



LEINSTER

Comhdáil Cinn Bliana
2020



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CLÁR

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| 6.30pm | Opening of Convention Minutes of 2019 Convention Discussion of Annual Report 2020 Adoption/Review of Comhairle Laigean Accounts Election of Officers Na Rúin Cathaoirleachs Address Close of Convention |
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DELEGATES

Outgoing Comhairle Laighean, plus Chairperson and Secretary from each County

AINMNIÚCHÁIN

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| CATHAOIRLEACH: | Pádraig Ó Téacháin |
| LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH: | Deiric Ó Ceannt |
| CISTEOIR: | Colm Ó Fionnagáin |
| OIFIGIUGH CAIDHREAMH POIBLI: | Pádraig Ó Laighneach |

NA RÚIN

Amend Rule 3.18 T.O. 2020 by means of the following addition:

(b) A County Committee shall consist of the Officers, the Central and Provincial Council Representatives (who shall be ex-officio members), other representatives of District or other Committees or Clubs as set out in the County Bye-laws, the County Safety and Facilities Officer, the County Referees' Administrator and a representative of each of the following Committees: County GAA Handball (where applicable), County Primary Schools, County Post-Primary Schools, and, if desired, up to two members of the Association nominated by the Chairperson and Secretary, subject to their approval by the County Committee.

All other sections of the rule to remain as is.

Miontuairiscí De'n Chomhdháil Bhliantiúil - 25.1.2020



Pictured at the 2019 Leinster GAA Convention are from L-R, Pat Lynagh, Pat Teehan, Jim Bolger, Michael Reynolds and Martin O'Halloran.

Seamus Uas. O Bolguidhir (Cathaoirleach) presided at An Chomhdháil Bhliantiúil Laighean CLG, held in the County Arms Hotel, Birr on Satharn, 25ú Eanáir 2020. Also in attendance were:- Padraig O Teachain (Leas-Cathaoirleach); Padraig O Laighneach (Cisteoir); Mairtin O hAllmhurain (PRO); Sean O Maolmhuaidh (Liathroid Laimhe); Deric Mac A Bhaird (Cumann na mBunscol); Labhras O Curtain (Iarbhunskoileanna); Micheal O hAolain (Ard Oideachais); Micheal O Faolain (Ceatharloch); Tomas O Se, Sean MacNicholas (Ath Cliath); Sean MacMathuin, Micheal O Maolain (Cill Dara); Val O Maolain, (Cill Chainnigh); Paschal Mac Aodhbhui, Tomas Mac Seoin (Laois); Albert O Cuanaigh, Deric O Fathaigh (Longphort); Deaglan O Broin, Padraig O Conchuir (Lu); Brian O Cairbre (An Mhi); Dolores Ui Sleibhin, Seosamh O hUigin (Uibh Fhaili); Albert O Labhrai, Micheal Mac Aodh (Iarmhi); Maire Ui Foghlu, Diarmuid O hUilin (Loch Garman); Colm O Fionnagain, Fiontain O Fainin (Cill Mhantain) and Micheal Mac Raghnaill (Runai).

The following represented the Counties at Convention:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Ceatharloch: | Micheal O Dorain, Uinsionn O Briain, Eamonn O Broin. |
| Ath Cliath: | Donal O Ceirin, Colm O Cruadhlaoidh, Micheal O hOireachtaigh, Cionnaith O Suilleabhain, Seosamh O Liathain, Sean Mac Coisdealbha. |
| Cill Dara: | Alan O Dunaigh, Daithi O Cathail, Gearoid O Donnaile, Micheal O Gormain. |
| Cill Chainnigh: | Seamus Breathnach, Padraig Mac Aindreas, Conchur Denieffe, Barra O hIci |
| Laois: | Tomas O Cleir, Ciaran Mac Conleibhe, Darren O Breacain, Padraig O Suilleabhain, Gearoid O Caomhanaigh. |
| Longphort: | Eoghan O Cuaine, Sean O Hainin, Peadar O Raghallaigh, Colm O Murrai. |
| Lu: | Padraig Mac Mathuna, Prionsias O Ciaran, Muiris Mac Enri, Roibeard O Duchanna. |
| An Mhi: | Iasun O Pluinced, Padraig O Ceallaigh, Sean O Caomhanaigh, Seamus O Maolmhuire, Damian O Griffin, Mairead Ui Dubhshlaine, Cathal Seoige. |
| Uibh Fhaili: | Padraig O hOrain, Micheal O Duigeannain, Ciaran Groome, Sean O hEireamhoin. |
| Iarmhi: | Prionsias O Donnchu, Sean O Briain, Liam O Murchu, Seosamh O Mairtin |
| Loch Garman: | Micheal O Mairtin, Mairead Ui Dhuill, Gearoid Mac Daibhead, Deiric Ceannt, Cathal O Broin. |
| Cill Mhantain: | Chris Ui Conchubhair, Mairtin Mac Gearailt, Padraig O Duinn, Mairtin O Colmain. |
| Sub Committees | Risteard de Buitleur (Coisde Eisteachta); Sean O Broin (Coisde Eisteachta); Deasun O hAilpin (Iarbhunskoileanna); Sean O Bannain (Coisde Reiteoiri); PS O Ceallaigh (Infrastructure); Aine Ni Cinneide (Scor), Caitriona Ni Dalaigh (Scor). |
| Iar-Oifigigh | Tomas O Fearghail, Mairtin O Scealaigh, Albert O Falluin, Seamas O Beara, Sean O hUaine, SS Breathnach, Sil O Mearain, Sean Mac Carthaigh, Padraig O Tomhnair, Micheal O Dubhshlaine. |
| Staff | Antoin O Bais (Europa); Iarlatha Mac Conboirne (Uladh); Members of the Teehan Family, Members/Officers of Coolderry GAA Club, Members of Birr GAA; Caoimhin O Flannagain, Ciaran O hOrain, Mairtin Mac Caisin, Padraig de Scealas, Colum O Comain. |
| Aras Laighean: | Alan O Maolchathail, Sean Mac Fachtna, Sean de Brun, Site Ni Chuinn, Hannah Ni hOrain, Padraig Ni Cleir and Nollaig O Dubhshlaine. |

Apologies for inability to attend had been received from Micheal O Maonaigh (Ceatharloch), Brendan O Coimin (An Mhi), Liam O Diomsaigh (Cill Chainnigh); Seamus Aldridge, Nioclas O Braonain, Padraig O Flannagain, Seamus de Grae, Liam O Neill, Sean O hOrain (Iar-Oifigigh Comhairle Laighean) Colm O Cleir (Learning and Development Manager); Seamus O Dubhan (Provincial Games Manager), Tadhg O Deorain.



Oscailt

Mairtin O hAllmhurain (PRO) formally opened Convention and welcomed everyone to the County Arms Hotel in Birr. He then introduced Micheal O Duigeannain (Cathaoirleach, Coisde Co. Uibh Fhaili CLG)

An tUas. O Duigeannain addressed Convention and wished Padraig every success in his upcoming role as Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean.

Miontuairisci (25.1.2019)

Adopted and signed by An Cathaoirleach, proposed by Eamonn O Broin seconded by Micheal O Faolain.

Tuairisc an Runai

This Report was adopted and placed before Convention. The following points were noted

- **Leinster Representative from Central Council to An Coisde Bainisti:**
Padraig O Ceallaigh and Tomas O Fearghail spoke of their experience in 2018 in getting a proposer and seconder for the position. They both suggested that the present Rule be changed so that Leinster Council decide the Leinster nominee for Central Council to the Management Committee when a vacancy arises.
- Gearoid O Caomhanaigh agreed with the sentiments of both Padraig and Tomas and stated to assist the three intended candidates namely, Mairtin O Colmain, Padraig O Tomhnair and himself that he would propose either or both Mairtin and Padraig of the position to avoid putting counties on the 'spot'. Both Mairtin and Padraig indicated they could do likewise.
- Padraig O Teachain (Leas-Cathaoirleach) spoke on Urban-Rural Matters supporting the work that the National Committee under the Chairmanship of Colm O Comain is undertaking.
- Seamus Breathnach (Cathaoirleach Coisde Co. Chill Chainnigh) stated that the present structure of two Round Robins i.e. Leinster and post Leinster are not sustainable.
- Cathal Seoige (An Mhi) complimented both Catriona Ui Dalaligh and Aine Ui Cinneide (Scor) on the rejuvenation of Scor Laighean and that Provincial Finals taking place in top class venues - National Opera House (Wexford) is a very positive development.
- Seamus O Beara (Iar Cathaoirleach) complimented the Report. He suggested that if at all possible that photographs be captioned.
- Antoin de Bais (Europa) thanked Comhairle Laighean for their assistance to Europe.

In his remarks, An Runai spoke on:-

- Under 20 Football Inter-County and Second Level
- Senior Football Inter County Championship
- Senior Hurling Inter County Championship
- Future of Convention
- Turas
- Colm O Comain (Chairperson National Community Development Urban & Rural Committee)
- Separate Juvenile Discipline.

Leinster Under 20 Hurling Championship 2020

The Draw for the Leinster Under 20 Hurling Championship took place.

Election of Leas- Cathaoirleach

Deric O Ceannt (Loch Garman) was declared elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach. He duly returned thanks.

Tuairisc Airgeadais

The Financial Report presented before Convention by Padraig O Laighneach was adopted on the proposition of Padraig O Teachain, seconded by Mairtin O hAllmhurain.

Address by Cathaoirleach

Seamus O Bolguidhir then addressed Convention as per enclosed schedule.

Discipline

Liam O Cathain (Cathaoirleach Rules Advisory Committee) did a Presentation on Disciplinary Procedures.

Election of (a) Cisteoir and (b) PRO

Colm O Finneagain and Padraig O Laighneach were elected Cisteoir and PRO respectively.

Both Colm and Padraig returned thanks as did the defeated candidates Padraig O Suilleabhain and Deasun O hAilpin.

An Rún

The Comhairle Laighean Bye Laws 2020 were adopted on proposition of Albert O Labhrai, seconded by Padraig O hOrain.

Election of Cathaoirleach Nua

Padraig O Teachain was formally elected as Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean. He then addressed Convention as per script.

Cul Doire CLG

Philip O Riain (Cathaoirleach Cul Doire CLG) addressed Convention and wished Pat every success in his new role as Cathaoirleach.

OUTGOING CHAIRMANS ADDRESS

Iar-oifighi, a dhaoine uaisil agus a chairde go leir failte roimh uilig chuid Comhdháil Cinn Bliana Laighean I Ostan Airm an Contae.

On what is a very special day for the faithful county I would like to thank Offaly GAA for inviting us to hold our convention here today. In addition, I would like to congratulate and formally wish Michael Duignan well in his new role as chairman of Offaly GAA.

When reflecting on the last year on our sporting fields it has been remarkable year for Dublin footballers. As we all know after winning Leinster they continued on their journey and went onto make history by becoming the first team to win an unprecedented 5 all Ireland senior titles in a row.

A remarkable achievement by any standard. Congratulations to all the players, Jim Gavin and his management team and all involved with Dublin. GAA.

Wexford bridged a 14 year gap to land the Bob O' Keffe. This is testament to the great work that is ongoing in Wexford and it bore fruit under the watchful eye of Davy Fitzgearld and his management team.

When it comes to history making in club hurling, 'pride of place' goes to Ballyhale Shamrocks. After overcoming St. Mullins in the Leinster Final they went on to show great character against a resolute Slaughtenil in the All-Ireland semi-final and made history by beating Borrisoleigh in the final, becoming the first team from their county to win back to back all-Ireland titles and in addition, the only club to win eight All-Ireland titles!

Congratulations to All our winners across the many and varied competitions we have - well done to all.

Finances

First of all I would like to thank Pat Lynagh and John Browne for their excellent report and prudent management of our finances over my term as Cathaoirleach. The news is good, for example, over the last four years Leinster Gaa have provided almost € 2million to counties and clubs. In addition, over the last three years we established a 'Capital Development Fund' and to-date stands at € 2million, we are proud to say. We also topped up the central funding for club grants to almost half a million euros. This manifests in club facility development throughout our province. Bigger attendances at our games were a key contributing factor and we hope that this trend continues.

Infrastructure

Exciting times lie ahead for Kildare and Meath. The afore mentioned Counties both were awarded significant funding under the major infrastructure 'stream 1 sports capital funding'. We wish both well with their respective projects.

However, both Louth and Dublin unfortunately lost out in their quest for funding under stream 2 which is very disappointing. We also wish them well in the future with these projects. It is worth noting that we CLG as a National Governing Body, in reality cater for more entities in comparison to other competing NGBs. Perhaps we need to be more strategic in our approach in this regard in the future.

Well done to Laois who had their Centre of Excellence opened by the Uachtarán in 2019 and to Longford who finished the works on Pearse Park. Mile Buiochas to PJ Kelly and his committee for their excellent work and to all the development officers

throughout the province who do a great job for us in this regard.

Referees

Our support structure to referees continued in Abbotstown which has proved very successful. As we know the fitness standards required are high and having briefing sessions on a regular basis in a forum where information sharing is encouraged, has proven to be very successful. John Bannon has applied himself diligently and has been instrumental in ensuring the success of the supports. With Donal Smith, they formed a great team and to Donal who recently took a new and demanding position over our National Referees, a big thank you for all your great work with us and we wish you the best in your new role. Furthermore, I would like to thank Colm Clear and Emmet Egan for their great work on the fitness and sports education elements. Finally, to the referees appointments committee (who actually have a meeting after the convention) many thanks. Much of your work goes unnoticed, happens at unsociable hours and is difficult, given the number of games we have to cater for relative to the number of officials we have at our disposal.

Coaching and Games

Our East Leinster project has gone from strength to strength as has our TURAS initiative and I would like to commend all involved under the chairmanship of Liam -Mile Buiochas Liam.

Our health and wellbeing and games for all programmes continue to thrive and are evolving through various initiatives. Well done to Brian and Pat on this.

Scór

Scór is in a very strong position in the province right now which is largely due to our Chairperson Catherin Daly and our secretary Áine Kennedy who did trojan work over the last 3 years. This was best exemplified at our recent Scór na nÓg finals in Drogheda which were very well attended with representation from all Counties.

International Partners

Firstly I would like to welcome our guest Mr. Tony Bass, Chairman of Gaelic Games Europe. Tony has been synonymous with the development and evolution of our games in Europe and knowing Tonys history, GGE are in safe hands for the foreseeable future.

Leinster continued to support our international partners and this year we welcomed the European Junior Champions, Berlin to Dublin to play in our club junior football championship.

They were very competitive for much of the game but ultimately lost out to the Longford reps, Kennagh. Berlin funded the trip themselves however, were supported by members of the Ballyboden St. Endas club who provided accommodation. Berlin players from a diverse range of Nationalities are still talking about and trying to understand how well they were treated when they visited, so a big thank you to the Ballyboden St. Enda's club and the particular families involved.

In General

This time last year I mentioned supporting Counties where there was a skill-set deficiency as the democratic process does not always throw up the required skill mix. Accordingly in 2019 we started our 'shared service initiative' which was very well received and expansion in this regard is envisaged. Our hearings committee was very busy once again.

Additional education relative to the process is a must as we have to respect volunteer's time. Thanks to Dick Butler, John Byrne and the committee members for your unwavering commitment in this regard.

PR and marketing was busy as usual and I would like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors Beko, Top Oil, O'Neill's and Netwatch. Well done to Martin O' Halloran our PRO and John Haughney.

Handball had a very busy year and thanks to John Molloy for the comprehensive up dates at our Council meetings.

Pat Taking Office.

Today is a very special day for Pat his wife Frances and their family. It is also a special day for his beloved club Coolderry and his Faithful County Offaly. Pat will apply himself well to the role and his broad range of experience gained from serving in a diverse cross-section of GAA administrative roles will stand him in good stead and I would like to wish him every success as the new Cathaoirleach.

Áras Laighean Staff

A massive thank you, to all the staff at HQ. Under Michael's guidance the team are committed and professional at all times which ensures that our, clubs, our counties and our international partners are well served and supported. It is an opportune time to thank and acknowledge Shane Flanagan's significant contribution to Leinster GAA and to wish him only the best in his new role in Croke Park as 'Director of Games'.

To all county officers, volunteers including stewards I encountered as I travelled the length and breadth of the province and beyond a big thank you for the hospitality and courtesy shown to me, my family and guests.

Finally, I have come to the end of my 3 year term as Chairman which also ends a 7 year term as a Leinster Council Officer. Throughout my time in Leinster GAA I have met many fellow Gaels who have become great friends and enriched my life, making my experience all the more enjoyable.

To my fellow officer's thank you very much for your support, advice and guidance which was always very much appreciated.

As you know I am a proud Clonmore, Carlow, Leinster and Irishman. In the past I have been described as a GAA man to the core. In reality that is all I ever was or all I ever will be, and if that defines me, then I am more than happy to live with that characterisation.

Once again Thanks to All for the support and friendship shown throughout my time.

This is truly appreciated!

Go raibh mile maith agaibh!



Seamus Ó Bolguidhir

ORÁID AN CATHAOIRLEACH NUA

A chairde tá fáilte romhaibh go léir anseo go Biorra, ar an lá brodúil seo dom, do mo chlann agus gan dabht do mo chlub Cúl Doire agus mo Chontae Uibh Fhaili. Táim thar a bheith sásta an onór seo a ghlacadh agus é a cheiliúradh libh go léir. Déanfaidh mé mo sheacht ndícheall chun cinntiú go mbeidh dul chun cinn san eagraíocht nuair atá mé i mo chathaoirleach agus táim lán cinnte le bhur tacáí go dtarlóidh sé seo.

It is a great honour for me to accept the office and position of Cathaoirleach of Comhairle Laighean. I will now become the 35th Cathaoirleach, following in the footsteps of two of Offaly's finest sons, Seán Robbins who held the post from 1936 to '38 and John Dowling who was the incumbent from 1981 to '83. Both of these men, like all the other 32 holders of the office, served Leinster with distinction and I hope when my three years have elapsed that I too will have made a hugely positive contribution to Leinster GAA.

I was lucky to be born into a family that was steeped in GAA tradition and was lucky to be part of a club that, apart from being the most successful club in the history of the Offaly senior hurling championship, embodies all aspects of the Association and nurtures all its values. When you grow up in a club like Coolderry your ambition is to wear the jersey of the club firstly and then to progress to that coveted county jersey.

However, from an early age I knew I was at best an average hurler and that wearing the club jersey would be a challenge, so the county jersey would definitely elude me. As a young man this painful truth was difficult to accept, especially as I came from a family with a rich pedigree on the playing field. I grew up listening to tales of the exploits of my grandfather Red Jack Teehan, the first Offaly man to wear the Leinster jersey.

He lined out at full back against Munster in 1906, alongside 14 Kilkenny men. My own father Roddy won Senior Championships with the club in the 1930's and 40's, while his brother Paddy Joe, was an outstanding hurler for club and county and a referee of note. My three brothers John, Tom and Noel all won Senior Championships with Coolderry, with Noel also wearing the county jersey at senior level. While on my mother's side her cousins The Ryan's won All-Ireland medals with Tipperary in the 1930's & 40's

But I was lucky, lucky that I belonged to a family that did not judge your worth against the merits of others. I'm eternally grateful to my father and my mother who gave me the confidence to recognise my own strengths and encouraged me to take whatever direction I chose in life. Unfortunately my father is no longer with us, but my mother will celebrate her 95th birthday in a few months' time and despite not being well enough to be with us today, I know she is here in spirit.

I attended my first club AGM at the age of 15 and it was there that I got the administrative bug. This may well have been ingrained in me by the lifetime of service that my late uncle Paddy Joe gave to club and county. I was also influenced by the regular visits to our home of county board Chairman Fr Vaughan and, on occasion, County Secretary John Dowling. Uncle Paddy Joe served as Coolderry Club Secretary for a long period as well as being Chairman of the Offaly Hurling board. He was also Offaly's Leinster Council delegate, succeeding the late Sean Robbins, up until his untimely death in 1970 at the age of just 58. My father served as Club Treasurer and was Club President at the time of his death, while my brothers Tom and John also did stints as Club Secretary.

My first venture into administration came in 1979, when I joined the Civil Service and went to work in Dublin. I immediately became involved with the Offaly Association there, first as PRO, then Secretary and eventually Chairperson. Interestingly one of the first people that I worked with in the Civil Service, was John Costello who became a very good friend. I often wonder what became of him! This was an exciting time to be involved with Offaly as our county teams were regular visitors to Croke Park and with my first cousin, the late Pat Carroll starring for Offaly, it made the occasions extra special.

I had the privilege of being involved in organising four All-Ireland post-match receptions during the 1980's and through this work forged a link with the County Board. Throughout that time I also organised regular challenge games for the Offaly Association hurling team and even got to line out alongside such greats as Aidan Fogarty, Pat Delaney, Johnny Flaherty, Paddy Kirwan, Ger Coughlan and Paddy Corrigan all of whom were resident in Dublin at the time. So I suppose I made the county jersey in one way!

In 1991 decentralisation allowed me move back to Offaly and, when Noel McCann stood down as PRO that year, I was encouraged by the late Mick Spain of Kilcormac to put my name forward for the county role. I was lucky enough to be elected and so began a 30 year administrative career with Cumann Luthchleas Gael. I was also elected as Club Secretary of Coolderry the same year, a position I held for four years.

Over the following 30 years serving the County Board, I held the position of PRO, Central and Leinster Council Delegate and Referees Administrator, Chairperson of Coiste na nÓg, Vice Chairperson of the County Committee, ultimately County Chairperson.



Outgoing Cathaoirleach Jim Bolger presenting the incumbent Pat Teehan with his Chairmans Pin.

I was appointed on National Committees by seven of the last eight GAA Presidents, perhaps Seamus Darby's goal cost me the full house!

All of these roles were hugely beneficial to me, gaining me huge experience and knowledge of the workings of our great Association. They also enabled me to make important contacts and learn from many great minds. These experiences were hugely instrumental in me being elected firstly as Leinster P.R.O., then Vice Chairperson and now - culminating in today's great honour - my election as Cathaoirleach of Comhairle Laighean.

As I take on this new role, I am not going to implement sweeping changes or make promises which are outside of my capacity as Cathaoirleach. I will work to the best of my ability within the rules of the Association for the betterment of the GAA. In this regard it is important that we all uphold the rules of the Official Guide. These rules have served us well and while we may have personal views on the merits or otherwise of some of them, these are the rules that must govern us until Congress may decide otherwise.

In recent years it has been disappointing to see rules which aimed to give our players a pre-season break, or enforce restrictions on training, being passed by large majorities at Congress and then see them broken by the very people who voted them in. I would appeal to counties to show leadership and to uphold these rules.

One of my main objectives during my term will be to ensure that governance is adhered to right across all units of the Association in the Province. Not just financial governance, which is hugely important, but in administrative roles and responsibilities and all other aspects of our work. In this regard we need to ensure that all our units are working to implement the Governance Guide issued by Croke Park.

I intend to bring proposals to our Management Committee to put in place supports to assist them in ensuring that good governance is a major priority and that we are accountable to our membership.

These supports will initially apply to our counties, but will filter down to all of our units. Some counties benefited this year from the Shared Services model and we hope to be in a position to expand this further in the future. Consistency, best practice and high standards of governance will ensure that we all can deliver to the maximum for our members.

Our playing population has to be foremost in consideration of everything we do, at all levels of our Association, and as a consequence our games must be central to that. As can be seen from our accounts the spend on Games Development continues to grow year on year and investment has now reached almost €6 million. While it is hugely important that we continue to invest in our games programme, now is an appropriate time to review this expenditure and ensure that we are getting value for money right across the province. The TURAS coaching programme which was introduced two years ago continues to grow and has proven to be a major success, with interaction taking place with over 3,000 coaches across the province. The investment in Dublin has proven hugely beneficial and the investment in the East Leinster project has also begun to show dividends.

We now need to look at the six remaining counties to ensure they are getting the resources they need in order to keep pace with the rest of the province. We will undertake this task in conjunction with our Provincial and County games Managers and County Steering Committees.

Now more than ever our games programme is crucial in ensuring that we not only retain our playing base, but that we increase it going forward. To this end the Cross County League programme, which saw 200 teams participate in 2019, has proven beneficial to clubs right across the province both in giving more games and in creating new contacts between clubs in neighbouring counties. In accordance with Rule 3.30 of the Official Guide, we will carry out a comprehensive Games Audit in each county, in the Province, and following this process will make any changes and take any necessary action to improve the lot of our clubs and players.

It goes without saying that the importance of referees in our Association cannot be underestimated.

We have an excellent system in place to encourage, train and develop our referees and I am proud that we have always produced referees of the highest standard. However, we cannot become complacent and with the increased number of games at all levels it is important that we can continue to attract new referees and maintain the high standards of those already officiating.

These are just some of the areas I will be concentrating on during my term. Many other issues will arise but if we all work together then the Association will continue to prosper. A united force will conquer all, a divided force will self destruct.

Sincere thanks to my fellow officers, Chairperson Jim Bolger, Treasurer Pat Lynagh and PRO Martin O'Halloran for the commitment they have shown to the Association during their tenure. In particular I want to wish Jim every success as he bids for higher office at the upcoming Congress.

I wish to congratulate Derek Kent on his election as Vice Chairperson, he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him and I look forward to us working together for the betterment of Leinster GAA over the next 3 years. Similarly I congratulate Colm Finnegan on his election of Treasurer and Pat Lynagh on his election to the role of PRO. Commiserations to the losing candidates, I have been in your shoes on a couple of occasions in the past, so I hope the outcome will not deter you from putting yourself forward for election in the future.

To the staff of Aras Laighean under the superb leadership and guidance of CEO Michael Reynolds, thanks for all the wonderful work you do on behalf of our Association and I look forward to working closely with you over the next three years. A sincere word of thanks and best wishes to Shane Flanagan in his new role as National Director of Coaching and Games Development. Shane has an insatiable work ethic and I have no doubt that Leinster's loss is Croke Park's gain.

Thanks to Kevin Flanagan for ensuring that our Convention Hall is splendidly bedecked today, and I wish his father Paddy a speedy recovery from his recent setback and I know we'll see him back at next years convention.

To the management and staff of The County Arms Hotel for hosting today's event in its usual professional manner, a sincere thank you.

I wish to acknowledge the presence, here today, of the Chairperson of GAA Europe, Tony Bass and I look forward to continuing and expanding on the excellent relationship we have with our twinning partner. I am also pleased to welcome John Irwin Chairperson and Orla Watkins Secretary of Birr GAA Club, and thank them for the support they have given me.

My Club means everything to me and I am particularly pleased that there are a number of club members, led by Chairperson Philip Ryan and Secretary Mary Hanley, here to share this moment.

Similarly I wish to thank all present and former Officers of Offaly County Committees for the support they have shown me over the past 30 years. I have had the privilege of working with some exceptional GAA people, and I see two of them here today, our President Brendan Ward and Andy Gallagher, who have been selfless in their dedication and commitment to Offaly GAA and I know the present committee under the leadership of Michael Duignan will carry on that great tradition.

Finally, today could not have happened without the support of my family, and I delighted to have my three brothers John, Tom and Noel and three sisters Anne, Joan and Mary and their families here to share this special occasion with me. However, without the support and sacrifices made by my wife Frances and my three children Gerard, Sarah and Eimear today would not have been possible. During my term I may try to invent something, in their honour, that has eluded me for thirty years - the short GAA Committee Meeting!

In conclusion I would like to take you back to 1953 and the historic Offaly Senior Championship Finals of that year - the only time the football and hurling deciders were played on the same day as a double header. There was a 24 page programme produced for the occasion with some fine contributions but there is one article, and specifically one paragraph from that publication that I would like to quote to you all.

To me it encapsulates Coolderry but also touches on the very soul of our games. This was 67 years ago and more innocent times but, for all that, the piece has the wonderfully noble resonance of a tight and unified community. Something that is at the very heart of the GAA.

"Coolderry people are unique in the boundless enthusiasm which fills every heart at the close of the hurling championship; and so deep-rooted is their love of the game that every Sunday the young people, and the not-so-young, bring their hurleys to Mass, after which they enjoy a few hours with the ball and at the same time put in some useful practice. Besides, their team spirit and love of the game has brought to the parish a contentment and brotherly outlook that is exemplified in the fact that rarely, if ever, has any serious dispute arisen amongst the people; and when one does it can be 'threshed out' amicably while leaning on a hurley. After all, in Coolderry, to win a championship is THE greatest achievement, but to lose one because of some neighbourly dispute would be ignominy."

Táim ag súil go mór le obair libh go léir. Go raibh míle maith agaibh as ucht éisteacht liom, agus as ucht bhur gcuid tacaíocht anois agus ag dul ar ar aghaidh. Míle buíchoas daoibh go léir



Padraig O Teachain

Richie Hogan of Kilkenny scoring a goal
against Galway in this years Leinster
GAA Senior Hurling Championship Final.



TÚAIRISC AN RUNAÍ



TÚAIRISC AN RUNAÍ

Introduction

This season is one where all superlatives and cliches have been overplayed. It is safe to say that our usual year of activity was blighted by stop starts and forever shrouded in doubt. However, as with other years of difficulty, the prevailing nature of players, managers and administrators have seen activity occur where it might not have been possible. 2020 was most definitely a year like no other.

AIB ALL IRELAND CLUB SERIES

Club Finals were played in January 2020. The change of date was irrelevant to Ballyhale Shamrocks who added to their Roll of Honour with a hard fought victory over Borris-Illeigh.

Their win completed a hat trick of titles for Kilkenny Clubs - a Shane Walsh point gave Tullaroan a late late win in the Intermediate Final v Fr O Neill's (Cork) while Conahy Shamrocks were victorious over another Cork side - Russell Rovers.

There was no success for the province in the Football Finals. Rathgarogue-Cushinstown (Wexford) were our only representatives in the Finals. Na Gaeil (Kerry) proved too strong.

O BYRNE CUP 2020

Longford won the first silver wear of the new year. Format was similar to the previous year - Dublin bye to the Semi Finals and the other ten counties guaranteed three games. An unlikely three some of Longford, Offaly and Westmeath joined the Sky Blues in the last four.

Offaly and Longford progressed to the Final with victories over Westmeath (5 points) and Dublin (1 point) respectively.

Bord na Mona O Connor Park hosted the Final on a relatively good January Saturday afternoon. When it was all over Longford had four points to spare.

The future of this competition is uncertain presently. The window for playing is getting narrower and narrower.

WALSH CUP 2020

As the years roll on the appetite for this competition varies significantly from county to county. Dublin had three wins from three in the Round Robin section - Carlow, Laois and Westmeath - to join Galway, Kilkenny and Wexford in the Semi Finals.

Wexford and Galway made it to the Final with the Slaneysiders one point winners at MW Hire O Moore Park.

KEHOE CUP 2020

Antrim, Down, Kildare, Meath, Offaly and Wicklow participated.

Offaly and Antrim played an exciting Final in Pairc Tailteann, in early January with the Midlanders surviving by the minimum - 1-16 to 1-15.

EIRGRID LEINSTER UNDER 20 FOOTBALL

There was little or no drama in this year's Provincial Championship. Wexford left it late in Round 1 to get the better of Carlow.

Two of the quarter Finals were closely fought - Kildare having a point win over Offaly and Laois requiring penalties to see off the challenge of Westmeath.

Dublin and Laois qualified for the Final (repeat of 2019) which was covered live by TG4.

The result was similar to 2019 - a relatively comfortable win for the Dubs.

Eirgrid All Ireland Series

Dublin and Galway qualified for the Final with victories over Tyrone and Kerry respectively.

Due to pandemic the Final was not played until December 19th - Galway survived a late Dublin rally to win by the minimum.

ALL IRELAND POST PRIMARY SERIES

The Covid 19 virus played havoc with the All Ireland series. In Football, of the five grades on offer only the Junior had games played and even at that the Final - St Pat's Navan v St Brendan's Killarney was not played.

The Hurling Finals fared only a little better. St Brendan's CS, Birr and Boyne CS are finalists in the 'B' and 'C' competitions respectively while Colaiste Eoin are in the 'A' semi finals.

In the Junior Hurling (Niall McInerney Cup) St Kierans lost out to Presentation College, Athenry in the Final (Re-fixture).

BOB O KEEFFE CUP

Senior Hurling reverted to its knock-out formation and thus all four games were played at Headquarters.

In the Quarter Final Dublin had a convincing win over Laois setting themselves up for a clash with Kilkenny.

The Semi Final had its fair share of drama. The Dubs started well but in the blink of an eye Kilkenny were almost out of sight. Fifteen points ahead at half time. On the stroke of seventy minutes Dublin scored the levelling point. Kilkenny steadied the ship adding two points. The Dubs were not finished and pulled one back. The Cats survived.

The second Semi Final was very disappointing to say the least. The Tribesmen were always in control.

For long periods in the Final it looked as if the Bob O Keeffe Cup was heading across the Shannon for the fourth time. But a magical minute in the second half changed all that. Richie Hogan's moment of genius flicking the sliotar to the net with his back to the goals and the rest is history.

In the All Ireland Qualifiers Round 1, Dublin lost out to Cork while Laois ran Clare very close.

In Round 2, Clare brought an end to Wexford's participation in the 2020 Championship.

Neither Kilkenny or Galway were successful at the Semi Final stage - Waterford with an outstanding second half performance got the better of the Cats while ultimate winners Limerick proved too strong for Galway.

Antrim Kildare, Donegal and Louth were victorious in the Joe McDonagh, Christy Ring, Nicky Rackard and Lory Meagher Cups respectively.

Antrim will play in the Bob O Keeffe Cup in 2021. Kildare are deserving participants in the now six team Joe McDonagh Cup joining Carlow, Kerry, Down, Meath, Westmeath.

DELANEY CUP

Dublin continue to dominate. To be honest other than the Dublin games the rest of the Championship was evenly contested with one exception.

This year's Championship reverted to the pre Qualifier/Back Door system.

In concluding Rounds 6 and 7 of the Allianz Leagues teams were training towards a minimum of three games.

Louth, Carlow and Wexford were the first counties to be finished for 2020. Westmeath, Longford, Wicklow and Offaly joined them at Quarter Final stage.

Despite their heavy defeat in the Quarter Final Wicklow had a very good 2020. After years of heartbreak the Garden county were Allianz Division 4 winners thus playing in Division 3 for 2021.

Laois bowed out to the Dubs at semi final stage. For Laois 2020 was not a bad year. They survived in Division 2 on the final day of the League - a man down. Six points down with five minutes remaining, to win by seven.

In the other semi final Meath hit the Lilywhites net on five occasions to face the Dubs. Sadly for the Royals the Final was one sided.

Old style All Ireland Semi Finals restored for 2020. Cavan (first Ulster title since 1997) and Tipperary (first Munster title since 1935) provided semi final opposition for Dublin and Mayo respectively.

Dublin and Mayo duly made it to December 19th showdown.

Dublin comfortably made it six in a row - they continue to set very high standards.

ELECTRIC IRELAND LEINSTER MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP (Murray Cup)

In Round 1, 3 games were played on October 17th. Wicklow, Louth and Meath were winners over Longford, Wexford and Dublin respectively.

We had planned to play Quarter Finals and Semi Finals of both Minors and Peadar O Liathain Cup over the mid term break but sadly it was not to be.

We resumed on December 12th with wins for Offaly (Wicklow), Kildare (Louth), Meath (Westmeath), and Laois (Carlow).

Semi Final day was the Saturday before Christmas resulting in wins for Offaly (Kildare) and Meath (Laois) thus setting up a Meath - Offaly Final which hopefully will be played at a later date.

ELECTRIC IRELAND LEINSTER MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP (Hanrahan Cup)

Similar story to Minor Football Championship.

Round 1 played on October 17th provided wins for Offaly (Laois), Westmeath (Carlow) and Kildare (Antrim).

Halted until 13th December! Quarter Finals (2 games) day. The surprise in the Championship to date was the three point victory of Westmeath over the Dubs. Offaly had a comfortable win over Kildare.

On the Sunday before Christmas Offaly defeated Westmeath while Kilkenny defeated the holders Wexford in their respective Semi Finals.

A Final pairing of Kilkenny v Offaly to be played later in the year.

Note: First time that Offaly have qualified for both Provincial Finals in the same year since 1989.

2020 - A Year On It's Own

Departing the County Arms Hotel in Birr last January, with our new Officer team in place, little did we think that the Convention would be one of the last 'normal' settings of 2020.

Since March 12th based in the community has taken on a deeper meaning that any of us ever contemplated for the Association. While games and training were put on hold, GAA Clubs excelled in caring and working for neighbours and friends in the townlands of the country. On a larger scale Croke Park and a number of county and club facilities were used by the HSE for Covid Testing. Unfortunately at the time of writing this the country is once again at a tipping point in it's fight against this pandemic. The scenarios for the coming year are anyone's guess and all that is certain is that there is nothing certain about the future.

Thankfully however, last July to October saw a much needed respite when literally hundreds of club games (Adult and Juvenile) were permitted to take place. We were very fortunate that a large number of competitions were completed prior to the re-introduction of new lock down type conditions with Level 5 being put in place for a period of 6 weeks. It is also worth noting that prior to this three of our midland counties - Kildare, Laois and Offaly - had an additional lock down. While not all Counties managed to complete their 2020 competitions it is safe to say that the work and effort that went into the running of these games by counties were second to none.

Unfortunately the adherence to regulations and protocols were not strictly observed by clubs to the same degree as at county level particularly in the concluding stages of Championships. I hope the lessons learned will be a catalyst for greater observance and respect to do the 'right thing in the coming year(s)'. Sadly the Provincial Club and All Ireland series were victim of the Covid. I believed then and now that it was the right call. As the year progressed it was obvious from both a time and health perspective that this decision had been correct.

This paved the way for the recommencing of out Inter County competitions. Despite some misgivings the Allianz Leagues were completed thus clarifying the make up of each of the four divisions for 2021.

In the Senior Championships it is to the eternal credit of so many that all scheduled games bar one were played without incident. Concluding both the 2020 Senior Inter County Championships and Allianz Leagues was a significant boost to the welfare of the nation. Yes, there were doubts, concerns and worry. However, everyone involved played their part in ensuring protocols were observed. By and large personal responsibility was applied and all new guidelines adhered to. We owe a debt of gratitude to our own National Covid-19 Committee who were and continue to be a steady and guiding hand through it all.

In late October our Minor Hurling and Football Championships and Under 20 Hurling Championship were started but came to an abrupt end. Thankfully we got restarted in December. To the credit of all counties involved the attitude was very positive with a delight that the players were getting the opportunity to represent their county and acceptance that the window of opportunity was very short - 'not ideal but brilliant to be playing.'

While games and training took a hammering during the year, Games Development was a beacon of success and hope throughout.

Our team - Provincial and County - led from the front.



A general view of the Covid-19 test centre in Corke Park earlier this year.

GAMES DEVELOPMENT

From a Games Development point of view, 2020 was the most challenging we have ever experienced. Our staff and volunteers under the guidance of Alan Mulhall and James Devane responded to this challenge in a heroic manner. It was a year dominated by uncertainty and worry for all our staff and volunteers. However, it ultimately proved one of achievement and celebration of how important our games are to our people.

As we reflect on what programs were delivered to counties across Leinster, it can only be described as a triumph. The volume of work and impact had in facilitating the playing of games and coaching sessions has played a huge role in the wellbeing of children and youths up to the age of 17. Our staff understood clearly the role they could potentially play here through our schools & clubs and adapted their schedules without question to deliver.

The first two months of the year provided our only period of normality where a large volume of project planning, Cross County Leagues, Coach Education & staff training were delivered. From March onwards Covid-19 restrictions forced us to focus primarily on 4 areas.

Webinars (Coach Education):

From the middle of March the work schedule of our staff and that of all games development staff in the counties changed fundamentally. Immediately, the pivot was made to move all our coach education online and interact with coaches in a way that had been utilised very little up to this point. Thankfully, the Leinster Learning Webinar series was a huge success with a total of almost 20,000 coaches interacting with us on over 250 webinars. These covered a wide range of topics from preparing teams tactically to keeping the interest of an ever changing youthful society.

The incredible response to the series is an indication of both the appetite for coach education and our capacity to deliver high quality content. It is also testament to our staff's ability to adapt to new challenges all the while remembering that the coaches and the players in every club are the key stakeholders in our organisation.

This webinar series was preceded by a large number of online training programmes for our staff. Here staff looked to upskill themselves in several areas such as Coach Development, Performance Analysis, Strength & Conditioning, Office 365 training, concussion awareness, PR training and more. This ensured that all staff were confident in the new areas of online learning and service delivery in a remote capacity.

Cúl Camps

From very early in the pandemic emergency, all in Leinster Coaching & Games took a strongly positive approach to the staging of Cúl Camps and this was unreservedly backed by our staff in counties. During a normal year Leinster will always play a big role in the success of our National Cúl Camp Programme but in 2020 this was surpassed. What was delivered on the ground was nothing short of a phenomenon and the figures reflect how strongly Leinster counties performed in what was a project that led the way for a return to regular GAA activities by late summer.

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Leinster | 35,359 |
| Munster | 19,633 |
| Connacht | 11,465 |
| Ulster | 4,828 |
| Total Participants | 71,285 |

When the additional lockdowns of Kildare, Laois and Offaly are taken into consideration the figures achieved are all the more impressive. A special mention must be made to staff in these counties who were presented with extreme logistical issues at short notice in terms of adequately communicating and liaising with all parties in relation to the new restrictions. Our staff shouldered a huge amount of extra responsibility and due to their diligence and passion for this project we did not have one single case of covid-19 emerge over a hectic 5 week period involving 35,359 children. Great credit is due to our host clubs for providing their facilities and being such a source of support during the running of their Cúl Camps.

Children enjoying a summer of activity at the Kellogg's Cúl Camp in Gorey run by Wexford GAA Games Development staff.



Primary Schools Coaching

After a long, enforced break September saw a welcome return to schools for all our staff. A compressive "Return to Schools" policy was developed and a strategy for our staff to safely return to schools coaching was put in place. Due to this, coaching programs were delivered in over 90% of the schools that normally receive coaching. It is worth noting that schools who opted out of returning to a normal coaching structure were placed under no undue pressure by staff, but simplay assisted through the provision of activity templates and planners if required.

In total 616 schools have been engaged with throughout the Province and over 53,000 children have received weekly coaching. Government guidelines for the winter months placed a high importance on children partaking in sport and we were delighted to deliver this to such a large number of school going children. While we have always enjoyed a strong relationship with our Primary Schools throughout the province, there is little doubt that 2020 has embedded our place as the leading sports organisation for providing physical activity in this sector.

Resource Development

One area of huge unexpected progress in 2020 was the development of a new range of coaching resources. The circumstances that this year presented enabled a certain cohort of staff to further develop the offerings under our TURAS Coach Developer program. There is little doubt that the resources developed during this period will be of great help to coaches in the years to come.

Turas Resources developed:

Child Hurling Resources – 16 weeks worth of sessions for club coaches

Child Football Resources – 16 weeks worth of sessions for club coaches

Cúl Camp Hurling Resource – Complete weekly camp coaching session for children aged 5 – 13

Cúl Camp Football Resource – Complete weekly camp coaching session for children aged 5 – 13

Primary School Teacher Resource Hurling – 16 GAA PE sessions with homework challenges

Primary School Teacher Resource Football – 16 GAA PE sessions with homework challenges

Primary School Rainy Day Resource – 14 classroom based physical activities & resources

Football Goalkeeping Resource – 30 activities specifically designed child/youth Goalkeepers All these and additional resources can be downloaded for free at - TURAS Resources | Leinster GAA

Disappointingly, much of the competitions under the remit of Games Development fell victim to the pandemic including Post Primary Schools (to date), Celtic Challenge, Talent Academy Games Program, National Féile, Regional Féile & Leinster Adult Hurling League. Hopefully 2021 will see a resumption to all these as another year of a reduced games program may have long term implications on the retention of our players. These challenges are not unique to our sport, however I am of the firm belief that much of the work carried out by our Games Development team this year will put us at the very fore front of all that was positive in sport

I hope that the good will generated by all of this work will ensure that when a return to normality comes, the GAA will be in an even stronger position than previous.

While it may be obvious from all of the above, I would still like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with Games Development in the Province - in particular all of the Games Managers, GDA's, GPO's and County Coaching Officers. It has been said many times that 2020 was a year unlike any other, this is very true when looking at an area that is usually so dependent on face to face interaction. The work that was achieved despite all of the difficulties is a testament to each and every one of you and on behalf of all at Comhairle Laighean I thank you unreservedly. With that being said roll on 2021 and a return to normal activity.



Carlow GAA Games Manager Seán Gannon delivering a session in Bishop Foley Memorial School, Carlow.

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURES

The Covid-19 restrictions and requirements including taking personal responsibility to ensure that we and those around remain safe has changed for all time the manner in which we are able to conduct business.

Virtual meetings have been a revelation. Not suited for every occasion. By and large a significant saving on time and very efficient.

Governance, or the lack of same, continues to cause us concern.

Issues not dealt with do not go away - unpalatable that such issue(s) are, dealing with them as they should be is the only course of action. Whether it is an objection, an alleged disciplinary issue or perception the greater good of all the membership of the Association is paramount. Reputational damage should never be entertained.

2021 is uncertain presently. There are signs to be optimistic. That said we must plan for some activity at least in 2021 and generally we must look at what a full year's activity could be.

Covid 19 has fast tracked thinking on the concept of the Split Season.

2021 may not be the full plan but it will give us a taste of what a full year's work maybe.

The separation of Under 17 from adult fixtures has allowed for greater cohesion in Fixture Planning in addition to the welfare of young players - the latter being of the upmost importance.

It is over a year since the Talent Academy and Player Development Report was adopted as Association Policy. The report builds on the years of commitment and development at under age level undertaken by the many.

Too many competitions or too many games for Under 17?? Or both. How accurate?

The recently published Youth Games Programme Review 2020 (Workgoup chaired by Alan Mulhall) gives much food for thought. The Review highlights the number of games provided by the counties at the various age levels. I have no doubt, myself included, there will be surprise at the large divergence between perception and reality.

Work has already begun in some of our counties on examining their respective underage activity structure bearing in mind that one size does not fit all.

Covid and changing circumstances will bring a new format to Feile (both Hurling and Football). A format which will be challenging and worthwhile. A number of years ago there was a change in the formats to allow more teams to participate reducing to some degree the element of elitism.

The new format is a challenge to our clubs to facilitate as many Under 15 players as possible with the emphasis on participation at their own level.

2020 has been a challenging year for the Association at all levels including Finance. Leinster has over 100 employees of which over 90% are based in the province other than Dublin. Thankfully all jobs were protected. In protecting employment we acknowledge government support from March to the present day - difficult and all as the situation is but for government assistance I doubt the picture would be as positive as it is.

It is amazing the many suggestions we receive throughout a year as to how we can do things differently or not at all. Some of the commentary is not based on facts or reality.

Yet few offer to seek election to County Committees in an effort to correct the errors as they see it.

Yes we, irrespective of our position, always strive to improve, to do better. Society and certainly social media is more and more having a negative slant. At a time when everyone needs positivity it is unfortunate to have to contend with doom and gloom.

As mentioned earlier the inter county scene was a boost as was other sporting activity.

By following Government Guidelines our Association is much the stronger. By doing so we were able to concentrate on our games and assisting our communities rather than having internal arguments/debates on the pros and cons of what to do or otherwise.

The live coverage of virtually all our Senior inter county by TV/Streaming was as big a plus as was the actual playing of the games.

The trend continued at the end of the year with our Minor and Under 20 Hurling Championships.

Out of adversity comes opportunities. As a result of the pandemic initiatives were adopted to assist in the playing of our games efficiently within the windows of opportunity.

Over the past few years Fixture Certainty became the buzzword. A number of initiatives were put in place to assist in providing Fixture Certainty and to provide the opportunity of having more games (not necessarily more competitions at the same level) - Master Fixture Plan(s) both Intercounty and Club, Adult and Juvenile, Age Bands (which in my view should be reduced at least for some Juvenile competitions), the decoupling of Under 17 and Adult, extra time the first day in knockout and Finishing on the Day.

One area of huge unexpected progress All of the above are positives in our quest for Fixture Certainty - a certainty that is of absolute benefit to our players and they deserve that certainty. All players deserve the opportunity to play at their own age level at least. Regularly we talk about 'drop off' etc. Perhaps as an

organisation we could take additional and positive step(s) towards player retention particularly at underage and the 19/20 year old bracket.

Why not develop a competitions at say Under 17 - Under 20 where by a player in his last year in a particular age bracket must get meaningful game time i.e. sufficient to ensure the real chance that the player(s) will continue to play at adult level.

The separation of Under 17 from Adult is the initiative that has done the most to assist in fixture certainty.

To the credit of Clubs and Counties there was a total acceptance of the Emergency Powers implemented by Coiste Bainisti. An opportunity was grasped - all knockout games finish on the day. In normal circumstances it would have been difficult to have such a revolution accepted and it is a revolution. Ultimately Fixture Certainty and replays are incompatible.

I hope that with the exception perhaps of All Ireland Senior Finals (Tier 1) that all knockout games will finish on the day.

The status of the 'permission player' must be tightened up - what if any are the real benefits of same? Is fixture certainty interfered with and if so why?

Split season is part of the revolution. It was on the agenda with the possibility of making it to Congress. It will definitely now make Congress with at least a one year trial run - 2020-2021.

With a positive reaction to date the split season concept is accepted as a done deal. The Club is fundamental to our Association. The corollary to that is to ensure that adult teams (in particular) remain in their respective championships as late into the summer that is practical.



David Keogh of Thomas Davis receives treatment from team physio Carl O'Toole ahead of the Dublin County Senior Hurling Championship game

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Staff Training

As with Games Development all Learning Development has been severely disrupted due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, it is as a result of this area that much of the good work carried out, at various points during the year, was achieved. Much of the credit here must go to our Learning & Development Manager Colm Clear who adopted to the new normal immediately and pushed the limits of what was possible in a virtual capacity.

From the word go areas of possibility were identified, and a number of online courses were provided to all staff. Some of which were selected as they were very specific to the role of games development staff and in particular to their role as coach developers, while others were specific to the staff members needs and wants to help them develop personally. The number and range of courses made available to Staff was phenomenal and goes to show the appetite for upskilling and further learning that exists within this area.

These courses were not always from traditional learning mediums. Early in the process the opportunity for collaborative learning and sharing of ideas was identified as an area of massive potential. Staff came together virtually to learn and share from each other. One hugely positive outcome of this was the willingness of staff all throughout Leinster to come together, to share and to learn from each other. Which in turn can only benefit the overall offering of Games Development supports available to each and every county.

It was also established early in the year the need to assist staff in the changing landscape of the new normal with particular importance being placed on new technologies.

Sourcing and utilising some very valuable online learning materials to enhance the ability of staff to maximise the full Office 365 package with all its offerings. This was not only the right thing to do but proved invaluable not only in supporting staff but for them in turn to continue to support the coaches in their clubs and counties. This will be one legacy from the Covid-19 Pandemic that will be invaluable to us as a province and as an organisation going forward.

This year at Leinster we reaffirmed our commitment to training staff to ensure they have the right skills and knowledge to assist them in achieving our philosophy of inclusion. Once again staff we all given the opportunity to engage with CARA (national pan-disability sport organisation) and complete their inclusion and disability in sport training.

Webinars

Prior to the first lockdown we were lucky enough to be able to train staff in another development of our TURAS Coach Developer Program. Here, a club workshop was added that would facilitate a more bespoke learning experience for coaches within their own club environment. Having completed this training in a face to face capacity, staff then had the necessary skills to roll out these workshops in a virtual webinar type capacity once all activity had been restricted. This was a resounding success and one we hope to build on when an opportunity to return to the traditional coaching environment arises.

One of the largest areas of work undertaken this year was with regards to the Leinster Learning Webinar series. As mentioned earlier the breadth and scope of what was offered by staff across the Province in this series was astounding. A majority of these topics were covered in centralised webinars which provided staff the skills to roll them out within their own counties. Over a 13-week period staff were provided with two workshops a week they could then adapt for their respective audiences. In total during this Leinster Learning series staff provided over 250 online webinars within their counties, attended by almost 20,000 coaches. The reach of this series far outweighed what we could have ever reached in traditional settings. If this has even led to one new coach arriving to a club with will have been an extremely beneficial experience.

In 2020 we also developed further our links with our overseas partners (Europe, Middle East, Australia). Our Learning & Development team assisted both Europe and the Middle East in the organisation and running of 5 online webinars throughout the year. It is hoped that the links established with our twinning partners can be further developed and that Leinster GAA can assist with the continued growth in these three areas.

Formal Education

Despite the difficulties encountered during the year, some traditional courses were still carried out with over 2000 coaches completing the foundation certificate. This was mainly as a result of its carrying out an online theory section of the offering prior to the necessary face to face learning. In addition to this we are now in a position to commence offering a bespoke foundation course to teachers who actively engage with our staff in the delivery of their school coaching sessions.

This year also provided the perfect opportunity to revamp some of our current offering on the Award 1 coaching certificate. A number of staff worked in conjunction with their counterparts in Connacht to update this area. Our introduction to Performance Analysis adapted and changed to online delivery model with 16 participants having completed the program and being certified.

Alongside all of this staff have also continued to engage with the Coach Developer Course. 26 staff in total have now completed the on-course elements while 17 coach developer assessments from previous course complete before the first lockdown commenced

Coaching Clinic

In Leinster we have been consistently imbedding our TURAS coaching principles into everything we do over the last three years. This is something we will continue to do, as we believe they are fundamental to the delivery of quality coaching.

As part of this offering a new initiative was rolled out this year that of a "Coaching Clinic". The coaching clinic is designed to focus on the reality of coaches, what are the challenges, issues, problems that they are currently experience when coaching a team.

Coaching is not always black and white, and context is always key. This program is about giving the coach options to try out and to help improve their coaching based on their needs and circumstances. The first round of this clinic concluded prior to Christmas, with over 200 coaches receiving bespoke practical one to one advice that they can utilise in their own roles. It is hoped to further develop this concept over the next year.



POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS

As with all areas of work this year's Post Primary School sector was no less affected than any other department. In March when An Taoiseach made the correct and unprecedented move to close all schools, it was just two days prior to our Senior "A" and "B" football finals for the 2019/20 season. As such both these finals and a number of other remaining competitions had to be placed on hold. The understanding of all participants in these games is one that I would like to note. Once the initial period of lockdown had ended, we confirmed with all schools that the appetite to fulfill both these Finals in particular was very much still there. Thankfully as things began to ease we got both Finals played.

A number of other competitions were not completed in the last school year and given no competitions have got underway for 2020/21, there are doubts over getting this year's programme completed. Unfortunately there were some other issues during the year also - surrounding indiscipline as well as competitions being delayed leading to huge frustrations from schools affected. Overall though the year went well. This year we had first time provincial winners in both Senior Hurling and Senior Football as well as numerous other Finals and Games with huge levels of skill and commitment. Hopefully we can get back to that point again relatively soon in spite of the challenges we are dealing with.

Congratulations to all our competition winners with pride of place going to Coláiste Eoin and St. Joseph's SS Rochfortbridge who became Senior Hurling and Senior Football Champions respectively for the first time in 2020.

Coláiste Eoin edged out St. Kieran's College in a very tight encounter in Netwatch Cullen Park while St. Joseph's came out the right side of a very tight game against Naas CBS (Who were chasing their third title in a row) in BNM O'Connor Park - this game delayed by four months due to Covid. Thanks to both schools for their cooperation in staging this fixture in mid-July. Similarly the Senior Football 'B' Final was delayed and played in July with Coláiste Choilm Tullamore claiming the honours here with victory over Cnoc Mhuire Granard - again, it was the cooperation of all involved that ensured this final could be played. In Senior Hurling 'B' St. Brendan's CS Birr took the provincial title with victory over Ardscoil Rís while the Senior 'C' Hurling title went to Boyne CS. The SH 'C1' Final involving St. Patrick's Classical School Navan and Oatlands College fell victim to Covid. Back to football where St. Colmcille's CS took the SF 'C' title with St. Farnan's PP Prosperous coming out on top in SF 'D'.

Where competitions led to All Ireland series, the decision was made to cancel these fixtures given the difficulties this year. Junior Competitions provided fine action also with St. Kierans College losing out to Presentation College Athenry in a replayed All Ireland Final in December 2019 in difficult circumstances. St. Patrick's CS Navan took the Football Title but their game in the All Ireland series could not go ahead due the later timing and impact of Covid.

One delayed local final did get played at the end of September - it was a Dublin Senior Football 'D' Shield Final where Coláiste Ghlór na Mara beat Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh by a single point. While at the time it was hoped this could be a sign further games and competitions could take place, but with additional restrictions soon imposed this was the only game played this school year to date.

Congratulations to all other schools who took titles across the various Junior levels as well as in Second Year and First Year Competitions.

Indiscipline

Indiscipline at some of our games is an issue - be that on the field of play, unruly 'supporters' or referees finding it very difficult to carry out their duties given the level of abuse from the side lines. Granted where only one official is present (i.e. the referee) it is not an ideal scenario but finding a solution to this issue is very difficult due mainly to difficulty getting referees during the school day. This year we had a number of examples where games had the full complement of match officials and still there were serious problems and breakdowns in terms of discipline. We are open to any suggestions that can help in this area, but we would also ask all involved to do everything in their power to ensure everyone present on game day attends on the basis of mutual respect for all at the game.

Delayed fixtures can also cause many problems and the issue did arise on numerous occasions this year. The knock on effect of a game not being played to schedule can have significant consequences for other schools involved in the competition leading to clashes with other sports and other school based activities - making resolutions almost impossible in many instances. On the basis of a normal year it is key schools play games to schedule and if players have too many other commitments, the solution might be for schools to consider opting out of certain competitions - rather than compromise the integrity of a competition by not playing on time.

Liam Moran of St Joseph's SS celebrates after the Leinster GAA Colleges Senior A Football Final



In April we circulated schools with an online form which allowed for schools / individual teachers to give feedback relevant to the past year and make suggestions for next year. There were 134 respondents with the Schools Officers dealing with each response in detail and individually responding by email to each teacher. It was a hugely worthwhile exercise and where feedback couldn't be acted upon, it gave the opportunity to explain the reasoning behind the current system. In some cases feedback received helped reformat competitions and also to restructure some competition timelines. Overall it was very beneficial and allowed for very worthwhile engagement with a large cohort of teachers.

Our Leabhrán Eoilais with fixtures and groupings was completed in August and while it was always likely there would be changes, it has served as a very useful document in keeping schools updated. As we got into September everything was pushed back allowing schools to settle back without the extra administration of games and all that that entails. Schools were also re-circulated as to whether or not they were still in a position to compete with a percentage, understandably, withdrawing for this year. Our aim has been to provide competition for schools that are in a position to opt in and that is our ongoing position.

As we moved towards the end of October and with the situation probably deteriorating, a decision was made to go with all Knock Out competitions with the option of Shield Competitions for teams beaten in the first round. With the Level 5 Restrictions eased to Level 3 in early December this still didn't allow for school games (as school games cannot be played in Level 3) and at the time of writing it will be a bonus if any games are played this year. However, we remain optimistic that we can complete the various competitions. Hopefully we can provide the outlet for students to wear the school jersey if public health guidelines allow.

To complete our games programme each year we rely on a huge amount of help and support across the province. In this respect in particular we owe a huge depth of gratitude to Club and County Officials who facilitate the playing of our games in their facilities – particularly neutral venues towards the knock out phase of our competitions.

It is generally at this time of year weather is least favourable and getting access to pitches ensures our games can proceed. Others that ensured a successful campaign this year include the following and we would like to thank all for their input:-

- Schools Chairman John Rouse and members of Comhairle Iarbhunscuilleanna Laighean
- GAA Coordinators / Teachers for their ongoing dedication to Gaelic Games
- Referees and Match Officials
- Schools Officers / Leinster Staff
- County Games Managers / Fixtures Coordinators and all County Games Development Personnel
- Presenters at Finals (in 2019/2020 for the first time we had a designated person within each county available to assist with presentations at finals. The role they filled was very valuable)
- All Ireland Post Primary School Council
- To anyone else who helped in any way to help deliver our Games Programme

Thanks again to all for their help and support throughout the year. We are in for many challenges for the remainder of the academic year but hopefully Covid Numbers can be controlled and as advances are being made with vaccines, this augers well that that life can start returning to normal. Extra-curricular activities, including Gaelic Games, play an important role in school life and hopefully normality in this regard can return and the class of 2020/2021 can get the opportunity to line out for their school before they leave for college, the world of work or wherever their career-path takes them

INFRASTRUCTURE

In it's very nature it will be no surprise to anyone that Infrastructure had a very quiet year. In a year where the entire country not only our association was struggling to adapt to the new normal, a national decision was made to not approve any new projects for funding. This decision -again the correct one- had one exception that of those who had already secured funding prior to the pandemic. The harsh reality is that this may be the situation for at least another eighteen to twenty four months. Given all of the difficulties we have already and are yet to face, It will not be practical to consider GAA grants for at least another two years. This in and of itself, may provide us with an opportunity to carry out a badly needed period of self reflection. We could look at not only the criteria for funding infrastructure projects, but also that of funding across all aspects of the Association.

One significant project was achieved this year, namely that of the upgrading of MW Hire O Moore Park. This consisted of their transition to a fully LED Floodlighting model alongside the adoption of a biodiversity programme. Peter O Neill (Cathaoirleach) and his colleagues are to be complimented in bringing the project to a successful conclusion – not alone in the physical sense but also financially in that 90% of the cost was covered by grants from outside the GAA plus an annual saving of € 12,000.00 plus.

Unfortunately the expertise of our Infrastructure and Safety Committee were not called upon. Hopefully 2021 will be different. A number of worthwhile plans and projects had to be put on hold for the present. Lets hope that 2021 will be a return to near normal and 2022 will be full steam ahead.

Infrastructure Caption: A detailed view of one of the newly installed LED floodlights at MW Hire O'Moore Park



PR & MARKETING

This year from a Public Relations perspective was a strange one. Like all areas we had to adapt our focus to suit the needs of the time. When lockdown first arrived in March it put paid to a lot of plans that were beginning to take fruition particularly around the marketing and staging of our Senior Championships. I know under the new Chairmanship of our PRO Pat Lynagh that some new thinking with regards to our match day activity had to be put on hold. Hopefully we can see these fresh ideas being put into practice if not in 2021 then at the very least 2022.

The year that was also saw the Communications team engage heavily with our Games Development staff in an effort to up-skill everyone in this area. Several webinars and tutorials were provided, with staff members receiving at least 3 hours of bespoke training each. It is hope that this time can help staff and us all as a whole better communicate the far too often unknown work that is going on.

When club activity got the green light to return, the biggest obstacle facing us all was how to ensure the adequate promotion of behind closed doors activity. The work done in this area by PROs, both county and club, was nothing short of miraculous. To move so diligently into an area, that would have previously been foreign to so many, shows our ability as an organisation to adapt and overcome any issues rapidly. The coverage that our club activity received as a result of this work was immense. National media picked up on games they otherwise, for simple logistical reasons would not have been able to cover. I would like to place on record my thanks to all the PRO's and those within counties who made this all possible.

Streaming was received with rapturous appetite during the year, however it remains to be seen will the popularity continue when a return to normal arises. One thing is for sure that it has opened up a world of possibility with regards to the promotion of activity that would have otherwise went unseen by the wider public.

Our Senior Championships had their own logistical challenges when they began. Ensuring all of those attending our games were kept safe, while getting the much needed access to work was tricky. However, I think it is one our Committee adapted to quickly and with the help of all host counties ran very smoothly. This is in no small part due to the co-operation of all media and external contractors attending our games. I am extremely grateful to you all for your demeanor throughout the year, in doing so it made our work and again that of the host county much easier.



Darren Martin, Junior Secretary, Castleknock GAA, prepares the online streaming service prior to the Dublin County Senior Football Championship

SCÓR

Scór Na Nóg

The 2020 Leinster Scór season began with two very successful Scór na nÓg semi-finals in December 2019. Oldcastle and Birr were the venues for these entertaining competitions. This year our Leinster Final was held in the stunning Tommy Leddy Theatre in Drogheda.

Following on from the Provincial Finals two Scór na nÓg All Ireland titles were brought home by Leinster representatives, with the Moate All White's Ballad Group bringing All Ireland glory to Westmeath and Erin Ross from Ballymore doing likewise for Longford as she was crowned Solo Singing Champion.

Buaiteoirí Scór na nÓg Laighean 2020

Rince Foirne: Kilcormac-Killoughey, Co. Offaly

Amhránaíocht Aonair: Erin Ross, Ballymore, Co. Longford

Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht: Emily Shaw, The Downs, Co. Longford

Bailéad Ghrúpa: Moate All White's, Co. Westmeath

Léiriú Stáitse: The Downs, Co. Westmeath

Ceol Uirlise: Ballygarrett- Réalt na Mara, Co. Wexford

Rince Seit: St. Joseph's, Co. Westmeath

Trath na gCeisteanna: 1. Wolfe Tones, Co. Meath; 2. Bunbrosna, Co. Westmeath; 3. O'Dwyers, Co. Dublin

Scór Sinsir

Fortunately prior to the Covid-19 lockdown in March both Scór Sinsir semi-finals were held. The venue for these were in The Downs, Co. Westmeath and Clonroche, Co. Wexford. Many thanks to both for playing host and help in organising. However, like many events this year the Final did not get to proceed as planned. Those who qualified for the final were as follows:

Rince Foirne: Ballymore, Co. Longford; Mullingar Shamrocks, Co. Westmeath; Birr, Co. Offaly; Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Amhránaíocht Aonair: Shane Herety, Ballinagore, Co. Westmeath; Shane Hagen, Fr. Manning Gaels, Co. Longford; Jack Gladney, St. Mullins, Co. Carlow; Seán Ahearne, Ardclough, Co. Kildare.

Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht: Annie Galligan, Oldcastle, Co. Meath; Blathnaid Daly, Ballycomoyle, Co. Westmeath; Mattie Murphy, Shelmaliers, Co. Wexford; Sheila Naughton, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

Bailéad Ghrúpa: Ballycomoyle, Co. Westmeath; Clann na nGael, Co. Meath; Ferbane, Co. Offaly; Bannow Ballymitty, Co. Wexford.

Léiriú Stáitse: Oldcastle, Co. Meath; Ballycomoyle, Co. Westmeath; Milltown, Co. Kildare

Ceol Uirlise: Bannow Ballymitty, Co. Wexford; Kilcavan, Co. Laois.

Rince Seit: Bunbrosna, Co. Westmeath; Oldcastle, Co. Meath; St. Patrick's Ballyoughter, Co. Wexford; Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

As with many aspects of work this year a majority of the Scór activity was carried out in the virtual environment. Many Leinster performers were involved with the Scór Naisiúnta initiative of Virtual Scór. It was heartening to see performers from across the province share their many talents in an effort to entertain others nationwide and around the world. Many Leinster Scór performers also were involved in a collaboration with Scór members throughout the country and remotely recorded "May the Road Rise to Meet You". This led to an invitation to be part of a collaboration with Dana commemorating her Eurovision win with "All Kinds of Everything" fifty years ago.

Despite not being able to come together for many months, all at Scór Laighean ensured that performers were given an opportunity to share their talents. For this I would like to pay special mention to our hard working Committee under the guidance of Cathaoirleach Caitríona Uí Dhálaigh and Runaí Áine Ní Chinnéide, alongside PRO Caitríona Ní Nuáin who like so many others adapted to the new challenges to ensure the show stayed on the road.

Ba mhaith le Coiste Scór Laighean buíochas a ghabháil le gach duine agus club a thug cabhair dúinn i rith na bliana. Thanks to all clubs and counties who made their premises available for Scór events during the year. Special thanks to our adjudicators. Míle Buíochas do gach duine a bhíonn ag obair ar son Scór sa chúige. Tá súil againn go mbeimid ar ais le chéile i gceann tamaill.

Go n-éirí go geal le Scór i mbliana!

The victorious Moate All White's Ballad Group being presented with their All Ireland Scór na nÓg trophy from John Horan Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

Back L to R: Ben O'Connell, Mia Curtain, Aidan Brennan, Cathaoirleach Coiste Náisiúnta Scór, James Costello,

Front L to R: Anna Sheerin, & Cara Johnston



Lester Ryan - RIP

This year we tragically bid farewell to one of our former colleagues Lester Ryan. Lester who died tragically in an accident near his home in Gowran in June, was one of the most important and influential figures in Leinster GAA circles over the past three decades.

A National Hurling League winner with Kilkenny in 1986 and All Ireland runner-up the following year, he subsequently joined us in Comhairle Laighean in 1991 becoming one of the first full-time coaches to be employed by the association. A fact that shows the visionary Lester was when you consider that today there are some 300 such coaches around the country.

Lester had a myriad of job titles while he was with us from field officer to hurling development administrator. This in and of itself summed up Lester, no matter what the role or duty once it was for the betterment of Gaelic games he was committed. During his time with us he introduced several new ideas to our Games Development Department, many of which remain in place to this day. A prime example of this is the cross-county hurling leagues, which pitted teams against outfits from other counties they'd never otherwise meet. These leagues are still in operation and have gone from strength to strength with the last iteration seeing over 260 teams and almost 6,000 players taking part.

He worked on various other initiatives including the Poc Fada competition, which was very much Lester's baby. This alongside the DJ Carey School of Hurling where the template was followed nationally and became the basis very much on which the modern institution of the Cúl Camps is based upon.

Lester was a gentleman to his very core and a great friend to all in Leinster both during and after his time with us. One of his greatest attributes was his ability to consider how things might be applicable in a real-world setting. How would the work, we were doing on a daily basis, affect training in a club on a Saturday morning or the future generations of players.

We all feel his loss terribly and will never forget the support and friendship that Lester gave to us all. I would like to especially mention Lester's wife Christine and children Joseph, Niamh, Eimer and Conor and once again offer our sincerest condolences.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam



Lester Ryan (rip) acting as score keeper for Kilkenny's Eoin Murphy during the 2018 M Donnelly GAA All-Ireland Poc Fada Finals in the Annaverna Mountain.

B100dy Sunday

This year saw the organisation as a whole take stock and reflect on our origins and where we came from. The very embodiment of this process was our commemoration of the tragic events that occurred 100 years ago in our now hallowed ground of Croke Park.

These events were for a long time well recognised and recited throughout history. However, what became abundantly clear, as this year went on, was how little we knew about the 14 victims themselves. The people behind the overall tragedy, their origins and their families who's lives would irreversibly be changed by the simple decision of attending a football game.

The way in which the country as a whole embraced these victims was heart warming. While it took far longer than it ever should, it is my belief that this year saw them finally receive the send off they deserved from us, both as an organisation and nation. An event as delicate as this was handled with such grace and care that it can be a template for any further commemorations that may happen even outside of sporting circles. The issues and events that led up to the day itself were reflected upon with a maturity that ensured the whole picture was portrayed, rather than a one sided anecdotal account of events.

Much credit for this much go to our Commemorations Committee and in particular our former Leinster colleague Cian Murphy. Under their guidance the nation as a whole stopped and paid due respect to the victims. The association emerged with great credit for its handling of the events and that is one aspect from which we must be thankful to the Committee.

Another person who must be singled out for their work on the commemoration is journalist Michael Foley. Michael has been highlighting the victims of this tragedy long before this year and it was heartwarming to see his work finally get the recognition it deserves. It is due in no small way to him that the names of not just Michael Hogan but of Jerome O'Leary, William Robinson, John William Scott, Tom Hogan, Joseph Traynor, James Teehan, Tom Ryan, Jane Boyle, Daniel Carroll, James Matthews, Michael Feery, James Burke and Patrick O'Dowd are widely recognised. It was a special honour to be able to host our Leinster Final on the day itself and play our small part in the commemoration.

Cuimhnimis orthu uilig



Faoi Dheireadh

2020 was like no other. It will not be forgotten for sometime to come.

In adversity GAA Clubs across the province and country displayed community spirit at its best. 20,000 volunteers assisted 35,000 people in ensuring that their daily requirements were met. Too the many volunteers who put our clubs at the heart of our communities in a practical way, mile buiochas

To the many officials at Club, County, Provincial and National level your work and commitment to both Government and our own regulations is very much appreciated. There were a few breaches. That said the playing of so many games was a scene of great enjoyment to many. As referred earlier streaming is the new Buzzword. Thousands upon thousands lived from week to week for the next series of games - some may have watched as many as 8 games on any particular weekend during October/November.

In our province the work of our Games Staff was outstanding. They were always working on options. They more than played their part in the success of Cul Camps 2020. Nationwide 71,000 children participated with over 50% in the province - this would have been pushing 60% but for the additional lock down in Kildare, Laois and Offaly.

The Aras Laighean team led from the front. Similar to the Games Staff at county level they worked away beyond the call of duty. Signs on it - the work ethos and spirit throughout the province is excellent. 'Failing to plan is planning to fail' is not remotely in the mindset of all our teams.

During the year a number of families suffered bereavements. A bereavement as a result of Covid 19 was particularly difficult for the loved ones and friends of the deceased. In June it was with great sadness we lost our former colleague, Lester Ryan. To his family and to all who suffered the loss of a loved one throughout the year I offer my deepest sympathy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.



Micheál Mac Raghnaill

All sections of the Media provided excellent coverage of our games. Club Finals got pages of coverage in the national papers supplementing the outstanding coverage by the provincial papers. With regard to local radio - life would be very dull without them.

To all the crew at Aras Laighean appreciation for their commitment during a very difficult year.

To Comhairle Laighean members always made themselves available when called upon in this unusual year. Similarly to the Officers, Management, CCC, Hearings, and Post Primary Schools and our colleagues in Croke Park. To our Referees and Match Officials who take charge of our games along with our Administrators and Appointments Committees for their work.

Unfortunately the expertise of our Infrastructure and Safety Committee were not called upon. Hopefully 2021 will be different. A number of worthwhile plans and projects had to be put on hold for the present. Lets hope that 2021 will be a return to near normal and 2022 will be full steam ahead.

'When the going gets tough, the tough get going.'



Paul Broderick of Carlow in action against Ruairi McNamee, centre, and Anton Sullivan of Offaly during the Leinster GAA Football Senior Championship

LEINSTER COMMITTEES 2020

COISDE BAINISTÍ & AIRGEADAIS

CATHAOIRLEACH
Pat Teehan

LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH
Derek Kent

CISTEOIR
Colm Finnegan

OIFIFEACH CAIDHREAMH POIBLÍ
Pat Lynagh

RUNAI
Michael Reynolds

Martin Byrne

Michael Whelan

Michael McHugh

Fintan Fanning

Sean Champion

Jimmy Walsh

Peter O'Neill

Martin Fitzgerald

COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN 2020

CARLOW
Michael Whelan
Vinny O'Brien

DUBLIN
Tom O'Shea
John McNicholas

KILDARE
Mick Mullen
Larry Curtin

KILKENNY
Val Malone
Willie Dempsey

LAOIS
PJ Kelly
Richard Kennedy

LONGFORD
Derek Fahy
Damien Edgeworth

LOUTH
Declan Byrne
Padraic O'Connor

MEATH
Damien Griffin
Cathal Seoige

OFFALY
Joe Higgins
Brian Gavin

WESTMEATH
Michael McHugh
Albert Lowry

WEXFORD
Mary Foley
Cathal Byrne

WICKLOW
Fintan Fanning
Patrick Dunne

PR & MARKETING

CATHAOIRLEACH Pat Lynagh

RUNAI John Haughney

SCÓR

CATHAOIRLEACH Catherine Daly

RUNAI Áine Kennedy

INFRASTRUCTURE & SAFETY

CATHAOIRLEACH Ed Byrne

RUNAI Michael Reynolds

COACHING & GAMES DEVELOPMENT

CATHAOIRLEACH Derek Kent

RUNAI James Devane

POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS

CATHAOIRLEACH John Rouse

RUNAI Noel Delaney

Cluichí Laighean 2020

21 November 2020; Torches remembering the 14 people who died in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday on 21 November 1920 are seen on Hill 16 as the Leinster GAA Football Senior Championship Final match between Dublin and Meath takes place at Croke Park in Dublin.



Kehoe Cup SHC 2020

30/11 Offaly (2-28) Kildare (0-18) - Birr
30/11 Antrim (3-28) Meath (1-15) - Navan
7/12 Antrim (5-27) Wicklow (2-10) - Abbottstown
8/12 Down (0-22) Kildare (0-12) - Newbridge
15/12 Meath (1-21) Wicklow (0-24) - Arklow
15/12 Offaly (1-24) Down (2-18) - Abbottstown
4/1 Offaly (8-18) Meath (3-18) - Birr
12/1 Offaly (1-16) Antrim (1-15) - Navan (Final)

O'Byrne Cup SFC 2020

7/12 Longford (2-14) Kildare (0-14) - Newbridge
7/12 Carlow (2-5) Wicklow (0-8) - Carlow
7/12 Offaly (1-17) Laois (2-12) - Portarlington
7/12 Westmeath (1-11) Wexford (0-11) - Enniscorthy
8/12 Louth (1-9) Meath (0-10) - Navan
14/12 Laois (1-12) Wexford (1-11) - Enniscorthy
14/12 Westmeath (1-13) Meath (1-13) - Lakepoint Mullingar
14/12 Offaly (1-16) Louth (1-10) - Drogheda
15/12 Longford (1-13) Carlow (0-10) - Longford
4/1 Wicklow (2-9) Longford (0-14) - Aughrim
4/1 Kildare (1-10) Carlow (0-10) - Carlow IT
4/1 Meath (4-16) Laois (1-15) - Navan
4/1 Offaly (2-12) Wexford (1-7) - Faithful Fields
4/1 Westmeath (1-13) Louth (0-11) - Drogheda
11/1 Offaly (0-16) Westmeath (0-11) - Tullamore
11/1 Longford (1-13) Dublin (3-6) - Longford
18/1 Longford (1-12) Offaly (0-11) - Tullamore (Final)

Walsh Cup SHC 2020

8/12 Westmeath (2-12) Carlow (0-14) - Kinnegad
15/12 Laois (3-19) Carlow (0-22) - Carlow
15/12 Dubin (1-22) Westmeath (0-17) - Mullingar
5/1 Dublin (3-20) Carlow (0-18) - Parnell Park
5/1 Westmeath (2-17) Laois (1-12) - Borris in Ossory
9/1 Dublin (1-28) Laois (0-17) - Parnell Park
12/1 Galway (0-19) Dublin (0-18) - Parnell Park
12/1 Wexford (2-18) Kilkenny (1-9) - Callan
18/1 Wexford (1-16) Galway (0-18) - Portlaoise (Final)

Eirgrid Leinster U-20 FC 2020 (Flood Cup)

7/2 Wexford (3-8) Carlow (2-9) - Enniscorthy
8/2 Offaly (2-6) Louth (0-9) - Dunleer
8/2 Dublin (1-17) Wicklow (1-7) - Aughrim
15/2 Dublin (3-9) Longford (0-9) - Parnell Park
15/2 Meath (1-11) Wexford (1-5) - Enniscorthy
15/2 Kildare (1-7) Offaly (0-9) - Newbridge
17/2 Laois (0-13) Westmeath (1-10) - Portlaoise Pen: LS (4) WH (3)
21/2 Laois (1-7) Kildare (0-4) - Portlaoise
22/2 Dublin (2-14) Meath (0-7) - Parnell Park
6/3 Dublin (0-18) Laois (0-8) - Carlow (Final)

Electric Ireland Leinster MFC 2020 (Murray Cup)

17/10 Wicklow (4-9) Longford (3-9) - Aughrim
17/10 Louth (0-15) Wexford (1-6) - Darver
17/10 Meath (1-15) Dublin (0-7) - Navan
12/12 Offaly (2-9) Wicklow (0-9) - Tullamore
12/12 Kildare (2-16) Louth (1-7) - Newbridge
12/12 Meath (3-11) Westmeath (0-7) - Navan
12/12 Laois (2-14) Carlow (0-5) - Portlaoise
19/12 Offaly (2-10) Kildare (2-7) - Newbridge
19/12 Meath (2-10) Laois (1-7) - Navan
No Final Played

Electric Ireland Leinster MHC 2020 (Hanrahan Cup)

17/10 Offaly (2-18) Laois (0-12) - Birr
17/10 Westmeath (1-15) Carlow (1-14) - Kinnegad
17/10 Kildare (1-13) Antrim (0-7) - Abbottstown
13/12 Westmeath (1-12) Dublin (1-9) - Mullingar
13/12 Offaly (1-18) Kildare (0-9) - Newbridge
20/12 Kilkenny (0-23) Wexford (1-14) - Wexford
20/12 Offaly (2-18) Westmeath (1-8) - Mullingar
No Final Played

Peadar O Liathain Cup:

13/12 Down (9-25) Louth (0-06) - Darver
13/12 Meath (3-20) Wicklow (1-10) - Aughrim
20/12 Down (1-14) Meath (0-15) - Navan (Final)

Bord Gais Energy Leinster Under 20 HC 2020 (Robbins Cup)

21/10 Dublin (2-22) Antrim (1-08) - Darver
21/10 Laois (1-15) Carlow (0-15) - Portlaoise
21/10 Offaly (2-22) Westmeath (3-09) - Faithful Fields
11/12 Galway (4-21) Laois (0-7) - Portlaoise
12/12 Dublin (2-16) Offaly (0-16) - Birr
18/12 Dublin (1-19) Wexford (1-10) - Carlow
18/12 Galway (0-19) Kilkenny (1-11) - Portlaoise
No Final Played

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship 2020 (Bob O'Keefe Cup)

24/10 Dublin (2-31) Laois (0-23) - Croke Park
31/10 Kilkenny (3-20) Dublin (2-22) - Croke Park
31/10 Galway (1-27) Wexford (0-17) - Croke Park
14/11 Kilkenny (2-20) Galway (0-24) - Croke Park (Final)

Leinster Senior Football Championship 2020 (Delaney Cup)

1/11 Longford (1-9) Louth (1-7) - Mullingar
1/11 Offaly (3-14) Carlow (0-20) - Tullamore
1/11 Wicklow (2-9) Wexford (0-11) - Wexford
7/11 Dublin (0-22) Westmeath (0-11) - Portlaoise
8/11 Laois (1-16) Longford (1-14) - Longford
8/11 Meath (7-14) Wicklow (0-7) - Aughrim
8/11 Kildare (0-20) Offaly (0-16) - Portlaoise
15/11 Dublin (2-23) Laois (0-7) - Croke Park
15/11 Meath (5-09) Kildare (0-15) - Croke Park
21/11 Dublin (3-21) Meath (0-9) - Croke Park (Final)



The Coláiste Eoin team before their victory over St Kierans in the 2020 Corn Uí Dhuill Final at Netwatch Cullen Park

Cluichí Iarbhunscoilleanna Laighean 2019/2020

PROVINCIAL FINALS

Senior Football 'A'
Senior Football 'B'
Senior Football 'C'
Senior Football 'D'
Senior Hurling 'A' League
Senior Hurling 'A'
Senior Hurling 'B' (Rest of Leinster)
Senior Hurling 'B'
Senior Hurling 'C'
Junior Football 'A'
Junior Hurling 'A'
Junior Hurling 'A' Shield
Junior Hurling 'A1' (Rest of Leinster)
Junior Hurling 'A1'
Junior Hurling 'B'
2nd Year Football 'A'

WINNERS

St. Joseph's SS Rochfortbridge
Coláiste Choilm, Tullamore
St. Colmcille's CS
St. Farnan's PP Prosperous
St. Peter's College, Wexford
Coláiste Eoin
St. Brendan's CS, Birr
St. Brendan's CS, Birr
Boyne CS
St. Patrick's Cl. Sch., Navan
St. Kieran's College
St. Peter's College, Wexford
Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown
Ardscoil Rís
St. Mary's CBS, Enniscorthy
St. Mel's College

RUNNER-UP

Naas CBS
Cnoc Mhuire, Granard
Heywood CS
Coláiste na hInse
Dublin South Schools
St. Kieran's College
Mountrath CS
Ardscoil Rís
St. Declan's College
Good Counsel College
Good Counsel College
Kilkenny CBS
St. Brendan's CS, Birr
Colaiste Mhuire Johnstown
Coláiste Choilm Tullmaore
St. Marys Knockbeg College

Provincial Competitions impacted by Covid

COMPETITION

Senior Hurling 'C1'
Junior Football 'B'
Junior Football 'C'
Junior Football 'D'
Junior Hurling 'C'
Junior Hurling "C1"
2nd Year Football 'B'
2nd Year Football 'C'
2nd Year Football 'D'
2nd Year Hurling 'A'
2nd Year Hurling 'B'

FINALISTS

St. Patrick's Cl. Sch. Navan v Oatlands College
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
St. Fergal's Col, Rathdowney v Maynooth SS
Col. Eamann Rís, Callan v Gallen CS Fermbane
St. Joseph's, Drogheda v St. Kieran's College
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Not at final stage



NORTH LEINSTER COMPETITIONS

- Senior Football 'B'
- Senior Football 'A' Lge Sect 1
- Senior Football 'A' Lge Sect 2
- Senior Football 'B' Lge
- Senior Football 'C'
- Senior Football SF 'D'
- Senior Football SF 'D' Shield
- Senior Hurling 'C'
- Senior Hurling 'C1'
- Junior Football 'A'
- Junior Football 'A' Shield
- Junior Football 'B'
- Junior Football 'C'
- Junior Hurling 'B'
- Junior Hurling 'C'
- Junior Hurling 'C' Shield
- Junior Hurling 'C1'
- 2nd Year Football 'A'
- 2nd Year Football 'B'
- 2nd Year Football 'B' Shield
- 2nd Year Football 'C'
- 2nd Year Football 'D' (13-a-side)
- 2nd Year Football 'D' (15-a-side)

WINNERS

- Cnoc Mhuire Granard
- St. Joseph's SS Rochfortbridge
- Ashbourne CS
- Cnoc Mhuire Granard
- Ballymahon VS
- Coláiste na hInse
- Franciscan College Gormanston
- Boyne CS
- St. Patrick's Cl. Sch., Navan
- St. Patrick's Cl. Sch., Navan
- Coláiste Mhuire, Mullingar
- Dunshaughlin CC
- O'Carolan College, Nobber
- Coláiste Choilm, Tullamore
- St. Fergal's College, Rathdowney
- Killina Presentation SS
- Gallen CS Ferbane
- St. Mel's College
- St. Joseph's CBS, Drogheda
- St. Mary's DS Drogheda
- Mercy SS Ballymahon
- Ballymahon VS
- St. Olivers Oldcastle

RUNNER-UP

- Ashbourne CS
- St. Patrick's Cl. Sch. Navan
- Mercy SS Kilbeggan
- Dunshaughlin CC
- Ardee CS
- Oaklands CC Edenderry
- Ardscoil Phadraig Granard
- Colaiste Naomh Cormac Kilcormac
- Castlepollard CC
- St. Mary's SS, Edenderry
- Moate CS
- Coláiste Choilm, Tullamore
- Ballymahon VS
- Coláiste Mhuire, Mullingar
- St. Joseph's SS Rochfortbridge
- Cistercian College Roscrea
- Mercy SS Kilbeggan
- St. Patricks Cl. Sch., Navan
- Ashbourne CS
- St. Peter's College Dunboyne
- Ardee CS
- Beaufort College
- Mountmellick CS

SOUTH LEINSTER COMPETITIONS

- Senior Football 'B'
- Senior Football 'C'
- Senior Football 'D'
- Senior Football Lge 'A'
- Senior Football Lge 'B' Sect 1
- Senior Football Lge 'B' Sect 2
- Senior Hurling 'C'
- Senior Hurling 'C1'
- Junior Football 'A'
- Junior Football 'A' Shield
- Junior Football 'C'
- Junior Football 'D2'
- Junior Hurling 'B'
- Junior Hurling 'B' Shield
- Junior Hurling 'C'
- Junior Hurling 'C' Shield
- Junior Hurling 'C1'
- 2nd Year Football 'A'
- 2nd Year Football 'A' Shield
- 2nd Year Football 'B'
- 2nd Year Football 'C'
- 2nd Year Football 'D'
- 2nd Year Football 'D' (11-a-side)

WINNERS

- Coláiste Choilm Tullamore
- Heywood CS
- St. Farnan's PP Prosperous
- Patrician SS Newbridge
- Ardscoil na Trionoide
- Portlaoise CBS
- Presentation DLS Bagnesltown
- Duiske Col/Col Pobail Osraí
- Good Counsel College
- Patrician SS Newbridge
- Ardscoil Rath Iomagain
- Meanscoil Gharman
- St. Marys Enniscorthy
- FCJ Bunclody
- Colaiste Bhríde Carnew
- Bridgetown VC
- Colaiste Eamonn Rís Callan
- St. Mary's Knockbeg College
- St Peters College Wexford
- St Kierans College
- Wexford CBS
- Coláiste Eoin, Hacketstown
- Coláiste Abbain

RUNNER-UP

- Ardscoil na Trionoide Athy
- Tullow CS
- Clonaslee CS
- St Peters College Wexford
- Ardscoil Rath Iomagain
- Gorey CS
- Coláiste Bhríde Carnew
- New Ross CBS
- Scoil Mhuire Clane
- St Peters College Wexford
- Heywood CS
- Duiske College
- Gorey CS
- Wexford CBS
- Pres DLS Bagenalstown
- Grennan College Thomastown
- St. Mary's Knockbeg College
- Good Counsel College
- Patrician SS Newbridge
- FCJ Bunclody
- Tullow CS
- Bridgetown VC
- Portlaoise College

North Leinster Competitions impacted by Covid

COMPETITION

- Junior Football 'D'
- 2nd Year Hurling 'B'
- 2nd Year Hurling 'C'
- 2nd Year Hurling 'C1'

FINALISTS

- Not at final stage
- Not at final stage
- Not at final stage
- Not at final stage

Sout Leinster Competitions impacted by Covid

COMPETITION

- Senior Football 'D1'
- Junior Football 'B'
- Junior Football 'D1'
- 2nd Year Hurling 'B'
- 2nd Year Hurling 'C'
- 2nd Year Hurling 'C1'

FINALISTS

- Bridgetown VC v Duiske College
- Cross and Passion College Kicullen v Gorey CS
- Not at final stage
- Not at final stage
- Not at final stage
- Not at final stage



DUBLIN COMPETITIONS

Senior Football 'A'
Senior Football 'B'
Senior Football 'C'
Senior Football 'D1' Shield
Senior Hurling 'A'
Senior Hurling 'B'
Senior Hurling 'C'
Senior Hurling 'C1' Sect 2
Senior Hurling 'C1' S1 Shield
Senior Hurling 'C1' S2 Shield
Junior Football 'A'
Junior Football 'A' Shield
Junior Football 'B'
Junior Football 'B' Shield
Junior Football 'C'
Junior Football 'D'
Junior Hurling 'A'
Junior Hurling 'A' Shield
Junior Hurling 'B'
Junior Hurling 'B' Shield
Junior Hurling 'C'
Junior Hurling 'D'
Junior Hurling 'D1' Sect 1
Junior Hurling 'D1' Sect 2
2nd Year Football 'A'
2nd Year Football 'A' Shield
2nd Year Football 'B'

WINNERS

Ardscoil Rís
Castleknock CC
St. Colmcille's CS
Coláiste Ghlór na Mara
Ardscoil Rís
St. Declan's College
Oatlands College
Holy Family CS, Rathcoole
St. Joseph's CBS Drogheda
Coláiste Pobail Setanta
St. Benildus College
Colaiste Eoin
St. Colmcille's CS
Castleknock CC
Blackrock College
Tempelogue College
Ardscoil Rís
Scoil Aodhain
Maynooth Second Level Schools
Tempelogue College
Lucan CBS
Holy Family CS Rathcoole
Coláiste Mhuire, Cabra
Confey College
Maynooth Second Level Schools
Scoil Aodhain
Terenure College

RUNNER-UP

Maynooth Second Level Schools
Malahide CS
Clonkeen College
Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh
Maynooth Second Level Schools
St. Colmcille's CS
St. Mac Dara's CC
St. Mark's CS Tallaght
Lusk CC
Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh
Scoil Aodhain
St. Fintan's HS, Sutton
Skerries CC
Portmarnock CS
St. David's CBS
St. Paul's College, Raheny
Coláiste Eoin
St. Fintan's HS, Sutton
St. Declan's CBS
Salesian College Celbridge
Scoil Chaitriona
Coláiste Choilm, Swords
Coláiste Chilllain
Coláiste Ghlór na Mara
Ardscoil Rís
St. Fintan's HS, Sutton
Castleknock CC

First Year Competitions

Br. Hubert Cup (Football - Leinster excluding Dublin)

Cup Region 1 - Gold Final
Cup Region 2 - Gold Final
Cup Region 3 - Gold Final
Cup Region 4 - Gold Final
Cup Region 1 - Silver Final
Cup Region 2 - Silver Final
Cup Region 3 - Silver Final
Cup Region 4 - Silver Final
Cup Region 3 - Bronze Final
Cup Region 4 - Bronze Final
Shield Region 2 - Gold Final
Shield Region 3 - Gold Final
Shield Region 4 - Gold Final
Shield Region 2 - Silver Final
Shield Region 3 - Bronze Final
Shield Region 3 - Silver Final
Plate Region 1 - Gold Final
Plate Region 1 - Silver Final
Plate Region 1 - Bronze Final

St. Peter's College Wexford
Ardsc na Trionoide Athy
St. Mary's CBS Enniscorthy
Ardee CS
Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar
St. Joseph's SS Rochfortbridge
Ardscoil Rath Iomghain
St. Mary's Drogheda
Creagh College
Ashbourne CS
Wexford CBS
Mountmellick CS
Kildare Town CS
Presentation College Carlow
St. Farnan's PP Properous
Gallen CS Ferbane
Coláiste de Lacy
Oaklands CC
Coláiste na Mí

Marist College Athlone
St. Mary's SS Edenderry
Col Iosagain Portarlinton
Dundalk DLS
Naas CBS
Athlone CC
Gorey CS
St. Peter's Dunboyne
FCJ Bunclody
Ratoath College
Heywood CS
St. Mary's Dundalk
St. Paul's Monasterevin
Cross and Passion College Kilcullen
Coláiste na hInse
St. Oliver's Drogheda
Beaufort College
Ardscoil Phadraig Granard
Lanesboro CC

Tom Quinlan Cup (Football - Dublin)

Section 1 Final
Section 2 Final

Ardscoil Rís
Malahide CS

Larry Doyle Cup (Hurling - all Leinster)

Competitions only starting when Covid broke

Dublin Competitions impacted by Covid

COMPETITION

Senior Football 'D'
Senior Football 'D' Shield
Senior Football 'D1' Sect 1
Senior Football 'D1' Sect 2
Senior Hurling 'C1' Sect 1
Junior Football 'D1' Sect 1
Junior Football 'D1' Sect 2
Junior Football 'D1' Sect 3
2nd Year Football 'C'
2nd Year Football 'D'
2nd Year Football 'D1' Sect 1
2nd Year Football 'D1' Sect 2
2nd Year Football 'D1' Sect 3
2nd Year Hurling 'A'
2nd Year Hurling 'B'
2nd Year Hurling 'C'
2nd Year Hurling 'D'
2nd Year Hurling 'D1' Sect 1
2nd Year Hurling 'D1' Sect 2

FINALISTS

Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Coláiste Chilllain v Firhouse CC
Moyle Park College v Chanel College
Firhouse CC v Tallaght CS
Not at final stage
Coláiste Ghlór na Mara v Fingal CC
Blackrock College v Coláiste Cois Life
St. Pauls College v Gaelcholáiste Reachrann
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Not at final stage
Not at final stage

Handball - 40 x 20 Competitions

BOYS

U-19 Singles
U-19 Doubles
U-17 Singles
U-17 Doubles
U15 Singles
U15 Doubles
First Year Singles
First Year Doubles

Winners

Castlecomer CS
Castlecomer CS
Kilkenny CBS
St. Peter's College Wexford
Grennan College Thomastown
St. Kieran's College
St. Peter's College Wexford
St. Peter's College Wexford

GIRLS

U-19 Singles
U-19 Doubles
U-16 Singles
U-16 Doubles
First Year Singles
First Year Doubles

Presentation SS Kilkenny
Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown
Castlecomer CS
Heywood CS
Coláiste Aindriu Bagenalstown
Presentation SS Kilkenny

Handball - 60 x 30 Competitions

BOYS

U-19 Singles
U-19 Doubles
U-17 Singles
U-17 Doubles
U15 Singles
U15 Doubles
First Year Singles
First Year Doubles

Winners

Kilkenny CBS
Castlecomer CS
Wexford CBS
St. Peter's College Wexford
Grennan College Thomastown
Grennan College Thomastown
Wexford CBS
St. Peter's College Wexford

GIRLS

U-19 Singles
U-19 Doubles
U-16 Singles
U-16 Doubles
First Year Singles
First Year Doubles

Presentation SS Kilkenny
Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown
Castlecomer CS
Heywood CS
Coláiste Aindriu Bagenalstown
Presentation SS Kilkenny

PRESIDENTS AWARDS 2020

2004

Paddy Kelly (MH)
Paddy Flanagan (WM)
Kevin O'Brien (WW)
John Doyle (WX)
Con Ryan (D)
Miriam Malone (KE)
Michael Walsh (KK)

2005

William Price (D)
John Cullen (WX)
Bro. Denis Minihane (OY)
Paddy Collins (WM)
Patsy Kiernan (D)
John Nevin (CW)

2006

Martin Quigley (WX)
Kevin Heffernan (D)
Tadhg de Brun (D)
George Delaney (WW)
Margaret Delaney (LS)
Donal Hickey (D)
Marcus de Burca (D)
Jimmy Bergin (KK)

2007

Tommy O'Brien (KK)
Podge Butler (KK)
Gerry Buckley (WM)
Pat Holland (LH)
Bro. Bosco Mulhare (LS/CW)
Lulu Carroll (LS)

2008

John Ryan (LD)
Fr. Moling Lennon (CW/KE)
Michael Noel Byrne (OY)

2009

Fr. Michael Cremin (WM)
L.V. Conway (CW)
Peter Keogh (WW)
Ned Quinn (KK)
Ger Murphy, St. Olaf's (DB) Education

2010

Tommy McLoughlin (LD)
Charlie McAllister (LH)
Mary Donohue, (LS)
Cathal Friel (WW)
Christopher Hughes (D)

2011

Fintan Ginnity (MH)
John Curtis (WX)

2012

Brian Finnegan (WW)
Tommy Nally (KE)
Fitzhenry Family, Duffry Rovers (WX)
Martin Meagher, Carlow IT (3rd Level)
Rosemount GAA Club (WM) Social Initiative

2013

Michael Mulhaire (LS)
Noel Murphy (D)
Michael Dowling (LS)
Peter Rice (WX)
Seán Gavin (CW)

2014

Máire Ní Cheallaigh (DB)
Maureen Kincaid (OY)

2015

Har Ramsbottom (LS)
Kevin Loughlin (MH)

2016

Ned Flynn (WH)
Paddy McMahon (LH)

2017

Ann Gannon, Summerhill (MH)
Matt Purcell, Baltimore Eustace GAA
Handball Club (KE)
John Sheridan, Kilmacud Cokes GAA Club
(DB)
Ger Proctor, Cuchulainn Rounders Club
(CW)

2018

Jack Napier, Bray Emmets (WW)
Margaret O'Leary-Lacey, Buffers Alley,
(WX) Camogie

2019

Mick Spain, Drumcullen (OY)
Kathleen Colreavy, Naomh Mearnóg (DB)
LGFA Tony Breen, (WX)
Handball
Ciarán Ó Feinneadha, Na Gaeil Óga (DB)
Gaeilge Br James Dormer, (DB/WX)
Education

2020

Nick Fitzgerald – Kildalkey (MH)

Nick Fitzgerald of Kildalkey GAA, Meath, is presented with the Leinster award by Maolmhuire Tynan, Head of Public Affairs AIB, and Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan

GRADAIM AN UACHTARÁN PRESIDENT'S AWARD



HANDBALL

2020 Yearly Report

Administrators Report

It has been a strange and difficult year for all of us in handball this year. The Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions that have come from it have been tough on handball and meant we have played far less than we ever have. Even so, we have still seen some great games of handball played this year under these exceptional circumstances. Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy continues his national dominance in Softball taking home his 8th All Ireland Senior title defeating Martin Mulkerrins in Crinkle back in October. Kilkenny's Ciara Mahon made it to her first Senior All Ireland final where she put on a spirited display but was ultimately beaten by Limerick's Martina McMahon. In the Minor finals, two more Kilkenny players, Billy Drennan and Noelle Dowling, took home All Ireland's showcasing the great strength in Kilkenny juvenile handball.

Juvenile handball in Leinster is still growing strong as well. Kilkenny and Wexford have continued to dominate in Leinster finals but other counties are starting to come to the fore. Laois won three Leinster titles across the two codes while Carlow and Westmeath had some runner ups. Hopefully, we will see this pattern continue in the coming years and make Leinster the stronghold for juvenile handball.

It was also wonderful this year to see the new centre at Croke park finally open. It has been play tested by some of the top players in the country who were very happy with the courts. Due to it being used by the HSE as a testing facility during the pandemic, we haven't made it in there yet for any games but I think we are all looking forward to seeing top quality handball there in 2021.

On a personal note, this was definitely not how I expected my first year in the role of Administrator to go but I have enjoyed it and hope things will be a bit more standard in 2021. I want to thank everyone who has helped me with getting settled in this year including the members of the Leinster council, county officials and others. It would have been a far more difficult year without all your help and it is greatly appreciated. Looking forward to us all getting back into the courts in 2021



Minutes of 2020 Leinster Convention

Martin Lalor, (Leinster GAA Handball President), opened and welcomed all to the Convention and invited Deborah Mullan - Cathaoirleach Liathróid Láimhe An Lú and Frank Kerins (Louth Leinster GAA Delegate) to address the meeting.

Fáiltiú;

Debra Mullan (Cathaoirleach, Comhairle Láimhe An Lú). Welcomed everyone to Boyne Valley Hotel & Country Club, Stameen, Dublin Road, Drogheda, Ireland, ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur roimh an gCoinbhinsiún Liathróid Láimhe Laighean i Léim an Bhradáin inniu. Tá áthas orainn a bheith ina hóstach i mbliana.

On behalf of Louth GAA Handball Board, I'd like to welcome you all to the Leinster Handball Convention in Drogheda today. We're delighted to be the hosts this year. Last year was my first convention and I being very impressed with how well it was run from start to finish. There was a great feeling of goodwill throughout the day. It was clear to all the amount of work this Leinster Handball Board do on behalf of the counties within the province. This has contributed to the victories we continue to have at All Ireland level and I would like to thank all the Board members for their time and commitment in carrying out their roles.

Handball is a small community and even smaller at administration level so we see the same faces on a regular basis. We are all involved for the love of the great game that we know we have and to try and find a balance between preservation and promotion. With everyone singing from the same hymn sheet led to a great atmosphere last year and it was a true celebration of the sport of handball within Leinster. I wish you all the best today and have no doubt this year's convention will once again be a huge success. Go raibh mile maith agat.

GAA Handball President Address:

Joe Masterson thanked Leinster GAA Handball for their invitation and complimented all on the good work being done for handball. Leinster has the same challenges facing handball as all other provinces. He indicated a number of Leinster counties have only one or two clubs where there used to be many more and felt this is a worrying trend not only just in Leinster. He complimented all clubs and counties for making their venues available to GAA Handball to host events. He complimented award winners and notably Garryhill in Carlow which is one of the top 40x20 and 60x30 venue in Ireland. He congratulated Coolboy on their success.

Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean Address:

Jim Bolger, chairman of the Leinster GAA council, addressed the delegates, thanking them for all the work they do for handball and wishing them every success in the coming year.

Standing Orders

Standing Orders were proposed by Kevin Cooke and seconded by Tom Sheridan

Tuairisc an Riarthóir (Pádraig O'Riain)

The delegates had a lively and wide-ranging discussion on the contents of the Administrator's report. The report was accepted on the proposal of Frank Daly and seconded by Geoff Atkinson.

Tuairisc an Cisteoir (Serina Ó'Díomasaigh)

Serina Ó'Díomasaigh went through the 2019 accounts which showed a surplus for the year. The Treasurer's Report was accepted on the proposal of Richard Willoughby seconded by John Molloy.

Tuairisc an Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí (Caoimhín Mac Cúigh)

Handball in Leinster is very much alive and well as this was evident from the vast number of matches played over the last twelve months throughout the province. We had plenty of success on the court in all codes and we did particularly well at national level and on the World circuit as you can see from the Administrators report. Sean Dunphy(Laois) proposed and Gerry McGrath (Kildare) seconded the PRO report.

Óráid an Chathaoirligh (Martin Lalor)

2020 Election Results

| Position | Name |
|---------------|----------------|
| Chairman | Martin Lalor |
| Vice-Chairman | Ricky Barron |
| Administrator | Geoff Atkinson |
| Treasurer | Serina Dempsey |
| PRO | Kevin Cooke |
| Leinster GAA | John Molloy |
| Youth Games | Billy Love |
| Development | |
| Coaching | |

Motions:

- Counties be allowed to have two Singles Entries in the Juvenile 60x30 Championships (Kilkenny) Withdrawn
- Counties be allowed have two entries in the Juvenile team championships (Kilkenny) Withdrawn
- That the boys under 12 singles and doubles Softball be played on the Challenger 3 ball (green ball) in the Leinster Championship. (Wexford) Carried 16 - 3.

Aon Rud Eile.

Pat Ryan, Administrator thanked all his colleagues on the Leinster Handball Council for their generous support throughout 2019. He also thanked all the handball officials and players throughout Leinster who supported and facilitated him. This support made his task manageable and even sometimes enjoyable!

That concluded the business of the meeting.

2020 Adult 4-Wall Leinster Championship

Martin Lalor, (Leinster GAA Handball President), opened and welcomed all to the Convention and invited Deborah Mullan - Cathaoirleach Liathróid Láimhe An Lú and Frank Kerins (Louth Leinster GAA Delegate) to address the meeting.

| GRADE | WINNER | COUNTY | RUNNER-UP | COUNTY |
|--------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| MS | Billy Drennan | Kilkenny | Mark Doyle | Wexford |
| U21S | Ben Devlin | Louth | Adam Walsh | Wexford |
| JBS | David Kenny | Wexford | Wayne Kinsella | Wicklow |
| JS | Brian Mahon | Kilkenny | Keith Bourke | Kilkenny |
| IS | Shane Dunne | Kilkenny | Paul Moran | Kildare |
| O35AS | Gavin Buggy | Wexford | David Hope | Offaly |
| O35BS | Anthony Martin | Kilkenny | Tomas Lennon | Laois |
| MBS | Fergal McWilliams | Wexford | David Stanners | Wexford |
| MAS | Colm Jordan | Westmeath | Neil McDermott | Westmeath |
| SMBS | David Redmond | Wexford | John Morrissey | Kilkenny |
| SMAS | Tommy Hynes | Wexford | Eddie Burke | Kilkenny |
| GMBS | Joe Mulvaney | Westmeath | Tommy Armstrong | Wexford |
| GMAS | Tom Sheridan | Meath | John Ryan | Carlow |
| EMBS | Brendan Higginbotham | Kildare | Stephen Murphy | Wexford |
| EMAS | Egin Jensen | Dublin | Mick Armstrong | Wexford |
| DMAS | Micky Dowling | Kildare | Robert McCarthy | Westmeath |
| DMBS | Jimmy Dunne | Wexford | Gerry Murphy | Kilkenny |
| RMS | John Rossiter | Carlow | Sean Ryan | Carlow |
| O70S | Eugene Kennedy | Dublin | Jim Doyle | Wexford |
| LMS | Noelle Dowling | Kilkenny | Roisin O'Keeffe | Kilkenny |
| LJBS | Clíodhna O'Connell | Wexford | Aine Duggan | Kilkenny |
| LJS | Cora Doyle | Wexford | Meadhbh Ni Dhalaigh | Dublin |
| LIS | No entry | | No entry | |
| LJCS | Lauren Grace | Kilkenny | Olivia Mahoney | Kilkenny |
| L035BS | Orla Foy | Westmeath | Christina Donoghue | Offaly |

2020 Adult Softball Leinster Championships

The 2020 Softball championship was held with a greatly reduced number of grades due to Covid-19 restrictions. As such, the only adult grades run at provincial level were the Men's and Ladies Minor. Both Leinster winners went on to win their respective All Ireland's.

| GRADE | WINNER | COUNTY | RUNNER-UP | COUNTY |
|-------|----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| MS | Billy Drennan | Kilkenny | Kyle Dunne | Kilkenny |
| LMS | Noelle Dowling | Kilkenny | Roisin O'Keeffe | Kilkenny |



2020 Juvenile Softball Leinster Championships

| GRADE | WINNER | COUNTY | RUNNER-UP | COUNTY |
|-------|-----------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| BU12S | Andrew Brennan | Kilkenny | Conor Doyle | Wexford |
| GU12S | Boo Murphy | Wexford | Kerri McGuire | Kilkenny |
| BU13S | Bobby Brennan | Kilkenny | Rory Goff | Wexford |
| GU13S | Una Brophy | Laois | Jenny Saunders | Kilkenny |
| BU14S | Conor Doyle | Kilkenny | Rory Gilbert | Wexford |
| GU14S | Katie Brennan | Kilkenny | Leah Ryan | Carlow |
| BU15S | Michael Brennan | Kilkenny | William Murphy | Wexford |
| GU15S | Eimer Barron | Kilkenny | Farrah Ryan | Carlow |
| BU16S | Conor Holden | Kilkenny | Bobby Doyle | Wexford |
| GU16S | Amy Brennan | Kilkenny | Jodie Keeling | Wexford |
| BU17S | Sean Barron | Kilkenny | Conor Dobbs | Wexford |
| GU17S | Lauren Power | Kilkenny | Danielle Kinsella | Wexford |



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