontuairiscí na comdhála deiridh ar mholadh Pat Walsh, Realt Na Mara, agus Sean McGinley, Cill Chartha ag tacú leis. No matters were arising.

Mick Mc Grath, Chairperson asked that the Registrar total the delegates who are present and entitled to vote.

Tuarascáil an Rúnaí was adopted on the proposal of Ciaran McKenna Bun an Phobail and seconded by John Ward, An Clochan Liath.

Matters Arising: Terence McGinley asked that all minutes of Sub Committees should be sent to the County secretary after each meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Auditor Enda Bonner to join us at the top table for the Treasurer’s Report. Alan explained that the profit was a result of the Fundraising for the Convoy Development and gave a breakdown of the Income and Expenditure.

Matters arising:

Jim McGlynn acknowledged the Accounts presentation and raised the point that our Current Liabilities are still at €191,000.00 approximately. He asked why Players expenses was down for no apparent reason, Alan said it due to prior year adjustment of figure. Enda Bonner said the increase in Sponsorship was due some sponsorship not paid in previous years.

John Haran, asked why Coaching and game Development payments were down and the Ulster Council grants were up. It was explained that Club payments and Child Protection course are netted off the Coaching expenses. Michael McMenamin asked about the situation of the two Inishowen Scheme Coaches, as no payment was made from September to November. He said that the Cathaoirleach said the coaches would finishing up in December, and he felt this was not fair, and he was looking for assurances that scheme would run to the end of the School year. Mick McGrath said that the Executive had agreed to extend payments until the end of February, he said he would liaise with Michael as the Liaison person from Inishowen.

John Cunningham asked what the historical debt from previous years is and what is the oldest creditor now. Alan said the oldest was 2016 which has since been paid, along with some others.

Alan thanked Cathaoirleach and officers of the Board, as well as Noreen Doherty for her assistance, and Eilis Rushe for the book-keeping, Enda for his work on the Audit of Accounts, and also Paddy Tinney for his work at the Gates for matches.

Tuarascáil an Chisteora was adopted on the proposal of Eddie Walsh, Sean MacCumhaill and seconded by Jim McGlynn, Gaeil Leiter Ceannain.

The Auditor, Enda Bonner wanted to praise Alan for the Accounts wished to thank those who assisted him, especially Eilis Rushe, the County Board Book Keeper who does it on a part time basis and is an excellent book keeper. He thanked Mick McGrath for his work on Fundraising through the year, and also thanked Seamus O Domhnaill for funding received from the County council.

Tuarascáil Oifigeach Chultúrtha agus Teanga- proposed by Connie Maguire, Naomh Adhamhnáin, and seconded by John James McLaughlin, Naomh Columba.

Tuarascáil Coiste Cheannais na gComórtaisi - proposed by Denis McGill, Aodh rua, and seconded by Cormac McGarvey, Naomh Muire.

Liam McElhinney praised the Runaí of the CCC for his work over the five years in the role.
Sean McBrearty praised the Runai for his work, and he wished to point out that Gaeil Leiter Ceannain would not be in a position to play mid week games due to many players working outside the County.

Frankie Doherty thanked Declan for his work on the CCC and wished him the best of luck in new role.

Tuarascáil an Oifigea Chaidrimh Phoiblí was adopted on the proposal of Ryan Walsh, Realt na Mara and seconded by Matt Gallagher, Naomh Brid.

An Cathaoirleach Micheál Mac Craith then addressed County Convention.

Fellow Officers, Club delegates to County Convention, it is once again a great honour for me as Chairman of the County Board Chairman to address you this evening.

The year 2019 has again brought great joy to our Association as our Senior Footballers led the way with winning back to back Ulster titles.

Once again my fellow Officers have shown commitment and dedication to the management of sub-committees throughout our network, and I would publicly acknowledge the support they gave me as Chairman, and the important part they all contribute to retaining the GAA in Donegal, as the top sporting organization in our county.

I congratulate you all and highlight the excellent reports to Convention on your Annual workings.

I congratulate our Secretary Aideen Gillen who completes her 5 year term here tonight. Your report is a record of events in 2019. It’s factual, informative, and outlines many areas of record that has occurred this year. I have already expressed my disappointment on the way that Croke Park treated an admission of administration mix-up, with a heavy handed approach, and to treat a voluntary Officer in such a fashion was not acceptable. Your understandable absence tonight due to the recent death of your husband Martin is totally understood, but we shall all join in thanking you for your service to our Association over the past 5 years.

Thank you Aideen for that commitment.

Our Treasurer Alan Boyd has delivered a comprehensive report, and I acknowledge the positive support he received from Eilis Rushe our bookkeeper, our County Administrator Noreen Doherty, Paddy Tinney Ass Treasurer, and our auditor Enda Bonner.

In particular I appreciate that the Treasurer has contacted all our Creditors and outlined a policy of transparency and communication. I’m confident that our finances are in a manageable situation and regular meetings with our Bankers and the Finance Department in Croke Park has brought the correct professional attributes to our accounting policies, and this must be maintained going forward.

Donegal has managed 3.5million euro through their books in 2019. There has been a few increases that needs addressed, but there has been many reductions and well managed areas that should not go unnoticed, and there was fantastic support from Fundraising efforts in Dublin, London and here in Donegal. I acknowledge that effort, from people who have left Donegal, but Donegal has never left them. I thank them all for their strong and generous support.

The largest fundraiser ever undertaken in our County is currently underway and I ask you all to support this effort. This effort is your effort, this organisation is your organisation, and This Donegal is your Donegal. Support online at winyourhouseindublin.com.

We shall move into our new Donegal GAA Centre in Convoy in 2020, but there is still much to be done, we really need a person in each Club area to lead out on ticket sales and draw awareness over the next few months. We need everyone to contact people from their Club area who live outside the County to purchase a ticket.

Let’s pull together and show our players of today and players of tomorrow, that we can build a GAA Home to be proud of in Donegal. Let’s not be afraid of that challenge, but meet it with the strength that we have.

This time last year we developed a 3-Year Strategic Plan covering 6 areas,

- Club Development,
- Financial Planning,
- Administration,
- Our Infrastructure,
- Games Development and Coaching,
- and A Voice for our Youth.

The County Executive have kept on track with all 6 areas, and I’m delighted that the workings of Anthony Doogan and his Committee In 2018, was designed in a way that was manageable going forward, and I’ve no doubt that it was a fruitful exercise that is already showing healthy signs. It’s important that the objectives, specific actions and the progress indicators are monitored and adhered to.

It’s vital we continue with A Voice for our Youth Seminar Day..... or simple now known as The Youth Forum I recognise the fantastic workings of our Health and Wellbeing Committee in planning that day and to LYIT
Letterkenny on hosting the successful event. It’s so beneficial to our Association that we have members who
give their professional time voluntary to assist some of our members who have difficulties dealing with
darkness, loneliness and sadness. They also have dealt with tragedies and difficulties that have occurred and we
all thank them for that. In recent weeks the Chairman over the last 3 years has indicated he is standing down. I
acknowledge all the Committee but to Kevin Mills from Milford we all thank you for your leadership skills and
the professionalism you showed on many sad occasions in our Clubs. You will be missed.

Our Competition Control Committee under the Chairmanship of Frankie Doherty has succeeded in a
completion of fixtures for the season and they are to be congratulated in that achievement. I would like to see
the area of midweek games and replays reviewed, as players back at college and working outside the County
have difficulty in meeting that demand. Today sees the Completion of a 5 year term as Secretary of the Fixtures
Committee by Declan Martin. We all thank you for your workings and restructuring of fixtures, you leave
things in a good place, we all wish you well in your elevation to the position of County Secretary.

The Hearings Committee under the Chairmanship of Aodh Mairtin O Fearraigh and Secretary Fidelma Doherty
have managed their business in a fair, firm way that was understood and excepted by all. Rules are Rules, and
as I said last year, we must all abide by them.

Thank you for your efforts.

Under the guidance of Fergus Mc Gee our Scor Committee progressed to their 50th Anniversary In 2019. This
was celebrated with a special concert in Letterkenny which was the highlight of the Scor year, and it was a
fantastic night’s enjoyment for the large audience that attended.

The Hurling Committee had a new Chairman in Manus O Donnell and a new Secretary in Paddy Lennon in
2019, and once again great development continues to take place at undergraduate level, with many of these now
progressing into our senior squad. Micky Mc Cann continues as Senior Manager and we wish him well in 2020.
Our Minor Footballers and U-20 Hurling and Footballers squads, put in great efforts, and I thank the players,
Managers and backroom for their efforts. Underage is about developing for the future, and many of this year’s
players at both Hurling and Football will go on and play Senior for Donegal. I thank you all.

Our Senior Footballers won The NFL Div. 2 and the Ulster Championship and a list of injuries came at the
wrong time as the Super 8 All Ireland Qtr. Finals arrived. Thank you to Declan Bonner and his players and
backroom team, for their commitment, and achievements.

The Referees Committee covered all fixtures in a busy year, and I thank Michele Bennett, Frank Dooley and
their Committee for their endeavours. I encourage all Clubs to assist with the new recruitment drive that they
currently have in place.

I applaud the Minor Board for their efforts of review and restructuring. I’m aware that recruiting new members
to the Minor Board and Regional Boards can be difficult, but outlining areas that are overloading can only be
helpful in a achieving a smoother structure. I acknowledge the workings of the Regional Boards for the amount
of games they output each year, but I highlight Jim Quinn who has excelled in an overstretched workload. I
thank Ed Byrne and Gary Duffy who undertook the role of Chairman at different times throughout the year.
I also acknowledge our Central Council Delegate Seamus O Domhnaill who completes his 5 year term in Croke
Park. He has represented Donegal in a firm and well received way in the corridors of headquarters. He was
elected onto the Management Committee which I know he has performed well on, and he has assisted his
County whenever and whatever he was tasked to do.

I thank you Seamus for that.

PJ Mc Gowan and Ed Byrne were our 2 delegates to Ulster Council and I know both are well respected on the
committees they serve on. Ed Byrne has decided not to seek re-election for next year, and I thank him for his
journeys to Armagh in representing his County.

There wasn’t a long line of names for the position of PRO at last year’s Convention, but John Mc Eniff was
recruited in January and has excelled in the position, as he brought his own skill, and workings around the role.
His report to Convention today shows the importance and growth of social media and the figures show our new
communication networking worldwide. We have taken a step forward in this field and I thank you John for your
workings, and publications, especially the Yearbook....

There were some difficult cases in and around the area of the Children’s Officer this year. Many can be solved
and were, internally within Club areas, and I acknowledge the professionalism in that field from our Children’s
Officer Gary Duffy. Gary has completed 3 years in that role and has decided to stand down, and I thank him for
his workings and wish him well in the future. The County Executive shall select a replacement in the next few
weeks.

Aaron Kyles was appointed the new Games Development Manager in March and has slotted into his role in a
professional manner. He is currently over viewing in conjunction with Croke Park and the Ulster Council our total Coaching strategy, incorporating all their new directions and targets. We must strive to maintain our Coaching grants and where we can attain increased areas of support to assist our development. We have a Coaching Steering Committee working on this area of review, and change is being envisaged going forward. We will work with our current Coach’s after the National HR Review committee complete their program, in which direction we are being advised to go.

I outlined to last year’s Convention that under our Coaching Officer Conor Mc Dermott there would be restructuring in 2019 and with the arrival of our new GAA Centre, we shall have the facilities shortly to accommodate Seminars, Coaching Education, Child Protection Courses, and changing facilities to bring our players and Coach’s in both Football and Hurling to a modern place of improvement. We all look forward to its implementation, and we must be prepared and programmed for its arrival.

Our Development Officer David Mc Loone has been under extreme pressure in the construction of our new building in Convoy, as well as all his other tasks. He has shown his true skills in overseeing a gigantic voluntary project. His report shows his dedication to delivering this project for our County. I know he above all will be delighted when the key is turned.

In conclusion I thank our County Administrator Noreen Doherty for her assistance to me as Chairman. To all our sponsors, supporters and members, thank you for another great year in Donegal GAA.

I wish all Clubs good luck in 2020, and I look forward to working with you all going forward.

Paddy Doherty Returning Officer was asked to remind the delegates on the P.R. Voting System.

The following tellers were appointed:-

East: Oliver Prunty
North West: Annmarie Kelly
South: Pat Walsh
South West: Mary Kelly
Inishowen: Sean McBride

An Cathaoirleach stated that we would check the register before we moved on. He confirmed that the voting strength was 162.

**Election of Officers**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cathaoirleach</th>
<th>Mick Mc Grath</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leas Chathaoirleach</td>
<td>Frankie Doherty</td>
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<td>Rúnaí</td>
<td>Declan Martin</td>
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<td>Leas Rúnaí</td>
<td>We will be seeking nominations from Clubs for next County Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cisteoir</td>
<td>Alan Boyd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leas Chisteoir</td>
<td>Paddy Tinney</td>
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<td>Oifigeach Caidrimh Poiblí</td>
<td>John McEniff</td>
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<td>Oifigeach Cultúir</td>
<td>Fergus Mc Gee</td>
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<td>Oifigeach Oiliúna</td>
<td>Conor Mc Dermott</td>
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<td>Toscaire Ard Chomhairle</td>
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<td>Toscaire Comhairle Uladh</td>
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<td>Toscairí go Comhdháil</td>
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<td>Bhliantúil Chomhairle Uladh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toscaire go Comhdháil Bhliantúil CLG</td>
<td>Frankie Doherty</td>
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On recommendation from County Committee David Mc Loone as Oifigeach Forbartha. We will look for a nomination for Children’s Officer

As there were three names Sean Dunnion, Ed Byrne and PJ McGowan for Toscaire Ard Chomhairle a vote took place.

The Chairperson advised of the result for the Ard Chomhairle representative. The total electorate was 162, total votes cast 161, The Quota 81
Votes of First Count  
Ed Byrne 66 Votes  
Sean Dunnion 58 Votes  
P.J. Mc Gowan 37 Votes Eliminated

Votes of Second Count, transfer of PJ’s votes;  
Ed Byrne +10 76 Votes  
Sean Dunnion +22 80 Votes Elected.  
Non Transferable 5 votes.

An Cathaoirleach congratulated Sean Dunnion.  
As there were four names P.J. Mc Gowan, Liam Mc Elhinney, Brendan Kelly and Seamus Ó Domhnaill for Toscaire Comhairle Uladh a vote took place.  
The Chairperson advised of the result for the Ulster Council representative. The total electorate was 162, total votes cast 155, The Quota 52

Votes of First Count  
Seamus O Domhnaill 93 Votes Elected  
PJ McGowan 30 Votes  
Brendan Kelly 26 Votes  
Liam McElhinney 6 Votes

Votes of Second Count, transfer of Seamus’ Surplus of 41 votes;  
PJ McGowan +12 42 Votes  
Brendan Kelly +16 42 Votes  
Liam McElhinney +13 19 Votes Eliminated.  
Non Transferable 0 votes.

Votes of Third Count, transfer of Liam’s 19 votes;  
PJ McGowan +7 49 Votes Elected.  
Brendan Kelly +5 47 Votes  
Non Transferable 7 votes.

An Cathaoirleach congratulated Seamus O Domhnaill and PJ McGowan.  
As there were two names Frankie Doherty and PJ McGowan for Toscaire go Comhdháil Bhliantúil CLG a vote took place.  
The Chairperson advised of the result:  
Frankie Doherty 96 Votes Elected.  
PJ McGowan 55 Votes  
An Cathaoirleach congratulated Frankie Doherty.  
The Chairperson stated that as we did not require the tellers any longer, Mick wished to thank them for doing their work and to Patrick Doherty in particular for overseeing the elections.  
Tuarascáil Oifigeach Forbartha – Proposed by Christy Dunleavney, Naomh Naille and seconded by Eddie Walsh.

Tuarascáil Rúnaí Choiste na Leanáí - proposed by Michelle McKenna, Bun Cranncha and seconded by Cathy Kelly, Aodh Rua.  
Mick McGrath thanked Gary Duffy for his excellent work as Children’s Officer.

Tuarascáil Choiste Liathróid Láimhe – proposed by Manus O Donnell, An Beart and seconded by Gerry Rushe.

Tuarascáil Choiste Iomanaíochta - proposed by Jason Ewing, Setanta, and seconded by Damian Dowds, An Beart.

Tuarascáil Oifigeach Oiliúna - proposed by Brendan Kelly, Naomh Mhuire, Convoy and seconded by Tommy McGlinchey, Aodh Rua.  
Michael McMenamin asked when the Coaching Review is due to County Committee, Conor said it was ongoing and will be presented when completed

Tuarascáil Choiste Réiteoirí – proposed by Brendan Kelly and seconded by Cathy Kelly.

Tuarascáil Choiste Folláine agus Sláinte – proposed by Liam Ward, Gleann Finne and seconded by David Kelch, Naomh Conaill.  
Cloich Ceann Fhaola, Gleann Finne, Gleann tSuilí and Aodh Rua, all wished to thank Kevin Mills for his expertise, help, guidance and follow-up during their club’s recent tragic bereavements.

Tuarascáil Choiste na hIar Bhunscoileanna – proposed by Eddie Walsh and seconded by Eamon Campbell.
Tuarascáil Rúnaí Chumann na mBhunscoileanna – proposed by Manus O Donnell and seconded by John Ward.

Tuarascáil Rúnaí an Choiste Éisteachta – was adopted on the proposal of David Kelch and seconded by Tommy McGlinchey.

Tuarascáil Ard Chomhairle - was adopted on the proposal of Liam Ward and seconded by Jason Ewing.

Tuarascáil Chomhairle Uladh (1) – P.J. Mc Gowan’s report was proposed by Eddie Walsh and seconded by Pauric McCroary, Naomh Padraig, Leifear.

Ciaran McKenna should Donegal still support the Planning Application or Casement Park.

Tuarascáil Chomhairle Uladh (2) Ed Byrne’s report was adopted on the proposal of Denis McGill and seconded by John Baker Boyle, Na Cealla Beaga.

Tuarascáil Choiste Pleanáil Cluichí was proposed by Terence McGinley, Naomh Ultan and seconded by Eddie Walsh.

That concluded the Officer’s Reports.

Brain Dolan, addressed the Convention on behalf of the Win your House in Dublin Draw committee.

He outlined the Draw to date and gave an update on the work that is currently being undertaken. He highlighted that they will need help from clubs to get information out to club members. He asked that all clubs forward a contact person to the committee and to get as many posts on the draw, as possible onto their Social Media outlets. He said that working together we could make the Draw work successful for the County.

Motions:

Amend Bye/Law 4.7 Transfers to read Transfers shall be in accordance with R. 6.5 and 6.7, T.O. 2019.

a) All applications for inter club transfers within the County shall be made on official application form.

b) A transfer shall not be granted unless the player satisfies the Competitions Control Committee that his new address is or has been his/her prime sole residence, for a period of three (3) months, prior to the date of receipt of application, within the club Catchment Area, as approved by the County Committee, of the club he/she wishes to transfer to.

Applications for adult player inter-club transfer within the county shall be submitted to An Runai Chontae on or before 1st June each year.

1. In deciding on Inter Club transfers for adult players the Competition & Control Committee should only consider the request if the relevant player demonstrates that he has moved permanent residence to the catchment area of the club which he wishes to transfer to or demonstrated that he has any other relevant connection with the club. (as defined in Bye/Law 4.8).

2. The Competitions and control committee shall also have discretion, depending on the circumstance, to grant a transfer if the club the player is leaving has no objection not withstanding any other provisions of these bye/laws.

3. Applications for youth members Inter club transfers within the county shall be submitted to An Runai Chontae on or before January 31st each year.

(a) Exception Where An coiste Bainsti, on the recommendation of the County Children’s officer supported by the National Children’s officer authorises the Competition and control committee to consider an application received at a later date.

(b) where the member can provide evidence that he/she has moved permanent residence for a period of three (3) months prior to the date of receipt of application, within the club catchment area as approved by the County Committee, of the club he/she wishes to transfer to.

In deciding on Inter Club transfers for Youth members the Competition and Control Committee shall have regard to the Ethos of the association as set out in Rule 6.1 T.O 2019, the current Permanent Residence of the applicant, and any other relevant connections (as defined in Bye/Law 4.8) the member may have with the club to which he wishes to transfer.

C.L.G Na Cealla Beaga

2 Amend Bye/Law 4.8 to read Attachment to First Club: In accordance with Rule 6.4 T.O 2019, a person shall only be entitled to join a club within the confines of the catchment area of his permanent residence. A person seeking to become a member of the association shall be restricted to joining a club in the catchment area of his permanent residence or a club with which he has “Other” relevant connections (as defined in Bye/Law 4.8). Permanent residence for the purposes of these bye/laws shall be as defined in rule 6.3 TO 2019. Other relevant connections:

A member shall be regarded as having an “Other relevant Connection” with a Catchment area if

a) A sibling of the player in question is already registered and is currently eligible to play in official competitions for the club with which the player wishes to become a member.
That either parent were previously resident in the catchment area of the club.
C.L.G Na Cealla Beaga

3 Amend Bye/Law 4.9 to read Grading of clubs and players
1) All grading shall be effected in compliance with Rule 6.19 & 6.20 TO 2019.
2) The adult championship Grades shall be know as
   Senior (A B &C)
   Intermediate (A & B)
   Junior (A & B)
   Under 21 (A & B)
3) Applications for regarding by clubs and players must be made in writing to the county secretary not later that 30th April each year.
4) In exceptional circumstances due to injury or otherwise, clubs may request regarding after April 30th decline.
C.L.G Na Cealla Beaga

Ed Byrne spoke on these motions. He stated that he hoped there would be further discussions on these matters during discussions on Boundary Catchment area sub-committee report to County Committee. Therefore Na Cealla Beaga were withdrawing the motions, in order to allow further time for clubs to discuss the matter.

4. Amend Bye-Law 4.3 regarding the composition of the County Minor Sub-Committee and County Minor Sub-Committee Competitions Control Committee (CCC) to include provision for the following:
   1.1 a Vice-Chairperson who shall also act as Chairperson of the County Minor Sub-Committee CCC;
   1.2 an Assistant Secretary who shall also act as Secretary of the County Minor CCC with responsibility for Fixtures, including arranging venues, and be fully trained in the use of Servasport;
   1.3 an Assistant Secretary who shall also act as Secretary of the County Minor CCC with responsibility for Disciplinary matters arising from the staging of Games;
   1.4 the Chairperson of the County Minor Sub-Committee shall be appointed from among the nominees provided for in the increased composition.
Gaeil Leiter Ceannain

Jim Quinn proposed an amendment to include two members of each Divisional Board and Hurling Board, and the Fixtures Analyst.
This was accepted and seconded by Jim McGlynn.
Motion was carried, as there was no votes against.

An Cathaoirleach, Mick Mc Grath thanked the Aodh Rua Club for hosting Convention tonight in conjunction with the Jackson’s Hotel.
That concluded the business of Convention.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Craobh</th>
<th>Buaiteoiri</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sinsear A</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sinseair C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idirmheánaich A</td>
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<tr>
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NUMBER OF DELEGATES ENTITLED TO VOTE

In accordance with Rule 3.10, T.O. 2020, Annual Convention shall consist of the Officers and members of the outgoing Committee and representation from each Club which competed in a Junior or a higher grade Championship of the current year as decided by the County Management Committee. County Bye-Law no. 2 define the County Committee as being comprised of the County Management committee, The referee’s Administrator, plus 1 delegate each from Handball Board, Bunscoil, Post Primary Schools, Choiste Iomana the three Divisional Sub-Committees

The Maximum affiliation which can be accepted in 2020 from one unit or group is two.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
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<th>Club</th>
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IOMLÁN: 80

Other

| County Chairman                  | 1                | County Secretary                 | 1                |
| County Treasurer                 | 1                | Ulster Council Delegates         | 2                |
| County Asst. Treasurer           | 1                | P.R.O.                           | 1                |
| County Vice Chairman             | 1                | County Asst. Secretary           | 1                |
| Co. Development Officer          | 1                | Central Council Delegate         | 1                |
| Oifigeach na Gaeilge             | 1                | Children’s Officer               | No Outgoing.     |
| Vocational Schools Board         | 1                | Cumann na mBunscoil              | 1                |
| Handball Board                   | 1                | Coaching Officer                 | 1                |
| Northern Board                   | 1                | Southern Board                   | 1                |
| Inishoven Board                  | 1                | Hurling Board                    | 1                |
| Referee’s Administrator          | 1                |                                  |                  |

IOMLÁN: 101
Cuirim fáilte romhaibh uilig anseo chuig Comhdháil Bhliantúil CLG Dhún na n Gall 2020. Is cúis mór bróid dom tuarascáil bliantúil an Rúnaí Condaí don bhliain 2020 a chur os bhur gcóir anocht. Bhí bliain iontach gnóthach againn I mbliana agus caithfidh mé mo bhuíochas a ghabhail leis na hOifigigh ar fad as a gcuid oibre ar son CLG Dhún na nGall agus do na fóchumainn uilig as a gcomh oibriú agus a dtacaíocht I rith na bliana.

I wish to welcome you all to the Donegal GAA 2020 County Convention. It is a pleasure to present my report which includes details of the activities in Donegal during the past year. We have had a very busy year and I must thank all the Officers for their work on behalf of the Donegal GAA and all the sub-committees for their co-operation and support throughout the year.

It has been a very different year for the GAA in Donegal, but one that our members can look on with pride and satisfaction. The Year has been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, and it has been difficult for all units of our Association both inside and outside Donegal. Microsoft team or Zoom meetings are becoming the norm, and it is a new and interesting venture for us all.

On the playing fields our County Hurlers have been successful in winning the Nickey Rackard Cup and Allianz Hurling Division 3A League, which was a great achievement for the Team. Our County footballers successfully maintained their Allianz League Division 1 status after a break of 7 months between the first five games and the last two. Unfortunately after two good performances in the Ulster Championship, we lost the final to Cavan. We have now reached the Ulster Final in 9 out of the last 10 years, but I know this will be of little consolation to the Management, backroom and players as well as all Gaels in Donegal.

When we look back on 2020 it will be measured in different ways than most previous years. Covid-19 has made the year a difficult one for all our Clubs and it has been heartening to see the many ways that the members of our association have worked to help the health and well-being of our members and indeed all the people in our communities.

The difficulties of 2020 will be felt right through to 2021. All units of the association have been hampered in many of the basic practices that are carried out on a daily and weekly basis. Closing the gates of our grounds has been difficult for all our members. Financially, all units have found it difficult to fundraise, as door to door lotto sellers could not carry out this basic function. Going forward into 2021 we are looking at similar periods ahead, and we hope that we can get back to some form of normality as soon as possible.

Our Association is based on the Parish Clubs and this has never been to the fore more than 2020 in the face of adversity. The work by many volunteers in supplying food and essential requirements to the elderly and vulnerable in our societies has been inspirational and the actions incorporate the ethos of inclusivity for all. Donegal County Council coordinated a Community Response Helpline, for whom our Cathairleach Mick McGrath acted as liaison officer, and most of our clubs got involved in assisting the supply of goods and information to our communities, either directly or through their own Parish workgroups and enterprise schemes.

We remain dedicated to the promotion of our games, culture and pastimes and through this year, it has been difficult for our CCC’s to plan and complete fixture plans for the clubs of the County. The CCC’s completed new Fixture schedules for the Return to play, and got some Championships completed. All competitions would have been completed if there had not been a second wave of the virus in October, which put our competitions in jeopardy. I would praise the different CCC’s for the way they worked together in order to get a busy schedule of games from July through to the beginning of October. Unfortunately, some of the competitions will not be completed due to the second wave of the virus and we can only now plan for the 2021 season.

We look forward to a clearer plan for the GAA in 2021 but we can expect some further disruption in the early months of 2021, we will have to wait to see what Fixture plan can be proposed for both County and Club football in the year ahead. The virus is almost certainly going to be with us well into next year, but there are a lot of promising signs in the search for a vaccine. With care and by taking precautions, we can get on with our games and lives and reach better times. If each of our units do what is under our control and the scientists and medical professionals do all they can, this too will pass.
I would like to congratulate and thank the Development Officer, David McLoone, on the magnificent completion of the Donegal GAA Centre in Convoy. This new home for Donegal GAA Administration and Pitches is a welcome venture during the difficult year we have had. Thanks to the Contractors, McDermott and Treaty, for their dedication to make sure the development has been completed. We look forward to County Committee meetings and many other meetings being able to take place at the venue. This venture could not be completed without the great work of the House Draw Committee; it is a great achievement to have all tickets sold in time for the draw on Friday the 4th of December. There has been a lot of hard work gone into the sales of the tickets and I would like to thank the Cathaoirleach for the drive that he has shown to get this venture over the line. I would also like to thank all the clubs for their work in securing sales of the tickets in their localities. This year the advent of streaming of our Club Championship matches came to the fore. Our PRO, John McEniff has worked tirelessly throughout the year overseeing this initiative. Great credit has to be given to John and the CCC for the staging of matches throughout all Adult Championships to allow as many people as possible get to watch their own club play their games and also get to watch the closing stages of all our Competitions. It goes without saying that there was always going to be difficulties in the Internet connections at all the different grounds around the County, and for some individuals the streaming did not run smoothly. However, on looking at data from the streamers most games went well, and streams have been very successful. John also deserves praise for producing Virtual Programmes for all the knockout games in the Championships. We would like to thank the majority of clubs for their assistance to John in getting their squads in with the correct numbers, so that their own members could identify players immediately with the correct jerseys. Unfortunately some managers still feel the need to change their player’s numbers on the day of the match to try to gain an advantage over their opponents. This was highlighted at one of our County Finals this year, and it is disrespectful to the PRO and County Executive and Media, but more importantly it was very unfair to the members of our association who rely on the Media to accurately inform them on commentary as to who is performing well and scoring at matches. We hope that this practice will stop and Club Managers will show their own supporters and those of opposing teams the respect that is deserved. Going into 2021, there will be more than likely still be supporter restraints so more live streaming will be carried out, so we would ask all clubs to cooperate with our PRO for the smooth running of the events.

Online Coaching webinars have also become the norm for 2020. Aaron Kyles and Conor McDermott have worked well in creating Coaching Forums and also uploading Skills videos onto the Donegal GAA platforms. More information is supplied on Conor’s report.

**Hurling / Iomanafocht**

2020 has been a very successful year for the Donegal Hurlers. Despite suffering an opening day defeat in the Allianz National Hurling League at home against Armagh, they followed this with two away wins against Tyrone and Louth, and a home win against Monaghan in February. A last round win against Longford, meant they qualified for Allianz Division 3A final against Armagh. On this occasion Donegal emerged victorious to claim the National League Division 3A title.

After the lockdown, Donegal got their Nicky Rackard Cup Senior campaign off to a brilliant start with a good win over Longford, further victories against Armagh and Tyrone qualified them for the Final against Mayo. A strong finish in Croke Park, secured our second Nicky Rackard Cup success in three years. Huge congratulations to Mickey McCann, Jamsie Donnelly, Gabriel O’Neill and all the rest of the backroom team and the players for this great success.

Unfortunately no other Inter County Hurling was able to take place in 2020.

**Senior County Football/ Peil Sinsear Condae**

Our Footballers maintained Division status for 2021. The competition commenced on the 25th of January, with a home game versus Mayo. A late goal meant the game ended in a draw. This was followed by a victory over Meath on the 2nd of March. Two defeats followed against Galway and Dublin, putting pressure on our League Status. A victory over Monaghan eased the worries but then we had to wait until the 18th of October, before we played Tyrone, and a victory secured our Division 1 status for 2021. A last round defeat to Kerry brought our campaign to an end.

Due to a clash of Fixtures with the first round of the Sigerson Cup and the McKenna Cup semi final, a decision was reluctantly taken to withdraw for the McKenna Cup. Donegal held this competition in the highest regard, but unfortunately due to the number of players missing, it was not possible to play the Semi Final on the scheduled date.
Congratulations to Letterkenny IT on successfully making the semifinals of the Sigerson Cup, for the first time in their history.

Craobh Peile / Championship
The Covid-19 Virus meant that there would be no backdoor system in place in the Championship in 2020. A long awaited Ulster Championship first round game against Tyrone finally arrived on the 1st of November, and on a miserable day we emerged victorious. A brilliant performance against Armagh in Breffni Park secured our ninth Ulster Final in 10 years. However this was as good as it got, with Cavan depriving us of an historic three in a row. We wish them good luck in their All Ireland Campaign.

Thank you to all our players, Our Manager Declan Bonner, Karl Lacey, Stephen Rochford, Paul Mc Gonigle, Gary Boyle for all their hard work during 2020. Thanks also to Packie Mc Dyre who was in charge of logistics. Thanks must also go to their extended backroom team for their efforts during the year.

Under 20 Team / Foireann faoi 20
I would like to thank Shaun Paul Barrett, Sylvester Maguire, Neilly Byrne and Darren Nash for their work with this team. The team also qualified for the Ulster Final in 2020, after good victories over Monaghan and Down. However Tyrone were too strong in the Final. They also competed in the Leo Murphy Cup and started with a draw with Derry, prior to a victory over Roscommon, and a draw away to Mayo, meant we lost out on scoring difference only.

County Championships & Leagues / Craobh & Sraith na Condae
Unfortunately the County Senior and Minor Football Finals have still to be scheduled due to the second wave of Covid-19 hitting the County in October. Setanta completed back to back hurling tiles in the County by defeating Naomh Adhamhánáin in the Final, and Carn Domhnach won the County Junior Hurling Championship by beating An Clochan Liath in the Final. Aodh Ruadh confirmed their place in the Senior Championship in 2021 by winning the intermediate Football Championship and Naomh Mhuire, Conmaigh won the Junior Football Championship. No other Championships or Leagues will be completed this year, due to Level 5 Lockdown lasting for 6 weeks.

Sponsorship/ Urraiocht
We thank our main Sponsor, the KN Group for their continued support as Tier 1 sponsors of our County teams. The Abbey Hotel are our continued Tier Two sponsors and we thank them for his support. We also thank our Kit suppliers and sponsors O’ Neills. We are delighted to have all our other sponsors on board also –Michael Murphy Sports and Leisure who sponsor our Championships, Brian McCormack sports, Marley Travel, Yes Chefg, and Jimmy McGlynn catering for their League sponsorship. We would also like to welcome Global Hydrate as our Hydration Partner for 2020 and 2021. We would also like to thank our other partners for their continued support.

Insurance Schemes Players’ injury Scheme Premium paid from the county €170,200
Property & Public Liability premium paid from the county €198,800
As highlighted in the Secretary’s report to last year’s county convention major changes took place this year regarding player Injury benefit Fund.
The main changes were
• DWF were appointed the new claims Administrators on behalf of the GAA. They replaced Willis Towers Watson.
• All claims to be submitted online.
• Payments for club players to be paid directly from DWF to clubs. The County Administrator no longer processes these payments.
• Alleviate the work on our Club \\ County Officers.
• Faster turnaround on affiliated units receiving payments.
• Receive a report each month of all of the payments issued for units within the County and also a report on all claims registered for units within the County.
• A new reporting portal will have the capabilities to accept the required documentation via scanned copies scanned receipts, wage slips; medical, declaration sections etc will be acceptable without the requirement to post in originals.
• The County Secretary administrator will no longer be required to sign off the county declaration on the paper form.

Due to payments been made directly to clubs we no longer have relevant information regarding the total amount paid out to the county over the year. The total premium paid into the fund by the clubs and county board was €170,200 last year.

However from the experience of the County Administrator who administrator the scheme for county players she has found that while this new system was introduced to alleviate the workload both at club and county level this was not her experience. The payments are much slower that that experienced with previous Claims administrators. Also a requirement now is the production of a Referee’s report where before if a referee’s report could not be located a letter from the County Administrator/County secretary confirming that the injury occurred was sufficient.

Claims Validation
The Insurance renewal year runs from January 1st – December 31st. It is therefore important that clubs ensure that they have their playing members registered before they commence training or playing.

If a claim is notified and the claimant is not in the membership system at the date of his claim or is registered after the injury date, the claim will be declined, and no appeals will be considered.

Claims must also be aware if a preliminary notification is submitted on behalf of a player and in the interim, he goes back playing or training then a new claim must be submitted.

Property & Public Liability Insurance
During the year with the inactivity at club level various clubs queried the payment of this premium.

It was confirmed by Croke Park that the Property/Public Liability insurance premium for 2020 was collectable as the “Liability & Property Insurance” policies were required to remain fully in place and operational for all affiliated units despite the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.

Permission was in place for continued essential ground works including pitch maintenance and property checks to prevent any property damage occurring at this time.

While a refund of 2020 premiums paid will be sought by Croke Park due to the current inactivity, it is unlikely that one will be received owing to the Association’s current claims experience and history. Our Insurers have however committed to include this request as part of the upcoming premium renewal negotiations.

Therefore, we in the county were charged with the responsibility of collecting these premiums which proved very difficult as clubs income streams were greatly reduced.

As you know the County Board collect this premium for submitting on to Croke Park however going forward it is planned that this premium will be paid directly to Croke park similar to how the Player Injury premium is collected.

At the time of writing my report the premium for 2021 is not yet received but it is hoped that there maybe a reduction for 2021.

IT Governance: Croke Park at the moment are scheduling a number of webinars and online training for County officers and administrators’ part of which includes

• How IT Governance can be implemented in practical terms
• Roles and Responsibilities:
• Governance Policy
• Data & Confidentially policy
• GAA Data Protection

It was highlighted the importance of storing information and the governance around this. As all club administrators know this is a midfield especially around Data protection. The matter of who is responsible for this at club and county level needs to be clarified. However one issue that must be addressed by all clubs is the control and usage of club email addresses. The practice of different club persons having access to club email addresses must be discontinued. Each club officer email address and password must only be used by that designated officer and should not be shared with any other officer or person. When a club officer vacates his/her club role the password for that officer’s email must be changed immediately and no password from previous officer should be transferred to new officer.
Control of Data
Data is collected and stored in accordance with Data protection Act. Thus personal data must be
- Obtained and processed fairly and lawfully
- Held only for specified purposes
- Adequate, relevant and not excessive
- Not kept longer than necessary
- Kept secure and protected.

Breach of confidentiality
Any members who breaches confidentiality may be subject to the GAA disciplinary procedures

Clárú Baill / Membership Registration

31st October 2020  31st March ’19
* Total Membership  21990  19922
* Full Members  11677  10667
* Youth Members  9957  9,132
* Honorary Members  57  52
* Social Members  121  61
* Adult Players  3058  2581
* U21 Players  1611  1079
* Minor Players  553  913
* Juvenile Players  8710  7219
* In 2016, there were 13,400 full members and 9,577 youth members registered in Donegal, a total of 22,977
* In 2017 there were 12,171 full members and 9,228 youth members registered in Donegal a Total of 21,399
* In 2018 there were 11,258 full members and 9,132 youth members registered in Donegal a Total of 20,390
* In 2019 there were 10677 full members and 9132 youth members registered in Donegal a Total of 19809
* In 2020 there were 11,855 full members and 9,957 youth members registered in Donegal a Total of 21812

Transfers / Aistrithe

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Number of outgoing transfers per club during 2020
8 St. Eunans,
6 NaomhMuire, Red Hughes,
5 Carndonagh, NaomhConaill,
4 Ardara, Beart, Four Masters,
3 Convoy, Dungloe, GaothDobhair, Killybegs, Letterkenny Gaels, NaomhColumba, Termon,
2 Buncrana, Bundoran, Glenfin, Naomh Brid, Lifford, NaomhPdraig Muff, Sean Mac Cumhaills, Setanta, St. Nauls,
1 AodhRuadh, Cloughaneely, Downings, Fanad Gaels, Kilcar, Malin, Na Rossa, NaomhColmcille, NaomhUltan, St. Michaels, Urris.

Number of incoming transfers per club during 2020
6 – Carndonagh, Setanta,
5 – Aodh Ruadh, Lifford, Dungloe,
4 - Convoy, Four Masters, Pettigo, Letterkenny Gaels,
3 – Buncrana, St. Michaels,
2 - Cloughaneely, Ardara, Naomh Conaill, Killybegs, St. Nauls, Termon,
1 - Downings, Kilcar, NaomhColmcille, Naomh Muire Lower Rosses, Moville, Naomh Columba, Sean Mac Cumhaills, Naomh Padraig Muff, Naomh Uclatan, Na Rossa, Fanad Gaels, Red Hughes,

Results 2020/Torthaí 2020

Mc Kenna Cup round 1, Sunday 5th January
At Ballybofey
Donegal 1-12
Monaghan 0-14
Donegal : Shaun Patton, Caolan Ward, Brendan McCole, Paul Brennan (0-01), Ryan McHugh, Conor O’Donnell (St. Eunans) (0-01), Jeaic McKelvey, Caolan McGonagle, Michael Langan (0-03), Daire O Baoill (0-01), Eoin McHugh (0-01), Jamie Brennan (0-04), Peadar Mogan (1-01), Daniel Clarke, Eoghan McGettigan.
Subs: Cian Mulligan, Andrew McClean, Aaron Deaney, Ethan O’Donnell, Conor Morrison.

Mc Kenna Cup Round 2, Wednesday 8th January
At Celtic Park, Derry
Donegal 1-10
Derry 0-08
Donegal : Michael Lynch, Caolan Ward (1-01), Brendan McCole, Paul Brennan, Jeaic McKelvey, Conor O’Donnell (St. Eunans), Conor Morrison, Caolan McGonagle, Michael Langan (0-03), Daire O Baoill (0-02), Eoin McHugh, Ethan O’Donnell (0-01), Peadar Mogan (0-02), Michael Carroll, Eoghan McGettigan.
Subs: Ciaran Thompson, Daniel Clarke, Andrew McClean (0-01), Aaron Deaney, Ciaran Diver

Allianz FL Division 1, Sunday 25th January 2020
At Ballybofey,
Donegal 0-19
Mayo 2-13
DONEGAL: Shaun Patton, Caolan Ward, Neil McGee, Eoghan Ban Gallagher, Odhran McFadden-Ferry, Conor O’Donnell (St. Eunans), Paul Brennan (0-01), Caolan McGonagle (0-01), Michael Langan (0-01), Eoin McHugh, Ryan McHugh (0-01), Jamie Brennan (0-03), Ciaran Thompson (0-03), Michael Murphy (0-08), Peadar Mogan.
Subs: Hugh McFadden, Jeaic McKelvey, Brendan McCole, Conor Morrison, Andrew McClean (0-01).
Allianz FL Division 1, Sunday 2nd February 2020
At Pairc Tailteann, Navan,
Donegal 3-08
Meath 0.07
**Donegal**: Shaun Patton, Caolan Ward, Neil McGee, Eoghan Ban Gallagher, Odhran McFadden-Ferry(1-00), Conor O’Donnell(St. Eunans), Paul Brennan, (0-01), Hugh McFadden(0-01), Michael Langan(1-01), Eoin McHugh, Ryan McHugh, Jamie Brennan(0-02), Ciaran Thompson(0-01), Michael Murphy(1-02), Peadar Mogan.
**Subs:** Niall O’Donnell(0-01), Jeaic McKelvey, Brendan McCole, Conor Morrison, Andrew McClean.

Allianz FL Division 1, Sunday 9th February 2020
At Letterkenny,
Donegal 2-08
Galway 2-07
**Donegal**: Shaun Patton, Caolan Ward, Neil McGee, Eoghan Ban Gallagher, Ryan McHugh, Conor O’Donnell(St. Eunans), Odhran McFadden-Ferry, Caolan McGonagle, Michael Langan, Eoin McHugh, Peadar Mogan(0-01), Paul Brennan, Ciaran Thompson(1-01), Michael Murphy(1-03), Jamie Brennan(0-02).
**Subs:** Niall O’Donnell, Andrew McClean, Daire Ó Baoill.

Allianz FL Division 1, Saturday 22nd February 2020
At Croke Park
Donegal 1-14
Dublin 1-15
**Donegal**: Shaun Patton, Caolan Ward, Neil McGee, Eoghan Ban Gallagher, Ryan McHugh, Daire O Baoill, Odhran McFadden-Ferry, Hugh McFadden(1-01), Michael Langan(0-01), Paul Brennan, Ciaran Thompson(0-02), Caolan McGonagle, Peadar Mogan(0-02), Michael Murphy(0-05), Jamie Brennan(0-02).
**Subs:** Patrick McBrearty(0-01), Niall O’Donnell, Eoin McHugh, Brendan McCoile.

Allianz FL Division 1, Sunday 1st March 2020
At Ballyshannon
Donegal 2-12
Monaghan 0-08
**Donegal**: Shaun Patton, Caolan Ward(1-00), Neil McGee, Eoghan Ban Gallagher, Ryan McHugh, Daire O Baoill, Odhran McFadden-Ferry, Hugh McFadden(1-00), Michael Langan(0-05), Paul Brennan, Ciaran Thompson(0-01), Caolan McGonagle, Patrick McBrearty(0-03), Michael Murphy, Peadar Mogan(0-01).
**Subs:** Niall O’Donnell(0-02), Eoin McHugh, Jeaic McKelvey, Eamon Doherty, Andrew McClean.

Allianz FL Division 1, Sunday 18th October 2020.
At Ballybofey
Donegal 2-17
Tyrone 2-13
**Donegal**: Shaun Patton, Eoghan Ban Gallagher, Neil McGee, Stephen McMenamin, Ryan McHugh(0-03), Paul Brennan, Jeaic McKelvey, Hugh McFadden, Caolan McGonagle(0-01), Peadar Mogan(1-00), Niall O Donnell(0-02), Ciaran Thompson(0-02), Jamie Brennan(1-02), Michael Murphy(0-06), Oisin Gallen.
**Subs:** Andrew McClean(0-01), Jason McGee, Daire O Baoill, Paddy McGrath, Caolan Ward.

Allianz FL Division 1, Saturday 24th October 2020.
At Austin Stack Park, Tralee.
Donegal 0-10
Kerry 2-18
**Donegal**: Shaun Patton, Paddy McGrath, Brendan McCole, Stephen McMenamin, Caolan Ward, Eamonn Doherty, Daire O Baoill, Caolan McGonagle(0-01), Jason McGee(0-02), Jeaic McKelvey, Andrew McClean, Ciaran Thompson(0-05), Jamie Brennan, Michael Langan, Oisin Gallen(0-02).
**Subs:** Peadar Mogan, Eoin McHugh, Niall O Donnell, Ethan O’Donnell, Conor O’Donnell(Carndonagh).
## Allianz Football League Roinn 1

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### Ulster SFC, Sunday 1st November 2020
At Ballybofey
Donegal 1-13
Tyrone 1-11
**Donegal**: Shaun Patton, Stephen McMenamin, Neil McGee, Eoghan Ban Gallagher, Ryan McHugh, Paul Brennan(0-01), Peadar Mogan, Hugh McFadden, Caolan McGonagle, Ciaran Thompson (0-07), Niall O’Donnell, Michael Langan (1-02), Jeaic McKelvey, Michael Murphy, Jamie Brennan (0-02).
**Subs.** Eoin McHugh, Andrew McClean, Oisin Gallen(0-01), Paddy McGrath, Jason McGee.

### Ulster SFC, Semi Final Sunday 14th November 2020
At Breffni Park, Cavan.
Donegal 1-22
Armagh 0-13
**Donegal**: Shaun Patton, Stephen McMenamin, Neil McGee, Eoghan Ban Gallagher(0-01), Ryan McHugh(0-02), Paul Brennan, Peadar Mogan(1-02), Hugh McFadden(0-01), Caolan McGonagle(0-02), Ciaran Thompson (0-02), Niall O’Donnell(0-02), Michael Langan (0-03), Eoin McHugh, Michael Murphy(0-02), Jamie Brennan (0-02).
**Subs.** Jeaic McKelvey, Andrew McClean(0-01), Oisin Gallen(0-01), Paddy McBrearty(0-01), Jason McGee.

### Ulster SFC Final, Sunday 22nd November 2020
At Athletic Grounds, Armagh.
Donegal 0-12
Cavan 1-13
**Donegal**: Shaun Patton, Eoghan Ban Gallagher, Neil McGee, Brendan McCole, Ryan McHugh(0-01), Paul Brennan, Eoin McHugh, Hugh McFadden, Caolan McGonagle(0-02), Peadar Mogan(0-01), Niall O’Donnell(0-02), Michael Langan (0-01), Paddy McBrearty(0-04), Michael Murphy(0-01), Jamie Brennan.
**Subs.** Andrew McClean, Daire O Baoill, Ciaran Thompson, Jason McGee.

### Hurling/ Iomanaíocht

#### Allianz NHL Division 3A, Round 1, Sunday 25th January
At Letterkenny
Donegal 0-15
Armagh 2-17
**Donegal**: Luke White, Ciaran Finn, Christopher McDermott, Padraig Doherty, Stephen Gillespie, Sean McVeigh, Jack O’Loughlin, Ronan McDermott, Joe Boyle, PJ McCarron(0-02) Danny Cullen, Declan Coulter(0-10), Gerard Gilmore(0-02), Gavin Browne(0-01), Sam Doherty.
Subs: Bernard Lafferty, Michael Donaghe, Mark Callaghan, Lee Henderson.

#### Allianz NHL Division 3A, Round 2, Sunday 2nd February
At Healy Park Omagh
Donegal 2-23
Tyrone 1-15

**Allianz NHL Division 3A, Round 3, Sunday 2nd February**
At Letterkenny
Donegal 2-09
Louth 1-10

**Allianz NHL Division 3A, Round 4, Sunday 23rd February**
At Letterkenny
Donegal 1-15
Monaghan 1-05
**Donegal**: Luke White, Christopher McDermott, Stephen Gillespie, Padraig Doherty, Jack O’Loughlin, Sean McVeigh, Ciaran Finn, Danny Cullen(0-02), Joe Boyle(0-02), Ronan McDermott(0-03), Lee Henderson, Declan Coulter(0-06), Gerard Gilmore(0-02), PJ McCarron(1-00), Bernard Lafferty.

**Subs**: Colm Flood, Conor Parke, Josh Cronolly, Jamie De Ward

**Allianz NHL Division 3A, Round 5, Sunday 23rd February**
At Michael Fay Park, Longford
Donegal 0-19
Longford 0-13
**Donegal**: Luke White, Christopher McDermott, Stephen Gillespie, Padraig Doherty, Joe Boyle(0-01), Sean McVeigh, Jack O’Loughlin, Danny Cullen(0-01), Declan Coulter(0-13), Bernard Lafferty, Ronan McDermott, Lee Henderson(0-01), PJ McCarron Gerard Gilmore(0-01), Ciaran Finn(0-01).

**Subs**: Sam Doherty(0-01)

**Allianz NHL Division 3A, Final Sunday 23rd February**
At Eire Og, Carrickmore
Donegal 1-18
Armagh 0-19
**Donegal**: Luke White, Christopher McDermott, Stephen Gillespie, Padraig Doherty, Joe Boyle(0-01), Sean McVeigh, Jack O’Loughlin, Danny Cullen(0-01), Declan Coulter(0-13), Bernard Lafferty, Ronan McDermott, Lee Henderson(0-01), PJ McCarron Gerard Gilmore(1-04), Declan Coulter(0-10), PJ McCarron.

**Subs**: Niall Cleary, Sam Doherty, Colm Flood.

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**Nickey Rackard Cup, 24th October, Round 1**
At Letterkenny
Donegal 2-13
Longford 1-14

Nicky Rackard Cup, 31st October, Round 2A
At Letterkenny
Donegal 3-13
Armagh 1-09
Donegal: Luke White, Gavin Browne (0-01), Stephen Gillespie, Mark Callaghan, Joe Boyle, Sean McVeigh, Jack O’Loughlin (0-02), Michael Donaghue, Ciaran Matthewson, Richie Ryan (0-01), Ronan McDermott (1-00), Danny Cullen (0-01), Davin Flynn (0-05), Kevin Kealy (1-01), Gerard Gilmore (0-01). Subs: Conor O’Grady, Josh Cronolly, PJ McCarron.

Nicky Rackard Cup, 14th November, Semi Final
At Letterkenny
Donegal 3-25
Tyrone 1-09
Donegal: Luke White (0-01), Gavin Browne, Stephen Gillespie, Mark Callaghan, Joe Boyle (0-02), Sean McVeigh, Jack O’Loughlin (0-11), Michael Donaghue, Ronan McDermott (0-02), Gerard Gilmore (2-03), Danny Cullen, Kevin Kealy (0-01), Conor O’Grady, Richie Ryan (1-00), Ciaran Matthewson (0-03). Subs: Lee Henderson (0-01), Josh Cronolly (0-01), Conor Parke, Stephen Doherty, Ciaran Bradley.

Nicky Rackard Cup, 14th November, Final
At Croke Park
Donegal 3-18
Mayo 0-21
Donegal: Luke White, Gavin Browne, Stephen Gillespie, Mark Callaghan, Joe Boyle (1-01), Sean McVeigh, Jack O’Loughlin, Michael Donaghue, Ronan McDermott (0-01), Gerard Gilmore (0-01), Danny Cullen (0-03), Kevin Kealy, Davin Flynn (1-03), Declan Coulter (0-09), Ciaran Matthewson. Subs: Richie Ryan (1-00), Bernard Lafferty, Conor O’Grady.

I would like to congratulate Mickey Mc Cann, Marty Mc Grath, Gabriel O Neill and all their backroom team and all the players for their tremendous work during the year and also to Frankie Doherty, the Liaison Officer.

Uachtaráinacht CLG
Comhghairdeas le Larry Mac Carthaigh a ceapadh mar Uachtaráin Chumann Lúthchleas Gaeil I mbliana ag an Comhdhaíl Náisiúnta. Gabhaim buíochas le John Horan as an obair iontach a rinne said ar son Cumann Lúthchleas Gaeil. Thug said tacaíocht iontach dúinn.
I wish to thank Ulster Council and Croke Park Officials for their help during the year when I contacted them on a regular basis. Again it has been different for all involved as the Covid regulations were changing on a weekly or fortnightly basis, so I would like to thank the staff in both areas for being available for queries at all times.

Aitheantas / Acknowledgments
My sincere thanks to all officers of An Coiste Bainistíochta for their help, assistance and co-operation on behalf of CLG Dhún na nGall during 2020. I would like to thank Frankie, PJ, Paddy, Fergus and David for their great work in their five years in their respective positions, as their terms comes to an end. Thanks also to all our sub-committees who have worked to promote our games and our activities. I would like to thank Cathaoirleach Mick McGrath, for his support and assistance during the year. Mick has put in a vast amount of hours looking to retain our sponsorship with a view to keeping our finances in order and has secured new contracts with some of our Partners and Sponsors. Thanks also to Cisteoir, Alan Boyd, for his tireless work in what was a challenging year for Finances of the County. Continued lockdown periods proved difficult as payments still had to be made without the income being generated from County and Club Championship gates.
I wish to thank all our local and regional papers, radio stations, local and National T.V. and our local online and social media platforms for their assistance during the year.
I also wish to thank Noreen Doherty, County Administrator for her continued support during the year. Noreen puts in tremendous hours outside normal working hours and is always available to assist myself and my fellow Officers.

Na Mairbh
Guím Suaimhneas Síoraí ar bhaill a fuair bas le linn na bliana seo agus ar dhaoine muintireacha baill a fuair bas I rith na bliana.
Ar dheis Láimh Dé go raibh said uilig.

Críoch
Guím beannachtaí na Nollag agus Áth-Bhliain faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise ar ár mbaill go léir. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur dtacaitócht agus bhur gcomhoibriú le linn 2019

Declan Ó’Mairtín
Rúnaí Choiste Condae CLG Dhún na nGall
Tuarascáil Óifigeach
Chultúrtha agus Teanga

Seo í mo bhliain dheireanach mar Óifigeach Chultúrtha agus Teanga CLG Dhún na nGall. Chuaigh na cúig bliana thart iontach gasta agus caithfidh mé rá gur bhain mé sult agus taithneamh as mo tréimhse agus ba mhó an onóir dom bheith sa phhost. Ba mhaith liom mo bhfuilchos a ghabhail le achán duine a chuidigh liom agus ina measc bhí na hoifigí go léir a d’obair mé leo thar na blianta ar choiste banaistíochta na condaí, na baíl go léir a bhí ar bhró na condaí agus na hoifigí go léir as na clubanna atá ag déanadh sár-obair.

It was an honour and a privilege to serve for the past five years as the Culture & Language Officer for CLG Dhún na nGall. I enjoyed my term and I would like to thank all the fellow officers of the county executive and county board delegates that I served with at any time during my five year period. Míle buíochas to the county chairmen I served with, Mick McGrath and Seán Drumion, county secretaries, Aideen Gillen and Declan Martin, county treasurers, Cieran Kelly and Alan Boyd, county PRO’s, Ed Byrne and John McEniff, county administrator, Noreen Doherty as well as all the other officers who served on the executive in the past five years. I would also like to especially thank Séamus Ó Domhnaill who during his term as cathaoirleach of Comhairle Chondae Dhún na nGall was a tremendous help in getting funding from Donegal County Council for the 50th anniversary Scór Concert in the Grianán Theatre in Letterkenny. I had great support from my predecessor Con O’Donnell who acted as scór treasurer and Pat Connaghan who served for a period as Cathaoirleach of Coiste na Gaeilge in Ulster during my time as Óifigeach Chultúrtha & Teanga in Donegal. I would like to thank all the clubs that organised scór concerts, provided venues for scór semi finals and finals and those who acted as quiz masters and fear/bean a’ Ti in the past five years. These include Eugene McGarvey – An Clochán Liath, Helen McMenamin, Brendan Ward and Patrick McBride – Baile na nGallóglach, John Dorrian – Gaeil Fhánada, Joe and Eileen McLaughlin – Naomh Pádraig, Uisce Chaoin, Síle Ó Ghabhlaigh & Máire Isáide – Gaith Dobhair, John Gallagher, Ann McKenna, Patricia O’Connor & Eddie Moy – Gleann Fhínne, Patsy Devlin – Iorras, Eoin McGeehin – Naomh Conaill, Ann Marie Sheerin – Naomh Naille, Michael Gallagher - Naomh Bríd, Emmett McCormack, Bernie McIntyre and Terry O’Reilly - Seánaí M‘Cumhaill, Bairbre Cahill and Brian Sweeney – Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn, Sinéad Ní Dhomhnaill – Naomh Adhamhnáin, Manus O’Donnell and Caitríona Sweeney – Beart, Sharon McInty – Gleann tSúilí, Terence McGinley – Naomh Ultan, John James McLaughlin – Naomh Columba, Caroline McLaughlin – Carn Domhnach and Anne McGonagle Meehin – Na Ceithre Máistrí. Míle buíochas to all who adjudicated scór competitions within the county and at Ulster and All Ireland level on behalf of Donegal (we now have a pool of approx. 20 adjudicators). All who sang Amhrán na bhFiann throughout the county on big match days. The singers were all involved in Scór at some point and I also worked closely with and had great cooperation from the referee’s administrators at the games and these included Pat Walsh, Shane Toolin and Michelle Bennett. I would also like to sincerely thank all the club cultural officers that I worked with over the past five years. The commitment and dedication of all who are involved in promoting our language and culture within the county is second to none and it is important that clubs ensure at their AGM’s that they appoint people to the position of cultural officer who have a genuine interest in cultural activities.

It was a source of tremendous pride for me when Donegal clubs won Ulster and All Ireland titles in Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsir during my time as county cultural officer. Tháinig méadú mór i nDún na nGall ar lón na gcubanna agus na ngrúpaí a ghlacaí páirt i Scór. Le cois sin d’éirigh go maith linn ag leibhéal Ualadh agus leibheal Uile Órienn. Le linn na tréimhse cúig bliana sin bhain muid 8 dheideal Ualadh agus 4 theideal Uile Órienn an iomlán. An mór chuid díofa seo (5 Ualadh agus 3 Uile Órienn) i Scór na nÓG. Comhghairdeas le na clubanna a bhain ag leibhéal Condaí, Cúige agus Uile Órienn. Is cúis mhóir bróid düinn go bhfuil Dún na nGall anois ar cheann de na contaetha is mó le ról in Óirinn ó thaobh rannpháirtíochta.
i Scór leis an mórchuid de na clubanna ag glacadh páirt. Idir Scór na nÓg agus Scór sinsir, ghlac 38 de na clubanna sa chontae (95%) páirt bliain amháin ar a laghad le cúig bliain anuas.

### Table 1: Scór na nÓg – Club Participation

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### Table 2: Scór Sinsir – Club Participation

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<td>23</td>
<td>Gan aon chomórtas</td>
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</table>

I was equally proud when Donegal clubs led the way taking a quarter of the overall National honours in 2019 when gaining bronze, and silver medals (In 2018, Gaoth Dobhair became one of less than a handful of clubs in the country to have achieved a gold medal) for their efforts in promoting our native language in conjunction with Glór na nGael and Fondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha. Donegal also leads the way at Ulster and at national level with the large number of clubs that carry out Bailiúchán na Teanga every St. Patrick's Day. This has ensured that the GAA in Donegal has a good and close working relationship with
Conradh na Gaeilge and plays a vital role in the continued growth of Irish language summer colleges in the county for second level students. Unfortunately there was no collection in 2020 due to the coronavirus. It is also noteworthy that the Irish language quiz (Tráth na gCeist Bord) is best supported in Donegal with by far the largest annual participation in our own county final of this competition when compared with any other county in Ireland. Tá buíochas mór tuillte ag na hoifigí chultúrtha agus teanga in sna clubanna sa chondae agus guím gach ráth orthu sna blianta amach romhainn. Míle buíochas also to our county PRO John McEniff who has always ensured that cultural activities are well promoted and in order to do this, John set up a culture page on the official Donegal GAA website. The county chairman, Mick McGrath (who has a great interest in traditional Irish music) was always very supportive as was his predecessor, Seán Dunnion. Both took time from their busy schedules to attend scór finals and Cúrsa Cuimhneacháin Sheamuis de Faoite when I was chairperson of the organising committee for this Irish language course. Two other former Donegal chairmen, Naul McCole and Pat Connaghan were part of the Donegal contingent who were members of the working group for the Séamus de Faoite course and they gave tremendous help over the years. Míle buíochas le CLG na nDúnaibh agus chomh mór mhóir John Mac Giolla Bhríde a thug tacaíocht dúinn i gcónaí. We have enjoyed a high level of support from the local radio stations, the local press and photographers in promoting Scór and other cultural activities agus ar son seo, mile buíochas. Geraldine Diver deserves a special word of thanks as she covered all scór and associated cultural events in the past five years as does Declan Kerr who was always present at Cúrsa Cuimhneachain Sheamuis de Faoite events.


Scór na nÓg review for 2020: Three Ulster titles and two All Ireland titles for Donegal:
Donagel Semi final dates 2019/2020:
• 8th November: Burt 7.00pm (8 clubs took part)
• 10th November: Drimarone 4.00pm (11 clubs took part)
• 15th November: Glenfin 7.00pm (12 clubs took part)
• 2 clubs competed at two different venues so our final participation this year was 29 clubs. One less than the two previous years when we had 30 clubs each of those years
• On the 24th November the County final took place in Doneyloop at 4.00pm
• All clubs who hosted semi finals are to be highly complimented with a special mention for the efforts made by Helen McMenamin & Seán Killen and the other members of Robert Emmett’s who helped out in preparation for the county final

Scór na nÓg County Champions 2019/2020:
Rince Foirne: Iorras
Amhránaíocht Aonair: Iorras (Bronagh Harkin)
Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht: Naomh Adhamhnáin (Síofra Harvey)
Bailéad Ghrúpa: Naomh Adhamhnáin
Nuachleas: Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn
Ceol Uírlise: An Clochán Liath
Tráth na gCeisteanna: Naomh Columba
• Ulster semi final in Stradone, Co. Cavan on 8th December where we were successful in Rince Foirne - Iorras, Aithriseoireacht/Scéalafocht – Naomh Adhamhnáin, Bailéad Ghrúpa – Naomh Adhamhnáin

• agus Nuachleas – Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn. Iorras and Dungloe performed exceptionally well in the solo singing and instrumental music categories and were unlucky not to qualify for the final.

• At the Ulster final in Threemilehouse, Co. Monaghan on 4th January Donegal won three titles in Tráth na gCeist, Aithriseoireacht/Scéalafocht and Nuachleas

In what was a memorable year in Scór na nÓg for Donegal. Naomh Columba, Naomh Adhamhnáin and Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn represented their clubs, Donegal and Ulster in the All Ireland finals of Scór na nÓg in Killarney on the 1st February. Síofra Harvey from CLG Naomh Adhamhnáin and the Novelty Act group from Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn won two All Ireland titles in their respective competitions while Naomh Columba gave a tremendous performance but lost out to Corr na Féinne from Cavan in the All Ireland final of Tráth na gCeist. Fear a´ Tí on the day was Conor Ó Gallchóir as Cloich Cheann Fhaola agus rinne sé job ar dóigh. It was a special occasion and a day to be proud of for Donegal in Killarney. The youth of Donegal were a credit to themselves, their families, their clubs and our county and proved the old and true saying “Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh sí”

Scór Sinsir

Scór Sinsir: The host clubs for the two semi finals (Iorras & Naomh Naille) deserve great credit and are to be complimented on the preparation and running of these events. Eight clubs took part in Clonmany hall in the first semi final and 16 clubs took part in the Bluestack Centre in Drimarone in the second semi final. (23 clubs in total as Naomh Adhamhnáin had competitors at both venues). MacCumhaills did a great job in the running of the county final in the Balor Theatre and the Management and staff of the Balor also deserve great credit and thanks. This was an excellent venue for the Scór Sinsir final and great credit is due to all who were involved in the preparations and presentation on the night. Comhghairdeas and well done to all our county champions in 2020.

Na Buaiteoirí – Winners of Scór Sinsir county final

• Tráth na gCeist: Aodh Ruadh BAS
• Amhránaíocht Aonair: Malainn – Niamh Douglas
• Aithriseoireacht/Scéalafocht: An Clochán Liath – Noreen McGarvey
• Bailéad Ghrúpa: Roibeard Eiméid
• Nuachleas: Bun Cranncha
• Ceol Uirlise: Iorras

Aodh Ruadh BAS qualified for the Ulster final in the Table Quiz section of the Tráth na gCeisteanna competition which took place on Friday 6th March in St Mellans Complex, Truagh Gaels. Co Monaghan. All other winners of the county final took part in the first of the two Ulster semi finals on the 7th March in St MacNissi’s Parish Centre, Randalstown, Co. Antrim. All the Donegal competitors gave a good account of themselves with some unfortunate not to progress to the Ulster final. On the day, the Ballad group from Roibeard Eiméid and the Nuachleas group from Bun Cranncha were successful and qualified for the Ulster final.

Shortly after this, everything came to a standstill due to Covid 19 and the subsequent lockdown.

2020 was a challenging year for everyone and language and cultural activities were no exception with no provincial or All Ireland finals in Scór Sinsir (It is still hoped that the 2020 competition can be completed in February/March 2021). No Gaeltacht scholarships were awarded in 2020 as no summer colleges were open. There was no Irish language collection taken up by the GAA clubs of the county on St. Patrick’s day due to the lockdown and Cúrsa Cuimhneacháin Shéamuis de Faoite was also cancelled. We did not get the opportunity to have our county final of Tráth na gCeist Bord which has increased in popularity in recent years. Hopefully 2021 will be a better year and I wish the new cultural officer every success in continuing with the important job of promoting our language and culture in the coming years.
Míle buíochas le CLG Dhún na nGall ar son an deis a thug sibh dom gníomhú mar oifigeach chultúrtha agus teanga sa chondae le cúig bliana anuas. Ba mhaith liom gach rath a ghuí ar an oifigeach chultúrtha agus teanga úr a cheapfar anseo inniu agus tá súil agam go rachaidh cúrsaí cultúr agus teanga ó neart go neart sna blianta atá amuigh romhainn.

Is mise le meas

Fergus Mac Aoidh
A Chairde, in what has been a difficult year on many fronts for all of us, I wish to thank the clubs for their cooperation in 2020.

When I took on the position of Assistant Secretary I did so as no other nominee had come forward and our Master Fixture Plan was due for ratification and in Ulster by the end of February. As a CCC we had hoped to continue and add to the work over the previous 8 years when many of our regulations had changed, agreements on Starred Fixtures, the Club Month of April and finally the Leagues complete before the Championship started. I believe the success in recent years in the Ulster Club Championship stems from these decisions that the clubs made at regulation meetings.

Going back to 2013 the reform of how we operate our competitions was taken on board by the then CCC of Danny McNamee & Sean McGinley and followed on by Dennis Ellis and Sean who oversaw the introduction of the Serversport system. This allows us to create our fixtures and notify the clubs each week, reducing the pressure on the Secretary. Now known as the GAA Management System it has proven to be a great asset to Donegal GAA. In 2016 Frankie Doherty took over the reins as Chair with Declan Martin as Runai and they enhanced our fixture planning and continued to facilitate improvements. Many of the current regulations were submitted to the County from Niall Erskine who was at that time serving on Rules Advisory and this also helped hugely as our regulations fell into line with the Official Guide and the Fixtures Committee’s hands were no longer tied to regulations that were not in line with rule.

All of this made the organising of the master fixture plan for the following years easier and by 2020 a lot easier and by February the fixtures were complete with all requests for at least one free weekend had been granted however before we got to kick a ball Covid19 Restrictions were in place.

League & Championship Covid19 games

The CCC did meet on March 10th where decisions were taken for a possible lockdown and reorganising of the fixtures - little did we think it would be July before we saw a ball kicked in Competition.

We proposed a new League and Championship format in both Hurling & Football which in large was looked at over the months of May and June. It would not have been possible to present these formats and structures without the help of Niall Erskine who stepped in at a difficult time personally for me. Many hours were spent also in discussions with Officials and GAA people from outside the County and with the CCC’s permission not to release any formats until the last weekend of June which gave us the chance to look at other counties formats and proposals it left us with 3 proposals at a meeting on June 23rd and eventually one proposal went to Management to be ratified at 10.30pm that night.

The Senior Regionalised Divisional Leagues worked well to give football without the prospect of relegation at a time when we all just wanted to see a return to sport.

Our Championship under a new format gave us what we felt was an exciting Championship format -something we saw as a positive for the Clubs who had lost fundraising activities. By offering Clubs 2 home games and gates -yet again Covid19 restrictions introduced at that time cut the number of spectators and caused problems for many, however Clubs are to be congratulated on their initiative with regards to Streaming and placing games on Social Media platforms. The Championship was novel and we had exciting draws, however on reflection I would not have home Quarter Finals again. We felt we would be unable to source venues for these games during covid19, however Home advantage at Q/F stage is not something I would recommend again.

I would like to point out all events under the CCC control in 2020 went without any problems and Government, HSE, GAA guidelines were followed. It is not a nice place to stand at the gates refusing entry to GAA people knowing they have given a lifetime of service, but we had to, I would like to thank all those who co-operated with us when they were turned away and were so understanding.

I would have a different view of those who showed no respect to the wellbeing of the General Public, the CCC members and Stewards at our gates, when advised of the guidelines which we all were expected to adhere to in order to flatten the curve and ensure our Competitions continued safely. Those who ignored the guidelines I would say have played a huge part in helping NPHET lock us down again and I hope it was worth it for them for the sake of 60 minutes that could have been viewed online. To borrow a phrase; “Some are equal but some are more Equal than Others”- even during a pandemic. Each of us has personal
responsibility at this time and Thank You again to those who worked with the CCC to help ensure the safety of our communities.

The positives far outdo the negatives these few people caused

Our hopes for Reserve Championship and the completion of the Regional Divisional leagues also fell short as did the Junior B & Senior C Championship, as we prepare this report the U21 is on hold.

We had a plan to run over 400 games from July to December and maybe this was ambitious but what we hoped to do was provide football to as many players as possible. I touched on the regional League which many players were happy with as it reduced travel time considering Dressing Rooms were closed for changing before and after games. Players in most part enjoyed the games but I was disappointed after the Championship to have requests from a very small amount of clubs to finish up the leagues on the back of player feedback. It is difficult to understand how a Club Officer can write a line stating our games have no importance if not Championship particularly given the lack of other activity and travelling available to our members at this difficult time.

On a more positive side more clubs requested the Regional Leagues go ahead to give game time to players rather than end the season. Had Level 5 not been introduced the CCC would have continued with the Leagues as our players deserved game time.

Friday night games were introduced and again the vast majority of clubs were happy to play one or more in the League and Championship. Again a very small number raised it with the CCC with most Clubs understanding we had a short period to get through our games and were happy to see games played and it is something the incoming CCC should look at. I would ask those small few clubs who feel games should only be played on a Sunday to give Friday night and Saturday a chance.

Having fixtures played during this year on a Friday night, Saturday and Sunday gave many the chance before restrictions to catch all games in the competitions and I do believe now that we started this we should Continue with it 1 game Friday Night / 3 or 4 on Saturday / Sunday. We were able to provide streams from games rather than clashing of fixtures.

Our CCC here in Donegal worked hard during the return to play with meeting sometimes called at 1pm interrupting peoples lunchbreak as different problems arose due to Covid19. Many remote meetings started at 6.30pm and continued until late at night. The CCC members this year gave many hours of their time to ensure games went ahead and I simply cannot thank them enough for their help and support to me and their time spent on CCC issues.

Senior B / Reserve

The Senior B or unofficial name of Reserve is again one to watch as clubs struggle to get numbers and changes take place a lot in this competition. I would have seen a slight improvement on the Regional / Divisional league at reserve level, and should 2021 be anywhere near as difficult as 2020 in terms of Covid19 restrictions on spectators I believe we should look at this format again on a different day to Senior Games.

Championship 2020 Winners

Hurling
Senior Hurling Champions – Setanta
Junior Hurling Champions- Carndonagh

Football
Senior Football Champions -
Intermediate Football Champions – Aodh Ruadh Ballyshannon
Junior A Football Champions – St Mary’s Convoy

The Michael Murphy Senior Football Championship Final is set for Easter Weekend 2020. A window may appear earlier in January and with the information the new CCC will have regarding Covid19 restriction Level it may be possible to play it before this date. The CCC would like to acknowledge the effort both clubs made to try get the final played in 2020. However the CCC worked with the advised window from Croke Park listing the only date available as 19th/20th December, which would only have allowed 2 weeks to prepare for a County Final as Clubs cannot currently Train as per usual or Play games. In our view to be fair to players and clubs the option was the first available weekend where Inter County games usually are not played. As I write this report the news coming from official sources is, we may see a window opening early in the new year if level 3 is lifted. This is something an incoming CCC will have more information on. Many
debates did take place around the County Final being postponed and we have moved on to try and get a new date in place. It would be remiss of me not to say both personally and on behalf of the CCC, we are more than disappointed that the Senior Final was postponed, given the information we had and the dates available to us we at all times made the correct decision based on the facts we had, the guidelines regarding a safe return to play were followed. I again thank the CCC members who made the right decisions on many occasions this year.

Clubs at the end of the year should speak to the Insurance Department Sinead & Ciara to check about Credit and a rebate for teams who had no activity this year.

Covid 19
21 Clubs contacted the CCC during our competitions, we worked with these clubs and witnessed the GAA at its best in supporting their members in the community. Not all cases involved players but fell within the membership and well done to all the officers who worked so hard to ensure guidelines were followed ensuring cases with communities were not involving breaches at Training or Games.

I will point to one club and thank them for working with the CCC on the lead up to a County Semi Final and Final, Cloughaneely this club only got to train with a full squad 72 hours before the Intermediate Final. They kept us up to date giving daily updates and in doing so allowed us to prepare for a Final without disruption and look at alternative dates without any disruption to the overall plan. On behalf of the CCC Thank You very much.

Hurling
On the Hurling in Donegal it is great to see a Junior and Senior Hurling Championship and I regret that we did not get to a Senior and Junior Hurling League, while progress is being made the issue of when games are played for Dual Clubs in particular will have to be Friday / Sunday. If Leagues and Championships are proposed to run as per the original plans for 2020 the possibility of starred games without County players must be addressed rather than parking games until an unknown date.

Discipline
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Red Cards July</th>
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<th>Double Yellows Jun – Oct</th>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
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<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Cards August</td>
<td>Black Cards August</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Cards Sept / Oct</td>
<td>Black Cards Sept / Oct</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>5</td>
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The number of sending off & Black Cards for abuse of Officials continues to be a concern, while the number of Cards are down on last year so are the number of games. This issue needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.

Referees
Our Thanks goes to our referees who often this year had to make changes to their plans when game times and dates were changed more than normal allowing for the CCC to work with Clubs on Covid19 cases in Clubs. Thank you to Michelle Bennett Adair and Frank Dooley of the RAC who I worked closely with this year. Many hours of organising fixtures went in on a weekly basis, no sooner would they be organised than they were back doing appointments. Clubs must also look at Club Mangers & Backroom teams, while the CCC monitor games the Club Official on the line is the person responsible, if they are not prepared to do this why take on the role? It should not be the CCC task to tidy up what happens on the side lines if the Club Official is not prepared to do it. We do not enjoy seeing clubs fined and it is an issue that some Clubs must address along with more referee recruitment. One of the difficulties in planning Double Headers this year is the lack of officials to fill all games.

CONCLUSION
2021 in my view will be as much of a challenge as 2020, again with word coming through on how competitions may be run and dates are of interest to us all. Club activity may increase by number of games but I see numbers and spectator restrictions remaining for a short while. At this point I believe the proposed National plan should by now indicate the Allianz Leagues in Mid-February leading into March and Possibly April and Inter County Championship starting in May. Club Month may no longer be Club Month and County Team players back towards the end of the Summer beginning of Autumn with their Club. I do not see much change in the fixtures planning in Donegal unless in 2021 April is not Club Month.

We also have heard that Central Council may be asked to discuss Club First for fixtures in 2021, this will I
believe cause some problems for leagues to be complete before Championship starts. Normally at this time of year the CCC would have had its Regulation Meeting in November, however this would need to be held early in the new year once the National Fixture plan is released.

I would like to Thank the Club Members and Officers for their help throughout the year also to Thank the clubs who made their grounds available to us during these difficult times.

My Thanks to Edward Molloy and his team of stewards who travelled around the grounds over the championship to help us with gate and list duty. To gate people who helped out with the ticketed games organised by Paddy Tinney. To Pat Walsh who tried his utmost to ensure we had monitors at our games. Jim Quinn and Brendan Kelly who attend Hearings on behalf of the CCC, Fiona Shiels for undertaking the return of Cups.

To Fergus McGee for his help to us not just on match days but whenever called upon to help with team lists and gate list, never a problem to help us

This year was difficult to get to all games however thanks to the CCC members. Elaine Steel, Sinead Breen, Conor McDermott, Manus O Donnell, Michelle Bennett. Thank you to P.J. McGowan, Alan Boyd who volunteered when the management committee were asked to help out at Club Games when the CCC was having difficulty covering all games.

John McEniff for always being on the end of the Phone and helping get notice of fixtures out timely. Spending day and night on virtual programmes and co-ordinating stream teams all over Donegal, a huge job that was very well done!!

To Elaine, Sinead and Gerard a special word of thanks when clash of fixtures arose with the regional boards we all worked together to ensure that the games went ahead, also the Minor Board CCC secretary Jim Quinn for keeping me in the loop on proposed dates of underage games

To all the media for your coverage of our games and to Damien O Donaill of RNG a special word of thanks for doing the Championship draws over the last number of years, this year they were not an easy task and yet it went seamlessly GRMA.

The CCC is a very time-consuming committee with both Fixtures and Discipline under its control and I do they should have two separate committees in the future.

My Thanks to Frankie Doherty who despite a difficult year has been always been at the helm to help everyone and chair our meeting in a fair and even manner. He has, as I have learned over the last 5 years been a very capable Chair of the CCC and willing to look at fresh ideas. It is with one of those occasions where the 5-year rule will see a very capable person and kind person give up this role. Many changes have taken place over his 5 years; formats, regulations, new competition’s and he encourages all members to bring new ideas on board. He still has great interest in the referees and will also be found encouraging them on.

Finally on behalf of myself and my wife Emer, sons Shane & Dara and daughter Grace, I wish to acknowledge the support we received on the passing of our beloved Karen from the Gaels of CLG. We have been carried by this community during some very difficult months and will be forever grateful for the many acts of kindness and support by so many within Donegal GAA.

Mile Buiochas,

Eamonn O Broin
Introduction
A chairde, 2020, my second year as OCP was dominated by the arrival of Coronavirus and regulations restricting GAA activity that followed in its wake. It was a year of four quarters. January was as normal, dominated by liaisons with clubs, the County Board and the CCC to gather information for the Leabhráin Eolais. The heavy lifting in February and early March was done, in my absence in Australia, by Ed Byrne – go raibh maith agat Ed. April – June was quiet as all GAA activity was suspended. July, August and September were hectic with a concentrated schedule of games and much greater involvement in streaming and production of programmes. October and November, despite the inter-county hurling and football championships, was less hectic than 2019 with no Yearbook being produced this year.

Under normal circumstances inter-county and county club championships would be completed by now. Not so this year. As I write this report at end-November, the Michael Murphy Sports and Leisure Senior County Championship Final remains to be played as does the Intermediate relegation play-off while the fate of the club u-21, Senior C/Junior B and Reserve championships are all un-resolved as are the concluding stages of the new Regional Leagues. On the inter-county front, Donegal retained its Division 1 status in the Allianz National League but had a dis-appointed defeat in the Ulster SFC final. The minor Ulster football championship was postponed before it even started and all other underage competitions were cancelled. All senior club hurling was completed within the club window and the County hurlers had an almost perfect season winning Division 3A and the Nickey Rackard Cup.

Communications is the core role of the PRO – with both the general public and with the 40 clubs in Donegal. With the plethora of channels now available for communication - social media, the press, broadcasters and e-mails - this is a time-consuming role and I am highly indebted to many, many people who have helped me perform it with a degree of success. There have been some mistakes and omissions, all of my own making. Additional roles have including liaising with the Ulster Council, with GAA HQ in Croke Park, working as a team with my colleagues on the County Board and keeping records for historical purposes. In the remainder of this report, I will try and outline how these functions were performed throughout the year.

Social Media
DonegalGAA.ie
The official Donegal website at www.DonegalGAA.ie is the fulcrum for most communications with the general public. It is available in mobile device and desktop versions. The vast majority of visitors use mobiles – a third of all visitors use Apple I-Phones. Content was added to the site over the course of 2020 but the only additions/modifications related to improving access to the streaming of games via Donegal GAA TV – a new concept devised to compensate for the capacity restrictions at games. The Landing Page was adjusted both for Donegal GAA TV and to link in with Club Donegal’s WinaHousein Dublin.
In the absence of a Leabhrán Eolais, www.DonegalGAA.ie is the only source of information on club officers, master fixtures, regulations, composition of committees, referee listings, club officers, etc. None of this is additional to what was there in recent years simply that the site replaced the Information Booklet as the primary source (examples below). One other slight change was that Match regulations had to be updated three times as the guidelines from Croke Park, exclusively related to Covid-19 regulations, evolved over the June – October period.

The 2019 PRO Report to Convention targeted improvements in three sections of the website – the Coaching, Cultúr and Health and Wellness tabs. Regarding coaching the Games Development Manager (GDM) is currently working on a new coaching site, separate to the Donegal GAA site, but www.DonegalGAA.ie will link directly into the GDM’s site. A similar process has already taken place on Twitter with the GDM setting up a separate account Donegal GAA Coaching (@gaa_donegal). Most Scór and cultural activities were cancelled in 2020 so there was little scope to expand the site. Three modifications/additions were made: a link was added to the GAA.ie magazine Cuallie; a tab on seanfhocail was added at the start of the year and a new set of pages “Cúpla Focal’ with Gaelige Vocabulary was added based on the excellent twitter postings from Carn Domhnaigh during the year. The Health and Wellness tab expanded considerably with the name also changed, hopefully temporarily, for the times that are in it to “Wellness, Covid 19”. Additional items on the tab included: Safe Return to Gaelic Games, Covid 19 and Spectators, Health Questionnaire, Club Education on Covid, Gallery of Covid Posters, Media Protocols, Protocols for Dealing with a Positive Case and Guidance to Meeting Rooms. On the negative side, there were particular difficulties with the Fixtures and Results pages of the website this year – a problem which we still have not resolved.

Activity on the website was well down on 2019. Over the course of the 12 months from Nov 26 2019 to Nov 26 2020 there were over 1.6 mn page views on DonegalGAA.ie, compared to 3 mn for the same period last year.
year. Sessions were also down but not by quite as much, proportionately, 374,000 in 2019/20 against 556,000 in 2018/19. The smaller window for games, particularly their absence in Q2 2020, and the peaks from the three Senior County Final games (two replays) in Oct 2019 probably accounted for virtually all of this variation. This can be seen from the graphic below with virtually no activity on the site from mid-March to end-May and the peaks for October 2019 very evident (green peaks). The blue peaks in September 2020 indicate greater recourse to our website during Championship 2020 than was the case in Sept 2019, probably reflecting the impact of our Streaming service on Donegal GAA TV.

Other interesting changes from last year included:

- there were more new visitors to the site than last year (43% to 35%) possibly reflecting new viewers to access Donegal GAA TV;
- each visitor stayed for a short period approx 1 and a half mins this year versus 2 minutes last year;
- on average each visitor visited 5 to 6 pages in 2018/19 compared to just over 4 this year; and,
- the proportion using mobile devices increased from just over 75% to over 80%.

The most popular pages on the website remains those relating to fixtures and results – four of the top five, and six of the top ten, pages relating to these. However, last year fixtures and results pages were eight of the top ten and accounted for close to 1.5 mn views compared to about 400,000 in 2019/20. Results and fixtures are not updated by the PRO – through the wonders of modern technology results are updated automatically
by referees via text and the pages are managed and amended by Ed Byrne (Secretary of the CCC), Jim Quinn (Secretary of the Minor Board), Sharon McGinty (Northern Divisional Board), Michelle Bennett (Referees Administrator) and Jim Gillen (Inishowen Board). New to the top ten this year, and to the website, was the Donegal GAA TV page with 85,600 views.

**DonegalGAA.ie Most Popular Pages**

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<td>2% (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Items Landing Page</td>
<td>30 (44)</td>
<td>19 (48)</td>
<td>2% (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Competitions</td>
<td>20 (81)</td>
<td>14 (14)</td>
<td>2% (1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of sessions on the website are from Irish visitors – 315,000 from Ireland, about 84% of the total. Next is the UK with 38,000 and the US with 10,000. Of the Irish visitors well half of them are from Dublin (169,000) with next highest non-Donegal county being Sligo with 8,000.

The website was created by Aidan Spence. I am indebted to Aidan for regularly maintaining and extending the site and his patience in teaching me the basics of web design and maintenance and promptly answering queries (and rescuing me when I am in deep techno-waters). Of 1.6 mn odd page views, almost a quarter of them were in September during the knock-out stages of the of the club championship.

**Twitter**

The @officialDonegal Twitter account currently has 54,600 followers, up about 2,300 since the start of the year – the numbers rose early in the year as the new season started but fell off during the pandemic lockdown. Twitter is probably our most important source of communication with Donegal supporters, with the press and with the wider public. The top tweets for the year were in November when Peadar Mogan won Man of the Match against Armagh in the Ulster Senior Football Championship and 66,600 congratulating Mickey McCann and the Donegal Hurlers for winning the Nicky Rackard Cup. On the a monthly count the second highest (46,200) was in March when Donegal won the Allianz Hurling League Division 3A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Twitter Account @Official Top Tweets Feb - Dec 2019 - November 2020</th>
<th>New Followers</th>
<th>Top Tweet</th>
<th>Views</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Comhghairdeas Jason Quigley</td>
<td>28,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>Full House v Mayo</td>
<td>36,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>Michael Murphy MotM Gets Red Card</td>
<td>44,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>Donegal Div 3A Hurling Champions</td>
<td>46,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>All Final 2012 on TG4</td>
<td>26,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>-17</td>
<td>Passing of Karen Cahill</td>
<td>28,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>-144</td>
<td>Club Football to resume in July</td>
<td>10,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Start of Olivia Cycle in Bundoran</td>
<td>18,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Streaming Free of Round 4 Games</td>
<td>22,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>Kilcar v Gaoth Dobhair second-half free</td>
<td>30,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>Donegal Warming Up b4 Tyrone</td>
<td>19,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Peadar Mogan Man of the Match</td>
<td>95,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of tweets over the twelve months to mid-November was just over half the same 12 months to end Nov 2019. Similarly, our account was mentioned by others on just 7,000 occasions compared to over 10,000 in the corresponding period a year earlier. Our tweets were viewed over 10 mn times but the equivalent figure for last year was over 20 mn. September – at the height of the club championships – was the only month when last year’s Twitter stats were exceeded although Donegal’s progress in the Ulster Championship and Nicky Rackard should see November 2020 pull well ahead of 2019.
Communication via Twitter is not simply a matter of Donegal GAA tweeting information or links. Just as important are re-tweets by @OfficialDonegal. In particular, I am heavily reliant on HT updates and full-time results, of club matches tweeted by the PRO’s of Donegal clubs to keep fans informed. This applies to underage as well as adult games. Thus, the more clubs that have Twitter accounts – a few don’t and some others are dormant - and the more regularly they use them the easier it is to communciate up-to-date information.

Finally, special thanks to Damian Carr from Naomh Columba who tweets in-match from most Donegal County games and club championship matches. Go raibh míle maith agat Damien.

Facebook
The official Donegal Facebook page currently has over 32,000 followers, up about 4,300 in the last year. Not surprisingly, the majority of these are Irish (67%), followed by the UK (20%), the US and Canada (4%), Australasia (3%) and the rest of the world (3%, headed by Canada and the United Arab Emirates). Unlike the website, where over 50% of sessions were from Dublin, Facebook fans are predominantly from Donegal with just 10% of Irish fans from the capital city. Nearly 500 follow the Facebook as Gaelige.

There are generally three types of post – pictures or photo gallery’s (usually uploaded by Geraldine Diver but also by the PRO), video clips (mostly by either Geraldine or Bradas O’Donnell) and articles with links to our website, always the PRO. Again statistics for the entire year are unavailable but the breakdown of the 115 posts over the last eight weeks were 12 videos, 31 pictures/galleries and 47 were link articles. There were also 25 messages but this was an outlier as Facebook was used for updates on the second half of the Nickey Rackard final, something usually only done via Twitter.

2020 was also an usual year in that there were two additional regular contributors to our Facebook page. Firstly, Joanne Dawson used it to promote Club Donegal’s WinYourHouseinDublin draw. Secondly, during the first Covid lockdown Donegal GAA Coaching and Games used Facebook to run a “dice championship”.

Instagram
At the start of 2019, Donegal GAA had virtually no presence on Instagram but thanks to a lot of hard work by Geraldine Diver changed in 2019 and it has become a very powerful visual tool in promoting everything positive about Donegal GAA. By end-November 2020 Donegal’s Instagram had 9,224 followers up from 6,470 at end 2019 and compared to less than 100 at the start of the year. Over the last eleven months Geraldine has completed over 400 posts from photos that contained promotion of events, sponsors, games, presentations and fundraisers including the on-going winahouseinDublin draw. This is well down on the close to 1,000 posts during 2019. This partially because of fewer postings during the first lockdown between March and July and partially by design. Based on research undertaken by Geraldine a deliberate policy was to include 10 photos in a single post after a game rather than bombarding followers with newsfeeds.

During the lockdown Donegal GAA linked with HSE Health Promotions to help highlight issues related to...
Coronavirus awareness and mental health as well as promoting the GDM’s Skills programme and the 30 for 30 series of exercises presented by the minor panel (during June) on our website. In co-operation with the Donegal Ladies Board, their Senior Club Championship was strongly featured this year and to promote the 20x20 “Can’t see it, can’t be it” campaign. The Official GAA and O’Neills were tagged in most posts. The age range of our Instagram followers is predominantly in the 25-34 bracket. Feedback from the Donegal Players and supporters has been very positive – as a media Instagram is used more extensively to interact with the player squads and fans than other channels. Next year, we hope to introduce a “swipe-up” button in stories that take viewers directly to the DonegalGAA.ie website.

LinkedIn
LinkedIn is increasingly utilised as a medium of communication and also as a means to promote our key sponsors. Despite the lockdown, during 2020 LinkedIn held firm as a channel for directing visitors towards DonegalGAA.ie with about the same absolute numbers and an increase in total share. The number of connections for the Donegal LinkedIn account, which grew very substantially during 2019, increased again, by nearly a quarter, in the last year – 822 on November 26th 2020.

YouTube
YouTube is a social media site which has not been extensively utilised or promoted by Donegal GAA at present. This is a channel I plan to develop further in 2021. Work towards this goal already commenced in November 2020 with the uploading of videos of some of the games from the 2019 and 2020 Michael Murphy Sports and Leisure club championship and the Nickey Rackard Hurling games streamed by Donegal GAA TV as well as the Nickey Rackard final. There are, however, only 71 subscribers to the Donegal youtube channel and currently Facebook remains the core channel for video-content.
Traditional Media
Press and Broadcast Media Relations
Our social media informs many fans directly but most rely on locally-based multi-media for GAA news. This includes the Donegal Democrat, Donegal News, Donegal Post, Donegal SportsHub/Donegal Daily, Highland Radio, Inish Times, Inishowen Independent, Ocean FM, Radio na Gaeltachta and Tir Conaill Tribune. I use the term multi-media because most of these organisations have moved beyond their traditional patch to include their own social media channels. Their requirements include: provision of advance information before important games – including press briefings; ensuring media are facilitated at County and key championship ties; controlled access to team managers and players after games, as well as promotion of other events.

The advent of Covid-19 involved some changes in how this was achieved eg press briefings via Microsoft Teams, social distancing at games and for interviews, sanitation requirements, restrictions on movement within grounds and access to players and management, etc. In almost all instances communication, and relationships, with the media were admirable and largely unaffected by Covid-related constraints although there were tetchy moments and instances of adverse (in my view unfounded) public rebukes from one media outlet. Thanks to Sean MacCumhaills undertook considerable work to accommodate the press for the resumption of inter-County competition including new facilities for TV Commentators, perspex barriers in the cubicles of broadcasters and an additional benches and power for the press overflow area in the Stand.
Media relations are not a one-way street. Good communication by CLG Dhún na nGall is strongly dependant on traditional media. Co-operation in this regard throughout 2020 was excellent. With considerably more match programmes (virtual) this year, local journalists were very accommodating in providing content – both text and pictorial – and in helping with match commentary for the Donegal GAA TV Streams. Thank you also to all the club officials, players and management personnel who co-operated with the Donegal Stream Team to add content to our match coverage by providing expert analysis before, during and after games.

Broadcasting and Streaming

A major objective of CLG Dhún na nGall is to promote our Association and its games and good works to the public at large. In the latter category while health conferences and Scór events were streamed in 2019 there were no such events in 2020 as a result of Covid restrictions. There was considerably more streaming activity, however, to allow Gaels throughout the County, and further afield, see our games. With restrictions on capacity the County Board encouraged clubs to stream their games and the PRO forwarded information and advice to clubs during June and early July. Aidan Spence, Bradas O’Donnell and Joe Brennan of the Donegal Stream Team were all available to advise clubs further on how to proceed and half a dozen or so clubs availed of this advice. The PRO and Secretary of the CCC also established a procedure, based on documentation supplied by Croke Park, for clubs, to streamline permission to stream games. The streaming of club games began immediately at the end of lockdown with three streaming their first outing in the new regional leagues. All streamed for free and mostly on club’s own Facebook pages. The number of clubs streaming matches increased as the season progressed and in most cases the quality of the video stream and the commentary was excellent. The first championship game streamed by Donegal GAA was the St Eunans v St Michaels Round 4 game in O’Donnell Park. As a test stream in advance of the championship this was free to air. All 31 knockout games, across all adult levels and codes, were streamed. Of these 24 were streamed on a PPV basis by Donegal GAA TV and 7 were streamed free to air by clubs. This was a mammoth undertaking and there are so many people to thank for making this possible I may miss mentioning all of them. With up to four games taking place on some days the core Stream Team was augmented by three other “teams” Clive (thanks Sean Quirke), Ligid TV (go raibh maith agat Sonia) and fstop media (thank you John Conlon) all of whom stepped up to the mark superbly. Highland Radio (Oisin Kelly) and Radio na Gaeltachta (Damien O’Dónaill) provided the commentary for many of the games while Damien Dowds covered most of the hurling games (and two football). Thanks as well to Ryan Walsh, Ciaran Cannon and Maurice McLaughlin. Additional thanks to Paddy McGill of OceanFM and Damien O’Dónaill of RnG who commented for
Donegal GAA TV on some games independently of their broadcast stations’ coverage. Donegal GAA TV also added content with half-time and post match interviews with representatives of competing teams. Mid-way through the knock-out phase we also introduced the concept of expert previews which were both aired on the Stream and which could be accessed via links in our virtual programmes. Thanks to the very many Gaels who provided expert analysis before, after and during games and particularly to Gary McDaid, Brendan Devenney and Barry Meehan who were regular contributors in previews and at half-time as well as being among the roster of experts used by Highland Radio as co-commentators on our streams. Ciaran O’Donnell was pivotal to all the added content and also travelled around the county with Bradas O’Donnell to gather video for previews for the Senior (yet to be played and Intermediate Championship final. As an example, the preview for Aodh Ruadh, prior to the Intermediate final, can be viewed via the link below to our youtube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYj7gOd2cmw
A similar preview was planned for other finals but the move to Level 3 kibboshed that but go raibh maith agaibh to Carn Domhanagh agus An Clochán Liath who provided the PRO with self-shot footage to put together a video preview for the Junior Hurling final. Finally, thank you to all the sponsors (of Streams and Men of the Match) and advertisers who helped to finance the streaming of the games. Streaming is relatively new to the GAA and while Donegal were slightly ahead of most counties having done so in 2019, streaming games to house-bound fans expanded more rapidly in 2020 than available telecoms infrastructure. While the majority of our streams proceeded with no, or quite minor issues, two of the games did have some well-publicised problems – both were high profile games and both involved Gaith Dobhair. Coverage was lost during half-time in the game against Sean MacCumhaills in Machaire Gathlán – ostensibly behind closed doors there were in fact a considerable number of supporters whose half-time social media activities diluted the available signal and it was nearly half-way through the second half before full coverage was restored. The semi-final against Kilcar was also problematic as about 10% of subscribers had no coverage – this time the problem was with our platform providers Streaming Video Providers who had insufficient Broadband for all the games it was streaming throughout Ireland. To avoid this occurring again we switched provider for many of our subsequent games to BEOSport.
Two inter-county hurling games in the Nickey Rackard Cup were also streamed live. Croke Park organised live broadcast coverage, or streaming via GAAGO, of all football and hurling championship games with the exception of the Nickey Rackard and Lory Meagher Cups. Thus, Donegal GAA TV decided to stream Donegal’s games against Longford, Armagh and Tyrone. The former two were streamed successfully with roughly 200 viewers, sufficient to cover expenses, and TG4 came in with an offer to stream the semi-final against Tyrone and the Nickey Rackard final. With broadcasters providing live coverage of all Donegal’s inter-county games – Allianz League and Championship – Donegal Gaels were able to view all our inter-county games.
All club championship draws, including those for Rounds 3 and 4 of the new format championship league, were also streamed with the help of Bradas Video Productions and hosted (and largely organised) by Damien O’Donaill of RnG.
Publications
CLG Dhún na nGall had no hard copy publications this year, apart from match programmes for the Allianz League fixtures in January, February and March. These were mostly designed, compiled and completed by the host clubs - Aodh Ruadh (Monaghan game), Naomh Ádhamhnáin (Galway game) and Sean MacCumhaill (Mayo game) PROs.
The Leabhrán Eolais was near ready for publication but the first Covid Lockdown rendered the fixtures section redundant and closed down the printers. In retrospect, it would have been worthwhile completing a truncated version as a “virtual” publication but the concept of virtual publications had not occurred to me at that time. As noted above, all the relevant information was spread across our website. If necessary, the option of a virtual Leabhrán Eolais will be looked at in 2021.
Virtual programmes were compiled for all of the games streamed by Donegal GAA TV. None of these would have seen the light of day without considerable input from club secretaries and PROs and thank you to all of them. Thanks too to the journalists who provided me with match previews and other articles and
particularly to Geraldine Diver, but also Evan Logan and Peter Campbell, for providing many of the images. County officials Michelle Bennett (referees administrator) and Fergus McGee (Irish Cultural Officer) were also invaluable. Finally, thanks to Jordan Keane of Impacto Print and John Hughes the Aodh Ruadh Pro who tutored the PRO in InDesign to the a level where he could compile the Programmes. Overall, 17 programmes (10 club football, 3 club hurling, 3 county hurling and 1 county football) were completed over the last three months - programmes for upcoming County Senior Final and Intermediate Relegation play-off are mostly complete as well.

It was decided not to do a Yearbook for 2020.

Miscellaneous

Working as a Team

A recurring feature of this report is thanking the many people who have been of considerable help over the course of the year. Working as part of a team is integral to the work of a PRO. The help of the County Board and the timely co-operation of the clubs was essential in putting together the material for the draft Leabhrán Eolais. The input of the Donegal squad and management has been integral to the success of CLG Dhúna nGall’s communications with the public. Declan Bonner has been exceptionally easy to deal with from a PRO perspective, always available for pre-match press events, post-match interviews, launches, fund-raisers etc. Similarly, squad members have followed suit and my sincere thanks to them all for their availability, affability and the comfortably efficiency that each and every one dealt with the media and the general public. Thanks too to the hurling fraternity, particularly Frankie Doherty, Marty McGrath, Mickey McCann and Manus O’Donnell for their co-operation both in preparing for hurling match days and putting together match programmes.

As already noted, the work of club PROs and Secretaries and their inter-action with me is vital to ensuring the Donegal brief is fulfilled. The @gaa.ie based communications system is a massive help in making
communicative teamwork more efficient. All secretaries use their @gaa.ie addresses but there is still a significant number of club PROs not using this address. This makes electronic communication more difficult and it also means they cannot access the information folders which I have set up using the One Drive cloud computing facility. I would urge those PROs not using this system to please sign on for 2021.

Teamwork on matchdays is of vital importance and considerable thanks to the ground staff and stewards at grounds throughout the county from which we streamed games and sought accommodation for the press during 2020. Working closely with the scrupulously efficient Fergus McGee on match days to communicate with fans is always pleasure.

Co-operation with our hard-working fund-raisers has been an easy, but essential, part of my work. The PRO was not directly involved in the Club Donegal House Draw but liaised closely with Joanne Dawson and Aidan Spence in Club Donegal to make sure the public, and the clubs, were fully informed and to enlist the power and reach of Donegal GAA’s social media to help promote this fund-raising initiative, vital as it is to the development of our Centre of Excellence at Convoy and the future of Donegal GAA.

There were no meetings of the PR and Marketing Committee this year. I had expected to have our first meeting in March shortly after I can back from Australia but Covid intervened. The CCC, on the other hand, had a plethora of meetings and the PRO worked closely with the Committee, and Secretary Ed Byrne in particular, to organise and publicise a novel League and Championship structure. Finally, thanks to Aaron Kyles, the GDM for all co-operation including that which is ongoing to create a new website for GAA Coaching in the County.

**Sponsors**

Sponsors are increasingly important in providing the funding for the activities of CLG Dhun na nGall. The logos of key Senior team sponsors – kn group, Abbey Hotel, Hegarty’s Ford, O’Neill’s Sport and Leisure, Evolve Menswear, YesChef Catering, Affidea, LYIT and Global Hydrate are all on the landing page of Donegal GAA with links through to their own websites. There was also a joint launch with O’Neills of the new kit for our football and hurling squads in January, before the lockdown.

Competition sponsors – Michael Murphy Sports and Leisure, Brian McCormick Sports, Marley Travel, YesChef Catering and Jimmy McGlynn Catering are mentioned as often as possible whenever the relevant competitions are discussed. In particular, special graphics were designed in-house to assist with promotion. Considerable thanks to Aidan Spence for his help in designing not just graphics for promoting our sponsors-competitions but also for other events and promotions.

Thanks once again to everyone who has helped me over the course of the year and apologies if I have left anyone out – the omission was not intentional. Go raibh mile maith agaibh,

Sean MacCondubh
John McEniff
**Toghadh na nOifigeach don bhlian 2021**

**Cumann Lúthchleas Gael**  
Coiste Chondae Dhún na nGall  
Toghadh na nOifigeach don bhlian 2021

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Cathaoirleach (Chairperson)</th>
<th>Mick McGrath</th>
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<tr>
<td>Runaí (Secretary)</td>
<td>Declan Martin</td>
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<td>Cisteoir (Treasurer)</td>
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<td>David McLoone Ryan Walsh William Doogan</td>
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<td>Teachaí go Comhdháil Bhliantúil C.L.G (Delegate to National Congress) (1)</td>
<td>Gary Duffy Ryan Walsh Seamus O Domhnaill</td>
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A chairde, it is with pleasure and honor that I present my fifth and final report to County Convention as Development Officer. It is incredible how quickly time has passed since my election to the role in March 2016: Five years may seem like a long time but looking back it really has flown by. I have to say I’ve fully enjoyed the work and responsibility that goes with the role and in working with the clubs, with the added satisfaction of successfully overseeing a massive step forward at the Donegal GAA Centre at Convoy with the completion of Phase 2.

The highlight of the year has undoubtedly been the completion of the main building at the GAA Centre and moving in. It was with great pride that we could invite all the clubs of the county to view the Centre last July to see first-hand what we as a county, have created. The oversight and management of both the physical development, and the day-to-day activities at the Centre, has dominated the role of Development Officer for the past year.

I have also very much enjoyed the engagement with clubs carrying out their own development works and working with those focused on the ‘off the field’ activities, including club planning and participation in club officer training programmes.

Pic: October Sunset – Courtesy Gabrielle Gallagher

Donegal GAA Centre at Convoy – Phase 2

Looking back on it, a lot has been achieved since 2016. At that time, we were back to scratch, knowing we had to redesign the building to satisfy the changing needs we had for the GAA in the county: and we were without an Architect. In short summary for the last 5 years;

- **2016** – We redefined the project brief for overall **Phase 2**, procured a new Architect led design team (MH Associates, Letterkenny), completed the new design and submitted an application to Donegal Co.Co. to amend our previous planning permission. 2016 also saw the completion of Pitches 3 & 4, which were brought into use for winter training for the 2017 season

- **2017** – Planning permission granted for the new building, detailed design completed and tender documents prepared, 2 stage tender completion completed (i.e. pre-qualification and then invitation to tender)

- **2018** – Financing arrangements completed for €2.2m development. Critical to this was the agreement by the 40 Donegal Clubs to borrow €1m towards funding the project (45%). We also succeeded in our application to Croke Park for an increase in GAA funding towards this Phase of the project (to 26%), to go with Sports Capital Grant (14%) and our obligations to fundraise the balance (15%). Contract signed with McDermott & Trearty Construction Ltd., and works commenced on site September.

- **2019** – Construction substantially completed. We took partial occupation of building (changing rooms) in December
2020 – Building works, groundworks and other siteworks completed. Restrictions and other issues caused by the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in significant delays throughout the year. Works are now fully completed and we are in the 12 month defects liability period. The significant works completed in 2020 were:

- Gym fit out – with high spec strength and conditioning equipment accommodating a full squad
- Auditorium / Video Analysis – 80 seater tiered meeting room with state of the art seating and audio visual installation
- Covered spectator stand: Installation of 200 tip-up seats in the new stand overlooking Pitch 1
- Enclosure fence around Pitch 1 to make it a suitable venue for hosting matches
- Sale and removal of the temporary accommodation (prefabs and cabins) that were long past the time we had expected of them

Clubs and Club delegates were kept informed of all matters of the project over my term as Development Officer through my reports to the monthly County Committee meetings.

I have to again this year, acknowledge the support and drive of my fellow officers and also the Planning & Physical Development Committee in progressing this major infrastructure project. Gregg Smeaton of MH Associates, was the Architect leading the design team. The design team included Kearney Associates (Quantity Surveyors), Pauric McDaid (Structural Engineer), TUV SUD (Mechanical & Electrical Engineers).

The completed building covers a total floors size of 1,270m2 (approx. 13,700 sq ft). The accommodation provided in the new building includes:-

**Ground Floor**
- Six team changing rooms (2 large rooms for senior county teams plus 4 regular sized rooms)
- Referees changing room
- Caretakers room
- Physio / Medical Room
- Public toilets
- Plant Room/ Switch Room
- Stores Rooms

**First Floor**
- Gymnasium with state of the art strength & conditioning fit-out
- Canteen / Dining Room
- Reception/ waiting area
- Administration area and Offices
- Boardroom
- 80 seater Auditorium /Meeting/ analysis room with full AV installation
- Kitchen
- Toilets
Financing Phase 2 of the Donegal GAA Centre

- This Phase of development was budgeted to cost €2.2m. The modifications made to the plans: increasing the size of the gym and to create the 80 seater auditorium, both of which are finished to the highest standard, has added to the project cost. We also enhanced the specification of the building finishes in order to achieve a better quality with lower maintenance needs, such as fair face blockwork and floor coverings throughout. Elements of Phase 3 works such as access roads, site lighting, CCTV, increased storage space, were brought forward to Phase 2 as they became apparent as being essential at this stage. Other typical project variations and extras also arose, as would be expected with any building contract.

- The forecast outturn cost of this phase of the project will be closer to €2.5m. This represents an increase of 12-14% from the budget set in 2018 (which should be noted was based on 2017 tender prices and estimates). This is a very satisfactory outcome in the context of the major scope improvements achieved of the gym and auditorium, the accelerated elements from future phases, and the enhanced quality of finishes we have purchased.

- As clubs know, Phase 2 of the County GAA Centre required a very substantial investment by CLG Dhún na nGall. Almost €1m was funded through borrowings that will be repaid over a 15 year period, as approved by the Clubs in 2018. We are already into the 3rd year of that term. We had €575,000 of grant available from Croke Park and a further €300,000 of Sports Capital Programme, both of which are now drawn down to the last 5%. Funding has also been received from Donegal Co.Co. The balance was and continues to be, raised by CLG Dhún Na nGall through fundraising.

- To meet our obligations for self financing for this capital project, a number of fundraising initiatives were completed over the timeframe of Phase 2, such as banquets, lunch events, and the ‘Buy-a-Brick’ campaign. However, the major fundraiser of the ‘Win a House in Dublin’ draw, has provided the means to pay for the fantastic building that has been completed and has given us the means to fully fit out the gym and auditorium, as well as looking forward to progress with Phase 3.

- **Future Works at the Donegal GAA Centre**
The works not included in the current phase of development which are part of the overall masterplan are:
  - Construction of Pitch 5 - (Grass pitch currently preferred over 3G) and floodlighting
  - Indoor Sports hall (approx. 1200-1400m2)
  - Hurling wall incorporating 35m x 35m 3G training area – floodlit
  - Car Park finishes – drainage, kerbing, lighting, surfacing & lining
  - Complete secure perimeter fence
  - Site finishing works, pitch access paths, landscaping

CLG Dhún Na nGall applied for further funding under the 2018 Sports Capital Programme towards the construction of Pitch 5, the warm up training area, equipment and fencing. Unfortunately this application was unsuccessful, the primary reason being the amount that was previously allocated under earlier SCP’s: which
was hugely disappointing. Because of the rules around sports capital funding, to date we have been unable to get beyond the €300,000 awarded under the 2012 programme. This represents just 6% of the €5m spent between Phase 1 & Phase 2. We will continue to vigorously pursue other avenues for grant aid as we push to move on with Phase 3.

Liaison with Croke Parks NIHSC committee continues regarding all aspects of the development at Convoy through the engineering overseer, Denis Rocks, the National Infrastructure Committee and the National Finance Committee.

The work of the Planning and Development committee on this project, particularly Charlie Kerr and Bryan Cannon on the administration of the contract over the course of the year, has again to be acknowledged.

**Donegal GAA Centre – Activity, Pitches and Maintenance**

The very high level of activity at the training centre continued from 2019 into 2020. The demand for winter training under floodlights was again relentless until the country was forced into lockdown in March. With only 3 teams allowed to return to action in September, the centre was not as busy in the lead in to winter. We also accommodated the county ladies teams as best we could, as well as providing a neutral venue for a number of club football and hurling matches. We always endeavour to have the floodlit pitches (pitches 1 & 2) in the best possible condition for winter use. To that end, more intensive maintenance was again targeted on these two pitches.

Pitch maintenance works at the centre was carried out during the year by Pitch Dimensions Ltd (William Coyle), who continues to be a pleasure to work with.

Our thanks go to Rodger McElhinney, Paul McAuley and John Travers from the Community Employment Scheme for their ongoing work on the upkeep and general maintenance around the centre. A particular work of thanks goes to Seamus Catterson, who spent 6 years at the Centre up to his retirement in May; we wish you all the very best in retirement Seamus.

A mention too to Gabrielle Gallagher, who keeps the new building in immaculate condition and is always on hand to assist in any way possible.

**Mac Cumhaill Park**

Draft plans are prepared for further development works at Mac Cumhaill Park, most notably the construction of up to three new toilet blocks, a further shop, plus egress improvements from the east stand. As with the last two years, these are on hold due to budgetary constraints. The timing of submission of planning applications will be based on when the works need to be delivered and when the budget is available. Maintenance work to address rust and corrosion on the steel work to the stand will also be required in the near future.

The new all Ireland quarter final format of 2019 restarted a conversation on the capacity of the stadium and why the safe holding capacity is less than the official capacity, which we have undertaken to review. With all the interruption this year with Covid-19, this review has not progressed significantly over the last 12 months. It should be looked at by the Planning & Development Committee in 2021.

Efforts instead turned towards Covid compliance at the ground for both club matters and for intercounty matches. The press box had a number of alterations to safeguard commentary teams such as the addition of fixed perspex screens, and the ground floor sub-divided to create an isolated commentary area, in order to comply with social distancing. A second press overflow area with power and wifi was provided for in the stand.

Our PRO, John McEniff, was of great assistance in agreeing appropriate measures to satisfy as many of the needs of the press as we could.

As always, the MacCumhails club have been a pleasure to work with, and have to be commended in their efforts to have the Covid measures in place and the pitches ready for winter play, particularly for the Ulster Championship match against Tyrone.

**Club Pitch Maintenance**

In 2019, the GAA National Field Committee developed pitch some maintenance programmes and a guidance document targeted at GAA clubs. Unfortunately it was not possible to follow these up with a practical course in 2020 due to the pandemic. Hopefully they will run courses at some stage in 2021.

Clubs are urged to continue investing in pitch maintenance and have a programme specific to their pitches and a budget ringfenced to do work. It is worth engaging with a professional who can advise on what work should be done and to identify soil nutrient deficiencies to be addressed during fertilising.

The aeration of pitches is critical to maximising their playing time across the year. Methods such as verti-draining or slitting are most common. The importance of aeration is underlined by the GAAs financial support to grant aid which normally would be €500 per pitch per annum for verti-draining or equivalent. Unfortunately the GAA were not in a position to accept applications for verti-draining grants this year so clubs are advised to
retain their invoices/ receipts in order to seek payment when applications for grants reopen. A number of clubs did not get their verti-drain grant for 2019 due to an administrative error at Ulster Council. This will be corrected and those clubs will receive the grant, but at this stage we cannot be sure when that will be.

**Club Development Works**

Clubs received communications from Croke Park earlier in the year, requesting that no new development works begin if borrowings are necessary, due to concerns with funding and financing as a result of Covid 19. The communication also stated that the GAA would not be in a position to pay out development grants in 2020 due to the collapse of the expected income streams. Any club that had intended making an application during 2020 are advised to retain all records of expenditure incurred, in order to be able to make a retrospective application once the scheme reopens.

A number of clubs had works underway prior to that and well done to those clubs who managed to continue with, and in some cases complete, developing their facilities. Naomh Padraig Leifear are reaching the end of a major redevelopment with both a large clubhouse extension and a complete pitch rebuild. CLG Beart completed their second pitch, hurling wall and other works. CLG Chloich Cheann Fhaola also completed their pitch reconstruction. Gaeil Fhánada continued on from their fine pitch redevelopment with the addition of dugouts and other ancillary work. Aodh Ruadh continue with terracing improvements and enabling works for a complete pitch rebuild of Fr.Tierney Park in 2021.

Clubs are reminded that they must consult with the Planning and Physical Development Committee before starting development works and to confirm the finances are in place as well as establishing the applicable level of GAA capital grant aid. Ulster Council has advised us that the grant scales for various types of development are being revised. The new levels of grants will be circulated once we receive notification.

Whilst Health and Safety standards are continuously improving across the county, there will always be work to be done. The GAA have a Safety Audit checklist which was circulate to clubs in 2019. Clubs are reminded that they must have a current Health & Safety Statement and must conduct regular risk assessments of all activities, both match and non-match day for both on and off the field activities.

**Sports Capital Grants**

After much anticipation, the Government has just announced the opening of the next round of the Sports Capital Programme. A total of €40m is being made available for Sports Capital and Equipment Programme (SCEP). All applications must be made online using the Departments OSCAR system. Clubs must first register online. The deadline for applications is 5pm Friday 12th February 2021. Any club who intend making an application should start (if they hadn’t already done so) with the preparatory works such as submitting planning applications, obtaining contractors quotes, updating Deeds of Trust, and so on, as some of these will take time to complete.

The Planning & Physical Development sub-committee are available to clubs to discuss and advise on development plans, as well as availing of the corporate trustee route.

**Club Leadership and Training**

Ulster GAA and national GAA have continued their work on the consolidation of training for club officers during 2020. The GAA Club Leadership Development Programme 2020 focused training for the four principle club officer roles of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and PRO, with new modules also added for Development Officer, Coaching Officer and Irish Language & Cultural Officer roles in clubs.

The 2020 club officer training took place over two dates in January. Training for new officers was held at Coláiste Ailigh, Letterkenny on January 16th. Over 90 officers registered for training across the 7 roles. A second evening of training was held on January 30th on topics such as good governance, health and safety, fundraising and communications, which was also well attended.

As it became apparent that Clubs would not be hosting AGMs in person / in meeting rooms, guidance was issued by the GAA on running AGMs online, which was followed up by webinars during November on the use of MS Teams and Forms in the context of running an online Club AGM.

The training programme for 2021 officers will most likely be delivered via online platforms. We will again be strongly encouraging clubs to avail of this training which is most beneficial in terms of understanding the full requirements of the key roles, providing useful tools to help with fulfilling the role, and creates networking opportunities with other clubs and GAA structures.

**Club Maith**

Congratulations to CLG Bhaile na nGallógach and CLG Bheart who both achieved the Bronze Club Maith Award during 2020. Club Maith is a Club accreditation scheme unique to the GAA, which allows clubs to be benchmarked against best practice standards. A Club Maith award makes a clear, proven statement about the

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quality of a club, right across the board.
Ulster GAA wish to see more engagement from clubs in their Club Maith initiative, all details can be found at www.ulster.gaa.ie/club-maith. This initiative has been linked with the eligibility of clubs for securing capital grants in the six counties, but there is no steadfast rule affecting clubs in Donegal as of yet.

GAA Club Planning Programme
The GAA continue to promote the GAA Club Planning Programme and have updated the template and guidance documents. Club Planning is essentially the development of a club development plan, typically for durations of 3 – 5 years. The plan works through five main focus areas:

- Coaching and Games Development
- Communications and PR
- Club Structures and Administration
- Finance and Fundraising
- Facilities and Development

A number of clubs in Donegal have completed or are in the process of preparing a club plan. We are encouraging clubs to avail of the tools and templates available from the GAA to develop clubs plans, which when complete should clearly outline the goals and objects of the club in a coherent and collaborative manner.

We have trained facilitators in the county. Interested clubs should contact the county development officer.

Conclusion
Finally, my thanks go to all my fellow officers, both past and present, and of course Noreen, for all their help and guidance throughout not just this year, but my full term in office. I have been very lucky to have worked with highly driven and highly motivated colleagues across the management committee, all with the sole objective of bettering the GAA within the county.

Our Cathaoirleach, Mick McGrath, has put huge drive and energy into progressing the Donegal GAA Centre at Convoy and has had the courage and commitment to lead out on the House Draw. This has been critical in making it possible to do so much more at the new home of Donegal GAA. A word of thanks as well to our Cisteoir, Alan Boyd, on keeping the finances moving for the project.

I also thank the Planning and Physical Development committee members, Charlie Kerr, Bryan Cannon, Oliver Prunty, Terrence McShea and Paddy Mullen, for their work and assistance throughout the last 5 years.

Daithi MacGiolla Eoin
David McLoone
Is onóir mór dom tuarairisc na bliana seo a chur os bhur gcomhair. It is a great honour for me to present this years ‘Hurling Report’. In 2020, we have had the greatest of challenges in the development and promotion of hurling in the County ever, with the Covid 19 Pandemic causing the shortening of our playing season and the resignation of our hard working secretary during the year. Our Adult and Under- Age Competitions were severely disrupted in 2020. It is a credit to all concerned, that we got through a lot of hurling before the ‘Second Lockdown’ was introduced.

Our Senior County hurlers won Division 3A of the National Hurling League Title in March, defeating Armagh in a keenly contested final and gained promotion to Division 2B of the National Hurling League for 2021. The County players showed great commitment during 2020 and have qualified for the Final of the ‘Nicky Rackard Cup’. Hopefully, they will bring the cup back to ‘The Hills’, at the end of November. Thanks to all the Senior County Panel, their manager Mickey McCann and his management team for brightening our days during our ‘Second Lockdown’, of 2020.

Due to the Second Lockdown the Under 21 Hurling Competition has been put on hold and all our ‘Development Squads’, lost out this year, as all their competitions were cancelled. Hopefully, all the squads will get up and going again in 2021. The following clubs competed in the Senior Championship, Buncrana, Burt, Saint Eunan’s, Sean Mac Cumhaill’s and Setanta. We had a repeat of last years final, Saint Eunan’s and Setanta. In an exciting final, Saint Eunan’s battled gamely, but the men from ‘The Cross’, won their third Senior Hurling Championship Title in four years. Congratulations to Setanta and thanks to all the other clubs for their participation in our Senior Championship. In the Junior Championship, seven clubs competed for the title, they were Aodh Ruadh, Carndonagh, Dungloe, Four Masters, Letterkenny Gaels, Saint Eunan’s and Setanta. It was great to see so many teams competing this year. With Dungloe competing at adult level for the first time and Four Masters making a welcome return to the adult competitions. Carndonagh and Dungloe made it to the Junior Final and Carndonagh made up for last years disappointment, by defeating Dungloe, in a keenly contested game. Congratulations to Carndonagh and to all the teams that competed in our Senior and Junior Championships in 2020.

Due to the Second Lockdown the Under 21 Hurling Competition has been put on hold and all our ‘Development Squads’, lost out this year, as all their competitions were cancelled. Hopefully, all the squads will get up and going again in 2021.

The following clubs fielded teams in various age groups at underage, Aodh Ruadh, Buncrana, Burt, Carndonagh, Dungloe, Four Masters, Gweedore, Letterkenny Gaels, Saint Eunan’s, Sean MacCumhaills and Setanta. In what was a very difficult year for all our clubs, we did get a lot of Hurling played.

Minor: Our Minor Competition was played on a Countywide basis and due to the ‘Second Lockdown’, we hope to complete the competition in early 2021. Burt and Saint Eunan’s are through to the ‘A Final and Setanta, Aodh Ruadh, Dungloe and Buncrana are still in contention for the ‘B Final’. Under 16: most clubs got playing three games and we had reached the ‘A and B Semi-Finals’, but the ‘Second Lockdown’ came and these competitions have been cancelled.

Under 14: Our Championships at this level were completed. The Under 14 A Title was won by Aodh Ruadh, they defeated Sean MacCumhaill’s in the Final and Carndonagh defeated Setanta in the Under 14 B Final. The Under 12 Mini League was organised by regions and most clubs got to play three or four games before the ‘Second Lockdown’ came and all activity was then cancelled.

Under 10’s and Under 8’s: as all Blitz Competitions were cancelled in 2020 only a small number of games were played in these age groups, at a local level.

At primary schools level Cumann na mBunscol continues to play a vital and important role in the promotion and development of hurling, Mile Buiochas do na muinteoirí. At Secondary Schools level our schools compete in Ulster Schools competitions. Some games took place in the school year 2019/2020, at both primary and secondary levels, but once the ‘Lockdown’ was introduced in March, that was the end of all inter schools games and there has been no games played , since the schools re-opened in September.

On behalf of the Hurling Committee, I wish to thank all of the coaches in our Primary and Secondary Schools. I wish, on behalf of the Hurling Committee to a pay special tribute to our officers, who have served on the Coisde Iomana in 2020, Paddy Lennon, Ruth Lennon, Daithi MacRoibeard, Denis Daly, Eilis Ni
Dhochartaigh, JJ Lafferty and PJ McGowan and to thank all of the Club delegates for their attendance at Coisde Iomana meetings during the year. In mid Summer our secretary Paddy Lennon resigned from his position, the Hurling community in the county were very disappointed at the loss of such a dedicated and hard working officer. We were unable to fill this role and the work of the secretary fell to other members of the Coisde Iomana. The County Board and all its officers have been of great support to the Hurling Committee in 2020, many thanks to all concerned and especially the County Chairperson, County Treasurer, County Assistant Treasurer, County Coaching Officer and Games Development Manager.

Manus O’Domhnaill         Cathaoirleach

Coiste Iomana 2021
The following officers were elected to the Hurling Board at AGM of An Coisde Iomana:
Chairperson: Manus O’Domhnaill, Burt.
Vice Chairperson: Daithi Roberts, Gaoth Dobhair.
Secretary: Stephen Doherty, Letterkenny Gaels.
Assistant Secretary/ Bord na nOg: Eilis Ni Dhochartaigh, Carndonagh.
Public Relations Officer: Padraig Lawlor, Dungloe.
Bord na nOg: Denis Daly: Aodh Ruadh.
Under Age Hurling Referees Co Ordinator: JJ Lafferty, Carndonagh.
It is an honour and a pleasure to submit this report outlining the 2020 Coaching activities to Convention. Unusual, unreal, unbelievable and strange. Just some of the words to describe 2020. Normal activity ceased from March and whilst there have been some restarts the disruption to the Coaching schedules and activities continues. As the new norm was forced upon us, Aaron Kyles and his team of coaches replaced the on-site in-person coaching experience with Virtual Technology orientated approach. Webinars replaced workshops and ‘Microsoft Teams’ meetings replaced Committee team meetings. The ‘Virtual’ Skills Challenge proved hugely successful! Many thanks to all our Footballers and Hurlers past and present who volunteered and contributed their time, knowledge and skills to make these happen. And to our minors and Academy squads who also got in on the act!

Below is a snapshot of the activity that went ahead. Again, like many of you, whilst 2021 may see a continued impact to activities as we know it, nevertheless I look forward to an increased calendar of events so our young people can be seen in active games with their respective Club or School or indeed in a Donegal jersey.

**ACADEMIES 2020**.

All Academy activity for Football and Hurling squads was suspended in March. The U16 (Buncrana Cup) squad began activity in December 2019 and had their squad in place by March. They also had a very successful Athlete Development Program in place. As part of this program, the squad gathered as smaller groups (once per week) within their region as a supervised Introductory to Athlete Development program. In all, there were seven centres across the county. These centres are in Buncrana, Letterkenny (St. Eunan’s College), Castlefinn (Robert Emmets), Milford, Gweedor, Kilcar and Ballyshannon. This enables and ensures that the players can remain within their local area and do not have to travel excessive distances to meet for this. This program should not conflict with Club activity i.e. where there is a clash, club activity takes priority.

It also allows gives the flexibility for Players that are not part of the Main squad to get insight and benefit from this program.

It is seen as an integral element of our Academy programs going forward.

I want to acknowledge the Clubs and Schools who have generously made their facilities/halls available to support this Program. I want to thanks the parents who bought into the program.

Lastly, I want to thank Ryan McKinley and his team of coaches for their great work with this group of players in the limited amount of time.
## DONEGAL U16 BUNCRA NA CUP SQUAD (F)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CLUB</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARRON CULLEN</td>
<td>AODH RUADH BEAL ATHA SEANAIGH</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANDREW MURRAY</td>
<td>BAILE NA NGALLOGLACH</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAMES DOTHERTY</td>
<td>AODH RUA CUILL NA CURRIDIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>PATRICK MC DAID</td>
<td>AN TEARMANN</td>
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<td>EVAN KEOWN</td>
<td>AN TEARMANN</td>
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<td>SEOSAMH DOOHAN</td>
<td>NAOMH MUIRE</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIARIAN DALTON</td>
<td>ROBERT EMMETS</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAVID DOHERTY</td>
<td>MALAINN</td>
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<td>GARY KELLY</td>
<td>GLEANN TSUILI</td>
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<td>KYLE MC NULTY</td>
<td>REALT NA MARA</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANIEL MARLEY</td>
<td>GLEANN Fhinne</td>
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<td>OISIN CAULFIELD</td>
<td>NA ROSSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIAM GALLAGHER</td>
<td>NAOMH BRID</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICHEAL CALLAGHAN</td>
<td>NAOMH COLUMBA</td>
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<td>PATRICK MC ELWEE</td>
<td>NA DUNAIBH</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARRON NEILLAN</td>
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<td>MATTEW BOYLE</td>
<td>NA ROSSA</td>
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<td>JAMIE ODONNEILL</td>
<td>NAOMH CONAILL</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATHAL DE BURCA</td>
<td>GAOTH DOBHAIR</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEAN TIMONEY</td>
<td>AN CLOCHAN LIATH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eoin Mc Gettigan</td>
<td>BAILE NA NGALLOGLACH</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANOTHONY CURRAN</td>
<td>BAILE NA NGALLOGLACH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oisin Mc GlincheY</td>
<td>SEAN MACCUMHAILLS</td>
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<td>FABIAN FLOOD</td>
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<td>DARRAGH FERRY</td>
<td>GAOTH DOBHAIR</td>
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<td>RYAN BRENNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOAH BARRET</td>
<td>NAOMH ADHAMHNAIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHAUN WARD</td>
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<td>CILLIAN BONNER</td>
<td>NA ROSSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>LUKE GALLAGHER</td>
<td>NAOMH ULTAN</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Coaches

- Ryan McKinley  Level 3
- Hugh Harkin    Level 3
- Tom Gillespie  Level 1
- Camillus Mulcahy  Level 2
- Kerry Ryan     F/Award (F)
- Peter Boyle    F/Award (F)
- Tommy Kerr(Physio)  F/Award (F)
**Summer Webinar Program**

As we adjusted to life in Lockdown and the associated restrictions which inevitably meant no GAA activity, Donegal GAA hosted some on-line webinars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer Webinar Series</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition principles for Training, recovery and performance in Young Athletes</td>
<td>Brendan Egan</td>
<td>May 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factors that affect Performance (2012 Players)</td>
<td>Eamon McGee, Frank McGlynn, Rory Kavanagh, Colm McFadden, Charlie Collins (MC)</td>
<td>May 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>60</td>
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</table>

**2020 Cul Camps**

Like most activities, 2020 was a very different year for our Cul Camps schedules. With the majority of counties in Ulster deciding not to host Cul Camps, Donegal GAA did run a Cul Camp program. Instead of the normal 8 week schedule, this was run over 5 weeks.

A huge word of gratitude firstly to the 5 Clubs that hosted camps and to Aaron, his coaching staff and the Cul Camp coaches that ensured they ran smoothly, efficiently and provided a much needed sporting outlet to the boys and girls who signed up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Termon</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Michaels</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downings</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Centre (Convoy)</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naomh Columba</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2020 Winter Webinar Program:**

This was launched in October and the events ran during November. There was an international theme with Professor Kevin Till, Leeds and Dr. Micheal Cahill, New Zealand hosting events. In all over 300 attendees logged into the first 4 events.
Donegal GAA Education Webinar Series

November Webinar Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Club Support Program</td>
<td>Aaron Kyles</td>
<td>November 4th</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaching framework to support LTAD (Longterm Athlete Development)</td>
<td>Prof. Kevin Till</td>
<td>November 11th</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNdamentals Learning to Move and Moving to Learn</td>
<td>Owen Mooney</td>
<td>November 18th</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of Growth and Maturation on LTAD</td>
<td>Dr. Micheal Cahill</td>
<td>November 25th</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holistic Development – Coaching the Person to Play and Stay with Donegal GAA</td>
<td>Owen Mooney</td>
<td>December 16th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donegal Coaches: Club Engagement program:
Understandably and regretfully, access to Schools for our Coaching staff was severely impacted with Covid restrictions and protocols now in place. Arising from this, our coaching team reached out to Clubs to work with them on a number of different areas. These were spread across 4 categories:

1. **Physical Literacy and Skill Programme at primary school level** – engage with club to tailor the programme in developing the club - school link]
2. **Skill Development Programme**: Offered for after school activities or Friday night coaching activities in pods of 15.
3. **Coach Education** - a series of 5 webinars launched in November leading to Christmas for coaches to upskill and increase their knowledge.
4. Club Support Programme – 16 clubs have signed up for this program:
  Killybegs
  Naomh Ultan
  St.Nauls
  Ardara
  Dungloe
  Naomh Mhuire
  Dowings
  Milford
  Termon
  St. Michaels
  Sean McCumhaills
  St. Marys Convoy
  Robert Emmets
  Buncranna
  Burt
  Naomh Padraig, Muff

Le meas.
Concubhair MacDiaramada
CLD Dun na nGall
I present my third report on behalf of the Referees Administration Committee (RAC) here today at County Convention. Our RAC Committee comprises James Connors, Frank Dooley, Jim Gillen, Lee Jordan, Martin Mc Kinley, Jimmy White, and myself Michelle Bennett, the Referees’ Administrator. Ed Byrne, Rúnaí CCC and Frankie Doherty, Chairperson CCC are ex-officio members. This year our team have worked through a tough year due to Covid 19 and we didn’t expect what happened to turn the GAA calendar upside down. But I can say that our Referees and the RAC and the CCC worked very well together, allowing fixtures at both adult and at underage to progress in a satisfactory manner.

Recruitment, Training, Development and Classification. We started off the year with the aim of improving the availability of referees by continuing in refining the training experience of our existing referee group. We got all trained up by February and were ready to go but unfortunately, we were hit with Covid 19 that disrupted the whole GAA calendar leaving us not knowing what to expect for 2020. However, when Sport got the green light in July we found that the vast majority of our referees were willing to serve and were very quick to complete their return to play protocols. Referees had kept their fitness level up. We know because we met, trained and tested prior to the start of play. Remember we also had our rule changes; the Mark and Advanced Mark, the redefined Black Card and more changes in the Kick-out rule. Can I at this point thank Donal Smyth, GAA National Match Official Manager and Jimmy White, our Referees Tutor for their efforts in ensuring that the consistent application of the new rules was clear to all our referees.

Twelve new referees were recruited and trained in February this year, however only four agreed to field with the whistle in hand. It was a hard year coming into the referee world. Going forward in 2021 we will be able to work with all of these 12 referees and hopefully get them all game time. I want to thank all clubs that put names forward and look forward to working with them in 2021.

We continue to improve our development of existing referees. Perhaps I can remind all present that only those referees who participate in the annual start of year referee in-service can take charge of games in a current year. This is as it should be. This year Referee Administrators from Derry, Tyrone and Fermanagh joined with us to ensure that every referee who wished to could attend the mandatory in-service course. While most of our referees attended at Ballybofey in January; some went to Garvaghey and others went to Owenbeg. This year also those referees who only officiate at underage games attended. This was a great success and that is how we will proceed in future.

We have also made significant strides with formal referee advisement. We have set out and agreed a process with the CCC to foster the progression of competent and ambitious referees up through the ranks. We have recruited and trained two additional Referee Advisors and now have eight. We have piloted our progression plan in this Covid 19 year and are happy that it will work well when we return to the normal playing season.

Under –age Refereeing
This year the RAC worked well with the Southern and Northern Board Inishowen Board on fixtures and especially when there was an occasion when there was an overlap of fixtures. I would like to thank Lee Jordan, Sinead Breen and Peter Maloney for all their hard work over the last few months. There is still work to be done however as the number of referees dedicated to underage refereeing is small if we take out the senior Adult Referees. Both boards are struggling with just trying to keep fixtures going, especially whenever there is a full adult fixture list in play. I know that the NRB are working of a pool of 31 referees (Adult & Underage) but it struggled at times to cover games, for example, on one Friday evening it had 7 games to cover on the Saturday and could only cover 5 and had to get 2 Referees in from outside the NRB. This is a great strain on the boards and the referees. Referees have put so much effort in this year to get all games played but this overlap of Underage and Adult fixtures at weekends needs to be addressed. Yet again there are clubs out there that don’t have a referee for underage fixtures.

For our part we have some work to do here also. We need to put a greater and consistent effort into mentoring newly trained referees and supporting the exclusive underage referee as she/he moves through the season.
Managing Fixtures
There have been quite a few situations this year with changes to fixtures due to clubs rescheduling them, yes I know a few were due to Covid19 regulations but I feel there was a lot more changes done this year that were not related to Covid 19. No one knows the amount of effort and time that was put into the fixtures this year and more so this year for clubs to be changing about it was difficult to keep up with at times. Referees of course were the last one to be contacted to be told, but in fairness they never had a problem changing for the game but last minute changes were hard to keep up with.

Our Referees
I wish to thank all referees who officiated at our games this year. With just Senior, Intermediate and Junior Championship been played it was hard to get all referee out to officiate in adult games as there were no reserve competitions.
We had a few that opted out this year, due to Covid 19 concern and look forward to seeing all back when this epidemic is under control.
I know it’s not easy to commit every weekend, having family commitments and work commitments and not talking at all about the underage games that you also do, so I thank you all again.
Referees, all of whom are volunteers, give of their time in this valued service. I thank an Cisteoir for the wet gear for all referees which was presented at the Fitness Test in July this year.
We have Four intercounty referees; James Connors (St. Eunans) is a National Panel Hurling referee and Aiden McAleer (N. Padraig Uisce Chaoin) is in the Ulster Hurling Referee Academy. James Callaghan (Setanta) is a new recruit to the Ulster Hurling Referee Academy.
Enda Mc Feely (N. Muire Convoy) and Mark Dorrian (Gaeil Fhanada) remain in the Ulster Gaelic Football Referee Academy; they are re-joined this year by Ryan Walsh (Realt na Mara, Bundoran). Thank You to all the lads that are putting in this extra commitment and putting Donegal up there.

Refereeing in Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult Hurling Referees</th>
<th>SRB sole U-age Referees</th>
<th>IB sole U-age Referees</th>
<th>NRB sole U-age Referees</th>
<th>Inter County Referees</th>
<th>RAC Referees</th>
<th>Advisors</th>
<th>Clubs With 2 or more Referees</th>
<th>Clubs with No referee at all</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
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Give Respect - Get Respect
Everyone here knows that those who run the field ensuring to the best of their ability that fair play is adhered to and that all participants are protected in what are aggressive games are people of courage. We all know that every player gives of his best in our fast moving exhilarating games and we all know that only one team can win and often but the closest of margins. We also know that the referee who runs the field gives of his/her best. Why is it that some hurlers on the ditch are such sore losers that they heap verbal abuse on the referee from there place of comfort outside the line and outside the wire even to the point of aggressively confronting the referee as she/he leaves the pitch having given of his service. This is outrageous behaviour. This is something I am strongly against and so is the GAA so why do clubs let it happen? We have had a few referees abused this year and thanks to the CCC these abusers have been appropriately dealt with. In saying that I reach out to all clubs to please speak to your managers and mentors and also to club members and make it clear that abusing a referee is not acceptable and will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
To each club; if you have members who engage in abusive behaviour - you know who they are; you know that it isn’t just one referee that they pick on it is many. Why not be proactive, why not deal with it within your club constitution and rules. Prevention is much better than cure.
To each club, we now have GDPR, we have e-mails, text messaging, WhatsApp, etc. Gone are the days when the CCC, can file vertically in the turf fire a carefully constructed missive of complaint from a disappointed club about the “imperfections” of the referee who “lost them” an important game. E-mails, text message cannot be banished in a blaze they exist forever and the person complained off is entitled to a copy and is entitled to redress. It is particularly hurtful that referees (not just one) can walk into a place of work to be confronted, no matter how politely, with news that complaints have been sent by a certain club that is going to sort them out. This year was especially a Big year for 1 referee and making history in Donegal in being the First woman in Donegal to Referee a Senior Men’s Final and that was Siobhan Coyle from CLG Fanad Gales. Its great to see effort and commitment Siobhan has put in and is manageable for any lady in Donegal that would like to take up
the whistle. Well Done Siobhan.

Also well done to Eugene Mc Hale and team in Referee the Junior A Final. Unfortunately our Senior Final will be at a later date and best of luck to Mark Dorrain (Fanad) and his Team.

**Hosting Referees at our Inter-County Games.**

I wish to thank the various clubs who host inter-county fixtures for the manner in which they look after the referee team (Referee, linesmen, Sideline Official and Umpires). I want to thank various CLG Naomh Ádhamhnáin for looking after myself and all the Referee Officials for all Club and National Level Hurling. Fixtures You’s are a credit to your Club and County for all the hard work you have put into hosting Ulster Fixtures and this also goes to CLG Sean Mac Cumhaill for their tremendous work they put in for the Championship Game v Tyrone . I can only speak for the dedication and commitment of the park committee and measures they went to, to make sure that the game was played as it was an awful weekend of weather. Also I offer a thank you to CLG Aodh Ruadh for their help. I wanted for nothing on the day of the matches. **Towards 2021**

Looking into 2021, just one thing is certain, it will be another unusual year. It will be perhaps best to consolidate the referee pool that we have; reach out to those young referees who have been trained in the past few years and work better with all the referee pool to foster progression up the ranks. In January we will plan for the start of the 2021 season. We will plan but we will also have to wait and see what 2021 brings. **To Conclude**

2020 is my third year in charge and I am happy with the progress that has been made so far and yes there is always room for improvement and with this year been so difficult for everyone I have hope that next year will be a bit easier for all the referee pool.

Can I extend enormous gratitude to you Fergus Mc Gee for your help during all the games as MC and keeping everyone informed and helping the Side Line Officials.

I cant express my gratitude to Frank Dooley enough for all his help and guidance and support he has given me in the last 3 years, he always has everything at hand and I'm so grateful for all. You really do take the Adminstration and training to another level.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the RAC and all the CCC members this year for their huge amount of time and effort that has gone into this year under the circumstances especially to Ed Byrne that had his own difficulties and still managed to keep us going and fixtures been played and always being at the end of the phone.

Thank you to Frankie Doherty for all his assistance over the last 3 years, we may have had difference of opinions at times but we always got there in the end you were a great help me and always on the phone when needed.

Thank you to Mick McGrath and Alan Boyd in finalising new equipment (Flags and Substitute Board) and gear for the lads this year. It is greatly appreciated.

Happy Christmas and New Year to All.

Stay Safe

Michilín Nic Beinéid

Referees Administrator
Tuarascail Choiste na hIar-Bhunscoileanna

I am delighted to have the opportunity to report today on behalf of Choiste na hIar-Bhunscoileanna Co. Dhún na nGall.

This is the fourth year in which all schools in Donegal and across Ulster competed under the one organisation, Ulster Schools, who have overall responsibility for the organisation and management of games and competitions at second level in Ulster. The Ulster Vocational and Colleges boards are no more. As I state every year in this report, it is the Ulster Schools that determine the timing of when competitions are played. As a result, we have few options as to when Donegal Post Primary GAA can schedule games.

Ulster Schools organise all under 14 and under 16 competitions so that they commence in late September and finish in the first week of December. The senior competitions start in late October and run through to March each year. Two years ago the All-Ireland Post Primary Schools voted to increase the senior age limit from under 18.5 to under 19. The County Under 20 competition being moved to February and March for the foreseeable future could lead to fixture clashes between county and school teams who progress to the latter stages of the under 19 competitions.

As I have stated in past years, in Donegal we continue to organise our own county competitions but this is the exception rather than rule in the province. In the school year 2019/20 a large number of Donegal schools were included in groups with schools from other counties. This can make it quite difficult to fit our county competitions into the schedule. However, we believe that it is important to make every effort to continue to run our own competitions as success in Ulster can be rare and having the achievement of winning a school county title is a source of pride for schools and players.

At county level our competitions were severely disrupted by the closure of all schools on March 12. A combination of Ulster competitions, Mock exams and poor weather combined to delay the finish of competitions. In the Senior A county competition Loreto Milford defeated the Abbey Vocational School 0-12 to 0-9. The Senior B final was due to be an all Buncrana affair but wasn’t played before the school closures. The finals of the under 14 and under 16 competitions fell victim to the school closures.

At MacRory Cup level, St Eunan’s College had a great run but lost out in the quarter final stage to eventual joint winners St Colman’s, Newry on a score line of 2-9 to 0-11. Donegal Schools were well represented at MacLarnon Cup level this year. Milford were very unlucky to lose out in the semi-final against St Pius X Magherafelt on a score line of 0-17 to 2-8. Milford did however win the prestigious Irish News cup, defeating Our Lady’s Castleblayney 0-14 to 2-5. Carndonagh CS and Abbey VS lost out in the eliminator round to St Patrick’s Downpatrick and St Paul’s Bessbrook respectively. At Markey Cup level, Rosses CS were the pick of the Donegal schools as they made the quarter final stages.

Two Donegal players have been selected in the 2019/2020 Danske Bank Football All Star team. Loreto Milford’s Rory O’Donnell was selected at midfield, while Shane O’Donnell, St Eunan’s College, Letterkenny has been named at left half-forward. These awards are very competitive and prestigious so well done to both players and their schools.

The county board supply a coach, Paddy Hegarty, who works with students in our post primary schools. This is a great initiative and on behalf of Donegal Post Primary GAA I would like to express our thanks to the County Board for providing this. Having this resource allows us to promote Gaelic football in our schools for a larger part of the year and include students from right across our school community. Feedback from schools has been overwhelmingly positive and demand is high. Towards the end of the year regional blitzes are usually organised by Paddy but again, the school closures meant they could not take place.
In Hurling Rosses CS took part in the under 19 B Casement Cup competition and played games against St. Pat’s Armagh and St. Pat’s Magherafelt. They reached the quarter final of that competition before bowing out. Three Donegal schools took part in the same group of the Casement Shield and Scoil Mhuire topped the group that included St. Columba’s Stranorlar and Crana College. Coláisti Leitir Ceannainn (St. Eunan’s College, Coláiste Ailigh, Errigal College) played against St. Columb’s Derry and Loreto Coleraine in the other group. Scoil Mhuire made to the semi-final of this competition. We extend congratulations and thanks to all teachers working to promote hurling in our schools. A number of other competitions were due to take later on the school year involving the above schools, as well as Coláiste Cholmcille but these had to be cancelled due as well the school closures.

Schools continue to engage in the GAA Future Leaders Programme. There are now thirteen schools taking part. This is a joint initiative from the GAA and the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST). It is a cross-curricular programme comprising of a series of modules designed to encourage maturity, initiative, responsibility and leadership skills in pupils. The Programme gives pupils the knowledge and skills to support all roles required in the effective staging of Gaelic Games.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their continued help and assistance:
Our clubs for providing schools with pitches, coaches and other ongoing forms of assistance. A special thank you to clubs who provide pitches for playoffs, semi-finals and finals during the year, often when conditions weren’t favourable in terms of weather. Having the Centre of Excellence available to us in November, December and January is both invaluable and imperative.
Our teachers who involve themselves in GAA in our schools.
County Development Officer, David McCloone, for his help in facilitating matches at the Centre of Excellence.
The referees, who ensured that games passed off as smoothly as possible and in a sporting manner.
Thanks also to referees administrator, Michelle Bennett who has been very helpful again this year.
Our post primary coach, Paddy Hegarty, for his ongoing work in our schools.
Coaching Officer, Conor McDermott, for his work in promoting the Future Leaders initiative in schools.
The media for providing excellent coverage of schools football in their publications. It is wonderful to see the achievements of young footballers being recognised in this way.
Our county competitions sponsor, Michael Murphy Sports & Leisure.
I would like to thank fellow members of Coiste na hiar-Bhunscoileanna Co. Dhún na nGall, Noel Ward – Cathaoirleach; Éanna Ó Mainín – Cisteoir; John Joe O’Shea – Minor Board Delegate, Paddy Flood – Hurling Officer and Sean McKenna – PRO.
Seamus Woods and the Ulster Schools Committee.
We would like to take this opportunity to wish all GAA teachers who have retired this year, a happy and healthy retirement.
Go raibh maith agaibh uilig
Gearóid Ó Dochartaigh
Rúnaí
Coiste na hiar-Bhunscoileanna, Dhún na nGall
Tuarascaí Runaí Chumann na mBunscoil

Blíain dúshlánach. A particularly challenging year for everyone involved in Gaelic sport. Our year began with renewed hope and a couple of new faces at our AGM and this is always good to see. Our committee for the year would be:

Cathaoirleach - Maria Doherty
Rúnaí - Dáithí Roberts
Cisteoir - Liam Breen

Iománaíocht
We revamped our hurling competitions this year and had regional groups to avoid uncompetitive games. This worked out well with over 20 schools playing in seeding blitzes. The feedback we got from schools was positive and we were looking forward to the planned finals day we had planned for McCumhaill Park. Our plans were however scuppered somewhat by the county football final going to replays and the facilities became unavailable. A few finals were played but in separate finals and not our festival of hurling that was planned. Some of the finals were put off until the springtime and unfortunately fell foul to the pandemic!

It was great to see a few new schools taking part in the hurling and some others taking part after a break. It was good to see the Scoil Mhuire team taking part in the ground hurling competition for developing schools.

Scoil Mhuire Glenties
Congratulations to Bridgend and Scoil Iosagáin who won the finals which went ahead in Division 1 and 2.

Indoor Competitions
Luckily, our indoor competitions went ahead as planned before Covid hit. The hurling and camogie went ahead in December with regional competitions organized in each region. The hurling and camogie finals were close affairs with the Inisheoin schools coming out on top. Congratulations to county hurling

Scoil Iosagáin
St Aengus, Bridgend
champions, St Patrick’s BNS Carndonagh and camogie champions, Tooban NS.

Tooban NS  St Patrick's BNS
In the indoor football, the standard was high and again regional competitions led into the county finals. Both boys’ and girls’ finals went to the wire. Scoil Aodh Rua and Nuala just about stopped St Patrick’s Carndonagh’s indoor double with an extra time win. In the girls final, Scoil Iosagáin won the final on the last kick of normal time to beat Scoil Mhuire Glenties with a heart-breaking goal.

Scoil Iosagáin  Scoil Aodh Rua/Nuala

Quiz
Our annual quiz took place in early December and 26 schools took part. The Mount Errigal Hotel in Letterkenny were again our hosts for this enjoyable event.
1st place Scoil an Chaisil, Glencolmcille
2nd place Termon NS
3rd place Kilmacrennan NS

Scoil An Chaisil, Quiz winners, with Laim Breen
Unfortunately, the quiz teams missed out on the Ulster quiz final which was to be held in Cavan.
The same scenario happened in the Ulster Indoor finals in Hurling, Camogie and boys’ and girls’ football.
For the record the following teams qualified for an Ulster final:

Hurling: St Patrick’s Carndonagh  
Boys Football: Scoil Aodh Rua/Nuala  
Camogie: Tooban NS  
Girls Football: Scoil Iosagáin

National Committee
One of the last ‘live’ events for 2020 was the Annual Awards night and AGM which took place in the Anner Hotel Thurles. Donegal had reason to celebrate as Creevey NS, Ballyshannon won the large school’s category, winning out over schools from Tipperary and Offaly. Well done Creevey and all they do in promoting Gaelic games and culture in their school.

Creevey NS and some committee members at the Awards Night

Handball
We were lucky to hold the Handball competitions just before lockdown. Semi-finals were run off in Ballybofey and Glenfin with the winners progressing to the Ulster finals in Belfast. Thanks again to Manas O’Donnell who organizes this competition each year in Donegal and Ulster. Congratulations to Seaghan Mac Cormaic (Scoil Tabhóige) who represented Donegal and Ulster in handball. Seaghan has also represented Dún na nGall in the half time games series in Croke Park.

Seaghan McCormaic and Manas O’Donnell

Lockdown Activities
Like every other unit of the GAA we tried to keep children motivated and interested in developing their skills. Our Facebook page was busy encouraging children to send in their pictures/videos of activities. There were some great displays of skill on offer and some very ingenious ideas.
We also held a ‘Design A Jersey’ competition and we received over 100 entries. Our prizegiving took place in Murphy’s Sports when it was allowed. Thanks to Michael Murphy who never refuses a request from us.

1st Place: Luca Cannon, Glenswilly NS.
2nd Place Aoife Maxwell, Kilclooney NS.
3rd Place Ellie Bonner, Scoil Bhride Leitir.

Luca Cannon, Glenswilly NS meets one of Donegal’s finest!

Football Competitions
Unfortunately, our football competitions were decimated this school year and to my knowledge only one preliminary blitz took place. Congratulations to Downings, Carrigart and Rathmullan who played their blitz on the 10/3/2020. Just for the record Downings boys and Carrigart girls went through to the next round in the Division 4 competition!

Since then, directives have come from Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta and no activities are permitted until at least January 2021.
We keep our fingers crossed that some activity will be allowed.

50 Years Celebrations
Although Gaelic activities have been organized for many years in various counties, 2021 sees Cumann na mBunscol Naisiúnta celebrate 50 years on the road. Various events will be organized throughout the year, hopefully! Each county has been tasked to archive their activities to form a book which will be published later in the year. During lockdown it was interesting to see some of the old programmes from All Irelands and see who represented Donegal at the half time games. We got some fantastic photos, and we will be contacting schools soon to get their help for the Dún na nGall element of the book.

John Wallace, back in 1988
A county final in the old O’Donnell Park!

Angela McColgan, Paul Harkin, and Angela Deery all from Naomh Pádraig Muff at the half time game in 1992. The other girl is Rosemary Moyne.
Conclusion
I would like to thank all the schools who have supported Cumann na mBunscol over the past year. Without the commitment to Gaelic games, the conveyer belt of players would not be so healthy. A huge thanks to all the hardworking committee members who give up their time to organize, officiate and attend meetings.
To all the clubs who allow us to use their facilities for games and finals, thank-you.
To our referees another big thank you, without them we could not play our games.
I hope everyone stays safe in the future and we emerge out of restrictions as soon as is safe and possible.

Dáithí Roberts,
Rúnaí Cumann na mBunscol,
Dún na nGall


Tuarascail Thoiscaire Ard Comhairle

It was a great honour for me at County Convention last year to be elected to represent CLG Dhún na nGall on Central Council and I’m very happy now to present my first report in the position to this convention. It goes without saying that it has been a different and difficult year for us all but it’s a testament to the GAA that it wasn’t found wanting in the midst of a pandemic. There has been a great effort by all the units of the Association over the past 7 – 8 months to ensure our games got restarted again safely as every unit responded very diligently to the excellent leadership of the Uachtarán, the Ard Stiúrthóir and the staff in Páirc an Chrócaigh.

The business of the Association carried on but just in a different way. We have now become very familiar with online meetings and indeed a Special Congress had to be scheduled using Microsoft Teams on Friday April 17th to approve the following motions:

1. “That this Special Congress be entitled to consider and pass any motion to amend a Rule notwithstanding the provisions of 3.38 or any other Rule.” Ard Chomhairle (Rule 3.40(a)(iv))

2. “That Chapter 3 – Organisational Structures: Composition, Powers and Functions be amended by adding a new Rule 3.61 to read:

Special Emergency Circumstances

1. Where the normal operation of the Association is severely adversely affected due to the existence of a public emergency whether within Ireland (or any part thereof) or outside of Ireland, the Management Committee may, by resolution, declare that Special Emergency Circumstances exist which make it impracticable to conduct the affairs of the Association in accordance with the Rules.

2. Immediately upon making such a declaration the Management Committee shall notify each County of the declaration whereupon the Management Committee may take such steps as are necessary to conduct the affairs of the Association in accordance with its Aims and Ethos notwithstanding anything contained in the Rules including, but not limited to, the suspension or amendment of Rules or parts of Rules and the enactment of new Rules (with power to make such suspension, amendment or enactment retrospective to the date of the declaration of Special Emergency Circumstances, where appropriate).

3. A declaration that Special Emergency Circumstances exist shall be presented to the Central Council for approval as soon as is practicable but no later than two weeks after it has been made. Should the Central Council not approve a declaration by the Management Committee that Special Emergency Circumstances exist, within two weeks, then such declaration shall stand annulled, but this shall not invalidate anything done pursuant to such a declaration.

4. A declaration that Special Emergency Circumstances exist shall be for a specified period of no more than twelve weeks. The Management Committee may extend the period of Special Emergency Circumstances for a period or periods of no more than eight weeks each but any such extension shall be presented to the Central Council for approval as soon as is practicable but no later than two weeks after it has been made. Should the Central Council not approve the extension of the period of Special Emergency Circumstances, within two weeks, then such extension shall stand annulled, but this shall not invalidate anything done pursuant to such an extension.

5. If the Management Committee cannot conduct its affairs as a result of the public emergency which gave rise to the declaration it may delegate any of its powers under this Rule to a sub-committee comprising not less than four of its members, which shall include, unless they are incapacitated or otherwise unavailable, the President and the Director General (the latter of whom shall not have voting rights). Decisions taken by such a sub-committee shall be presented to the Management Committee for approval as soon as is practicable but no later than one week after they have been made. Should the Management Committee not ratify a decision of such a sub-committee, within one week, then that decision shall stand annulled, but this shall not invalidate anything done pursuant to such a decision. Ard Chomhairle (Rule 3.40(a)(iv))
**Updated Report of the Fixtures Calendar Review Task Force**

Arising from the debate and feedback on specific Fixture Task Force related motions on the floor at Congress 2020 and at the Fixture Calendar Review Workshop, held as part of Congress, it was agreed that the Task Force should revisit outstanding proposals ahead of a Special Congress, which was originally scheduled to take place in September 2020.

The impact of the Covid pandemic has had and continues to have a massive effect, as we know, on all aspects of life and specifically led to a pause in these plans. It meant that a uniquely structured GAA season had to be developed and implemented for 2020. This essentially de-coupled and kept separate the timeframes for Club and Inter County competitions, in effect a ‘split season’.

In this context and recognising the positive feedback received from club and inter county players and members generally to the core principles of this ‘spilt season’ model, the Uachtarán CLG John Horan re-convened the Task Force in August 2020 and requested it to:

- Specifically, further consider and make recommendations regarding the option of adopting a “Split Season” model for the GAA’s Calendar including impact and implications, and
- Prepare a status report on the initial Task Force recommendations and consultation proposals.

Following a consultation process, final recommendations will be made to Central Council in December on which proposals will be progressed at Congress 2021 or elsewhere within the Association to deliver a new balanced calendar for 2022.

**John West Féile Peil na nÓg**

As Chairperson of the Féile Peil na nÓg committee in the county, it was a great disappointment to everyone that this massive event scheduled for late June and being hosted here in Donegal, Derry & Tyrone fell victim to the pandemic. A lot of work had been put into the planning of Féile and it had created a huge amount of interest in our Clubs. With the findings of a review of Féile due very shortly, its hoped that the event will return to the Northwest counties of Ireland again in the not too distant future.

**National Club Draw**

The National Club draw is always very successful in Donegal with many Clubs embracing this Croke Park initiative to raise some badly needed funds every New Year. Tickets have been distributed to the Clubs for the 2021 draw based on sales in the 2020 draw. However, if your Club hasn’t received tickets and wishes to avail of this opportunity to do some fundraising, please contact me as soon as possible. I would also like to thank the County Administrator, Noreen Doherty for her assistance in the distribution of the tickets to the Clubs.

**Acknowledgments**

I wish to thank my fellow County Officers for their assistance and support throughout the year and also thank the Uachtarán John Horan, Ard Stiúrthóir Tom Ryan and the staff in Croke Park for their guidance and advice when called upon. I would particularly like to recognise the tremendous work of Frankie Doherty, Paddy Tinney, David Mc Loone, Fergus Mc Gee and PJ Mc Gowan who are coming to the end of their 5-year terms as personally they gave me a huge amount of support and help when I was in the role of County Chairman.

Finally, I want to wish every member of the Association in Donegal a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year in the company of your family and friends.

**Seán Ó Duinnín**
Tuarascail Runaí an Choiste Éisteachta

A Chairde Gaeil,
Cuireann sé athás mhór orm mar Rúnaí an Coiste Éisteachta an tuarascáil bliantúil seo a chur os bhur gcóir don bhliain 2020.

Hearings arising from Notice of Disciplinary Action

As we are all aware, the arrival of Covid 19 in March had a drastic impact on all our lives and no more so than on our native games. As a result, our first Hearings meeting was a lot later than usual in the year – at the end of July. Six cases presented in quick succession and overall An Coiste Éisteachta met on four occasions to date presiding over a total of 12 cases. There are seven cases pending at the moment and we hope to be in a position to hear same in early December in accordance with Public Health advice re Covid 19.

A breakdown of the various matters that came before the committee is shown below.

Senior CCC

Nine Notices of Disciplinary Actions issued by the CCC resulted in requests for Hearings.

- One request was withdrawn before the hearing took place.
- In the five cases, sanctions ranging from a one match ban to 12 week suspensions were imposed.
- Two cases resulted in the proposed penalty being set aside.
- An Coiste Éisteachta invoked their plenary powers, which resulted in one case having it’s proposed penalty reduced.
- One transfer request – appeal upheld
- One case relating to an internal club matter – the club’s decision was upheld

There was a decrease on the number of cases brought to An Coiste Éisteachta in comparison to 2019 where An Coiste deliberated on 25 cases.

Bord na Mionúr:

An Coiste Éisteachta received six requests for Hearings relating to Bord na Mionúr disciplinary actions. Of those:

- An Coiste Éisteachta invoked their plenary powers, which resulted in one case having it’s proposed penalty reduced.
- Five cases are pending.

The Ulster Hearings Committee have received one appeal based on An Coiste Éisteachta’s decision. This case is currently pending due to Public Health restrictions.

There were seven requests for Hearings in 2019.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the members of An Coiste Éisteachta for their advice and support during the year especially An Cathaoirleach, Aodh Máirtín Ó Fearraigh. Their time and patience in ensuring that Appellants get a fair hearing and their willingness to attend meetings at short notice has to be commended.

2020 Baill an Choiste Éisteachta:

Aodh Máirtín Ó Fearraigh, Cathaoirleach, Fidelma Ni Dhochartaigh, Rúnaí, Seamus O’Donnell, Dan Hartnett, Michael McMenamin, Sean McGinley, Diarmuid Keon, Paddy Mullen.

I wish to thank Eamonn Ó Bróinn, Rúnaí, CCC and Seamus Ó Cuinn, Rúnaí, Bord na Mionúr for their cooperation and courtesy to me as Rúnaí of the committee over the past year. I also wish to thank the representatives of the CCC who attended meetings throughout the year and to officers of the various clubs across the county that I have had dealings with in carrying out this duty.

Gúím Beannachtaí na Nollag agus na Bliana Úire ar ár mbaill go léir, agus mile buíochas as bhur dtacaíocht agus comhoibriú le linn 2020.

On behalf of an Coiste Éisteachta I wish all parties associated with CLG Dhún na nGall a successful 2021.

Mise le meas
Fidelma Ni Dhochartaigh,
Rúnaí, An Coiste Éisteachta
The Ulster Convention was held on 31-01-2020 in Silverbridge, Armagh and since then only two meetings have actually taken place of the CCC to look at fixtures and deal with Referees Reports and Transfers. Three zoom meetings have been held online to look at fixtures mainly and one full Council Meeting was held online at the end of December. As you know there has been huge disruption to activities and games and we are very fortunate to have got our Ulster Senior Football Championship played. It has been a very trying time for all counties and clubs with little or no development and financial drain on units without much opportunity to address these matters. The Ulster Council Office has continued to function with most staff off work and only a few working from home just dealing with the essential work necessary to complete the championship.

This has been a very difficult time for all GAA units and GAA people and it is a great tribute that activities have taken place at all. We can only look forward past Covid 19 and hope that 2021 will see a full resumption of all activity. This is my last report as Ulster Council delegate for Donegal as my five year term comes to a close and it would be remiss of me were I not to thank the clubs of the county for affording me the opportunity to represent them at Ulster level where our county enjoys healthy respect from all the other counties and officers.

P.J.Mc Gowan
Tuarascail Chomhairle Uladh (2)

Ó an am a bhí an Chruinniú Cinn Bliaín anauraidh tá athruithe ollmhór i bhfeidhm. Bhí luchair ar gach ball dén Eagraíocht go ndeachaigh na comórtais idir Chondae ag an bpointe seo caithfadh muid a rá go raibh sábhailte agus go raibh eagraithe go han-mhaith agach Chondae agus Cúige a rith na Comórtais.

2020 has proven to be an oddly unique Year and the main thrust of the Summer was without any competitions because of the Covid-19 restrictions. A decision was taken at an early stage by the CCCC in conjunction with the GAA Covid Committee that the Provincial Club Championships would not go ahead for the 2020 Season. We were lucky to get the Ulster Championship played off and it has to be noted that the Competition was ran off in a most Professional and safe manner which always put the safety of Players at the heart of each game which was hosted throughout the Province, all Senior Football games were televised which gave great access for our Members and our Public.

Our Donegal Senior Football Team ultimately came up short in a pulsating Ulster Final but performed very well in 2020 retaining their Division One Status but also showing during the early stages of the Ulster Championship that the team, when in form is as good as any opponent and getting stronger with every passing year. Declan Bonner, his backroom team and most importantly the Players can be proud of their exploits in 2020 in the knowledge that their endeavours lifted the County during the period of restrictions and lockdowns. Our County U-20 team reached the Ulster Final and narrowly lost out to Tyrone in Clones on the 7th of March but showed promise throughout the campaign grinding out impressive results en route to the Final, Congratulations to Shaun Paul and all his Team in their Achievements during the 2020 Season. The County Minor Team beat Sligo earlier in the year but the Ulster Minor Football Competition fell victim of the Pandemic and regrettably was not finished, Ulster Council will relook at finishing the Competition if the rules permit. They did however compete well in their games earlier in the Season and Credit must go to Luke Barrett and his team for their work with this group.

Donegal Hurlers were the Performers of the Year in 2020 and Won the Nicky Rackard Cup in Croke Park on the 22nd of November having found themselves trailing heading into the home straight. Their performance was a lift to everyone in the County and massive congratulations to Mickey Mc Cann and all the Backroom Team and the Players who performed gallantly during the Campaign.

Strategic Plan:
A draft copy of the 2021–2024 will be available in the next number of weeks. This document will outline how Comhairle Uladh can support Clubs, Counties and Units of the Association in Ulster. The draft Plan will be available and members will be asked to make submissions on the Plan so as to ensure that the views, needs and aspirations of the Units and members can be realised within the province. This is an important document and one which deserves scrutiny when the draft is made available so that additions can be made (if required) to the finished document.

Finance:
The finances of Comhairle Uladh suffered this year as a result of no spectators being permitted to any of the Championship games throughout the Season. There has been financial support given to the association by Government which will filter down to the provinces and counties alike. It is unlikely however that any grants or funding will be made available from Comhairle Uladh until 2022 as a result of the financial situation the province finds itself in as a result of the pandemic.

Casement Park:
The casement Park project has received Planning permission and as such can move to the next stage. Funding will prove difficult with the lack of funding currently in the Gaa Coffers coupled with Brexit and financial challenges which it will bring. The project has been spearheaded to this stage by Tom Daly of Donegal and he must be congratulated for that. A decision on the next steps of the Project must be made in the coming months in consultation with the 9 Counties of Ulster and it is an issue which we will undoubtedly discuss in 2021 and beyond.

Buíochas:
I hope that each and every member of our association in Donegal gets an opportunity to enjoy the Christmas break, we have all had a difficult Year and we must remember that the GAA is an organisation that provides more than just a pastime. The voluntary work which was carried out by our members over the 2 lockdowns in providing company and vital links for elderly and needy people in our communities cannot
be understated. Many things make us proud to be Gaels but the giving and caring nature of our members and Units during the lockdown is something that I wish to acknowledge and thank the people who helped in their Communities in any way.

Here’s to a great Christmas to you and yours and a better brighter 2021 both on and off the Field of Play. Seamus O Domhnaill.
I said at first that I was ‘mad in the head’ when I was elected to this post in 2015. I remember saying that to delegates in the Mount Errigal Hotel five years ago. Now that I am stepping away after completing the maximum five-year term, I look back with a real sense of pride.

In December 2015, competitions were still ongoing. Some senior fixtures were only just finished and, with Christmas fast approaching, a promotion-relegation play-off was still outstanding. It was a bone of contention that day with some delegates. After being elected I asked the delegates to row in behind us and work together. We needed help at the time, but clubs bought into it to be fair to them. A series of fixtures forums had been held to try and sort the issue, but they were to no avail. We brought in the managers and the players to hear their views - and that was very successful. We got to hear their views and their ideas. That allowed us to put a programme in place.

There has been a lot of work put in behind the scene. Everyone works their role very well and we have had good teams on the CCC doing the fixtures. The CCC members have all been very dedicated. I received great help from the Fixtures Secretaries and the County Administrator during the five years. The members of the CCC have all been very dedicated and diligent. Everyone played a part and, I have to say, all the CCC members I worked with have been very good to deal with. We had to take a hard stance with games. There were no cancellations. Unless the reason fell within the guidelines, the games went on. Clubs would try every trick in the book. but it was important for the CCC to stand firm: Play the games or lose the points. It meant that we were finished all competitions by November at the latest and games were played when they should be played. Everything was wrapped up on time. Club players appreciated that, I think - they had time off and knew when games would be on and would be off. This year is obviously an exception with everything that has happened with Covid-19 and the restructure of the season, but I would be very disappointed, through no fault of anyone, that we didn’t get the senior championship final played.

The new format of the senior championship worked very well. Clubs and everyone really seemed to agree that it was a good idea. The whole thing was very well thought out and planned by the fixtures secretary. There was a lot of work that went into it and it was very successful.

I have worked very closely with the hurling clubs and county hurling team during my term. Fitting everything into the schedule has also incorporated the hurlers, which has been so important. We do have some difficulty in terms of dual clubs, but if they play one game on a Friday and the other on a Sunday, everything can work in tandem. That simply just has to happen. The clubs now have their dedicated weekends - and rightly so. That has been a big plus for hurling and it was great to see that because they deserve that exclusive stage for their big games. However, I do think that it’s time the senior hurling clubs took a really serious view of what’s happening in terms of the games and embrace that.

There is still alot of work to do, but it’s going in the right direction. We had seven junior hurling teams this year and five at senior level in 2020. If you look where the county team is at now, it’s been the most successful period for hurling in Donegal. The work done by Ray, Ardal and Mickey has been fantastic in growing Donegal hurling and the success speaks for itself. I have to mentioned the support of the management committee. The hurlers wanted for nothing in that time and the various management committees were giving of their assistance to aid the development and success of the hurlers. It is a great credit to all involved that the Hurlers have lifted their third Nickey Rackard Cup this year, congratulations to all involved.

In football and hurling, Donegal has had fantastic success at all levels since I joined the Board in 2010 as Assistant Treasurer and it has been a great honour to be involved during those times.

I was on the Board at the start of the development on Convoy and it’s great to be there now when it’s finalised. So many people have worked to bring that vision to reality and it will be a home for Donegal GAA for generations. It should be a great source of pride for all Gaels that the project has been completed.

As we head into another year and with some uncertainty still in the air, it is so important that the clubs back the incoming CCC. As an organisation, Donegal GAA can’t rest on our laurels. We have to keep moving forward. We could find ourselves slipping back very easily. It is vital that we don’t undo the good work of the last few years.

I would like to extend a very special word of thanks to my wife Mary and my family for all their support during my time in the role.

Prionnsais Ó Dochairtaigh
I would like to acknowledge and thank the clubs of CLG Dún na nGall for their support over the past 5 years whilst I have filled the position of Assistant Treasurer. I would especially like to thank everyone who has given of their time selflessly during my term as Assistant Treasurer.

My role on match days was made a lot easier with the contribution and professionalism in which the county gates personnel carried themselves (both ticket sellers and turnstile operatives). To this group of individuals I owe a great debt of gratitude.

Furthermore on behalf of myself and the gates personnel I would like to thank each and every club for their hospitality and for making us all feel very welcome throughout the duration of the club and inter-county seasons.

In particular I would like to remember Liam Mc Conalogue, CLG Naomh Mhuire Conmhaigh who sadly passed away in November 2018. Liam was a prominent face at the ticket booth at both club and inter-county games and he is deeply missed. It was both a pleasure and honour to work with Liam as he was a true gentleman and no job was ever too big for him. Similar to every other gates person, Liam was only ever a phone call away and never let you down.

I would also like to thank the members of the various sub committees that I was privileged to be a part of; the finance committee, competitions control committee (CCC), the minor board committee and the minor board CCC. I thoroughly enjoyed my time on these committees and I feel very grateful to have had the opportunity to have worked with the members of these committees over the past 5 years.

Additionally I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to every individual who has been a member of the county executive for their help and support during my term. With special thanks to former Cisteoir, Cieran Kelly CLG Naomh Naille, present Cisteoir, Alan Boyd CLG Gaoth Dobhair, County Administrator, Noreen Doherty and County Book Keeper, Eilis Rushe.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge and sympathise with members of CLG Dún nan Gall who have sadly lost a loved one in recent times and I would like to wish everyone health and happiness for the future.

Is mise le meas,
Pádraig Mac an tSioinnaigh,
CLG Gleann tSúilí
Tuarascail Choiste Foláine agus Sláinte

Introduction

In its seventh year the Donegal GAA Health and Wellbeing Committee aims to ensure that the health and wellbeing of members, clubs, and communities is at the core of all GAA activity. This is achieved by providing clubs, its members and non-members with access to appropriate information, guidance and support to develop and lead out on the health and wellbeing agenda. The delivery of the national health and wellbeing vision is achieved through consultation and collaboration with your clubs and their respective health and wellbeing officers.

Health & Wellbeing Committee 2020
Cora Harvey – Chairperson.
Noreen Doherty – County Administrator.
Mick McG Grath – County Chairperson.
Kevin Mills
Alisha Mc Brearty.
Linda Mc Guniness
Rosin Doherty.
Donnacha Gallagher.

February 2020: On Wednesday 19th February we held our first meeting of the year and a draft programme of activities was drawn up as follows:

- Continues Development of the committee
- Deliver Health Club Officer training
- Support Phase 4 of Health Club project
- Support Critical Incident Response
- Promote the Social Initiative
- Grow the number of people trained in safe TALK in the county

We also identified two key events which we proposed to host in 2020 the first was to take place at the Donegal V Tyrone National League game on Saturday 14th March in MacCumhail Park. Part of the GAA Social Initiative is to create awareness and recognise the contribution made by long standing members of the association to the GAA and the wider community.

We asked each club to identify one person in their club; with particular reference to a past club officer who may have held a key position in the past in the club (not a current officer).

This was an opportunity for Clubs to recognise the contribution of a valued individual in the Club.

We extended this invitation to any club who had a Health Club Officer again this was to give recognition to the clubs who are promoting the Health Club agenda. However on Thursday 12th March the dreaded Corona Virus kicked in and all games activities were cancelled including the game on Saturday night. Who would have predicted what was ahead of us and save for a short reprieve in July and August it was pretty much lock down since then. However the work of the committee continued and perhaps became more important especially around Wellbeing & Mental health.

We continued to offer support to clubs and individuals and liaised with Croke Park and Ulster Council.

Webinars: A number of webinars has taken place presented by the health & wellbeing committee in Croke Park and a number of clubs and members have availed of these which was a very valuable resource. These will continue for a good part of 2021 as well

April 2020: The Committee decided in April to produce a Video the aim was to raise awareness on how to stay health during this time with particular focus on mental health being mindful of the public health guidelines and health information around covid 19.

Five steps were selected and evidence based as follows:
We are indebted to all who contributed to the video, Billy Vaughan Mental health Ireland, Roisin Doherty, Samaritans, Tina Duffy, Innovation recovery college, Mick McGrath County Chairman. Also thanks to Bradas O Donnell who produced the video.

The five steps were delivered by Michael Murphy, Captain Senior Football team Joe Boyle senior hurling team, Geraldine McLaughlin Captain of senior Ladies team, Paul Gallen and myself.

It is good to talk: The Health & Wellbeing committee in partnership with Donegal County Council Age friendly programme launched an initiate where county players past and present would make a phone call to a GAA supporter for a bit of GAA chat or reminisce about former glory days!! A chat about all things GAA will lift the spirits of someone who was finding this time challenging and lonely. This initiative was coordinated by Mairead Cranley Donegal County Council and Noreen Doherty County Administrator. Tremendous interest was generated for this initiative where 43 requests were received from persons wishing to receive a phone call and we had 20 players past and present who were willing to be part of the programme. A hugh thanks to all the players who took part in this and no player who was contacted declined in fact they were only too willing to make the phone call. The feedback from the players and the recipients of the phone calls was tremendous and one funny story involving a county player and an individual was that the individual concerned could not believe he was talking with a particul county player it took a bit of convincing as he was sure it was someone playing a prank but he was over the moon to think that the player would take the time to make the call. They agreed to talk again.

Donegal County Council Community Response Forum: This forum was set up in March with Its core aim was contributing to the community-wide effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. Donegal Co. Council, through this group, ensured that the wide variety of groups working across the county to assist those in need will do so in an organised, collaborative and targeted way.

The role of the Forum is to ensure that there is a co-ordinated community response and to enable all voluntary statutory agencies to collaborate in support of our communities and particularly of our most vulnerable members.

The Council’s COVID-19 Community Response Forum is there to ensure the very best use of the many resources assisting vulnerable persons with their daily needs at this unprecedented time, whether that is collecting medication, food shopping, social support and contact.

Donegal GAA were invited to be part of this forum and our County Chairman Mick McGrath represented the Donegal GAA on this forum up until August when it was recommended by the National Health & Wellbeing committee that the link should continue and suggested that the County Health & wellbeing committee should represent The GAA and I undertook to represent the Donegal GAA and the health & wellbeing committee on this forum. This work is now continuing and the forum will be in operation for the most of next year.
**Phase 4 Healthy Club Project:** Congratulations to the three clubs Na Cealla Beaga, Beart and Naomh Padraig Lifford who were accepted on to this project for 2020.

**Healthy Club officer training:** Donnacha Gallagher completed the Health Club Tutor training back in March.

**Safe Talk:** Kevinn Millis facilitated safe Talk night hosted by C.L.G Naomh Colmcille back in February. They are also hosting health awareness night both Roisin Doherty and Bill Vaughan was involved in this. I facilitated a national webinar with Colin Regan on Alcohol and other drugs during the webinar series. I also chaired the provincial club annual road show for the Donegal Clubs. Themes covered in the road show were inclusion & diversity and social games.

**Planning for 2020**

- Maintain and develop existing actions.
- Focus and awareness on Alcohol and other drug use and misuse.
- Continued support to clubs who are struggling to develop the HCO role...
- Maintain and develop the Health & Wellbeing Agenda across all clubs.

**Conclusion**

On behalf of the health and wellbeing committee I wish acknowledge the work done in all clubs this year, you have shown what community spirit is all about in the work done at local level in looking after the needs of the most vulnerable members in our communities.

Our sympathies and thoughts are extended to those families who have had bereavement in 2020. The Health and Wellbeing Committee would like to thank our County Chairperson, County Executive, clubs, health and well-being officers and all the statutory and voluntary agencies who supported the work of the committee in 2020. I want to take this opportunity to thank committee members for their support and finally a special word of thanks to Kevin Millis outgoing chair who guided me throughout the year and County Administrator, Noreen Doherty for her support and guidance to me in my first year as Chairperson.

Cora Harvey
Chair Health & Well-being Committee
DON’T GET LOCKED IN

As we prepare to socially distance ourselves, several countries are reporting an increase in home drinking.

Make your health and home life a priority by following these tips...

Choose Alcohol Free Days
Plan at least two alcohol free days during your week. The more alcohol free days the better!

Don’t Stockpile
Don’t stockpile alcohol in your home – plan your weekly shop. Only buy as much as you have decided you want to drink during the week. Opt for low-alcohol or no-alcohol choices.

Keep it Late
It can be tempting to drink earlier when you are at home during the day – try to delay any drinking until as late as possible, especially if there are children in your home. Consider a ‘time rule’ – e.g. No alcohol in our house until after 10pm.

Mind the Children
Children can become afraid when adults are drinking. Avoid drinking alcohol until children have gone to bed. Make sure there is at least one non-drinking adult in the house at all times.

Out of Sight
Keep alcohol out of sight and out of reach of children. When you pour a drink, put the remainder away out of sight or in another room so you are not tempted to reach for more. Drink water to quench thirst before drinking.

Help is Out There
Making changes can be hard. Contact the HSE support line 1800 459 459 – if you need help or support in reducing your alcohol use.
It gives me great pleasure to present this report as County Fixtures Analyst to County Convention today. Trying to analysis this past year is an impossible task as Covid 19 struck to wipe out any proposed schedule of fixtures in the county and caused the abandonment of what was planned. When the virus struck in March a new and curtailed list of fixtures along with a changed format had to be devised by the CCC. A number of formats could have been used but I feel the one implemented was the best and ensured that the result of each match was of importance until the finish, Great credit must go to Secretary Ed Byrne who spent many hours devising and fine tuning a new programme so that players and clubs could have a meaningful number of fixtures in the year. The advent of the Regional leagues was also something different that had been mooted for many years which proved competitive and cut down on travel and expenses for all clubs and is a format that could be retained in the future.

The championship format was interesting giving teams at least four games which was more matches than normal for most clubs in this competition. Played on a league basic with the top eight teams qualifying for the quarter finals meant no dead rubberers took place as each team had something to play for, either at the top or to avoid relegation. If this format is to be used again in the future we may need to make slight adjustments to the final stages. However without the superb backing of clubs which supported any programme or format of competitions the games season would have been a complete non-event. The disappointing aspect was that the senior football championship final was not able to be played due to the virus and after new restrictions were imposed by the GAA authorities when the path was clear to get it played.

Back last January we held our Annual Fixtures Forum in Croke Park when we reviewed the past year in each county and planned ahead for the continuation of the work undertaken in analysing the programmes in our counties. Since that a Task Force set up has come up with many interesting points arising from the fed back during the year. Among their findings were that the chances of getting counties to agree to a Split Season or even trying to implement it were remote. Among the challenges identified were that it would likely lead to a separating of Inter County players entirely from their clubs for over half of the calendar year. It would also require playing the All Irelands finals earlier and no county action for half the year. It would not necessarily increase the number of weekends where club games could be played free of inter county activity. However this has changed considerably after the experiences of this year as clubs now can see that the benefits of a split season could have a positive experience and this is why plans going forward have to be re-evaluated after what clubs experienced this year.

The advantages identified in the Report were experienced at first hand by clubs in July August and September this year and the reaction has been significantly more favourable among players, clubs, and the membership generally than would have been expected. These included, no crossover between the inter county and club seasons, no interruptions due to the County game, no ambiguity over player availability and more regularity and certainly in the planning of club fixture programmes.

Towards the end of November the Fixtures Analysts had a webinar meeting with Croke Park when the recommendations of the Task Force for 2022 onwards were outlined in a presentation and then discussed. If implemented this would follow mostly what has transpired this past year with a split season the new normal with the inter county played first and club championships could then run interrupted throughout the late summer and autumn. This would stop the playing of club championship games too early and prevent clubs that exited the championship losing interest so that other competitions will be meaningful and give the chance to play league as normal in late spring or early summer.

However as I write this report and following a meeting of Central Council it has been decided this may not be feasible and they have put off a decision until the next meeting. Our plans to hold a proposed Fixtures Forum for clubs in the county may now have to be shelved until such time the Central Council decide what format will implemented next year.

I thank all my committed colleagues in the CCC for their help all year all the way down from Chairman Frankie Doherty and give a special mention to Secretary Ed Byrne for his tremendous work in his role which is such a difficult task even in a year of limited games. Also thanks to our efficient PRO John McEniff in ensuring the results and forthcoming fixtures were up to date on the website at the earliest opportunity.
I can only look forward and hope that the coming year will be different and that the intended fixtures programme will get back to a normal schedule. How that can be carried forward will depend greatly on the cooperation of many members of our clubs. Let us embrace it and move forward to ensure we make the playing of our National games such a great and enjoyable occasion for everyone. Thanks to you all for your continued support during the year and keep well and safe in the months ahead.
Go raith mile buíocháis go gach duine
Eamonn O Ludhog
## Ballraíocht

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