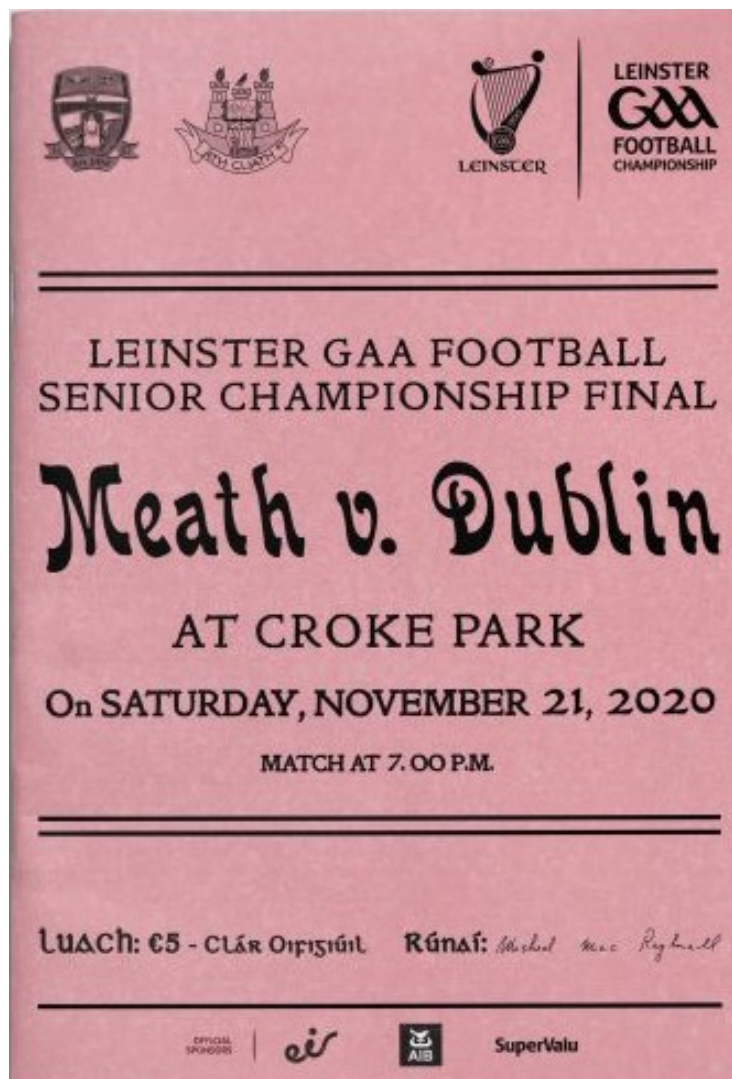




**Coiste na Mí**  
**C.L.G.**



# TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2020



**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

***To manage and promote the aims of C.L.G. and to continue to provide enhanced facilities and structures for our patrons.***

I am delighted to present my 3<sup>rd</sup> report as Secretary of Meath County Board. It is an honour to have the opportunity of being Secretary of Coiste na Mí. However, this year it has been especially difficult.

Our season started in November 2019 with the Kehoe Cup in hurling and the O'Byrne Cup in football. In between it started and finished a few times.

### **Covid 19**

This was a year like no other. On 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019 Covid 19 became known in China. Little did we know the impact this would have on all our lives!!! Social distance and personal responsibility became the buzz words. We wondered if our games would take place and how we could keep the dreaded virus out of our Country and our communities. We got an email on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to let us know that the Country was going into lockdown and all sport was stopped for the foreseeable future. We closed our office in Dunganny but we all worked in the background from home. While all games stopped our members didn't. They went into action in their communities and helped with shopping for groceries, medical, etc. Our members made sure that their neighbours and friends were looked after and safe. We opened our walkways for people to get out and about. We were then allowed back to train in small pods but before all that our Clubs had to appoint a Covid Officer. Each team then had to appoint a Covid Officer. Those people are so important to each team and Club. They have to make sure everything is in order and all players, officials and parents of underage players have their health questionnaire filled in before they can attend training. Our County teams were allowed back to training on 14<sup>th</sup> September. However, our minor teams were stopped again in October and are only back again since last week. Each team had a Covid Officer. Michael Doherty, Senior Football, John Andrews, Senior Hurling, Michael McDonnell, Minor Football and Kevin Halton, Minor Hurling. They have all done Trojan work and have ensured everyone is safe. We arranged testing for our senior teams before they started back into competition. I have to thank our Covid Officers, doctors and above all Kevin Leahy who is the Player Welfare Manager in Croke Park. They all made sure that everything was carried out efficiently and correctly.

**We have a GAA community to be so proud of. Well done and thank you to everyone.**

### **Centenary of Bloody Sunday**

The Centenary of Bloody Sunday took place in Croke Park on the night we played in the Leinster Final. It was an honour to be there on the night and I would like to congratulate the committee who looked after the ceremony. It was very well done on the night. Well done to the Dublin team who laid a wreath after the game. Well done also to Tipperary who did likewise last week. They both represented the two teams who were playing in Croke Park on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1920.

### **Senior Football**

Andy McEntee has just completed his 4<sup>th</sup> year as Senior Football manager. Thank you to his selectors and all the backroom personnel involved with the team.

**O'Byrne Cup:** - This competition started in December 2019. In the group stages Meath were beaten by Louth 0 – 10 to 1 – 9. We drew with Westmeath 1 – 13 each. We then beat Laois on a score line of 4 – 16 to 1 – 15. We did not progress to the knockout stages.

**National Football League:** - We began our league campaign with an away game against Tyrone. We lost our goalkeeper to injury in the warm up. We were allowed to change the goalie without having to use a substitute. Unfortunately we were beaten by 1 – 14 to 1 – 9. Our next game was a home game v Donegal who beat us by 3 – 8 to 0 -7. We then had another home game, this time against Mayo. By then we were getting used to playing in Division 1 and were unfortunate to lose by the narrowest of margins on a score line of 2 – 5 to 1 – 9. We then headed to Killarney to play Kerry. We battled so hard that day but Kerry got the better of us by 1 – 19 to 2 – 13. We were so unlucky to lose that game. At this stage I must pay compliments to the amount of supporters who made the long trip that weekend. It was great to have the huge support that day. We then played my home County Galway in Páirc Tailteann as part of a double header with the hurlers on 1<sup>st</sup> March. We were beaten by 1 – 14 to 1 – 12. Again our team played with great heart. Little did we know that all our hard work was about to be undone on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March when a halt was put on everything while the Country dealt with Covid 19. We were shut down until 14<sup>th</sup> September. The leagues re-started on 17<sup>th</sup> October with an away game in Parnell Park against Dublin. We were beaten by 1 – 20 to 0 -19. The game was played “behind closed doors” with an eerie atmosphere. We could hear almost every word that was spoken that night. We finished our league with a draw against Monaghan in Clones the following week. The score was 2 – 14 to 1 – 17. Unfortunately, our league season ended with relegation to Division 2.

**Leinster S.F.C.:** - We started our Leinster campaign with a game against Wicklow in Aughrim on 8<sup>th</sup> November. We had a comprehensive win on a score line of 7 – 14 to 0 – 7. We then played Kildare in Croke Park in the Leinster semi-final. Our first half performance was poor but we wore our opponents down in the second half and beat them 5 – 9 to 0 – 15. A Leinster final beckoned for the second year in a row against our near neighbours Dublin. Unfortunately, for the second year in a row we were badly beaten. The score was 3 – 21 to 0 -9.

We played our championship games behind closed doors and I think we were all thankful to be travelling home on our own that night. Our team went out to win the Leinster

Championship but it was not to be. Everyone, players, management and officials are so disappointed with the way the year finished. However, we all have to pick ourselves up and try again next year. We do not deserve the abuse and vile comments from keyboard warriors and so called supporters. People need to remember that our players and management are human beings who all have families who don't need to hear the abuse.

### **Senior Hurling**

We welcomed Nick Weir and his selectors on board this year. It has been a tough year for everyone. Thank you to everyone involved with the team.

**Kehoe Cup:** - We played Antrim in the first round and were beaten 1 – 15 to 3 - 28. We had a bye in the second round. We then drew with Wicklow 0 – 24 to 1 – 21. We played Offaly in the knockout section. As the saying goes goals win games and in this case it is true. We were beaten by 8 – 18 to 3 – 18.

**National Hurling League:** - We travelled to Birr for the 1<sup>st</sup> round and came away with a narrow loss to Offaly on a score of 1 – 21 to 0 - 26. We then played Wicklow and beat them by 2 – 24 to 3 – 18. Kerry beat us in the next round by 0 – 13 to 0 – 8. We then travelled to Antrim but were badly beaten by 5 – 27 to 1 – 15. Our final round game was played in Páirc Tailteann against Mayo who we beat 1 – 17 to 0 - 18. We are delighted to retain our Div. 2A status.

**Joe McDonagh Cup:** - We played our first game in the Joe McDonagh Cup against Kerry in Tralee. Everyone had to travel by car on their own. A long journey for players and mentors alike. We came away with a loss to Kerry 1 – 20 to 0 -13. The following week it was another away game, this time to Carlow. We were very unfortunate to be beaten by 1 – 22 to 1 – 21. After a break of a week we played Westmeath who beat us by 2 – 20 to 1 – 19. Our final game was against Antrim in Páirc Tailteann. They beat us by 2 – 30 to 3 – 10. This ended our campaign. There was no relegation this year so we will play in the Joe McDonagh Cup again in 2021.

At this stage, I would like to wish our former Rathmolyon and Summerhill player Jack Fagan the best of luck representing Waterford in the All Ireland Hurling Final on 13<sup>th</sup> December. We are all very proud of his achievements.

### **Junior Football**

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 there was no junior football competition in 2020.

### **U20 Football**

Ger Robinson was selected as manager of the U/20 football team. We played in the John Kerins Cup. Our 1<sup>st</sup> game was against Dublin. We beat them 2 – 13 to 2 – 11. We then beat Laois 0 – 14 to 0 – 10 and were beaten by Kildare 2 – 17 to 3 – 12 in the last round.

It was then onto the Championship and a 1<sup>st</sup> round game against Wexford in Enniscorthy.

On a dreadful day weather wise we beat them by 1 – 11 to 1 – 5. We then had a Leinster semi-final against Dublin but our hopes of reaching the final were well and truly dashed by a superior team on the day. We lost by 2 – 14 to 0 – 7. Thank you to Ger and his backroom team for all their work with this group of players.

### **U20 Hurling**

Again because of Covid this competition has been shelved for 2020.

### **Minor Hurling**

The Runaí of Coiste Mionúir has covered this section in his report further down. At the time of writing the game v Wicklow has been fixed for 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Minor Football**

The Runaí of Coiste Mionúir has also covered this section in his report further down. At the time of writing the game v Westmeath has been fixed for 12<sup>th</sup> December.

### **General**

We all know the arguments and conversations going around all the Country about the Dublin football team. We cannot take away from a brilliant team and must compliment them on their achievements. We are not at their level yet but we are working hard with coaching in Clubs and schools. We have 20 coaches employed who work in 43 Clubs and 90 (out of 115) primary schools on a weekly basis. We do need more resources to keep this going. We also need to get more involved in our secondary schools. At present our coaches are periodically involved with 10 – 12 post primary schools during the year. This includes Transition Year Programmes, Super Games Centres, Go Games Referees Courses and Blitz Days. The 43 Clubs mentioned above are currently part of the East Leinster Scheme. We must remember that 5 years ago we had less than half that amount of coaches in Meath. We are unable to take on any extra coaching staff due to the Pandemic.

We must also remember that some rural areas in our County have very few eligible players. This will have a negative effect on Clubs unless planning permission is allowed in rural areas. We sent a submission to Meath County Council to ask them to consider amending their draft County Development plan.

### **Clubs**

Firstly, I wish to thank our Club officials for their patience and understanding this year. Our CCC has worked extremely hard to try to get our games played but unfortunately we were not allowed to play our hurling finals due to the dreaded Covid 19. Our football A leagues started in February but they had to be put on hold for six months and then after 2 rounds of a new format they had to be called off again. The hurling leagues were also affected and unfortunately neither will be completed.

Congratulations to all our football championship winners:-SFC Ratoath who won the Keegan Cup for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, IFC Ballinabrackey who will play senior football for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in their history in 2021, JFC Ballivor. This year we had the new Premier championship in 8 divisions. Six of those finals were played. The winners were Donaghmore/Ashbourne, Trim, St. Colmcilles, Carnaross, Syddan and Ballinabrackey.

Congratulations to all our other competition winners. We were at final stage of our hurling championships when the GAA called off all games. Our senior and minor finals will be Trim v Ratoath, Intermediate final Wolfe Tones v Boardsmill, Junior final will be Ratoath v Kilmessan and Junior 2 will be Boardsmill v Dunderry.

### **Infrastructure**

We were awarded over €6,000,000 from the large infrastructure grant application for the redevelopment of Páirc Tailteann. However, because of circumstances beyond our control with Covid we are at a standstill. We have a committee working hard in the background so that when we have enough finances in place we will be ready to start.

### **Senior Finals**

Because of Covid we were unable to have a guest to throw in the ball. However, on the day we had some special guests. We celebrated 30 years since Meath won the Leinster Football Championship in all four grades in the one year. The team captains and managers of those successful teams were invited to our County Final. Senior - Colm O'Rourke and Sean Boylan. Minor – Enda McManus and Paul Kenny. Under-21 - John Brady and Mattie Kerrigan. Junior - Robbie O'Connell and Oliver Shanley. Unfortunately Sean Boylan and Oliver Shanley were unable to attend but were represented on the day. The County Final was broadcast on TG4. What a game of football it was. It had lots of drama and a very late goal to give the win to Ratoath. Well done to both teams.

### **Leinster Club**

The Leinster Club championship couldn't take place this year because of Covid. It is very unfortunate for the winners of our Championships but the safety and welfare of everyone is most important.

### **Ladies Football and Camogie**

Hard luck to the Meath Camogie team who were beaten in the All Ireland semi-final by Down. The Meath Ladies football team are in the All Ireland Intermediate Final on 20<sup>th</sup> December. On behalf of Coiste na Mí I would like to wish them the best of luck in the final. We have facilitated both codes for training in Dunganny during the year.

### **Committees**

To all our subcommittees C.C.C.C., Hearings, Hurling Promotion and Development, Coiste Fé 18, Coiste na nÓg, Coiste Go Games, Coaching and Games, Inclusion, Urbanisation, Planning and Development, Cultural, Historical, Referee's, I.T., Public Relations, Finance, Health and Wellbeing, Fixture Planners, Infrastructure, Later Life Network, Club na Mí, Post Primary and Cumann na mBunscol a heartfelt thanks. As you can see from the number of committees there are a lot of people working voluntarily to keep the G.A.A. going in the county. Add to this all the management teams of our development squads who unfortunately had to abandon their plans in March and underage county teams who are doing great work. Most of those committees have a report further down and I thank them for their input into this report.

### **Referees**

Thanks to all the referees and officials who officiate at our games. There is a shortage of referees so I would encourage more people to get involved and ask the clubs to support their referees by providing umpires for them. Thanks to Frank Gallogly and his committee who recruited some new referees this year. However there is never enough and an appeal for more people to get involved has gone out to the Clubs. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate David Coldrick on being appointed referee for the All Ireland Final on 19<sup>th</sup> December. Best of luck to David and his umpires. This is a great honour for David and the County.

### **Fundraising**

We held our final raffle for the Royal House draw in December but unfortunately it did not generate as much finance as we would have liked. Well done to all the winners. Thank you to Seamus Kenny for organising this.

### **Sponsorship**

I wish to thank Owen Brennan from Devenish Nutrition for his generous sponsorship of our football teams. Thanks also to Ronan McKenna and Glenveagh Homes who have come on board with sponsorship of our hurling teams. Thanks to the Sponsors of all our Competitions. We ask all our patrons to support our sponsors.

### **COISTE NA MÍ C.L.G. - SPONSORS FOR 2020**

<b>Senior Football Championship</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> Fairyhouse Steel
<b>Intermediate Football Championship</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> Meade Potato & Co.
<b>Junior Football Championship</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> Teach na Teamhrach - Tara House
<b>Premier Football Championship (Div. 1 – 8)</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> Meath Cleaning Services
<b>“A” League Div. 1</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> Seamus Connolly Catering
<b>“A” League Div. 2</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> P.S. Supplies
<b>“A” League Div. 3</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> Tommy Dowd Oil
<b>“A” League Div. 4</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> JMB Sportsfield Services
<b>“A” League Div. 5</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> JMB Sportsfield Services
<b>Feis Cup</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> JMB Sportsfield Services
<b>Corn na Boinne</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> Seamus Connolly Catering
<b>Tailteann Cup</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> N2 Electrical & Security Supplies Ltd.
<b>U-20 Football Competitions</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> Coolrite Refrigeration Ltd.
<b>Minor Football &amp; Hurling Competitions</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> L.M.F.M.
<b>U15 Football Competitions</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b> O’Reilly & Co. Solicitors

**Juvenile Football & Hurling Competitions**  
**Senior Hurling Championship & Leagues**

**Sponsor:** RSAWARDS  
**Sponsor:** Ted Murtagh Clothing & Footwear,  
Trim

**Intermediate Hurling Championship**  
**Junior & Junior 2 Hurling Championship**

**Sponsor:** Hanley Catering  
**Sponsor:** K Windows and Doors

**Meath County Football Teams**

**Sponsor:** Devenish Nutrition

**Meath County Hurling Teams**

**Sponsor:** Glenveagh Homes

**Scoreboard**

**Sponsor:** Hoganstand.com

**Sponsor:** Caraquill

**Sponsor:** Brady's, Cavan

**Sponsor:** Northgate Vehicle Hire

**Sponsor:** DK Motors

**Sponsor:** Ideal Bathrooms

**Sponsor:** Glanbia

### **Croke Park/Leinster Council**

Thanks to the staff of both Leinster Council and Croke Park for their help during the year. A special mention to Kevin Leahy in Croke Park who helped us in our requests for Covid testing.

### **Schools**

I wish to thank the teachers and coaches in the national and secondary schools throughout the County. They do immense work and we really appreciate all they do. However, this year they have lost out on all their sporting endeavours. We have coaches in a large number of national schools now and hopefully we can follow that up with the secondary schools.

### **The Media**

Thanks to the local media both print and radio for their coverage of our games. Also thanks to all who tweet and send messages on Facebook and Instagram. This year we did not have programmes for sale but our PRO Ciaran Flynn produced a digital one for our County Final. Ruth Chambers from our Minor Committee also produced digital programmes for all minor finals. Those programmes were very well received because they were available for download.

### **Staging of Games**

Big thanks to all who assist in the staging of our games at all our venues across the county. Special thanks to our head steward Jim Cooney and all our stewards at Páirc Tailteann and Dunganny, our safety officer Cyril Creavin and event controller Paddy O'Dwyer. Our stewards had to ensure that the venue was cleared after each game this year so that we could allow in patrons for second games. Our Clubs co-operated fully with the stewards and this is much appreciated.



We had to play a large number of our games behind closed doors and with reduced capacity for other games. That proved difficult at times but I think we managed it well. Thanks to Liz and Mary who provide us with refreshments in Páirc Tailteann.

Unfortunately, we are unable to have catering at present but hopefully we will be able to in 2021. Thank you also to Eugene who is ever present in Dunganny in the evenings. Thank you to Anne McDonnell for coming in as Covid Officer for Páirc Tailteann. We have to know in advance of who will be in attendance at a match on any given day. Anne could be seen on match days with clipboard in hand to make sure everyone was accounted for.

### **Confidentiality**

In my report last year I mentioned about confidentiality. I am concerned that confidential matters are still disclosed to outside parties.

### **In Conclusion**

I want to thank our Cathaoirleach John Kavanagh for his support during the year. I would like to thank the rest of the management committee for their work during the year especially Anne McDonnell who never fails to help out whenever we call on her. She has opted not to contest the position of Assistant Secretary and I wish to wish her well in her new role with her Club.

I would like to thank Tara for all her help and guidance during the year. She is the glue that keeps it all together in the office. Thanks also to Margaret for her work and assistance. Thank you also to Linda who works in Dunganny and makes sure the place looks well and we all feel safe there. Thanks also to Darius and Daniel ground maintenance staff at Dunganny and to the ground maintenance staff at Páirc Tailteann. Best wishes for the future to Tony and especially Tommy who were part of our ground maintenance staff in Dunganny.

A number of issues arose during the year that I am not happy with. I would like to place on record that at all times I have acted with integrity. Our management committee have been accused of not acting with integrity and good governance particularly in relation to nominations for positions on management. A letter was sent to all Clubs highlighting this but it was not sent to management. When nominations were forwarded from Clubs for positions I wrote to all nominees and asked them to confirm in writing if they wished to put their names forward. All people named on the nomination sheet confirmed they were standing for election. The management committee cannot and should not make the decision to not allow a paid up member stand for election. It is up to the Clubs to nominate personnel for positions on management. Unfortunately, not all Clubs nominate people and some just nominate a person for one position.

I wish to thank my club Dunshaughlin for giving me the opportunity of becoming Rúnaí of Coiste na Mí. They have placed their trust in me for more years than I care to remember. They have supported me at all times.

### **Get Well wishes**

I cannot finish my Secretary's report without wishing a speedy recovery to Graham Geraghty. As we all know Graham was a superb player on the pitch and fought with great determination for the cause of Meath football. I know he will fight his illness with the same determination now and be back at games before long. I would like to take this opportunity also to wish all our supporters who are ill a speedy recovery.

### **Time takes its toll**

During the year many of our friends, family and supporters suffered loss through bereavement. We especially remember Jason Hendricks, Na Fianna, Fer Foran, Longwood, Gerry Quinn, Kilbride, Terry Kearns, St. Vincent's, Tom Dillon, Syddan and Paddy Kelly Snr, Kiltale who all played football or hurling with Meath.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a namanacha go léir.

Mise le meas,

*Mairéad Uí Dhubhshláine*

**Mairéad Uí Dhubhshláine**  
**Rúnaí Coiste na Mí C.L.G.**

**8ú Nollaig 2020**

## SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR CONVENTION 2020

### CHILDREN'S OFFICER

A Chairde Gaeil ,

I give hereunder the current situation for the period November 2019 to October 2020.

As in my reports of the past number of years I again confirm that in September of 2015, our Association together with its sister organizations launched its online version of [OUR GAMES - OUR CODE, the joint CODE OF BEST PRACTICE IN YOUTH SPORT](#). This Code has been agreed between the GAA, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association, the Camogie Association, GAA Handball Ireland and the Rounders Council of Ireland.

The Code is now the mandatory Code of Best Practice for all Gaelic Games Associations who work with underage players. It is in situ for the past five years and it replaces all previous Codes.

**Our Games Our Code**, the Association's own Code of Best Practise is by now a well-established pillar of all activities involving young people. The **Code of Behaviour** is but one section of the Code, and addresses the minimum appropriate levels of behaviour, practice and conduct required from our Young Players, Coaches, Supporters, Parents/Guardians, Referees and Clubs. The Code of Behaviour is a compulsory Code for all persons working in any role of responsibility with Children in the Associations referenced above, and has been adopted by our relevant Central Councils and is in accordance with Rule. The essential issues relate to dealing with alleged breaches of the Code and the forthcoming structures to be put in place at Club, County, Provincial and National levels. It also includes the GAA Anti-Bullying Policy Statement.

You will be aware that at the end of June of 2020, Meath along with counties Kildare and Dublin were due host the National Hurling Feile competition. While Garda Vetting had been ongoing in the early Spring for this event, inevitably this was brought to halt by the arrival of the Covid Pandemic in the country. As a result the Feile competition was therefore cancelled.

**Garda Electronic Vetting is now an ongoing process across the county.** This procedure gives effect to the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 which was the subject of a Ministerial Commencement Order on 29th April, 2016. As a result of this Directive Cumann Luthchleas Gael together with An Garda Síochána both agree that our Association will be the subject of **electronic vetting only**. Since April 2016 a total of 3900 members of Meath GAA Clubs have been vetted in accordance with this new legislation. These persons are now considered vetted for a period of five (5) years. Anyone engaging with children in a GAA club context is leaving themselves **(and their Club)** exposed to potential criminal prosecution if not so vetted. The process is very simple and turnover time is about 10 days. I again strongly exhort all Clubs to be mindful of their responsibility in this regard. I remain available to assist any individual or Club in this process. The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act is now the law of the Land and is the supreme adjudication on both mentors and the GAA as an organization in relation to our interaction with young people.

Cumann Luthchleas Gael together with An Garda Síochána have this month advised that GAA members who are vetted from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 will now have to be re-vetted **every three (3) years instead of five (5)**.

As April next will be 5 years since the introduction of Electronic Vetting on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, All GAA personnel vetted after that date, 29/4/16, will have to be re- vetted. Each such person will receive an electronic invitation from the Gardai to apply for a new certificate. As mentioned already, this new certificate will be valid for a period of three (3) years.

Micheal Mac Beineid,  
Oifeagach Na nOg,  
Coiste na Mi

## MEATH GAA HEALTH & WELLBEING REPORT

As with all aspects of Irish society, including the GAA, 2020 was a challenging year for the Meath Health and Wellbeing (H&W) Committee.

The year started off with plans to meet the Healthy Club Officers (HCOs) and officials in each of the 59 clubs in Meath and outline a common programme of activity, which revolved around clubs having a robust Critical Incident Plan; set up a Cardiac Screening Programme for their adult male and female players; hold SafeTalk presentations for their team coaches on recognising the signs of suicide ideation; and examining the possibility of introducing Gambling Awareness programmes in their clubs.

The gathering, held on 18 February, was an outstanding success when some 86 people, representing 51 clubs, in attendance. As an indication of the commitment from Coiste na Mhi, the Cathaoirleach, Runai agus Cisteoir of Coiste na Mhi were also in attendance.

However, within four weeks of that meeting and while clubs were examining ways to put in place the suggestions made at the meeting, the country was placed in lockdown as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. The collegiality created among the clubs from the gathering and the existence of active Healthy Club Officers in each of the clubs allowed Meath GAA to willingly engage in the coordinated Government response to the crisis.

In the main GAA Clubs were asked to participate in the collection and delivery of food and essential household items, through a SuperValu/Centra partnership with the GAA, and the delivery of meals to those in need. Practically every GAA club in the county, involving over 1,000 volunteers, provided these services to their local communities. It gave credence to the statement by Cathaoirleach John Kavanagh when he said *"We now see that the GAA is much more than an organisation that just cares about sport"*.

In July, as the country was exiting lockdown, the H&W Committee considered it important to apprise HCOs and club officials on how to focus on the mental wellbeing issues being raised in their clubs and how to address issues such as the reintegrating of the elderly into their communities or the anxieties players may have as they return to training and playing.

The H&W Committee organised a major Webinar involving the renowned Dr Harry Barry, an expert in the area of mental health and of areas such as depression, addiction and anxiety, to talk about the anxieties that communities were experiencing as COVID restrictions were being lifted.

In addition Jamie Queeney of the Meath GAA Games Development Committee spoke on the potential anxieties that players, both male and female of all ages, were likely to face as they resumed activity; while Meath Development Officer Brian Carberry outlined the points set out in the GAA COVID Return to Play documents.

While many clubs linked into the Webinar on the night, the webinar was recorded and subsequently circulated to all clubs to be looked at, at a time that suited them.

Earlier in the year eight additional clubs were added to the National GAA Healthy Club Project, bringing the total number of Meath clubs deemed by Croke Park as meeting the Project criteria to fifteen – the second highest in Ireland after Dublin. The new clubs are Blackhall Gaels, Curraha, Donaghmore/Ashbourne, Duleek/Bellewstown, Kilmainhamwood, Meath Hill, St. Patricks and Trim. Congratulations to all.

As we enter 2021 the H&W Committee will continue to guide and assist clubs, particularly their Healthy Club Officers, as we deal with the ongoing pandemic. It is also hoped that clubs will get the opportunity to start focusing on the issues identified at our seminar last February.

As always, close liaison was maintained throughout the year with Jigsaw and the HSE, who provide services and support to the committee, without cost - for which we are grateful.

The Committee continued to be: Andy Fahy (Ratoath ) Chairman, Brian Carberry ( Ardcah) Vice-Chair, Sean Downey (Na Fianna) Secretary, Jim Mullery (Slane), Mary Meade (Syddan), Marie O'Neill (Dunderry), Gillian Duffy, (Duleek/Bellewstown), Eunice Murtagh(O'Mahonys), Liz Lacey(Moynalty), James Kelly (St.Colmcilles), Sean Dolan (Moylough), Andy Ogle (Trim).

Our thanks to all who supported us through the year, to Croke Park Community and Health staff, the Meath GAA Co. Executive, all our Healthy Club Officers and all the clubs in Meath.

Andy Fahy  
Chairman.

## DISCIPLINARY REPORT

2020 has being a year like no other,

We got off to our usual good start back in January, but came to a sudden stop in earlier March due to the Virus.

We managed to complete nearly all our Championships, with a few exceptions, hopefully these finals will get completed as soon as its possible.

I would to thank all my colleagues on the CCC especially Niamh our Secretary, John our Chair, and Damien our fixtures Secretary.

Thanks to Frank, his Referees committee and the Referees for their cooperation during the year. I urge Referees to continue to send on their reports without delay following our games.

To the Clubs, please give the Officials the respect they deserve, as most of you do, and a very important point is that all injuries are reported to the Referee.

A big thanks to the vast majority of our Clubs for adhering to a very good standard of Discipline, I think we all need reminding from time to time of our responsibility on good discipline.

I feel the need to highlight an increase in Racial abuse in our games, especially at under age level during this short season. Severe penalties will be handed down, for this type of behaviour.

To John our County Chairperson, Mairéad our Secretary and the Management Committee, Tara, and the girls in the office, a big thanks to all of you for your help.

We look forward to 2021 and I wish you all good health in the future.

Mise le Meas,



Eoin Mac Gabhann  
CCC Coiste na Mí C.L.G

## CCC REPORT

Reading reports from the CCCC in previous years most begin with the challenges that that year posed for the committee and how it all comes together in the finish but I think it is safe to say that indeed 2020 was a year like no other before.

We started off the year much the same as any other, in a flurry of plans, transfers, gradings, revising, fixing and publishing.

Competitions did get off the ground in the early part of the year but then as you know Covid-19 arrived, first lockdown and life as we know it changed for all of us.

Life immersed in GAA changed like we never knew before, gates were locked, pitches out of bounds, dressing rooms closed, silent pitches not to mention side lines in long bright evenings like never before.

However, a resemblance of normal life resumed towards the end of June, under HSE and national guidelines with new procedures and safety measures and the introduction of Health questionnaire's for all our players both young and older we were back on the field, something I safely say we all won't take for granted any time soon.

For this part, I wish to acknowledge and express our appreciation on behalf of the CCCC to all our clubs for their full participation, patience and support in our Return to Play. It wasn't easy, new to us, but embraced by all.

Many thanks to Brian Kelly, Ray Finnegan, Ciarán Benville, Ciarán Flynn and the Minor board committee for all their time, hard work, commitment and effort in getting so many of our underage competitions played under these unprecedented times. It was very important for all our young players health and wellbeing to be able to meet, play and take part in our training and games.

Thank you to the members of our hearings committee, whom we work a long side and this year like no other gone before, many of us had to fast forward our knowledge in technology and further our IT skills to meet via Teams or Skype or even outside in the fresh air when it was allowed to fulfil our meetings and resolve outstanding issues, which we all did to the best of our ability.

To John, Mairéad, Tara and the county committee, thank you for your support and guidance throughout the year.

The appointment of referee's to all our games and working with the numbers of referee's we have is indeed a tough ask but much credit goes to Frank Gallogly and the referee's committee for their meticulous attention to detail in their appointments to our games this year.

Many thanks to our club secretaries and executive committees for all your hard work on the ground in your clubs, hosting games, looking after grounds and pitches to be proud of, and representing your clubs and community.

We didn't quite make it to the final whistle with where we would like to have been with our games towards the end of this year, unfortunately this part was out of our control, we are however very grateful to have played as many games as we did and we will see the completion of those all important outstanding games in the new year ahead.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the dedication, teamwork and commitment of my fellow colleagues on the CCCC, to John Daly, Peter Collins, John Gilmartin, Ollie Keegan, and in particular to Gene Smith and Damien Griffin for their unwavering support in this year, a year like other.

Go raibh míle maith agat agus fanacht slán go léir,

Is mise le meas,

Niamh Uí Riagáin,

Runaí CCCC an Mhí.



## OPERATIONS MANAGER

The events of 2020 will be forever etched in our minds. Little did we know leaving Páirc Tailteann on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> that we would be closing the gates on GAA activities for a number of months to come. Our Senior footballers had just played their last home league game of our first Division 1 campaign in 13 years.

The events over the subsequent months proved a challenge for everyone but the response of GAA members was incredible.

### **Community Forum**

Since March, Meath GAA has had representation on the Meath Community Forum. The forum is made up of various agency bodies throughout the County. It was created as a response to the pandemic to ensure that the support services were available to those most in need in our Communities and Parishes.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown, our Clubs displayed all that is good about our organisation, it was highlighted by other agency bodies in meetings how the GAA used its wide reach to make sure all those in their communities were supported. The GAA was a shining light during those unnatural and eerie days for people, something we should all be proud of.

### **Páirc Tailteann**

January brought the news that Coiste na Mí were awarded €6.2 million in funding from the Large-Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF). The funding represented the largest amount awarded to a GAA project, and was endorsed by Croke Park who ranked Páirc Tailteann as no.1 in its ranking for this.

The application process was supported by Meath County Council, for this we owe a word of thanks to Jackie Maguire CEO, her staff, and to the local Councillor's.

I would like to thank my fellow members on the working group; Noel Dempsey and Liam Mulvihill for their help and experience in getting the project to where it is now. Also, to the Coiste na Mí Chairman and Management, as well as our Clubs and members who have supported the redevelopment of Páirc Tailteann.

The pandemic, as expected, has hampered progress on the development, a potential commencement date will now have to be reset but we are confident that works will begin in 2021. The working group and Infrastructure Committee are proceeding with fund raising initiatives to support this. We hope to announce details very soon. One of the initiatives will offer our supporters, and patrons, the opportunity of purchasing a personalised paving stone to be located in a *Royal Avenue* leading up to the new stand.

### **Fundraising**

The Royal House Draw came to a close on the December 28<sup>th</sup> 2019. From the outset, the draw was seen to be ambitious, but without ambition one starts nothing.

The draw made a profit of €350k making it the biggest fundraiser in Meath GAA ever. From the profits, over €197k went back to the Clubs through commissions gained from ticket sales. The draw was established to support the redevelopment and to aid Clubs in generating funds from it.

Unfortunately, as with our Clubs, the pandemic curtailed any further planned fundraising events in the County, namely the Race Day and Golf Classic.

Fundraising in 2021 may prove to be challenging again but as with the efforts shown through the lockdown periods, the resilience and attitude of our Clubs and members will overcome any obstacle.

## **Competitions**

In late 2019 our Clubs voted through the proposed restructuring of our football competitions. There was great anticipation from managers, players and supporters as to how the structure would play out. For long periods during the initial stages of the lockdown, it looked a real possibility that there would be no games programme in 2020.

The CCC worked tirelessly over the weeks and months of the lockdown to devise a plan which we were not entirely sure would happen.

The return to games gave us all a great sense of hope and anticipation. Unfortunately, as per Covid guidelines, only a limited number of supporters were permitted to attend the games. The disappointment of not being able to attend the games was somewhat abated by the streaming service. There was c.7,000 subscribers to the 41 streamed Football and Hurling fixtures across our Championships.

I would like to thank Colm O'Mealóid for his I.T. expertise, Larry McEntee, Ciaran Flynn, David Rispin and to all those who contributed in delivering the streaming service. Also, a thanks to Khristian Harris for providing the scaffolding tower from which the games were streamed.

Presently, the Inter County schedule for 2021 is unclear. The indecision around whether we have a Club first, County second or vice versa, poses more problems than solutions. It is nearly certain that, whatever form the 2021 GAA calendar takes, we will see a split season.

## **Sponsors**

The pandemic has brought many challenges for us all; health, humanitarian and economic to name a few. The running of our Competitions and our County teams would not be possible without the significant financial assistance we receive through the sponsorship of both.

For our Inter County teams to perform at elite standards, there is a high level of investment required. We have seen that the national graph on Inter County expenditure continues to increase year on year. Our teams need to be given the best opportunity to perform to their highest standards and for that we are very fortunate, and grateful, to all those who contribute, Devenish through Owen and Alice Brennan, and our new hurling sponsor, Glenveagh.

Our sponsors contribute not alone financially but are also ever-present supporters of our teams. Businesses, local and national, have suffered greatly. It is testament to the relationships built up over a number of years that our sponsors continue to support Meath GAA.

We are hugely thankful to all our sponsors and commercial partners, and ask patrons of Coiste na Mí to support their businesses where possible.

## **Games Development**

Much of the recent narrative on GAA matters has revolved around funding and structures. The results of Inter County teams are seen as the ultimate barometer for judging a Counties games development plan.

In 2017, Meath GAA secured additional funding to increase participation of Gaelic games activities in our Primary Schools and Clubs.

The funding has allowed us to increase our full time Games Development staff from 6 to 20. We now have the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of staff in the Country. Our Clubs have played a huge part in facilitating this.

The benefits and improvements are there to be seen; increase in contact hours in Primary Schools, increase in numbers at Nursey level in Clubs, increase in numbers attending Cúl Camps and an increase in memberships across all our Clubs (14% increase from 2016 – 2020).

The coaches play a significant role in the clubs through upskilling of volunteer coaches and developing pathways for each age grade. The focus will shift for more activity in this area over the next 12 months.

We are very fortunate to have such professional and diligent staff working in our County and Clubs, they are a huge asset. There has to be an understanding by all that this is a long-term project, we will see gains in all area's but time and patience must be given in equal parts.

**Thanks**

I'd like to thank all those who volunteer their time on match days in Páirc Tailteann. There is a lot of work that goes on in the background, much of which goes unnoticed.

A final word of thanks to Tara, Margaret and Mairéad in Dunganny for running the affairs of Coiste na Mí in a professional and efficient manner.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas!  
Seamus Kenny

## HURLING PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A chara,

This has been a hard year on all of our clubs and county teams. We on the Hurling committee would like to pass on our condolences to anyone who has lost any one over this past year.

With the start of this year this year we welcomed on board new sponsors, Ronan McKenna and Glenveigh Homes, Declan Kerrigan and DK Motors, Welcome aboard lads and here is to a very successful partnership over the coming years. Could I please pass on our thanks to Larry McGowan and Uniflu for their sponsorship over the last few successful years which brought us 2 Christy Ring titles, and to Joey Gantley and Renault Belgard for their kind sponsorship last year.

Our League campaign started off against Offaly on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January in Offaly which ended up in a narrow 2 point defeat on a score line of Offaly 0-26 to 1-21 to Meath. Our second game was against Wicklow in Navan on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, it was a hard battle with Wicklow but the royals came out with a well-deserved victory on a score line of 2-24 to 3-18. Our next match was against Kerry in Trim. This didn't go our way and we came out with a 5 point defeat with Kerry scoring 0-13 to Meaths 0-08. The fourth game was an away trip to Antrim. This started with score for score but the indiscipline of the Meath team cost them dearly on the day with a resounding defeat on a score line of Antrim 5-27 to 1-15 to Meath. Our last game was a home game against Mayo on the first of March in which the Meath men came out on top on a score line of Meath 1-17 to 0-18 to Mayo. Little did we know that this would be our last competitive game for nearly 7 months.

The Hurling committee in the coming year are hoping to carry out a review of the hurling championship with all the clubs. We also have a new man of the match trophy, the "Michael Harry Connor" trophy, and a special thanks to the Trim GAA club for their kind sponsorship of the trophy, and to the Fitzsimons family Navan for their kind sponsorship of the Young Hurler of the Year trophy, this will be called the "Donal Fitzsimons Trophy". Through the year we on the hurling committee held Zoom meetings with the clubs and it was well supported by the clubs. Thanks to all the clubs for their cooperation through these hard times, hopefully we can get back to some sort of normality soon. We were also hoping that a new competition for intermediate clubs could start this year, but due to the Covid 19 pandemic, this could not happen.

Club Games were also affected with the championship changed to fit the time constraints that we had to work with. I would like to thank the fixtures committee for fitting so many games in such a short time frame. This was something that many people said could not be done, but Damien Griffin and Niamh Regan and all of the fixtures committee should be congratulated for everything they have done this year, it's a pity the hurling finals were stopped by the Government with only 6 days left to crown the champions. Thanks to Frank Gallogly and all on the referees committee for all the hard work that ye do over the year and may we wish the referees Pat Gannon and Owen Ganley and their umpires and officials the best of luck in the finals, whenever they get played.

As i am writing this report we are preparing for our first game in the Joe McDonagh and its nearly the end of October, it's a pity that the games are happening behind closed doors as it's the supporters that make the atmosphere in the grounds and all teams over the country will miss this.

As I am nearing the end of my report i have a few people to thank. I firstly would like to thank Tara and Margaret in the office for all their hard work over the past year, this has been a more challenging year than we ever expected so thank you for your help all year. To Mairead, Seamus, thanks for all of your help with questions that have come up this year with games and rules that we needed clearing up. To Coiste Na Mi, John Kavanagh, Paddy Kelly, Jim Mullary, Mairead Delaney and

to all of the officers a massive thank you for all of your support this year and every year. To all the stewards in all the grounds thank you for everything that you do, without your dedication and giving up all of your free time, these games could not go ahead.

To the Meath Senior Hurling manager Nick Weir and his management team of Graham Dillon, David O Reilly and Vinny Guy you really have put everything into the job and hopefully it will pay off and we will have a successful Joe McDonagh cup run this year, to Nicks backroom team of Gerry McLoughlin, Paul Dunne, Dominic Reilly, Niamh Guy, Ritchie Daly, Dr Seamus McMenamin, Stephen Quirke, Paul Ahern, Shane Mangan thanks for all you do with the team, without you all this would not be possible. To our hard working PRO John Andrews a massive thanks for all you posts on social media and in recent times as covid officer a massive well done and thanks for your dedication through the year.

A special thanks to the Meath Senior hurling team, who have given so much time and dedication over the year, I think we are over the 70 session mark for the year. A special thanks goes out to all the wives and partners for letting their Husbands or boyfriends play a game that entertains so many.

Lastly Thanks to Martin O Halloran, Chairperson, who has been a massive help to me over this year. Any questions that i asked him he knew the answer or if he didn't he would come back to me with the correct answer. Thanks Martin.

This concludes my report, hopefully everyone stays safe and looks after each other

Cóilín Ó Braonáin  
Rúnaí Iomána na Mí

## COISTE MIONUIR

As a year like no other comes to a close, we reflect on a season which we hope we will not see the likes of again for many years. When the new committee for 2020 sat down at the beginning of the year to finalise the games programme for the coming season, we could never have envisaged the disruption to our plans and the shortened season which Covid-19 and the general restrictions enforced by it inflicted on us. As it happens, some competitions got completed, others will be played to a finish in 2021 and others unfortunately either were never played or will not be completed.

There was much change on the committee over the last twelve months with Conor Tormey stepping down as Chairman at the end of 2019 before Ray Finnegan, Ruth Chambers and Denise Farrelly all came on board. It would be remiss of me at this moment and time not to thank Conor for his assistance over his two years as Coiste Mionúir an Mhí C.L.G. Chairman. His advice and counsel was always valued and after he had a very difficult 2020 on a personal level, we wish him all the best in the future.

The new additions to the committee have all brought their own strengths to the group with Ray being a welcome addition as Chairman. It has been a very difficult year for a new Chairman to come in but Ray has been a huge help throughout the year as we tried to work through the various challenges which have presented themselves over the course of the last twelve months. Denise Farrelly has also come on board this year and took on the role of looking after the return of our trophies. This is a difficult role as it is with regret that I must note that a small number of clubs do not return trophies back on time and some trophies get returned in a very poor condition. This is something which must improve as it reflects poorly on everybody when trophies are returned in such condition. Ruth Chambers came on board as PRO and has had a major impact. From the magnificent digital programmes for the Minor Championships to the social media content promoting games and the inter-county Minor sides, Ruth has had a transformative impact on Coiste Mionúir. Two projects in particular which Ruth deserves great credit for driving are the documentary videos on Paddy O'Brien and Ted Murtagh which shine a light on the work these men did in their club and county. It would also be remiss of me not to acknowledge and thank Tara and Margaret in the office in Dunganny for their assistance throughout the year as well as John Kavanagh and Mairéad Delaney who are always on the other end of the phone to offer support and assistance. In addition to this, having an open line of communication with fixtures secretary Damien Griffin has helped to ensure minimal clashes between adult and minor fixtures.

This was also the first year in which as a committee we streamed games in our Minor Championship with Byrne Performance coming on board to stream a Division 1 semi-final and the Division 2 Final of the LMFM MFC. Our thanks to Emma and Louise Byrne for their expertise on this as well as Davy Nelson, Ger Robinson and Sean Perry who were on commentary duty. In addition to this, Brian Mulligan did promotional shoots for the knockout stages of the Paddy O'Brien Cup and Ted Murtagh Cup which has further added to the efforts we are making to promote these competitions and the legacy of the great men they are named after.

The committee for 2020 was as follows:

<b>Chairman</b>	Ray Finnegan	Gaeil Colmcille
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	John Gilmartin	Naomh Peadar Dun Bóinne
<b>Secretary</b>	Brian Kelly	Baile Sencaill
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Declan Black	Cill Maighneann
<b>Public Relations Officer</b>	Ruth Chambers	Baile an Bhaitearaigh

<b>Assistant Public Relations Officer</b>	Denise Farrelly	Baile an Chaisleáin
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When games resumed in July, the Championships got underway with the LMFM sponsored Minor Football Championship, Minor Hurling Championship as well as the O'Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 Football and Hurling Championships being played. The standard of play we witness on the pitch continues to rise year on year and this is testament to the hard work being carried out in all fifty-nine clubs in the county. Another positive which we witnessed this year was clubs such as Clonard and Longwood fielding on their own having been joined as an Independent Team for the last number of years. Both clubs have been putting in trojan work at juvenile level and this is coming to fruition in their expanded playing numbers. On a hurling front it is also important to note that a similar situation arose this year with Navan O'Mahonys and Wolfe Tones at the Minor grade with this being a major success as both clubs did excellently fielding on their own.

There are a small number of finals which we are carrying forward to 2021 but every Championship Final at both Minor and U-15 level will be completed in the new year, with clubs given a preparatory time when allowed back on the training pitch before any games are played. The majority of Minor Football Finals were played, with the Division 1 Final seeing Dunshaughlin overcome St. Colmcilles in a most entertaining encounter. The following weekend saw a feast of action in Dunganny as seven finals were played there on the Saturday. These are normally games which see large attendances but this year crowd numbers had to be restricted. Our thanks to all who adhered to the restrictions and made the day one of the easiest to steward that we can remember.

On the inter-county front, we have had the strangest of years as one side eventually got their championship up and running before having to pull all activities due to further restrictions while the other were days away from their first game before it also fell victim. Both our Minor Football and Hurling panels got involved in charity fundraisers during the summer when collective training was unable to happen with the footballers raising money for Stewart's Care and the hurlers for Jigsaw. These efforts are a testament to the character of the players on both panels and great credit goes to the managers of both panels who encouraged these efforts and co-ordinated them.

John McCarthy's football panel eventually got their Championship underway on October 17 when welcoming Dublin to an empty Páirc Tailteann. After a slow start, the team grew into the game and eventually wore the visitors down before emerging with a comfortable victory. Their next game was to be against Westmeath on October 28 unfortunately it fell by the wayside as once more Covid-19 intervened. Thankfully on December 1 we received the good news that the competition could resume on Saturday December 12 when we eventually welcome Westmeath to Páirc Tailteann.

This year the hurling panel are taking part in the Peadar Ó Liathain Cup and were due to play in Aughrim on Saturday October 24. Just as final preparation were being completed for the game, further restrictions came into vogue and the match was postponed. Undoubtedly this was very frustrating for Sean Callanan and the panel but like their football counterparts, they returned to training early in December when permitted with added enthusiasm. They travel to Aughrim on Sunday December 13 to take on their hosts Wicklow and we look forward to seeing the hurlers get their season belatedly started.

It would be remiss of us on Coiste Mionúir not to acknowledge the frustrations and added difficulties which this elongated season has brought upon the players, their families, and the coaches. When meeting with the managers back in January none of us could have foreseen the season extending in the manner it has and the way in which all parties have adapted to the various challenges Covid-19 has brought upon us this year has been a credit to one and all.

Last year the following paragraph was included in the Coiste Mionúir annual report and unfortunately it is once again applicable. *“Over the course of the season there were a number of incidents where the match officials where the match officials were not treated in a proper manner. On too many occasions they have been verbally abused by team coaches, players, or supporters. Any one incident like this is one too many but this year there were incidents throughout the season. The CCC have dealt with clubs and individuals when appropriate but the ultimate responsibility for treating referees with respect falls back on clubs. We would urge all clubs to do all they can to ensure our referees are treated with respect by all who represent their clubs at matches. Recruiting referees is an ongoing challenge and is one that is made more difficult when they are not treated with the respect which they warrant. Without referees we won’t have any games.”* When club officials are having to speak with their coaches during a game and ask them to stop verbally abusing the referee during a game it is clear that while clubs are trying to stamp it out, their efforts with a small number of coaches continue to fall on deaf ears. As a collective in the county it is something which we need to improve upon.

Something which I highlight at most presentations is the ongoing need to promote the underage games your clubs partake in. Between the local media outlets such as Meath Chronicle, Drogheda Independent, Hoganstand.com and LMFM there is no shortage of avenues to send reports on your clubs’ games to. Each of these give club’s great coverage when match reports are forwarded on but there is a limited number of clubs who actively embrace them along with their own websites and social media. These young players are the future of your club and deserve all the publicity they receive. We would encourage you to embrace these going forward and utilise all avenues to promote the games and achievements of your young players.

**Football Competition Winners:**

LMFM Minor Football Championship Division 1	Dunshaughlin
LMFM Minor Football Championship Division 2	Navan O’Mahonys
LMFM Minor Football Championship Division 3	Ballinabrackey
LMFM Minor Football Championship Division 4	Rathkenny/Slane
LMFM Minor Football Championship Division 5	Round Towers
LMFM Minor Football Championship Division 6	TBC
LMFM Minor Football Championship Division 1 Shield	Duleek-Bellewstown
LMFM Minor Football Championship Division 2 Shield	Walterstown
LMFM Minor Football Championship Division 3 Shield	N/A
LMFM Minor Football Championship Division 4 Shield	Kilmainhamwood
LMFM Minor Football Championship Division 5 Shield	Inny Gaels
LMFM Minor Football Championship Division 6 Shield	N/A
O’Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 FC Division 1 – Paddy O’Brien Cup	Seneschalstown
O’Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 FC Division 2 – Paddy O’Brien Cup	TBC
O’Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 FC Division 3 – Paddy O’Brien Cup	TBC
O’Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 FC Division 4 – Paddy O’Brien Cup	Walterstown
O’Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 FC Division 5 – Paddy O’Brien Cup	TBC
O’Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 FC Division 6 – Paddy O’Brien Cup	TBC
O’Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 FC Division 7 – Paddy O’Brien Cup	TBC
O’Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 FC Premier Championship – Paddy O’Brien Cup	TBC

**Hurling Competition Winners:**

Minor Hurling Championship Division 1	TBC
Minor Hurling Championship Division 2	Clann na nGael
Minor Hurling Championship Division 3	Loughcrew Gaels/Gaeil



	Colmcille
Minor Hurling Championship Division 1 Shield	N/A
Minor Hurling Championship Division 2 Shield	N/A
Minor Hurling Championship Division 3 Shield	N/A
Minor Hurling League Division 1 Shield	Rathmolyon
O'Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 HC Division 1 – Ted Murtagh Cup	TBC
O'Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 HC Division 2 – Ted Murtagh Cup	TBC
O'Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 HC Division 3 – Ted Murtagh Cup	TBC
O'Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 HC Division 1 Shield – Ted Murtagh Cup	N/A
O'Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 HC Division 2 Shield – Ted Murtagh Cup	N/A
O'Reilly & Co. Solicitors U-15 HC Division 3 Shield – Ted Murtagh Cup	N/A

Please note that as per the communication from the secretary of the Meath CCC on October 18 that all outstanding Leagues and Shield competitions for 2020 will not be completed.

Is mise le meas  
 Brían Ó Ceallaigh,  
 Rúnaí, Coiste Mionúir an Mhí C.L.G.

## COISTE NA NÓG

Firstly, Coiste na nÓg would like to thank all the clubs and the various teams for their participation in the competitions we organised throughout the year. Over 1,100 games were planned at this level in 2020, with only our autumn schedule going ahead. Without the dedication of the mentors and parents, we would not have had such a successful year. We are also cognisant of the magnificent work done by the many administrators at the juvenile level within the clubs and the tremendous effort made to keep the club members and players well informed.

Most of the competitions ran smoothly and this was due to the co-operation of the clubs and teams doing their best to adhere to the games schedule we had agreed upon. We also know that as a committee we cannot get everything correct; however, we did strive to help give as many teams a reasonable amount of games and to accommodate them where possible.

Regarding the competitions, we did strive to achieve a fair system of grading, but we are conscious that this needs a close review on an annual basis. We would urge all clubs and underage teams to strive in improving the standard of our games and to have as many of their mentors and coaches participate over the winter months in the various coaching courses being organised by Meath Coaching & Games. The more Award 1 and Award 2 coaches we have the better chance we have of retaining as many of our children to keep playing Gaelic Games and continue their sporting careers under the umbrella of the C.L.G.

Thankfully, overall discipline at our games is improving; nonetheless, there have been several incidents at our games that have caused us concern. It is imperative that players and mentors strive to maintain a high standard of respect for their opposition both on and off the field and towards the officials appointed to oversee our games. We appreciate the necessity for a competitive spirit in our games, but this should not diminish the importance of a high standard of discipline by players, mentors, and supporters alike.

To improve the overall standard of our Gaelic Games we will continue with 'Silent Sidelines'. It is mandatory for all mentors to wear designated bibs and to follow detailed match regulations. These initiatives are designed to encourage a positive fun atmosphere at our games. We hopefully will continue to diminish the unsavoury incidents that discredit our association. Coiste na nÓg an Mhí have some suggestions for improvements that we can make in 2020 at the end of this report.

We would like to thank Cathaoirleach Coiste na Mí John Kavanagh and Rúnaí Coiste na Mí Mairead Delaney and all the members of the 2020 Meath Management Committee. I would like to thank all the people who work in Dunganny especially Tara and Margaret who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Thank you to Seamus Kenny, our Operations Manager. Thank you to Jamie Queeney, our Games Manager and all his GDA team. Thank you to Eugene McBride who have maintained the grounds in Páirc Tailteann and Dunganny this year. Thanks to all who help promote our games through social media. Thanks to all the media who helped promote our games throughout the county and country. Big thanks must go to Declan Lynch and the Lynn Group who photograph all our finals. Declan endures all the seasons, so we can remember and document our fine Gaelic Games. Special thanks must go to the referees who travel the length and breadth of the county to officiate our games. Thank you to my fellow committee members for their arduous work, go raibh maith agaibh to Ciarán Benville, Andrew Lenehan, Aidan Quinn, Fintan Porter, and Ned Kearney. It has been a pleasure to work with you all and everybody contributed to a good working relationship. It is important to note the integral role all volunteers involved in the Meath County Committee play. Final thanks to Richard Smith of RS Awards who sponsored our games in 2020. We are truly thankful for your support and we hope to continue to work together.

Also, we extend our sympathies to any member or player who suffered a bereavement during the year; ar dheis De go raibh a h-anam dilis.

We would like to wish Coiste Chontae every success in 2021.

Agus anois, sin deirneach ar mo tuairisc do Coiste Chontae seo.

**Is mise le meas,**

**Ciarán Ó Floinn**

**Rúnaí Coiste na nÓg an Mhí**

### **Recommendations**

1. We need to appoint a Youth Referees Administrator that will work with the County Referees Administrator and their team. We have expanded the amount of games at this level over several years and it is difficult to appoint referees who are needed at different age grades. We have a new recruited group of Youth Referees that can referee U13 games and younger. We recommend that the Youth Referees Administrator would have the same roles and responsibilities for this level and the County Referees Administrator has for Adult Club level. We need to expand and grow.

## COISTE GO GAMES

Coiste Go Games An Mhí planned fixtures in both codes for ages u7s to u11s starting in late February of this year.

Unfortunately due to the pandemic we were not able to commence our fixtures until 8th August. We completed five rounds of Hurling and four of Football before the GAA asked all clubs to cease in early October.

I would like to thank and congratulate all clubs for the way they have conducted their Go Games operations. I have visited many grounds on Saturday mornings and found that sanitising stations were plentiful everywhere. The Covid19 officers in clubs have done great work in ensuring everyone had fulfilled their Return to play health summary.

Congratulations and well done to all our youth referees and coordinators who made sure our games ran so well . A small number of clubs still don't seem to have any youth referees which was disappointing to hear , hopefully more can be trained up over the coming months if restrictions allow.

We had varied participation levels this year as some clubs understandable preferred to not partake at some of the younger age-groups . This was unavoidable and unfortunately meant that clubs were left with no opponents. While every effort was made to find alternatives this was not always possible.

Well done to all our GAA clubs on the way that they responded to their community's needs during the lockdown, a great example was shown to all our Go Games children of how important they and their families are to their locality.

This was a very sad year for many clubs with the passing of many members including some juvenile coaches, while clubs were not able to give them a traditional GAA send off they will never forgotten.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha

Hopefully the next few months will pass quickly and we will be able to start back up again in the new year.

Coiste Go Games this year members were

Ciaran Benville. Cathaoirleach

Ciaran Flynn.

Ned Kearney. Leas runaí

Fintan Porter. Runaí

Is mise le meas,

Fionntán Póirtéir

Rúnaí Coiste Go Games / PRO Coiste na nÓg an Mhí C.L.G.

GAA Phone Number: (086) 173 5947

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Nationally the role has been evolving over the past few years culminating in the redefinition of it at Convention. It is important to outline the resultant structural changes and roles within, so that Clubs are aware of the relevant point of contact into the future.

1. Jason Plunkett will continue with organising the spec for Grants, Borrowings and Club infrastructure in the County.
2. While my role is delivering the Educational and Training aspects of the Leadership Development Programme and Club Planning Programme for Clubs and their officers. This also includes Meath LGFA and Meath Camogie Officers.

Two **Governance Workshops** were delivered in January (County Committee Officers) and February (Club Officers) with an exceptional attendance.

Five Clubs signed up for the **Club Planning Programme** to be delivered over a number of weeks

**Getting work done in Office 365** was planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> March in St Patricks Classical School

However, on 13.03. 2020 all programmes and workshops were cancelled due to Covid 19.

The following Club Leadership development programme Webinars were and continue to be delivered by the Player, Club & Games Administration Department, Croke Park;

**April**, “Good governance in your Club”, “Fostering Wellbeing and Resilience during Covid 19” for Club Officers and Volunteers and “Club Strategic Planning”

**May**, “Celebrating and supporting our Officers” a wellbeing webinar and “GAA IT Help”

**June**, Development Officers Forum”

**October**, “Club Planning Programme” and “Development Officers Forum”

**November**, Office 365 Webinar

Registration for all Modules must be done via the GAA’s Learning Portal.

The following will be provided to County/Club Officers;

- Learning Portal Creation Guide
- Module registration and Access guide

## MEATH COACHING & GAMES

*A Chairde,*

It's that time of year, but as you will all agree, this has been a strange one. The dawn of 2020 promised so much for Meath GAA, and especially for the Coaching & Games side of things. In early January the schedule of coaching course were getting underway, and for the first few months Jan-February things seem like they were off to a flyer, Child protection courses were held in Dunganny and elsewhere and more young whistlers were recruited, and the momentum of coaching courses were getting under way, but by the end of the first quarter in 2020, Meath GAA, Leinster GAA, and the National GAA Coaching family had to rethink its whole idea on Coach education. From the second Quarter in 2020 most if not all field, and face to face activities were closed. Scheduled Coaching courses were shelved in the hope of completing them at a later stage. Six foundation courses I was schedule to give around the country were postponed.

Club Webinars / P. E. Session

The seriousness of the situation was beginning to hit home on all fronts, and unfortunately Coaching & Coach education was one of the first things to be shut down. However not to take this lying down the Meath Clubs and Meath GAA Coaching and Games started numerous Zoom and Microsoft teams Coaching sessions, anything from basic skills to advanced stretching, and HIIT sessions and held all over the place in Meath Clubs. To keep things going at club level, Meath Coaching and Games embedded GDA staff initiated a lot of web sessions within their clubs. And I'm sure that most GAA Clubs are aware of the great success that the Meath GAA organised P.E. session on YouTube was with all the Boys and Girls at home in Meath and Further afield logging in, in very large numbers to take part in the sessions. An initiative which was wholly organised BY Meath GAA, Coaching and Games.

Cul Camps

During a short relaxation in the restrictions the annual Meath GAA Cul Camps took place. And while they were slightly less camps than normal, the ones that did take place were fully subscribed to the levels allowed under the restrictions. A number of camp days were cancelled this year due to the inclement weather, and the restriction on using facilities, however the feedback from participants at the camps were that they were very enjoyable. And at all the camps that I visited, the boys and girls were all getting stuck in and having fun.

A real big thank you must go to all the Coaches, Supervisors, and Co coordinators. Who maintained control of the camps so well in all the clubs. A big thank you to the clubs who identified the need to hold the camps this year. It was a worthwhile break for the boy and girls that must have been getting a bit stir crazy during the restrictions. Once again, a Big thank you to Jamie Queeney, and Dudley Farrell and the Meath Coaching & Games Staff for the professionally ran Cul camps, even with the increased pressure of dealing with the COVID -19 training requirements on top of everything else.

Development Squads

Unfortunately for our Development squads the year was a damp squid, and as state previously early on the word from Croke Park was that there would be No Development Squad activity. and we lost this whole year to COVID. Hopefully all our squads we will be rearing to go in 2021.

There were several Advance Coaching Workshops carried out by the various County Management teams, in the County, Club players were invited in to receive instruction in various aspects of the game, Nutrition, Strength and Conditioning, and Skills. The Coaching, and Management teams from the Meath U16, and Meath U17 interacted with many clubs during the compressed season. And gave of their time and effort freely when requested by the Clubs. Thanks to all the County Squads and Management teams for their efforts this year. Unfortunately for some squads their efforts were curtailed quite early. We all look forward to 2021 when we hope that you all will be sporting the green and Gold of the Royal County

County Coaching Personnel and Coaching Activities 2020

At the end of 2019, Meath Coaching & Games had a coaching staff of 22, This number of Coaching staff put Meath with the highest amount of paid coaching staff outside of Dublin County , which was ahead of Cork ( though we think they may have caught up ) and all the other counties . This all came about with the initiation of the 2017 East Leinster Project , whereby Clubs could have their own embedded Coaches working with them ( 2021 restrictions reduced the face to face time in clubs up until September ) however the graphic in Figure 1 , shows how things have gone since the return to play at Club and schools level . Hopefully we will see this strengthened and with a return to normal levels in 2021.

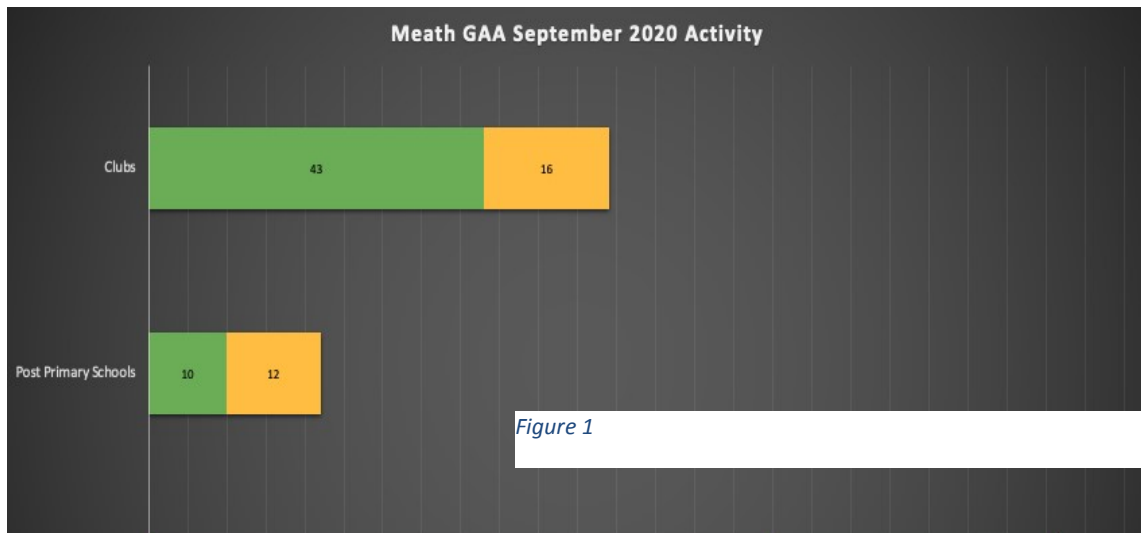


Figure 1

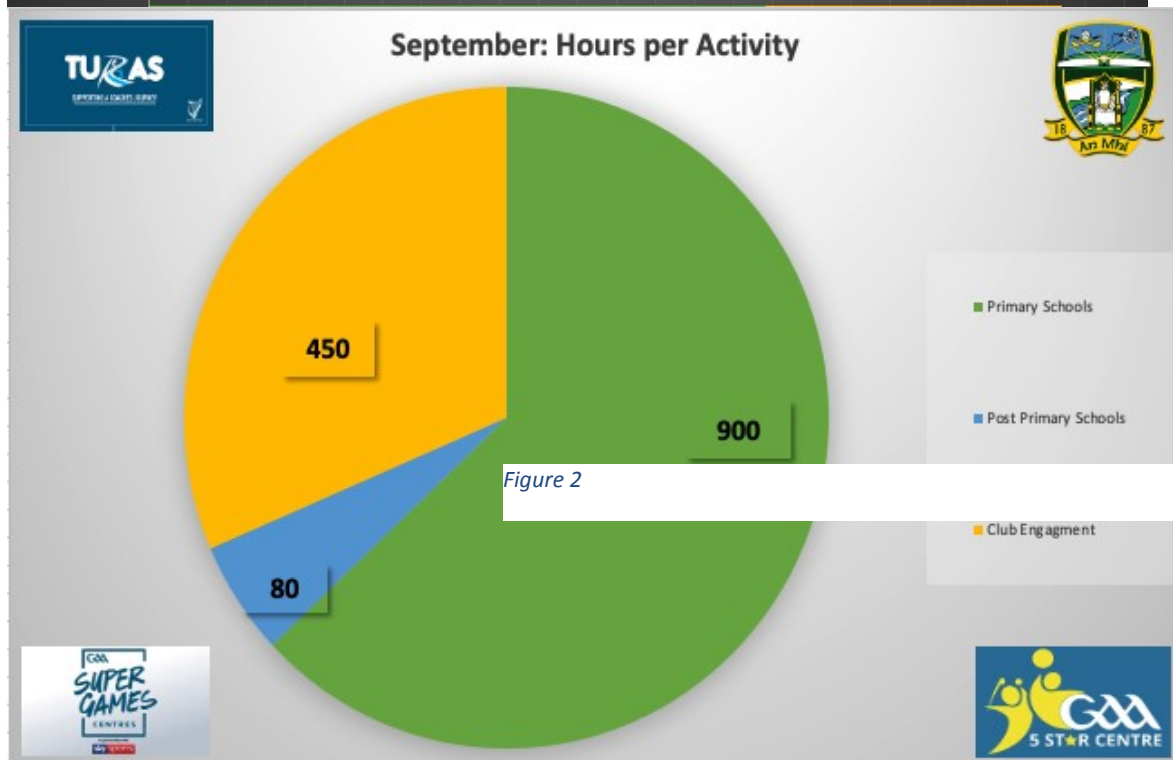


Figure 2

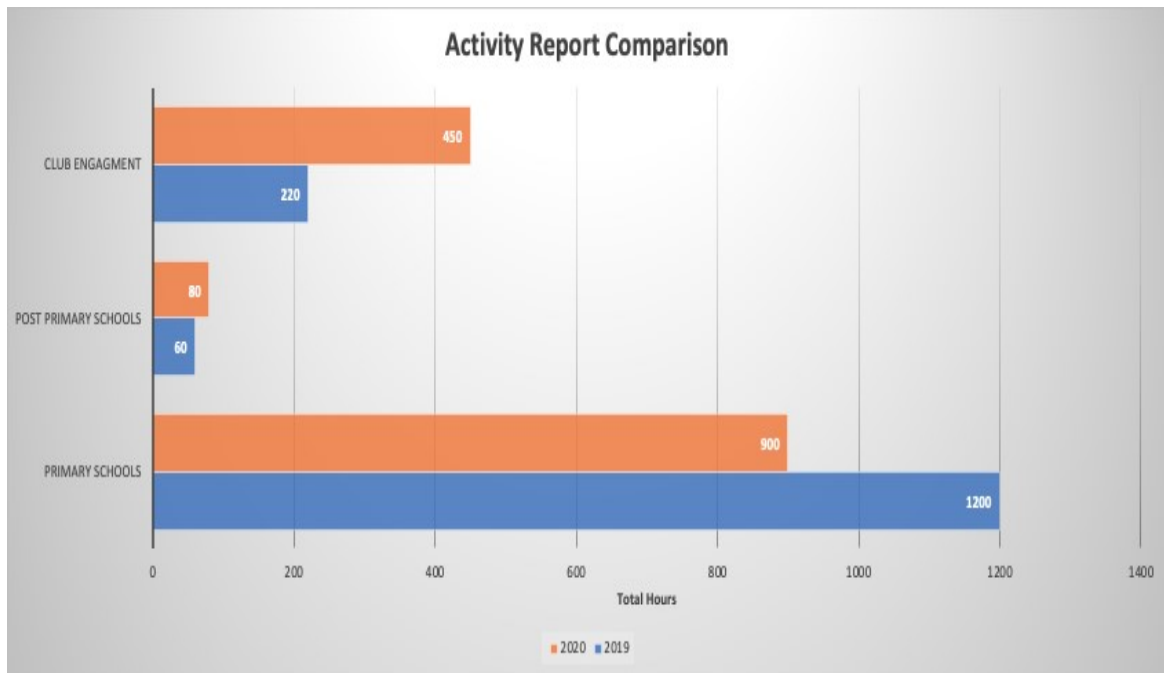


Figure 3

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the Club Coaching officers for engaging with me for the last 12 months. Their assistance has been beneficial to their clubs & Meath GAA and they have added to the initiatives carried out in this strange year. I would like to thank the Meath Coaching & Games Staff for their commitment to the betterment of Meath GAA. To all the Meath County Development Squad Management teams, whose time has been given freely in developing the future stars of Meath GAA. To the extended squad players, who will be out there, rain sleet or snow working hard to better themselves and their team, and importantly to the player’s parents without whom there would be no Meath GAA because they bring the players to the training and to the games. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Coaching and Games Development Committee members, who had to deal with me via teams and Zoom. If face to face wasn’t bad enough. To Jamie Queeney, Phil Fay, Sean Kelly, John Gilmartin , and Peter Durnin . Thank you for your patience and time this year.

To a better year

Is mise le meas,

*Gréagóir Ó Carraídh*

Oifigeach Cóitseála Coiste na Mí



## CULTURAL

Like most parts of our association 2020 proved to be a rather difficult year in which to hold anything due to the various levels of restrictions imposed on us by Government and Croke Park. The year started well with a very entertaining day at the Leinster Scór na nÓg finals of in the TLT in Drogheda on 12<sup>th</sup> January. Meath was represented by Oldcastle GFC in the Céile Dancing competition, Trim GFC in the Instrumental Music competition and Wolfe Tones GFC in the Quiz competition. These clubs having qualified by winning their respective sections in a Leinster semi-final which was held in Oldcastle in December 2019. Meath had success in the Leinster final with the Wolfe Tones team winning and qualifying for the National Scór finals in the INEC in Killarney on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

This was followed by the Meath Scór Sinsir quiz final in Navan O'Mahony's pavilion on 15<sup>th</sup> February where we had participation from 13 clubs. The Wolfe Tones club team won the competition emulating the success of their junior team and qualified to go direct to the Leinster finals which were to be held in Navan. The Meath Scór Sinsir final was held in Halla Baile Ghib (Gibstown) on 28<sup>th</sup> February, a wonderful night for the Oldcastle club as they won 4 out of the 5 competitions. The Leinster semi-final was held in the Downs GFC hall, Westmeath, on 7<sup>th</sup> March, Oldcastle continued their success and qualified for the Leinster final in the Nuachleas (Stage Presentation) and Recitation categories.

As already mentioned the Leinster final was scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> March in the Solstice theatre Navan and was eagerly looked forward to by the members of Coiste Chultúra and Scór participants, as we considered it to be a great honour to host the final. But like all other events it fell foul of the Covid 19 restrictions and could not proceed. However, both the National and Provincial Scór committees are committed to holding the finals of these competitions in 2021, subject to Government restrictions.

Coiste Scór would like to express our gratitude to all clubs who participated in our competitions in 2020 and particularly to the clubs who provided their facilities to us for the holding of the competitions.

Before the restrictions were put in place, plans were being discussed to organise a concert to showcase some acts from both Scór ná nÓg and Scór Sinsir but again these had to be shelved. To date no competition for the 2020/21 year in either event has taken place due to the continued and increased level of restriction and it is difficult to see this changing in the short to medium term. If this situation persists into next year we will have to give consideration to holding some form of event outdoor. This of course will be subject to some level of outdoor activity being permitted.

Seosamh Ó Briain  
Oifigeach Chultúra agus Gaeilge

## P.R.O

It is a pleasure for me to commend my third Public Relations Officer report to the Annual County Convention. It has been a challenging yet enjoyable year. It has been an honour to represent Meath GAA all year in the public sphere.

This year, we have continued to try to improve our whole communications presence on and off-line. We have sustained a steady growth of 'followers' on all our social media and digital outlets. Thank you to everyone who has praised our new website. It is much-improved and this progress must be maintained. Thank you to all the clubs who have worked with the communications team to promote all our games. This can be an arduous task, but patrons across Meath and the wider world appreciate all the efforts made.

The communications team has worked hard all year and I am thankful for the following Gaels for their support in 2020:

Chairperson/County P.R.O.:	Ciarán Flynn	(Dún Samhna)
Vice-Chairperson/Hurling P.R.O.:	John Andrews	(Átha Troim)
Secretary/Football P.R.O.:	Brian Kelly	(Baile Sencaill)
Asst. Secretary/Juvenile P.R.O.:	Fintan Porter	(Ó Mathúna)
Minor P.R.O.:	Ruth Chambers	(Baile an Bhaitearaigh)
Official Photographer:	Brian Mulligan	(Naomh Colmcille)
Committee Members:	Martin O'Halloran	(Rath Moliadhain)
	Francis Flynn	(Baile Sencaill)
	Stephen Smyth	(Cill Dealga)
	Colm Ó Méalóid	(Domhnach Mór/Cill Dhéagláin)
	David Rispin	(Baile Corr)
	John O'Brien	(An Obair)
	Gearóid Rennicks	(Naomh Ultain)
	Ray Finnegan	(Gaeil Colmcille)
	Seamus Kenny	(Gaeil Baile Shiomóin)

All these committee members contributed during the year and it was a pleasure to lead the team. John Andrews joined the team as the Hurling P.R.O. and he has brought a huge amount of knowledge with him. The tasks of the P.R.O. can seem endless and it is wonderful to have John as a partner in promoting our games. Brian Kelly again, put in a massive effort this year and this could be seen immensely during our off period this year. Brian has done an incredible amount of statistical research and the importance of this will increase as it becomes part of our history. Fintan Porter has helped promote the juvenile part of our games this year and has been a great help in the staging of championship games in Páirc Tailteann. Ruth Chambers produced some great programmes at the minor level this year and she has been an asset in graphic design. Brian Mulligan sees our games through a different lens entirely. Our promotional work has improved dramatically since we have used his images. His photographs tell us a story about our Gaelic games and our Flickr account of his images are recommended viewing. Martin O'Halloran as always provided a great sounding board for ideas and his experience as P.R.O. before me and his experience as Leinster P.R.O. have been advantageous for Meath G.A.A. John O'Brien and Gearóid Rennicks joined this year to add a new element to our communications. We have had dedicated interview podcasts with many great Gaels. These have been as important as ever when the games have been off. Ray Finnegan also has joined our team intending to promote Club na Mí – Meath GAA Supporters Club. The rejuvenated online presence this year has seen much interaction between our supporters. Francis Flynn, Stephen Smyth, and David Rispin have always contributed with new ideas and initiatives and we are fortunate to have a team with such vast experience and knowledge. Thank you to Colm Ó Méalóid who heads our Ideal Bathrooms Meath GAA TV team. Thank you to Larry McEntee for videoing all the games and to all who joined us on the commentary teams. Meath GAA TV is a terrific addition to

our media platforms and the opportunity to watch live games is wonderful. Streaming has always been a worthwhile addition to our organisation, and it is important to note that it has been profitable for years now.

The GAA is a hugely progressive organisation and Meath GAA are one of the leading lights in terms of communications and we aim to keep it that way. In this modern era of iPhones, iPads, and Android devices people expect their news instantly and at the touch of a button, so the growth of our social media presence is even more important ever. It cannot be just the job of the County Committee to embrace social media and that is why I encourage all our clubs to grow with the digital revolution. It is to the benefit of every club to be involved, but the clubs must become active and engage regularly with their members.

We need to be proactive rather than reactive. Our clubs need to go out on social media and 'promote' themselves to their community. They need to be the focal point of their society and the best way of doing that is by maintaining an active social media presence. Use your social media to post-match updates, lotto results, meeting reminders, and ticket information, but also engage with your followers by reminding them of all events coming up, do features on prominent club officials and embrace your community by including local news.

For all the talk of the evolution of social media and the importance it plays in society today, we should still emphasise and underline the huge importance the local and national media play in supporting and promoting our games. Meath GAA are indebted to the Meath Chronicle, Drogheda Independent, LMF, hoganstand.com, We Are Meath, and the Meath Daily TV for their amazing quantity and quality of the coverage they provide our games and association. The photographers in John Quirke Photography, the Royal County Yearbook (Declan Lynch) also provide an invaluable service and for that, we are very grateful.

The Bring a Ball campaign was a great success this year and I would like to thank the stewards in Páirc Tailteann for their assistance in delivering this. More importantly, I would like to thank the supporters, young and old, who braved the elements all year to provide the half time entertainment.

Our appreciation goes to Noel McAlister at Apex Media and Print for their work on producing programmes of the highest quality. They are amongst the finest in the country and we should be proud of them. It was an honour to win the 2019 GAA MacNamee Award for the best programme. The judging committee had the following to say about the winning edition:

**2019 Meath Senior Football Championship Final Programme – Ciarán Flynn (Meath GAA)**

*"There was a definite purpose behind the planning, styling, make-up, and production of this programme. Extending to 132 pages, the contents are plentiful, easy to find and to read. It is refreshing that so much of the editorial, statistics, and imagery relate directly to the fixtures, yet some space was found to promote other aspects of GAA games development.*

*The clear, light-touch approach to graphic design and layout gives a clean space to display the varied contents. A wonderful memento and terrific value for every Meath Gael."*

We hope that people enjoy reading our publications. Thank you to all who contribute to these programmes such as Noel Coogan, Brendan Cummins, and David Rispin. Also, thanks to John Kavanagh, Paddy Kelly, Mairead Delaney, Jim Mullery, Jason Plunkett, Anne McDonnell, Brendan Cummins, and the staff in Dunganny headed up by Seamus Kenny and Tara Rowan for their unending and much appreciated help.

We would want to thank all the club and county managers for their help and patience working with us during the year. Thank you to Andy McEntee, Nick Weir, Ger Robinson, Vinny Guy, John McCarthy, and Sean Callanan for their assistance throughout the year and we wish both teams all the best for 2021 and beyond.

It has been a difficult year for all our sponsors and local business owners. We implore all Gaels to support local business and your local shops. Thanks, again for the honour of serving you as the Meath GAA County P.R.O. for 2020. It is a year that we will never forget. To all who have suffered bereavement this year, we offer our support and our condolences.

Is mise le meas,  
Ciarán Ó Floinn

**Oifigeach Caidrimh Phoiblí Coiste na Mí C.L.G.**

**Recommendations:**

1. We need to employ a Commercial Manager for the Meath GAA County Committee. The work that this person could accomplish would be a massive benefit to our county.  
All the evidence has shown across the GAA world that any committee that has one has produced a profit. We need to move forward on this idea. This has been a recommendation of years
2. That all fifty-nine GAA clubs in Meath have an active website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We can provide training and assistance with this.

## REFEREES ADMINISTRATOR

The Season for 2020 started in December 2019 with the launch of the young whistlers both hurling and Football in St Patricks classic school by our own David Gough.

The course was run in January in Dunganny over two weekends and a total of 66 boys and girls completed the course.

I would Like to Thank David Goldrick, Andrew Smith, Joseph Curran, Managers Nick Fitzgerald and Davy Nelson also to Seamus Mc Cormack and Ciaran Flynn for without their help this would not have been Possible,

Because of Covid 19 these whistlers did not get any action and hopefully starting in the new year all underage games up to under -13 will be refereed by these young whistlers .

This will be a massive help to free up the adult referees to look after adult matches.

The season had only begun until lockdown came into effect and we had nearly 4 months before action resumed.

I would like to thank all our Referees who turned out to referee for the remainder of the season and I also understand and respect the decision of the Referees who decided in the interest of their safety to step aside for the time being,

A number of leagues matches and the Football championship was completed.

The hurling competitions ran until the Finals and hopefully these can be completed before the end of the year.

Thanks to all the Referees who ran the Lines in all Championship games in both codes.

Congratulations to all Referees who Refereed finals and those who are awaiting their finals.

I would like to thank my Referees Committee for their guide and counsel to improve and recruit new Referees.

They are John Delaney, Nick Fitzgerald, Dominic Reilly , Seamus Mc Cormack and Raymond Finnegan,

Also, to my Colleagues on The CCC who have been very supportive to all Referees at all times throughout the season .

I am in the process of going through all clubs who do not have a Referee and also the clubs with Inactive Referees.

All clubs are expected to have a referee and to fully support him with Umpires and Gear.

Also, all dual clubs are expected to have a Football and Hurling Referee in their ranks.

Finally, thanks to the Meath County Board for all its help and to Tara and all the staff in Dunganny for their continued support and help.

Keep Safe and best Wishes

Frank.

## INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

The Páirc Tailteann Redevelopment Project, like every other aspect of Irish life, has been badly affected by the Covid pandemic. Early in the year we were moving to the last stage of the tender process finalising the tender documentation before going to market.

Croke Park announced in May that no funding would be available for capital projects for the year and that there should be no more expenditure on capital projects in 2020.

Management decided that in light of that directive and the hit to the finances of the County Board that there should be no further expenditure on the project without an identified source of funding. Noel Dempsey, Seamus Kenny and Liam Mulvihill were asked to see if alternative sources of funding could be found and to report back to Management. They identified a potential source of funding and, following approval from Management, an application was made for funds under the scheme.

## COACHING & GAMES DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

In what was a challenging year for everyone, I would like to commend our C&G staff for the adaptability and dedication they showed during the initial “lockdown” period from March to June. In what was a deviation from normal day to day work practices, GDA’s and GPO’s embraced their new remote working environment and upskilling themselves via a number of Continuous Personal Development Programmes delivered by Leinster and Central GAA.

During this time, over 50 Coach Education webinars were delivered in clubs with over 1200 coaches attending remotely. We also hosted 5 County specific webinars including Talent Development, Nurturing Club Cultures and Returning to Play post C19 which were very well attended by Meath club coaches.

There were also many player development initiatives such as skill challenges and many interactive activities. In June, we hosted a “Meath PE” interactive session on YouTube which garnered a huge response with approximately 700 viewers and 2500 participants from all over the World linking in. With the uncertainty around the Cúl Camp Programme, there was a need to revise the planned County Programme and unfortunately a number of clubs missed out on hosting in 2020. In June we were given the green light to proceed with this reduced programme from July 20<sup>th</sup> and once again, credit must go to all our full time staff, and the 100 coaches who delivered 35 safe and enjoyable Camps to approximately 4700 participants over 5 weeks, in line with Government and GAA guidelines. The professional and organised approach taken by our own and other County staff meant that Nationally, only one case of Covid-19 was detected at camps which was traced to an external event.

Where it was not possible to host a Cúl Camp, staff organised their own programmes in their respective clubs and although significantly reduced, 6 Club Camps were hosted during this period with 450 participants attending.

Unfortunately much of the Meath Talent Academy Programme was suspended for 2020, which I am aware has been difficult for our volunteer coaches who have put so much preparation into the development of our young players. Thank you to the coaches who maintained contact with players through virtual training sessions and activities, and hopefully things can resume in early 2021. As we moved into the Autumn, there was still some uncertainty across the Country but thankfully with Schools reopening, our staff gradually began to return to their Pre-Covid work plans. To date, we are operating at close to 95% of our previous programme and continue to engage with clubs where possible. Our Coach Education Programme will resume in December/ January, and as restrictions are lifted, our staff will be visiting clubs once again.

Finally, I would like to thank Meath and Leinster GAA for their support and commitment to our roles during what was a very unpredictable time. All 20 of our Coaching and Games staff have remained active in their roles and with the new year upon us, we are all hopeful that things can begin to return to normal.

Our Coaching staff are now playing an active supporting role in 44 clubs in the County, covering 80% of primary schools in Meath with weekly coaching and games programmes throughout the year. This amounted to over 1500 contact sessions where our staff engaged with primary schools. 35% of Games Development Personnel time is being spent supporting club coaches through the Leinster GAA TURAS Programme, with 30% designated to primary school activities. The importance of a primary school coaching curriculum cannot be understated however, it is the link between these schools and their clubs that must be maintained in order to achieve and sustain our objectives.

Coaches now play a central role in facilitating player learning through social interactions and reflection and the full-time personnel should assist in mentoring and supporting them on their journey. In 2019, our staff delivered and facilitated over 700 sessions in clubs (54% of time) offering feedback where required and ultimately enhancing the learning experience for all.

Meath GAA Talent Academies continue to be the model for coach and player development. All of our coaches recognise and adhere to the Meath GAA Long Term player Development Pathway which aims to equip our young players with the physical, technical, tactical and psychosocial skills needed to become better people in their clubs and communities in future years.

I must pay tribute to all our Academy coaches who continue to give so much of their time in pursuit of the development of our young players in the County. They are central to our Academy Programme which we hope will instill lifelong learning qualities in our young players for years to come.

Thanks to Meath County Board for their support during the year and to the many committees who are central to a successful games programme and help us deliver our initiatives in the clubs. Finally, thanks to Tara, Margaret, Ann and Mairead in the office for all their support during the year. Looking forward to a busy 2021.

Jamie Queeney  
Coaching & Games Development Manager



## COMPETITION WINNERS 2020

COMPETITION	CLUB
Senior Football Championship	Rath Tó
Intermediate Football Championship	Baile an Breacaiġhe
Junior Football Championship	Baile Iomhair
Minor Football Championship Div. 1	Domhnach Seachnaill
Senior Hurling Championship	
Intermediate Hurling Championship	
Junior Hurling Championship	
Minor Hurling Championship Div. 1	
Premier Football Championship Div. 1	Domhnach Mór/Cill Dhéagláin
Premier Football Championship Div. 2	Atha Troim
Div. 1 "A" Football League	
Div. 2 "A" Football League	
Feis Cup	
Corn na Boinne	
Tailteann Cup	
Div. 1 Hurling League	
Div. 2 Hurling League	
Premier Football Championship Div. 3	Naomh Colmcille
Premier Football Championship Div. 4	Carn na Ros
Premier Football Championship Div. 5	Sodan
Premier Football Championship Div. 6	Baile an Breacaiġhe
Premier Football Championship Div. 7	
Premier Football Championship Div. 8	
Div. 3 "A" Football League	

<b>COMPETITION</b>	<b>CLUB</b>
<b>Div. 4 "A" Football League</b>	
<b>Div. 5 "A" Football League</b>	
<b>Div. 3 Hurling League</b>	
<b>Div. 4 "A" Hurling League</b>	
<b>Div. 4 "B" Hurling League</b>	
<b>Junior 2 Hurling Championship</b>	
<b>Minor Football Championship Div. 2</b>	<b>Ó Mathúna</b>
<b>Minor Football Championship Div. 3</b>	<b>Baile an Breacaiġhe</b>
<b>Minor Football Championship Div. 4</b>	<b>Rath Coinnig/Baile Shlaine</b>
<b>Minor Football Championship Div. 5</b>	<b>Na Cloighti</b>
<b>Minor Football Championship Div. 6</b>	
<b>Minor Football Championship Div. 1 Shield</b>	<b>Damhliag-Baile an Bheileogaigh</b>
<b>Minor Football Championship Div. 2 Shield</b>	<b>Baile an Bhaitearaigh</b>
<b>Minor Football Championship Div. 3 Shield</b>	
<b>Minor Football Championship Div. 4 Shield</b>	<b>Coill Chille Maigneann</b>
<b>Minor Football Championship Div. 5 Shield</b>	<b>Gael Eithne</b>
<b>Minor Football Championship Div. 6 Shield</b>	
<b>Minor Hurling Championship Div. 2</b>	<b>Clann na nGael</b>
<b>Minor Hurling Championship Div. 3</b>	<b>Gaeil Loch Craobh/ Gaeil Colmcille</b>
<b>Minor Hurling Championship Div. 1 Shield</b>	<b>Rath Maigh Liadhain</b>
<b>Minor Hurling Championship Div. 2 Shield</b>	
<b>Minor Hurling Championship Div. 3 Shield</b>	
<b>Minor Football League Div. 1</b>	
<b>Minor Football League Div. 2</b>	
<b>Minor Football League Div. 3</b>	

<b>COMPETITION</b>	<b>CLUB</b>
<b>Minor Football League Div. 4</b>	
<b>Minor Football League Div. 5</b>	
<b>Minor Football League Div. 6</b>	
<b>U-15 Football Championship Div. 1</b>	<b>Baile Sencaill</b>
<b>U-15 Football Championship Div. 2</b>	
<b>U-15 Football Championship Div. 3</b>	
<b>U-15 Football Championship Div. 4</b>	<b>Baile an Bhaitearaigh</b>
<b>U-15 Football Championship Div. 5</b>	
<b>U-15 Football Championship Div. 6</b>	
<b>U-15 Football Championship Div. 7</b>	
<b>U-15 Premier Football Championship</b>	
<b>Minor Hurling League Div. 1</b>	
<b>Minor Hurling League Div. 2</b>	
<b>Minor Hurling League Div. 1 Shield</b>	
<b>Minor Hurling League Div. 2 Shield</b>	
<b>U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 1</b>	
<b>U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 2</b>	
<b>U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 3</b>	
<b>U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 1 Shield</b>	
<b>U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 2 Shield</b>	
<b>U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 3 Shield</b>	
<b>U-13 Football League Div. A</b>	<b>Gaeil Baile Shíomóin</b>
<b>U-13 Football League Div. B</b>	<b>Naomh Colmcille</b>
<b>U-13 Football League Div. C</b>	<b>Naomh Padraig</b>
<b>U-13 Football League Div. D</b>	<b>Baile Iomhair</b>

<b>COMPETITION</b>	<b>CLUB</b>
<b>U-13 Football League Div. E</b>	<b>Magh nEalta</b>
<b>U-13 Football League Div. F</b>	<b>Dún Samhna</b>
<b>U-13 Football League Div. G</b>	<b>Sodan</b>
<b>U-13 Football League Div. H</b>	<b>Gaeil Baile Shíomóin</b>
<b>U-13 Football League Div. I</b>	<b>Na Fianna</b>
<b>U-13 Football League Div. J</b>	<b>Gaeil Baile Shíomóin</b>
<b>U-13 Hurling League "A"</b>	
<b>U-13 Hurling League "B"</b>	<b>Na Naoimh</b>
<b>U-13 Hurling League "C"</b>	<b>Cill Teidhil</b>
<b>U-13 Hurling League "D"</b>	<b>Ó Mathúna</b>