

Minutes of County Convention 2022 held in O'Mahony's on 12/12/2022

The Chairman John Kavanagh welcomed everyone to our convention. He also welcomed people who have logged on remotely. He said we decided to send a link to Clubs because of the weather. Tomás Brady welcomed the delegates and thanked the County Board for their support of Navan O'Mahony's.

Joe O'Brien then proposed and Liam Kerrane seconded the minutes of the previous year's convention.

The secretary's report was then discussed. John Kavanagh wished Castletown the best of luck in the All Ireland semi-final. He commiserated with both Trim and Dunshaughlin on their losses in the Leinster Finals. He said he was disappointed with the lack of nominations from Clubs. T.J. Reilly spoke about the CCC. He said they got a lot of work done with the fixtures but he questioned some decisions about fixture planning and also disciplinary matters during the year. He said there was a serious incident at a game but the report had a wrong date and it could not be dealt with. The Chairman said this was a matter for the CCC and the hearings committee. T.J. asked for an explanation of what happened. Conor Tormey said he would check out the circumstances and get in touch with T.J. James Kelly spoke about Health and Wellbeing. He said that all Clubs do not have a Health and Wellbeing officer. There will be a training day in January. The Chairman complimented Frank Gallogly on getting 18 new referees this year. Brian Carberry stated there is a Club Officer training online on 19th January. The Chairman asked all Clubs to have social media accounts. He spoke about the regional competitions. He said they were very successful. John Brogan spoke about the premier competition. He said that it was an insult to his Club that they were not allowed to finish the Premier before the junior Championship started. It was very disappointing for the smaller Clubs. Ultan Fitzpatrick then thanked the secretary for her 5 years. Barney Allen congratulated the secretary on her report and said it was very informative.

The Treasurer's report was then discussed. Jim Mullery went through the report. Barney Allen asked what was wrong with the House Draw. He said all other Counties raised over €1m on their draws. He said the delegates did not have a chance to ask any questions about it during the last few years because the meetings were online. John Kavanagh said it was not a success. He said the money is ringfenced for Pairc Tailteann. We now need to move on. T.J. Reilly asked if the money for development squads for all squads or just some. The Chairman said it is for all squads but mainly for football. He said some of the money went in to get GPS systems and gym equipment. Jim Mullery congratulated Gene Smith on organising the golf classic. Oliver Harrington asked about the money from Devenish. He asked why it was not included. The Chairman said it is still owed and is in the debtors list. T.J. Reilly asked who owed the €731,000 still outstanding. The Chairman said most of it is sponsorship. He said we have an undertaking from Owen Brennan that the money will be paid. There was a delay in payment because of a fire and the main concern was for the people employed by Devenish. He said we are happy with the arrangements for payment. Jim Mullery then proposed the treasurers report and Ultan Fitzpatrick seconded it.

Chairman's Address

John Kavanagh welcomed people back to a physical convention. It is three years since we had the last convention in O'Mahony's. He congratulated the CCC on their work in getting games played. It takes a lot of time and effort to run our games programme. He spoke about the abuse of referees and urged delegates to spread the word that abuse will not be tolerated. He thanked Frank Gallogly

and his committee for their work. He asked that Clubs do not look for hearings when referees have been abused. It is time that people respected our referees.

The Chairman said it was a disappointing year for our adult County teams but the success of our minor teams will be good going forward. He thanked Andy McEntee and Nick Weir for their commitment over the last number of years. He criticized the people who jumped on the social media bandwagon and said the abuse was unacceptable. He welcomed Seoirse Bulfin and Colm O'Rourke as managers of the hurling and football teams and wished them the best of luck for the year ahead. He thanked Owen and Alice Brennan for their support and sponsorship for the last 6 years. He also thanked Glenveagh for their sponsorship. He welcomed Noel and Valerie Moran as sponsors of the football for 2023.

The Chairman spoke about our facilities in both Dunganny and Pairc Tailteann. He also spoke about Club facilities and complemented Clubs for their work on their premises and pitches. He said we now have 5 donors with the IIP and we are approved for 32. We will have some of those donors soon. He said we are looking at alternative construction methods for Pairc Tailteann. He said he will not consider large debt on Pairc Tailteann and we will not put Clubs or the County Board in financial difficulties. He spoke about the need for 3 extra pitches in Dunganny which will cost €1m approx. We also need to upgrade our lights which will cost €400,000. We have a grant of €125,000 secured for that.

The Chairman congratulated Sara Ní Chonaill on winning the All Ireland Scór na nÓg. A presentation was made to her last week. He also spoke about the Euro syndicate fundraiser and said it is still going. We will look at running a new one when this syndicate is finished. He thanked the committees who organised the Golf Classic and Race Day. He thanked the sponsors of those events. The Chairman congratulated the ladies on winning the All Ireland again in 2022 and also on winning the league. He wished them well for 2023.

The Chairman then stated that there are changes on management. He thanked the secretary on her five years and welcomed Ciaran Flynn as secretary for 2023. He also thanked the girls in the office, Tara, Olivia and Christina for all their work. He thanked the management committee for their work and said we all work for the best interest of Coiste na Mí. He thanked the Clubs and said it is a privilege to represent them. The Chairman then invited Robert Victory, Chairman of St. Mary's to speak.

Robert Victory spoke about Seamus Brady, who had an accident while doing some work on the roof of St. Mary's Clubhouse. Robert said they had insufficient insurance in place and he urged Clubs to not commit to any work without insurance. He urged Clubs to learn from their mistake. He thanked Jason Plunkett for his help and also Meath Co. Board for their help. He thanked the Clubs who have supported their fundraiser and asked Clubs to support it also.

Election of Officers

Brendan Fulham is the returning officer. There were 190 valid votes. Quota 96

The following were appointed:

Children's Officer – Michael Bennett, Development Officer – Brian Carberry, Physical Development – Jason Plunkett

Chairperson – John Kavanagh returned unopposed. Proposed by Paddy Kelly and seconded by Joseph O’Brien. John Kavanagh thanked the Clubs for their support. He said he is disappointed that more people do not get involved. He is looking forward to 2023.

Secretary – Ciaran Flynn proposed by John Kavanagh and seconded by Gene Smith. Ciaran thanked his Clubs Dunsany and Kilmessan for their support. He thanked his father Francis for his support. He said he will learn from the previous secretary. John Boyle congratulated Ciaran and said it is an honour for a small Club to have a young person as the new secretary. He said it is a big role with a lot of work. He thanked Mairead Delaney for her work for the last 5 years.

Treasurer – Gene Smith proposed by John Kavanagh and seconded by Jason Plunkett. Gene said it was a privilege to become treasurer. He said that he appreciated the support from Clubs and looks forward to working in his new role. He thanked Jim Mullery for his work.

Vice Chairperson - Paddy Kelly 104, Dudley Farrell 85. Paddy Kelly elected. Paddy thanked the Clubs who supported him. He said he is happy to be elected again. He said that he intends to run for Chairperson when John Kavanagh’s term is finished. He said we need to look at our accounts and look at ways of volunteers dealing with people who are getting paid. Dudley Farrell congratulated Paddy Kelly and thanked the Clubs who supported him. He also congratulated Gene Smith and wished him the best of luck.

Assistant Secretary – Nick Fitzgerald proposed by John Kavanagh and seconded by Brian Kelly. Nick thanked the people for their support. He said that every position should be challenged.

Assistant Treasurer – Jim Mullery proposed by John Kavanagh and seconded by Brian Carberry. Jim said it has been an honour to be treasurer for the last seven years. He thanked the Clubs and management for their work. He also thanked his Club Slane.

Coaching Officer –Martin Blake returned unopposed. Proposed by John Kavanagh and seconded by Michael Heery. Martin thanked the Clubs for their support. He also thanked Jamie Queeney who has just resigned as Games Development Manager. He wished him well in his new role with Leinster Council. He said it was great to be involved when his Club St. Brigid’s won their Championship. John Kavanagh also wished Jamie the best of luck in his new role.

Cultural Officer – Joe O’Brien elected unopposed. Proposed by John Kavanagh and seconded by Gene Smith. Joe said he is delighted to be re-elected. He thanked the Clubs for their support. He spoke about Scór which will be held in Rath Cairn on 11th February and senior Scór in Wilkinstown on 24th March. He congratulated Sara Ní Chonail. He said that we need more people to get involved.

P.R.O. – Brian Kelly proposed by John Kavanagh and seconded by Raymond Finnegan. Brian thanked his Club Seneschalstown and also Declan Kinsella who got him involved a number of years ago. He said he was secretary of the minor committee and thanked the Clubs for their support during that time. He has big shoes to fill after the previous 2 PROs. Declan Kinsella congratulated Brian and wished him the best of luck

Leinster Council – Damien Griffin and Mairéad Delaney elected. Cathal Seoighe withdrew. Mairead Delaney thanked the Clubs for their support. John Kavanagh thanked Cathal Seoighe and wished him well in his role as Chairman of his Club. Cathal congratulated Damien and Mairead and wished them well. He said it was an honour for him to be a delegate and vice chairperson of the Cultural committee in Leinster. He has been a long time on management. Damien was unavailable on the night.

Central Council Delegate – Jason Plunkett 142, Conor Tormay 42. Jason Plunkett thanked the Clubs who nominated him and voted for him. He thanked Conor for running and said competition is good. He paid tribute to Joe Gannon who stepped down as Chairperson of Clonard after 24 years. Conor Tormay congratulated Jason and thanked the Clubs who supported him.

Motions

1. Rule 7.2 (ii) T.O. 2022 Alternative penalty to non-applicable match suspensions be amended to read: That a player sent off on a straight red card in the final game in the group stage of a club championship match misses the first game in any subsequent relegation play off. Rule to be amended that relegation play off is considered the same competition. Reason: Player that receives a suspension arising from the last game in the group stage of a competition misses the next game that specific team plays in the competition he was ordered off in. That any subsequent relegation /promotion games are considered the same competition as the one that the player is ordered off in. If there are no subsequent relegation /promotion /knock out games in that competition the player serves his suspension in the first round of the following year's competition or any following rounds if the suspension is greater than one match.

Carn na Ruis

Proposed by Malachy Plunkett. Seconded by Barney Allen – Passed.

2. That Bye-law 17 be added for the Meath County Committee as follows:

Any proposals for the honorary position of President of Meath GAA must be submitted to the Secretary of the Meath Management Committee on or before 1st November in any year for consideration by them and for approval or otherwise prior to the Annual Convention.

Átha Troim

As there was no one present from Trim it was agreed to leave this until the adjourned convention.

- 3 That Bye-law 1, Meath County Committee, be amended to allow for the appointment of a fulltime secretary, subject to permission from Central Council, as per Rule 3.11(1) T.O. 2022.

Coiste na Mí

Proposed by Conor Tormey. Seconded by Declan Kilsella - Passed

4. That Bye-law 2, Meath County Committee, be amended as follows:

The Meath County Committee (Coiste Chontae na Mí) shall consist of:

(a) The officers elected/appointed in Bye-law One

(b) Hurling Development Committee Chairperson

(c) Minor Committee Chairperson

(d) Football Development Committee Chairperson

(e) County Competitions Control Committee Chairperson

- (f) One named representative from each affiliated Club
- (g) One named representative from the Meath Primary Schools' Committee
- (h) One named representative from the Meath Post-Primary Schools' Committee
- (i) One named representative from the Meath Handball Committee (where applicable)
- (j) County Referees' Administrator
- (k) Safety and Facilities Officer

In the event of the appointment of a full-time secretary, they will be entitled to sit on all Committees, except for the County Hearings Committee, but without voting rights.

As per Rule 3.18 (c) the number of voting members of the Meath County Committee shall be 82.

Coiste na Mí

Proposed by Cathal Seoighe. Seconded by Ian Reilly – Passed.

5. That Bye-law 4 (i), Meath County Committee, be amended as follows:

(i) Meath Management Committee (Coiste Bainistíochta an Mhí) which shall consist of the officers of the County Committee and the Central and Provincial Council Representatives, Meath Hurling Development Committee Chairperson, Meath Minor Committee Chairperson, Safety and Facilities Officer, Planning and Training Officer, **Football Development Committee Chairperson**, and the **County Competitions Control Committee Chairperson**.

Coiste na Mí

Proposed by Oliver Harrington and seconded by T.J. Reilly – Passed.

6. That Bye-law 4 (ii), Meath County Committee, be amended as follows:

(ii) Meath Competitions Control Committee (Coiste Rialaithe Comórtas an Mhí) shall be designated as the Competitions Control Committee for the Meath County Committee. It shall consist of a Chairperson, **Vice-Chairperson**, Secretary, a Fixtures Analyst, Referees' Administrator (who may only vote on the appointment of Referees') and a minimum of **two** other members appointed by the County Committee on the recommendation of the Meath Management Committee.

The following plenary powers and functions have been specifically delegated to the Meath CCC as per Rule 3.20 T.O. 2022:

1. Competition scheduling and arrangements for and control of all games under the jurisdiction of Meath GAA.
2. The appointments of referees and all match officials for all games under the jurisdiction of Meath GAA.
3. To allow Under 21/20, Minor or Younger Grade players of Clubs that are unable to field Under 21/20, Minor or Younger Grade teams to avail of a provision of Rule 6.8, Exception (1) (a) or (b).
4. To allow the formation of Independent Teams to play in competitions as per Rules 3.19 (n); 6.3; 6.8 T.O. 2022.

Coiste na Mí

Proposed by Paddy Watters and seconded by Declan Black – Passed

7. That Bye-law 4 (vii), Meath County Committee, be amended as follows:

(vii) Meath Coaching and Games Development Committee (Coiste Cóitseála agus Forbartha Cluichí an Mhí) which shall consist of the Coaching Officer who shall act as the Chairperson, the Games Manager who shall act as the Secretary, **Football General Manager, Academy Head Coach, a named member of the Hurling Development Committee, and a named member of the Youth Planning Committee** and a minimum of **one** other member appointed by the County Committee on the recommendation of the Meath Management Committee.

Coiste na Mí

Proposed by Malachy Plunkett and seconded by Brian Carberry – Passed

8. That Bye-law 4 (x), Meath County Committee, be amended as follows:

(x) Meath Youth Planning Committee (Coiste Pleanála Óige an Mhí) which shall consist of the County Vice-Chairperson who shall act as the Chairperson, County Children's Officer who shall act as the Secretary, **two named representatives of the Meath County Competitions Control Committee, all named members of the Meath Minor Committee (Coiste Mionúir an Mhí), all named members of the Meath Youth Committee (Coiste na nÓg an Mhí), and all**

named members of the Meath Go Games Committee (Coiste Go Games an Mhí).

Coiste na Mí

Proposed by Raymond Finnegan and seconded by Prionsius Stagg – Passed

9. That Bye-law 6, Meath County Committee, be amended as follows:

6. (i) There shall be a Meath Hurling Development Committee (Coiste na Mí Forbairt na hIománaíochta) consisting of one named representative from each affiliated club that participates in adult hurling championships together with appointed officers appointed as per Rule 3.19 T.O. 2022.

The Hurling Development Committee shall (a) Liaise with the County Committee (b) Advise the County Committee in relation to all hurling matters.

(ii) There shall be a Meath Football Development Committee (Coiste na Mí Forbairt na Peile) with appointed officers appointed as per Rule 3.19 T.O. 2022.

The Football Development Committee shall (a) Liaise with the County Committee (b) Advise the County Committee in relation to all football matters.

Coiste na Mí

Proposed by Larry Henry and seconded by Seamus Harmon – Passed

10. That Bye-law 12, Meath County Committee, be amended as follows:

Grading of Clubs and Players:

Clubs shall submit a list of top players to the Meath County Competitions Control Committee by a date designated by the Meath CCC that determines championship eligibility, in line with the stipulations set out below:

Clubs with a senior football championship team shall submit the names of the top 15 players registered in the current year who are ineligible to play in premier football competitions for second teams.

Clubs with an intermediate football team shall submit the names of top 12 players registered in the current year who are ineligible to play in premier football competitions for second teams.

Clubs with a junior football team shall submit the names of top 12 players registered in the current year who are ineligible to play in the premier football competitions for second teams.

That the top players list is superseded by the starting 15 in the opening first team football

championship game in the relevant championship grade.

The lists should include the names of at least **10** players that played a part in the last first team championship game.

The list should not include any players known to have emigrated or retired.

No player who has played any league or championship game for the Meath Senior Football team for the current year or the previous two years will be eligible to play in premier football competitions.

Where a club has a third/fourth premier football team, a second/third Top 10 player list shall also be supplied to the Meath CCC.

Clubs with multiple hurling teams shall forward a list of their Top **15** players who can only play hurling championship for their club's first team.

Where a club has a third/fourth championship hurling team, a second/third Top **10** player list shall also be supplied to the Meath CCC. Players on the second/third list shall not have played a higher grade of championship in the previous year.

Clubs/players may make an application for regrading exceptions to the Meath CCC for decision, and which may be appealed to the Meath Hearings committee in accordance with Rule 6.20 TO 2021.

These lists of players will be published online via the Meath GAA website and emailed to all club secretaries at least two weeks prior to competition(s) commencing.

Coiste na Mí

Proposed by John Brogan and seconded by Malachy Plunkett. A discussion then took place with regard to the number of named players for junior Clubs and also if it should be called a league rather than a Championship. It was suggested that the Premier is finished before the Championship proper takes place. **Peter Moore (online) proposed that Clubs with junior teams name 10 players who will be ineligible to play Premier. This was seconded by David Harford (online). The amendment was passed.**

11. That Bye-law 16 be added for the Meath County Committee as follows:

As per Rule 3.20 (i), any recommendation of the County Management Committee on a matter of Finance may not be upset save by a three-fifths majority of the members of the County Committee present, entitled to vote, and voting.

Coiste na Mí

Proposed by Conor Tormey and seconded by Oliver Harrington – Passed

Meeting was then adjourned until 9th Jan 2023. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

**- COISTE CONDAE C.L.G. -
Miontuairiscí Chruinniú – Adjourned Convention in
Dunganny – 09/01/23**

The Chairman John Kavanagh welcomed all present and wished everyone the best of luck in the year ahead.

He said we have one motion left over from Convention.

That Bye-law 17 be added as follows:

Any proposals for the honorary position of President of Meath GAA must be submitted to the Secretary of the Meath Management Committee on or before 1st November in any year for consideration by them and for approval or otherwise prior to the Annual Convention.

Atha Troim

Noel Dempsey proposed and Conor Tormey seconded.

Noel Dempsey stated that careful consideration should be given to who is proposed for president and Coisti Bainisti should be notified in advance. Barney Allen felt the motion was out of order because Clubs cannot nominate anyone for president. He felt it is only management who are authorised to do that. The Chairman stated that the Clubs can suggest a name but it will only be Coiste Bainisti who would propose a person for this honorary position.

There was no counter proposal so the motion was passed.

A.O.B:

There was no other business and the meeting was closed.