

2023



TUARASCÁIL AN RÚNAÍ



DUNGANNY
MEATH G.A.A.
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
HERITAGE. EXCELLENCE. LEGACY.

**PÁIRC
TAILTEANN**

Carán Ó Cléirín
An Rúnaí



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1. Tuarascáil an Rúnaí / Secretary Report



RÁITEAS MISIN

Is é ár misean ná bainistiú straitéiseach agus cur chun cinn a dhéanamh ar chuspóirí Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, agus ár gcluichí, áiseanna, agus bonneagar a fheabhsú go leanúnach.

Táimid tiomanta do shármhaitheas, ionchuimsitheacht, agus rannpháirtíocht an phobail a chothú laistigh dár n-eagraíocht, agus ag an am céanna ag cothú na dtraidisiún agus na luachanna saibhre atá ag na cluichí Gaelacha agus an cultúr Gaelach

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to strategically manage and advance the objectives of the Gaelic Athletic Association, ensuring continuous improvement of our games, facilities, and infrastructure.

We are committed to fostering excellence, inclusivity, and community engagement within our organisation while upholding the rich traditions and values of the Gaelic games and culture.



FÁILTE

As we gather the threads of another year of passion, commitment, and community spirit that are the hallmarks of Meath GAA, it's my privilege to present the 2023 Annual Report. This year has been a tapestry of both challenge and triumph, woven together by the unwavering dedication of our players, the strategic acumen of our coaches, and the steadfast support of our volunteers, sponsors, and the broader Meath community.

Our commitment to nurturing the skills of our players, fostering the spirit of our supporters, and strengthening the bonds of our communities has never been stronger. As we reflect on the past twelve months, we acknowledge the efforts that have contributed to the growth and success of our games across all levels. From the grassy knolls of our training grounds to the electric atmosphere of match days, the heartbeat of Meath GAA has echoed with vibrancy and vitality.

This report will navigate through the many facets of our association's activities over the year, highlighting the strides we've made in competitive achievements, player and coach development, infrastructure enhancement, and financial stewardship. Let us take a moment to appreciate the journey we've embarked on this year and set the stage for the ongoing advancement of our county's Gaelic Athletic pursuits.



SENIOR FOOTBALL



Meath team in action in the Meath v Down, Tailteann Cup Final game, in Croke Park, Dublin, County Dublin.

Back from left: Diarmuid Moriarty, Jack Flynn, Ben Wyer, Adam O'Neill, Harry Hogan, Sean Brennan, Ronan Jones, Conor Gray, Mathew Costello, Ciaran Caulfield, Cathal Hickey, Cillian O'Sullivan and Sean Coffey.

Front from left: Daithí McGowan, Padraic Harnan, Jack O'Connor, Jordan Morris, Donal Keogan, Ronan Ryan, Keith Curtis, Harry O'Higgins, Eoghan Frayne, Aaron Lynch, Michael Flood, James McEntee and Donal Lenihan.

Photo: Gerry Shanahan - www.cyberimages.net

Thank you to Colm O'Rourke, our Senior Football Team Manager, and Donal Keogan, our Team Captain, who led the team this year. Congratulations on winning the Tailteann Cup and for representing the county with distinction.

The journey of the Meath Senior Football Team in 2023 has been one of resilience. Throughout the season, the team's standing has been a testament to the commitment each player and member of the management team has made toward excellence. While we have faced our share of challenges on the pitch, these moments have only strengthened our resolve and spurred collective growth.

This year, our standing, both in league and championship, did not quite mirror the high expectations we hold for ourselves. Despite the outcomes not always swinging in our favour, the determination and skill displayed by our team have been sources of immense pride. We have seen flashes of brilliance and performances that resonate with the rich heritage of Meath football, affirming the potential that lies within our ranks.



The drive for improvement is a continuous process, one that requires an unwavering collective effort from all involved. Recognising this, we have already laid the groundwork for advancements in our training, strategy, and player development programs. The dedication of our players in training sessions, their willingness to adapt to strategic shifts, and their hunger for success have set a strong foundation for the coming seasons.

We are committed to harnessing the talent and passion of our players through enhanced coaching, data analysis, and fitness programs. Our focus is steadfast on elevating every aspect of our game—tactically, physically, and mentally. The support team and management team have been collaborating closely to ensure that our strategies on the field are innovative and that our preparations are thorough.

The loyal support of our supporters has been a source of immense encouragement for the team. We recognise that the expectations of our supporters are high, and rightfully so. Meath football has a storied tradition of excellence, and we are dedicated to honouring that legacy by pushing the boundaries of our potential.

As we look to the future, we see not just a team, but a community bound by a common goal—to raise the standard of Meath football and to achieve the levels of success that our county's rich history demands. It is with this vision that we move forward, embracing the collective effort required to forge a path to victory and excellence.

Please see the accompanying notes from Colm O'Rourke:

Report from Colm O'Rourke

To all members of the County Committee,

This was a year of change with a substantial turnover of players, a total of 42 played some type of senior football with Meath and 13 players played championship for the first time. Most of the major changes took place after the League finished. The reason was that the new management had, at that stage, been given enough time to make proper assessments of players and were able to make better judgements of their long-term potential.



The O'Byrne Cup was used extensively to try out new players and served a purpose in that regard. However, the weather conditions in January are not conducive to good football. or maybe any type of football. The night we played Longford was an obvious example.

The League itself started very well but finished with a whimper. The best performance was probably the first game in Cork and things disimproved after beating Clare in Navan. In our last five games, we only took one point which was very disappointing. Incidentally, the level of player change was advertised best by the fact that only six players who started in Cork were on the starting fifteen for the Tailteann Cup final.

The championship match against Offaly brought us to rock bottom. One of the worst performances in the first half of that game by any Meath team ever. The second-half comeback failed but at least showed that there were loads of spirit in the team which the Tailteann Cup demonstrated. That competition came at the right time. Confidence improved with each game and the weekend in Waterford bonded the team together.

The improvements showed in training and by the time the final came around it was clear that there was no comparison between the team from earlier in the year and the one in Croke Park who played with passion, skill, and typical Meath spirit. Another match which gave us all a big boost was the earlier game with Down in Parnell Park where we came from behind in the last ten minutes to win by two points. It is quite a while since Meath won six games in a row and two in Croke Park so a further boost to confidence. Nevertheless, we must also remember that we were playing teams from the third and fourth divisions, so we were entitled to win such a competition.

As the age profile of the team is very young and the sort of football played, it did give hope that we are on the right track and that there is potential for more progress next year. The enthusiasm of all players contacted to make the panel for next year is also noteworthy and the search for new talent goes on. We now must target a push for promotion as the big priority of the League. A further boost from the Tailteann Cup is that we are now guaranteed a place in the groups of four for the All-Ireland and the prospect of a big home game for Navan.



Expenditure on the team last year was quite high with three overnight stays, in Cork, Limerick, and Waterford. This year there should be no overnights apart from Donegal. All other teams in the second division are reasonably close. Medical costs will also be less than last year and overall, there will be substantial savings. In saying that crowds for home matches have been very good and it appears like that for Club football too. There does seem to be a feel-good factor in Meath presently and we must capitalise on this so spending on the Football team, so long as the team improves, is a catalyst for the County Board to increase revenue substantially.

The regional competitions have been successful, perhaps not as well attended this year, and should continue so in the future as they double as unofficial trials. Players emerged from these games either straight onto the senior panel or onto our development squad. This new initiative of having another squad working alongside the Senior panel worked well. It means that about another twenty-five players in the 20 to 24 age bracket, are getting good exposure to high-performance training while not interfering with Club matches in Spring.

Four of the secondary panel made the jump to the senior squad in the Spring and Seán Coffey was the most notable success as he played in all games after he made the change. Indeed, with another group of players underneath the U-20 squad it meant that around a hundred players were being constantly monitored, many of whom won't be ready for a couple of years.

This is a general report on the year, and I am optimistic for the year ahead as I see a new enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication to the cause. Most players are also at an age where they should improve. One of the big drawbacks in Meath football is the lack of success at U-20 or previously at U-21 level. These are the players we expect to make the jump onto the senior team and obviously, a Leinster championship at this grade would breed confidence. Nevertheless, several of this year's U-20 squad have made a significant contribution to the Tailteann Cup success and more are likely to play next year.

The same applies at the Club level and the standard of Club football and the conditioning of players does not compare with Dublin and maybe even some other neighbouring Counties. The Senior and Intermediate championships were not of a high



standard even if both finals had a good bit of quality. More competitive games might improve some teams and I would suggest that there should be play-offs between the second and third-placed teams in groups for the championship proper rather than the third-placed team going into relegation play-offs. That is much too harsh for them. In practice, a third-placed team could have three or indeed four points and could still be in relegation trouble. An extra weekend to play more games in the relevant football championship is not only justifiable but satisfies the most criteria of all, fairness.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the County Committee for their constant support and goodwill. I am sure there were plenty of times during the early part of the year when some were wondering if we knew what we were doing. There was always going to be a bit of pain in making wholesale changes to the panel, but it was always better to get it done quickly and build for the future. Yet while the results were not good, I was treated at all times with the utmost respect, and I am also quite sure that the same was true in reverse.

Next year there are some changes to the background team, a new Doctor, John Holian from Navan is a specialist in Kidneys at St Vincent's Hospital. He regards it as an honour to be involved with the Meath team and does not want anything for it. Paul Conneely from Moynalvey is the new lead Physio and Barry Horgan is taking over the Strength & Conditioning, and it makes perfect sense to have him involved given his international experience in this field. He will be assisted by Daithí McCabe. Trevor Giles is a huge addition to our coaching team.

On a personal level, I would like to wish John Kavanagh well as he decides to move out of the Chairman's office. John was always supportive, and generous, and his advice was concise and well thought out. Furthermore, a man of the highest integrity. I hope he returns to serve us all in some capacity at a future date.

Kind regards

Colm O Rourke

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for Colm's comprehensive report and the tremendous effort you have put into leading the Meath Senior Football Team this year.



Your strategic approach in managing the team amidst a significant turnover of players, and guiding them to success in the Tailteann Cup, is truly commendable.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and for instilling a renewed sense of optimism and confidence in Meath football. We are indeed fortunate to have your expertise, passion, and leadership.

RESULTS

Sun 23rd Apr 23

Leinster GAA Football
Senior Championship

	Offaly	1-11	v	0-10	Meath	
Round: Quarter-Final Venue: Glenisk O'Connor Park Referee: Seamus Mulhare						

Tailteann Cup Group 2

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Meath	3	3	0	0	62	40	6
2	Down	3	2	1	0	56	29	4
3	Tipperary	3	1	2	0	34	62	2
4	Waterford	3	0	3	0	42	63	0

Sat 13th May 23

Tailteann Cup Group 2

	Meath	1-19	v	0-11	Tipperary	
Round: Round 1 Venue: Páirc Tailteann Referee: Brendan Griffin						

Sat 20th May 23

Tailteann Cup Group 2

	Waterford	1-14	v	3-17	Meath	
Round: Round 2 Venue: Fraher Field Referee: Sean Lonergan						

Sat 3rd Jun 23

Tailteann Cup Group 2

	Meath	1-11	v	1-9	Down	
Round: Round 3 Venue: Parnell Park Referee: Fergal Kelly						



Sat 17th Jun 23

Tailteann Cup

Meath	2-23	v	0-12	Wexford	
Round: Quarter-Final Venue: Páirc Tailteann Referee: Brendan Griffin					

Sun 25th Jun 23

Tailteann Cup

Meath	2-16	v	2-14	Antrim	
Round: Semi-Final Venue: Páirc An Chrócaigh Referee: Barry Judge					

Sat 15th Jul 23

Tailteann Cup

Down	0-14	v	2-13	Meath	
Round: Final Venue: Páirc An Chrócaigh Referee: Noel Mooney					

Allianz Football League Roinn 2

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Derry	7	6	0	1	8 - 96	3 - 60	13
2	Dublin	7	6	1	0	5 - 110	7 - 74	12
3	Louth	7	4	3	0	8 - 77	4 - 87	8
4	Cork	7	3	3	1	14 - 95	6 - 83	7
5	Kildare	7	3	4	0	3 - 78	9 - 81	6
6	Meath	7	2	4	1	12 - 71	5 - 114	5
7	Clare	7	2	5	0	4 - 86	8 - 82	4
8	Limerick	7	0	6	1	4 - 73	16 - 105	1



Sun 29th Jan 23

Allianz Football League
Roinn 2

Cork	0-19	v	3-14	Meath	
Round: Round 1 Venue: Páirc Uí Chaoimh Referee: Brendan Cawley					

Sun 5th Feb 23

Allianz Football League
Roinn 2

Meath	4-8	v	0-16	Clare	
Round: Round 2 Venue: Páirc Tailteann Referee: Niall Cullen					

Sat 18th Feb 23

Allianz Football League
Roinn 2

Derry	2-15	v	1-7	Meath	
Round: Round 3 Venue: Owenbeg Referee: Liam Devenney					

Sun 26th Feb 23

Allianz Football League
Roinn 2

Meath	1-12	v	1-15	Louth	
Round: Round 4 Venue: Páirc Tailteann Referee: Joe Mc Quillan					

Sun 5th Mar 23

Allianz Football League
Roinn 2

Limerick	0-17	v	2-11	Meath	
Round: Round 5 Venue: TUS Gaelic Grounds Referee: Derek O Mahoney					

Sat 18th Mar 23

Allianz Football League
Roinn 2

Meath	1-11	v	2-19	Dublin	
Round: Round 6 Venue: Páirc Tailteann Referee: Conor Lane					

Sun 26th Mar 23

Allianz Football League
Roinn 2

Kildare	0-13	v	0-8	Meath	
Round: Round 7 Venue: Newbridge Referee: John Gilmartin					



2023 O Byrne Cup SF - Group B

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Longford	3	2	0	1	52	27	5
2	Meath	3	1	0	2	42	38	4
3	Laois	2	0	1	1	29	43	1
4	Carlow	2	0	2	0	16	31	0

Wed 4th Jan 23

2023 O Byrne Cup SF -
Group B

Carlow	1-9	v	0-16	Meath	
Round:	Round 1	Venue:	Netwatch Cullen Park	Referee:	Darragh Byrne

Sat 7th Jan 23

2023 O Byrne Cup SF -
Group B

Meath	2-10	v	0-16	Laois	
Round:	Round 2	Venue:	Páirc Tailteann	Referee:	Seamus (Shay) Farrelly

Wed 11th Jan 23

2023 O Byrne Cup SF -
Group B

Meath	1-7	v	0-10	Longford	
Round:	Round 3	Venue:	Ashbourne	Referee:	Ultan Mc Elroy



SENIOR HURLING



Meath panel, in action during the Meath v Derry, Christy Ring Cup final game in Croke Park, Dublin.

Back L - R: Adam O' Connor, Cillian Swaine, Shane Brennan, Jamie Leavy, Ciarán Lonergan, Paddy Barnwell, Pdraig O' Hanrahan, Stephen Morris, Niall McLarnon, Simon Ennis, Jack Fagan, Seán Geraghty, Mikey Cole, James Murray, Tom Shine Jr., James Toher, Philly O' Brien, Hugh Smith

Front L - R: Ger Dwane, James Kelly, Evan Fitzgerald, Mickey Burke, Dáire Shine, Martin Healy, Nicky Potterton, Jack Regan, Brendan McKeon, Charlie Ennis, Éamon Óg, David Murtagh, Joe Cole, Pa Ryan, Seán Quigley, Adam Gannon

Photo: Gerry Shanahan-www.sportinmotion.ie

The 2023 season for the Meath Senior Hurling Team has been a journey marked by exceptional achievements and collective growth. Under the astute management of Seoirse Bulfin, and the inspiring leadership of our joint captains Charlie Ennis and Jack Regan, the team has reached new heights, proudly clinching the Christy Ring Cup and emerging victorious in the National Hurling League Division 2B.

Our standing in the hurling community has been significantly restored by these triumphs. Winning the Christy Ring Cup is a testament to the skill, dedication, and hard work of every player and member of the backroom team. The success in the National Hurling League Division 2B further underlines our capabilities and the progress we have made as a unit. Both wins return us to a level where we believe Meath hurling should be.

The collective effort required for such accomplishments cannot be overstated. It has been a year where every member of the panel has stepped up, contributing immensely both on and off the field. The strategic insights of Seoirse Bulfin, combined



with the leadership and experience of some of the players like James Toher, Jack Regan, Seán Geraghty, and Shane Brennan (to name a few!) have been instrumental in forging a winning mentality within the team. Their guidance has helped in harnessing the potential of each player, creating a cohesive, and formidable force.

Thank you to my great friend and colleague Martin O'Halloran who chairs the Hurling Development Committee. His dedication to all things Gaelic games is unreal. Thank you to Colin Brennan, another man with great work ethic who loves Meath hurling. It was great working with you both again this year.

As we celebrate these milestones, we also acknowledge that the journey of improvement is continuous. The focus now shifts to building on this success, refining our skills further, and setting our sights on higher goals. The path ahead will require sustained effort, strategic planning, and an unwavering commitment to excellence – attributes that this team has demonstrated in abundance.

Report from Seoirse Bulfin

2023 was a hugely successful year for Meath Senior Hurling following the disappointment of 2022. Having participated in three official GAA competitions, the Kehoe Cup, National Hurling League 2B and Christy Ring Cup, we played sixteen games, losing three. In all, 41 players represented Meath across these three competitions, with 12 players making their competitive debut for Meath at the adult level across all three competitions.

The Kehoe Cup afforded us an opportunity to see as many of the panel as possible play competitive games, after an immense effort put in by these players in pre-season. Two of the three games we lost during the year occurred in this competition and it was notable that these losses came against teams playing a level above us. In fact, Kildare (contested the 2A final a couple of months later) and Carlow (Joe McDonagh Champions in May) only succumbed after two very entertaining battles.

We had two main aims for 2023 and they were to immediately bounce back into 2A of the NHL and to regain our Joe McDonagh status. It is with great pleasure and an immense sense of pride that I am writing this report having successfully completed both



goals. Having gone through the league unbeaten, including winning away to Sligo, Tyrone, and London, a nervy and tense final against a dogged Donegal outfit was finally secured with a late scoring salvo that saw us regain our 2A status. Throughout this league campaign, we integrated several debutants into the starting 15, perhaps the pick of these new players were Kyle Donnelly and Niall McLarnon.

So it was onto the Championship, the goal of regaining our Joe McDonagh status commenced against the previous year's Christy Ring finalists, Mayo. Buoyed by an influx of Tooreen players who had gone agonisingly close to winning an intermediate club championship two months previous, our lads showed tremendous game management to just keep Mayo at arm's length throughout. A hugely important victory given the next two games were away to London and Derry. While never quite putting London away, we paid the ultimate price when losing out late in the game. At this point, our year came down to travelling to Derry six days later, knowing we had to win, or the campaign would effectively be over with a couple of games to spare. This task was made even more difficult when we lost Damien Healy to an ACL injury in the middle of the week leading up to this game, before having a player sent off on a straight red twenty minutes into the game. However, that second-half performance was the catalyst for the remainder of the year. The work rate and scoring efficiency from the 14 remaining players meant that this win against all the odds, put us in pole position to again qualify for the Christy Ring Cup final. Winning our remaining two games, at home to Tyrone before beating Sligo away, ensured we were heading back to Croke Park and another meeting with Derry.

Saturday, June 3rd 2023, will live long in the memory when what was arguably the perfect half of hurling saw us lead by ten points at the short whistle. This almost perfect half of hurling had to be replaced with a resolute and dogged second half when Derry threw everything at us, only for Meath to hold their own and ultimately annex the title by a couple of points. That drew our year to a close having fulfilled both goals outlined at the start of the year.

From an expenditure perspective, we were acutely aware that we had to cut our cloth according to its measure after being relegated in 2022. Apart from the two trips to London, we had one overnight and that was in Derry. Being able to spend that night prior to the game together, going over our analysis for the game, as well as waking fresh the morning of the game was a hugely beneficial factor in winning what turned out to be the



most pivotal game of the year. I would like to thank the County Board for facilitating this request.

I have publicly always stated that Meath GAA are very supportive of the hurlers given that it is the second sport in the county. I would expect our expenses to rise this year as we have away games in Kerry and the Ards Peninsula. The latter, potentially being a league decider of one nature or another. It will be a hugely challenging year in 2024. Playing against the likes of Westmeath, Offaly, and Laois will mean our main aim for 2024 will be to consolidate our status in the league and championship, thus providing a platform for further development in 2025.

On a personal level, I would like to thank John Kavanagh and wish him well in his time away from the chair. John was always very balanced and amenable in any dealings I had with him, and I always found him fair and supportive. I would also like to mention Jim, Eugene, Nick, Brian, and Colin, having dealt with them regularly I found them all to be exceptionally passionate Meath GAA people who have always been very helpful in all my dealings to date. Tara, Olivia, and Eugene in Dunganny are fantastic to deal with and must be lauded for how well they keep everything ticking over. I hope all these positive interactions continue into 2024. While it is very difficult to pick out any individual over another, I could not complete this report without singling out two hugely supportive people. Ciarán Flynn and Martin O'Halloran hear from me more times daily than my wife does! They are always on the other end of the phone to advise and guide and to offer whatever support they can when requested of them. Their patience and general good humour even in trying circumstances make my job so much easier. Any request from me will be met with a measured and sensible reply and I cannot remember any time when they said NO.....initially anyway!

Thanks also to the local media, Fergal, Jimmy, Brendan, and Davy, who continue to provide a fantastic platform for Meath Gaelic Games to be broadcast and promoted far and wide.

Here's to an exciting and successful 2024 for all involved in Meath GAA.

Go raibh maith agabh

Seoirse Bulfin



In closing, a special word of thanks to Seoirse Bulfin, for their exemplary leadership and contributions. Their dedication and passion for Meath hurling have not only led to remarkable achievements this year but have also set a benchmark for future success.

RESULTS

Christy Ring Cup

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Meath	5	4	1	0	129	113	8
2	Derry	5	3	1	1	151	114	7
3	Sligo	5	3	2	0	115	131	6
4	London	5	3	2	0	145	136	6
5	Tyrone	5	1	3	1	122	128	3
6	Mayo	5	0	5	0	105	145	0



Tuarascáil an Rúnaí

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Sun 16th Apr 23

Christy Ring Cup

Meath	2-20	v	0-24	Mayo	i
Round:	Round 1	Venue:	Páirc Tailteann	Referee:	Caymon Flynn

Sun 23rd Apr 23

Christy Ring Cup

London	4-17	v	1-24	Meath	i
Round:	Round 2	Venue:	McGovern Park, Ruislip	Referee:	Tarlach Conway

Sat 29th Apr 23

Christy Ring Cup

Derry	1-19	v	1-21	Meath	i
Round:	Round 3	Venue:	Owenbeg	Referee:	Brian Keon

Sat 13th May 23

Christy Ring Cup

Meath	0-28	v	0-20	Tyrone	i
Round:	Round 4	Venue:	Páirc Tailteann	Referee:	Colum Cuning

Sat 20th May 23

Christy Ring Cup

Sligo	0-18	v	0-24	Meath	i
Round:	Round 5	Venue:	Markievicz Park	Referee:	James Clarke

Sat 3rd Jun 23

Christy Ring Cup

Derry	1-21	v	1-23	Meath	i
Round:	Final	Venue:	Páirc An Chrócaigh	Referee:	Kevin Jordan



Allianz Hurling League Roinn 2B

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Meath	5	5	0	0	129	87	10
2	Wicklow	5	3	2	0	100	84	6
3	Donegal	5	3	2	0	88	110	6
4	Tyrone	5	2	3	0	90	97	4
5	London	5	1	4	0	118	127	2
6	Sligo	5	1	4	0	85	105	2

Sat 4th Feb 23

Allianz Hurling League
 Roinn 2B

Meath	2-24	v	2-14	Wicklow	
Round: Round 1 Venue: Páirc Tailteann Referee: Conor Doyle					

Sun 12th Feb 23

Allianz Hurling League
 Roinn 2B

Sligo	1-13	v	0-22	Meath	
Round: Round 2 Venue: Markievicz Park Referee: Caymon Flynn					

Sun 19th Feb 23

Allianz Hurling League
 Roinn 2B

Meath	1-23	v	0-16	Donegal	
Round: Round 3 Venue: Páirc Tailteann Referee: Kevin Jordan					

Sat 11th Mar 23

Allianz Hurling League
 Roinn 2B

Tyrone	0-8	v	2-17	Meath	
Round: Round 4 Venue: O'Neills Healy Park, Omagh Referee: Tarlach Conway					

Sun 19th Mar 23

Allianz Hurling League
 Roinn 2B

London	2-21	v	2-22	Meath	
Round: Round 5 Venue: McGovern Park, Ruislip Referee: Caymon Flynn					



Sun 2nd Apr 23

Allianz Hurling League
 Roinn 2B

Meath 0-20 v 0-14 Donegal i

Round: Final Venue: **Avant Money Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada**
 Referee: Colm McDonald

2023 Kehoe Cup Senior Hurling

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Kildare	4	4	0	0	99	58	8
2	Carlow	4	3	1	0	105	82	6
3	Meath	4	2	2	0	86	91	4
4	Down	4	1	3	0	83	106	2
5	Wicklow	4	0	4	0	61	97	0

Thu 5th Jan 23

2023 Kehoe Cup Senior
 Hurling

Wicklow 1-11 v 0-18 Meath i

Round: Round 1 Venue: **Bray Emmets GAA Club** Referee: Brian Kearney

Sun 8th Jan 23

2023 Kehoe Cup Senior
 Hurling

Meath 2-24 v 1-16 Down i

Round: Round 2 Venue: **Dunganny 2** Referee: Matthew Redmond

Sun 22nd Jan 23

2023 Kehoe Cup Senior
 Hurling

Carlow 2-22 v 2-14 Meath i

Round: Round 4 Venue: **Netwatch Cullen Park** Referee: Owen Beehan

Sat 28th Jan 23

2023 Kehoe Cup Senior
 Hurling

Meath 0-18 v 2-24 Kildare i

Round: Round 5 Venue: **Dunganny 2** Referee: Ciaran Goff



Champions XV

October was a month of celebration for Meath GAA. The Champions 15 event in Croke Park was a resounding success, with many of our own players receiving accolades for their outstanding performances throughout the year. It was a proud moment for the county to see our players honoured on such a prestigious stage by being picked on the teams of the year. A special congratulations to Mathew Costello on winning the Tailteann Cup Player of the Year and Jack Regan on winning the Christy Ring Cup Player of the Year (for a second time!)

Tailteann Cup:

Seán Brennan (Dún Doire), Adam O'Neill (Bhulf Tón), Donal Keogan (Rath Coinnig), Padraic Harnan (Magh nAilbhe), Conor Gray (Domhnach Seachnaill), Jack Flynn (Ráth Tó), Jordan Morris (Réaltaí Dún na Rí), Mathew Costello (Domhnach Seachnaill)

Christy Ring Cup:

Seán Geraghty (Maolach/Cill Scíre), Simon Ennis (Rath Moliadhain), James Toher (Átha Troim), Jack Regan (Cill Teidhil), Éamon Óg Ó Donnchadha (Clann na nGael)





U-20 FOOTBALL



The Meath GAA U-20 Football Team's season has been one of learning, growth, and collective effort. Under the guidance of John McCartney, the team has shown significant development, both in individual player skills and team dynamics. Our standing this year, while reflective of a work in progress, holds promise for the future of Meath football.

John McCartney's role in nurturing the young talents has been pivotal. His dedication to developing these players is evident in the improvements seen on the field. The U-20 team has become a crucible for talent, shaping players who are not only skilled but also understand the ethos and spirit of Meath football.

Looking ahead, the focus remains on continuous improvement. The commitment of the players, combined with the strategic guidance of the 2024 manager Cathal Ó Bric and his coaching team, is key to elevating our standing in future competitions. This season has laid a strong foundation, and with ongoing hard work and dedication, the team is poised for greater achievements.

In closing, a heartfelt thank you to John McCartney for his unwavering commitment and insightful leadership. His contribution to the U-20 team goes beyond this season's achievements; he is shaping the future stars of Meath GAA.



2023 Eirgrid Leinster Under 20 FC - Group 1

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Laois	3	3	0	0	48	38	6
2	Meath	3	2	1	0	39	23	4
3	Longford	3	1	2	0	30	39	2
4	Carlow	3	0	3	0	26	43	0

Tue 21st Mar 23

2023 Eirgrid Leinster
Under 20 FC - Group 1

Longford	0-4	v	0-12	Meath	
Round: Round 1 Venue: Allen Park, Clonguish GAA Referee: Alan Coyne					

Tue 28th Mar 23

2023 Eirgrid Leinster
Under 20 FC - Group 1

Meath	2-11	v	0-4	Carlow	
Round: Round 2 Venue: Ashbourne Referee: Seamus (Shay) Farrelly					

Tue 4th Apr 23

2023 Eirgrid Leinster
Under 20 FC - Group 1

Laois	1-12	v	1-7	Meath	
Round: Round 3 Venue: Laois Hire O'Moore Park, Portlaoise Referee: James Foley					

Tue 11th Apr 23

2023 Eirgrid Un20 FC -
Knockout

Meath	0-8	v	1-3	Westmeath	
Round: Quarter Final Venue: Ashbourne Referee: Darragh Byrne					

Tue 18th Apr 23

2023 Eirgrid Un20 FC -
Knockout

Meath	0-10	v	0-14	Dublin	
Round: Semi Final Venue: Páirc Tailteann Referee: David Hickey					



U-20 Development Football League

No final played.

Leo Murphy Cup Group 2 - GAA U20 Football Development League

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Meath	3	2	0	1	55	30	5
2	Tyrone	3	2	0	1	47	34	5
3	Antrim	3	1	2	0	32	61	2
4	Down	3	0	3	0	35	44	0

Sat 11th Feb 23

Leo Murphy Cup Group 2
 - GAA U20 Football
 Development League

Meath	1-9	v	0-12	Tyrone	
Round: Round 1	Venue: Ashbourne	Referee: David Fedigan			

Sat 18th Feb 23

Leo Murphy Cup Group 2
 - GAA U20 Football
 Development League

Down	1-11	v	2-12	Meath	
Round: Round 2	Venue: Burren	Referee: Barry Mc Menamin			

Fri 3rd Mar 23

Leo Murphy Cup Group 2
 - GAA U20 Football
 Development League

Meath	2-19	v	0-4	Antrim	
Round: Round 3	Venue: Skryne	Referee: Ultan Mc Elroy			



U-20 HURLING



The Minor U-20 Hurling Team in Meath has seen a year of significant growth and development, a testament to the leadership of manager James Andrews. His commitment to nurturing young talent has been vital in elevating the team's performance and skill level.

Facing traditional hurling counties like Offaly, Westmeath, and Antrim this season has been instrumental in our growth. These matches against seasoned teams have provided invaluable experience and exposure, emphasizing that competing at the highest level is essential for the advancement of Meath hurling.

James Andrews' role in this developmental process has been pivotal. His focus on skill development, strategic understanding, and mental toughness has prepared our young hurlers to face tough competition, setting a strong foundation for their future in the sport.

We extend our gratitude to James Andrews for his dedication and foresight in guiding the Minor U-20 Hurling Team. His efforts are crucial in building the future of hurling in Meath, ensuring that our young players are equipped to compete and succeed at the highest levels.



Oneills.com Leinster Un 20 HC - Tier 2 Group 1

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Offaly	3	3	0	0	74	37	6
2	Westmeath	3	2	1	0	72	55	4
3	Antrim	3	1	2	0	60	52	2
4	Meath	3	0	3	0	28	90	0

Thu 6th Apr 23

Oneills.com Leinster Un
 20 HC - Tier 2 Group 1

Meath	0-9	v	2-17	Offaly	
Round: Round 2 Venue: Trim Referee: Thomas Gleeson					

Wed 12th Apr 23

Oneills.com Leinster Un
 20 HC - Tier 2 Group 1

Meath	0-9	v	6-17	Antrim	
Round: Round 1 Venue: Protection & Prosperity Darver Centre Of Excellence Referee: Kevin Brady					

Sat 15th Apr 23

Oneills.com Leinster Un
 20 HC - Tier 2 Group 1

Westmeath	5-17	v	0-10	Meath	
Round: Round 3 Venue: TEG Cusack Park, Mullingar Referee: Mark Ryan					



MINOR FOOTBALL



The journey of the Meath Minor Football Team this year, under the guidance of manager Stephen Morgan, has been a cornerstone in the ongoing development of our young players. The focus has been on nurturing their talents, instilling a strong sense of teamwork, and imbuing them with the proud traditions of Meath football.

Stephen Morgan's role in this developmental journey has been crucial. His expertise and dedication have been instrumental in enhancing the skills and understanding of the game among these young players. The progress made this season is a testament to his effective coaching and mentorship.

As we look to the future, the foundations laid by Stephen Morgan and his coaching team are invaluable. They have not only contributed to the growth of individual players but have also set a path for the continued success of Meath football at the minor level. We wish Joe Cowley well in 2024 as he takes the reins.

In recognition of his efforts, we extend our sincere gratitude to Stephen Morgan. His commitment to the development of our young players is not just shaping the present team, but also securing the future of Meath GAA.



2023 Electric Ireland Leinster MFC - Group 2

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Dublin	3	3	0	0	64	43	6
2	Meath	3	2	1	0	42	35	4
3	Louth	3	1	2	0	42	40	2
4	Westmeath	3	0	3	0	36	66	0

Wed 5th Apr 23

2023 Electric Ireland
 Leinster MFC - Group 2

Westmeath	0-10	v	2-10	Meath	
Round: Round 1 Venue: Kinnegad Referee: Kevin Williamson					

Wed 12th Apr 23

2023 Electric Ireland
 Leinster MFC - Group 2

Meath	0-11	v	2-9	Dublin	
Round: Round 2 Venue: Páirc Tailteann Referee: Enda Kelly					

Wed 26th Apr 23

2023 Electric Ireland
 Leinster MFC - Group 2

Louth	1-7	v	2-9	Meath	
Round: Round 3 Venue: DEFY Pairc Mhuire, Ardee Referee: Dan Stynes					

Tue 16th May 23

Electric Ireland Leinster
 MFC - Knockout

Wexford	1-11	v	3-14	Meath	
Round: Quarter Final Venue: Chadwicks Wexford Park Referee: Darragh Byrne					

Wed 24th May 23

Electric Ireland Leinster
 MFC - Knockout

Kildare	0-13	v	0-12	Meath	
Round: Semi Final Venue: Hawkfield Kildare C Of Excel Referee: James Foley					



MINOR HURLING



This year, the Meath Minor Hurling Team, under the capable leadership of Ger O'Neill, has made commendable strides in player development and team performance. Ger's dedication to honing the skills and fostering the growth of our young hurlers has been a cornerstone of their progress.

The team's victory in the Corn Peadar Ó Liatháin is a notable achievement. While it represents a stepping stone rather than the pinnacle of success, it is still a significant milestone that deserves recognition. This win reflects the team's hard work and determination. A narrow defeat by Kildare highlighted that the team was close to bridging the gap with the teams in the top grade. Playing games against the best will be important to our continued development.

Ger O'Neill's role in guiding the team to this achievement, and more importantly, in continuing to develop the skills and potential of our young players, cannot be overstated. His commitment to nurturing the next generation of hurlers is pivotal for the future of hurling in Meath. We wish Martin Lynch well in 2024 as he takes over the management of the team.



Electric Ireland Leinster MHC - Tier 2 Group 1

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Westmeath	2	2	0	0	48	24	4
2	Meath	2	1	1	0	36	44	2
3	Down	2	0	2	0	28	44	0

Sat 18th Mar 23

Electric Ireland Leinster
 MHC - Tier 2 Group 1

Westmeath	3-16	v	3-6	Meath	i
Round: Round 1 Venue: TEG Cusack Park, Mullingar Referee: Kyle Waters					

Sat 25th Mar 23

Electric Ireland Leinster
 MHC - Tier 2 Group 1

Meath	2-15	v	2-13	Down	i
Round: Round 2 Venue: Trim Referee: Brian Kearney					

Electric Ireland Leinster
 MHC - Knockout

Kildare	1-24	v	0-21	Meath	i
Round: Knockout Round 1 Venue: Manguard Park Pitch 1 Referee: Sean Michael Maher					

Sat 29th Apr 23

2023 Peadar O Liathain
 Cup

Meath	7-19	v	0-8	Wicklow	i
Round: Round 1 Venue: Abbotstown 3G Pitch Referee: Thaigh Morley					

Sat 6th May 23

2023 Peadar O Liathain
 Cup

Meath	1-22	v	1-9	Carlow	i
Round: Final Venue: Páirc Tailteann Referee: Rory Hanley					



Gambling in the GAA

Gambling within the GAA poses a significant challenge, affecting not just players but also the broader community. This issue, magnified among elite inter-county players, has led to various initiatives and studies to understand, and mitigate its impact.

GAA's Gambling Awareness Campaign

The GAA launched the 'Stop Before You Just Can't Stop' campaign, funded by Gambling Awareness Trust and Problem Gambling Ireland, to combat problem gambling. This initiative acknowledges research identifying athletes as a high-risk group for gambling issues.

It provides resources to help individuals recognize problem gambling behaviours and access professional support services like ProblemGambling.ie. The GAA has taken steps to decouple Gaelic Games from gambling, evidenced by their prohibition of betting firm sponsorships for competitions, teams, playing gear, or facilities since 2018.

Research on Elite GAA Players

Recent studies have shown a pervasive gambling culture among elite GAA intercounty players, with problem gambling rates significantly higher than the general population. A



study found that 79% of respondents were current gamblers, and 4.8% exhibited problem gambling levels, compared to 0.8% in the general population. All problem gamblers in the study were male, and there was a higher incidence of gambling among those who started betting before 16 years of age and those who used mobile apps for online gambling.

The Societal Impact

The harmful gambling culture within elite GAA is acknowledged by the players themselves. Some comments from the study highlight the issue, with players admitting to past gambling addiction and recognising their susceptibility due to their personalities. There is also a concern about gambling on matches within their sport.

Addressing the Issue

Changing this harmful culture involves a comprehensive approach, including athletes, their families, sports organizations, and the wider society. Evidence-based solutions like banning sports sponsorship by the gambling industry, restricting childhood access to gambling, and implementing treatment programs are essential. The GAA's leadership in banning gambling sponsorships is a significant step in prioritising health over financial interests.

This situation reflects a broader societal challenge, where powerful interests in the gambling industry can influence behaviour. It underscores the importance of continuous efforts to address gambling problems, particularly in high-risk groups like elite athletes.



New GAA Official Guide

The GAA in 2023 undertook a significant reformatting of its Official Guide, a key document for the administration and governance of the sport. This reformatting was aimed at making the guide more user-friendly and efficient for administrators and members alike.

Key Changes in the 2023 GAA Official Guide

- 1. Structure of the Guide:** The GAA Official Guide has been divided into two main parts:
 - **Part 1:** It contains the Association's fundamental aims and outlines its structure. This part remains the exclusive responsibility of the Congress.
 - **Part 2:** This section includes the playing rules, which are also under the exclusive purview of Congress.
- 2. Introduction of 'Codes':** A significant change is the creation of a section known as 'Codes', which deals with procedure and policy rules. The responsibility for these has shifted from Congress to the Central Council. This change is expected to streamline the process of implementing and amending administrative and policy rules.
- 3. Amendments and Accessibility:** Amendments to the Codes can be made at the annual Central Council meeting in March, and they can also be amended at any time of the year with the consent of Coiste Bainistí. Moreover, the Official Guide and Codes are now available online with hyperlinks, enhancing accessibility and ease of use.



4. **Inclusive Language:** The reformatting includes the adoption of gender-neutral language throughout the Official Guides and Codes, reflecting the GAA's commitment to inclusivity and modernization.

Impact on Administrators

The reformatting of the GAA Official Guide is expected to have several positive impacts on administrators:

- **Clarity and Ease of Access:** The division into distinct parts and the online availability with hyperlinks make it easier for administrators to find relevant information quickly.
- **Efficient Policy Implementation:** With the 'Codes' now under the Central Council's jurisdiction, policy and procedural changes can be made more efficiently, allowing for quicker responses to evolving needs within the sport.
- **Inclusivity:** The use of gender-neutral language ensures that the guide is more inclusive, aligning with contemporary standards and promoting equality within the organization.

Overall, these changes are a progressive step towards making the governance and administration of Gaelic games more efficient, accessible, and inclusive, reflecting the evolving nature of the sport and its community.



Coaching Structures

Revamping Meath GAA's Coaching & Games Structures

Adapting to Financial Constraints

Meath GAA, facing a reduction in funding from the Central Council, has embarked on a significant restructuring of its coaching and games development framework. This change, driven by a nationwide review of coaching and games development, involves a shift in roles, responsibilities, and funding models.

New Structural Model

1. Renamed Roles:

- The Games Manager becomes the County Head of Games, overseeing the county plan and staff management.
- The Games Development Administrator (GDA) is now the Games Development Coordinator (GDC), leading specific projects and closely working with designated clubs.
- The Games Promotion Officer (GPO) transforms into a Participation Officer (PO), focusing on child-phase participation projects in clubs.

2. Regional Approach:

- A regional model for GDCs and POs aims to offer equitable, affordable services across more clubs and schools.
- POs will provide coaching in schools and support child-phase programs in clubs.
- GDCs will engage more with clubs on structure and coach mentoring.



3. Financial and Club Impact

- **Club Contributions:** Altered based on club and school sizes, this new funding model started from October 2023, aiming to ensure quality services.
- **Club Benefits:**
 - Designated Participation Officer and Games Development Coordinator shared among clubs.
 - Continued school coaching, nursery visits, workshops, and formal coach education.
 - Support in club structure, mentoring, and assistance with club-specific projects like camps and leagues.
 - Reduced cost based on club activity and school servicing.

Conclusion

While some larger clubs may feel initially disenfranchised, this new approach by Meath GAA is a strategic response to funding challenges. It focuses on equitable distribution of resources, enhancing club engagement, and ensuring comprehensive support across all levels, aiming to benefit the broader community in the long term.



CLUBS

To the Esteemed Clubs of Meath GAA,

As we reflect on the year 2023, I thank you as the backbone of our county's Gaelic Athletic Association. This year has been remarkable in showcasing the resilience, dedication, and talent within our clubs. Our teams have displayed exceptional skill and sportsmanship across all levels, from the vibrant enthusiasm in our juvenile ranks to the fierce competitiveness in our senior divisions. The progress made in both hurling and football has been noteworthy, underscoring our commitment to nurturing local talent and strengthening our sporting community. The success of our developmental programs is evident in the improved performances, a testament to the hard work of our coaches, volunteers, and, most importantly, our players. Your unwavering support and the vibrant club culture have been instrumental in these achievements. Let us carry this momentum forward, continuing to build on our strengths and address our challenges, as we strive for even greater accomplishments in the coming year.

In a year that has witnessed remarkable athletic prowess and unyielding team spirit, it is with immense joy and admiration that we congratulate the winners of our 2023 Meath GAA Club Competitions. Your triumphs across various championships and leagues have not only brought glory to your clubs but have also significantly uplifted the standard of GAA in our county. The full list of winners is at the end of this report.

A hearty congratulations to Druim Samhraidh for clinching the Senior Football Championship, and to Rath Coinnig Cill Bhríde, and Baile Shláine for their respective victories in the Intermediate, Junior, and Junior B Football Championships. The U-19 Football Championship was impressively won by Naomh Colmcille, while Naomh Peadar Dún Bóinne showcased their prowess in both Minor Football Championship Div. 1 and Minor Hurling Championship Div. 1.

In hurling, Cill Dealga has demonstrated exceptional skill, sweeping the Senior, Intermediate, and Junior Hurling Championships. Their remarkable achievement highlights the depth of talent within the club.

To all the clubs who have emerged victorious in the across the various divisions and age grades, your victories are a testament to the commitment, teamwork, and



sportsmanship that define the spirit of GAA. These achievements not only reflect your dedication and hard work but also the support and passion of your communities. As we celebrate these successes, let us also look forward to the future, eager to build on these accomplishments and continue the legacy of excellence in Meath GAA.

Once again, congratulations to all the winners. Your achievements have made your clubs, communities, and the entire Meath GAA family immensely proud.



GO GAMES, JUVENILE, MINOR COMMITTEES

With deep appreciation, I extend my gratitude to the Go Games, Juvenile, and Minor Committees of Meath GAA for their exceptional dedication and service.

A special acknowledgement goes to Martin Kelly, Secretary of the Go Games Committee, for his pivotal role in promoting the Go Games ethos. Your remarkable work and commitment have been pivotal in promoting the Go Games ethos, an approach that continues to enrich the foundations of our youngest players' sporting experience. Meath GAA is deeply committed to building on this ethos, ensuring that our young athletes develop in an environment that emphasizes skill, participation, and enjoyment above all.

I also extend my personal thanks to Fintan Porter, Chairperson, and Adrian Madden, Secretary of the Juvenile Committee. Your leadership and management skills have greatly contributed to the success of our juvenile programs. As a former member of this committee, I can attest to the positive impact of your work. Running the U-13 competitions as a league only, without knockout games, resonates with global best practices in youth sports and is in line with the GAA Official Guide. This approach is supported by research showing that participation in organised sports can lead to better overall mental health in adolescents and is associated with higher physical activity and better health in young adulthood. It is crucial to provide children with opportunities for skill development through active and fun play, as this enhances their competence and enjoyment in sports.

Lastly, I commend Raymond Finnegan, Chairperson, and David Campbell, Secretary of the Minor Committee, for your diligent administration and professionalism. As we anticipate discussions on whether Minor should be played at U-17 or U-18, it's essential to prioritise the decoupling of minors from adult games. This approach supports greater participation and caters to the developmental needs of youth at various levels of competition, thereby combatting sports dropout. It is crucial that our decisions reflect the best interests of our young players, ensuring their growth and well-being in the sport.

Thank you all for your dedication and tireless efforts in nurturing the future of Meath GAA.



HANDBALL/ROUNDERS

GAA Handball, an integral part of the Gaelic Athletic Association's rich tradition, embodies the spirit of community, athleticism, and cultural heritage that is central to the GAA. This sport not only enhances physical fitness and skill but also fosters a sense of camaraderie and local pride, resonating with the core values of the GAA.

There is a clear need to strengthen the bond between Meath GAA and the county handball committee. A target for 2024 will be to appoint a representative for the Meath GAA County Committee to represent handball.

By building closer links with these committees, we can ensure a more cohesive and unified approach to promoting and developing handball, further enriching our sporting culture and community engagement.

GAA Rounders is a unique and engaging aspect of the Gaelic Athletic Association, often overshadowed by the more prominent sports of hurling and Gaelic football. As a fun and inclusive game, it combines elements of baseball and softball, making it accessible to a wide range of age groups and skill levels.

Promoting GAA Rounders as a recreational sport within the GAA can significantly enhance community involvement and offer a more diverse sporting experience. Emphasising Rounders in community events, local tournaments, and GAA programs can encourage greater participation, foster teamwork and social interaction, and contribute to the overall health and well-being of participants, further enriching the GAA's sporting offerings.

Again in 2024, we are actively seeking a representative to represent GAA Rounders on the County Committee.



PÁIRC TAILTEANN

The redevelopment of Páirc Tailteann started in 2015 and is marked by significant milestones including the acquisition of planning permission in 2018, and the securing of substantial funding through the LSSIF Grant, and Immigrant Investment Program. Despite challenges such as funding suspensions and inflationary pressures, the project has maintained momentum through innovative financing and community support.

The redevelopment will feature state-of-the-art facilities, including modern dressing rooms, comprehensive medical and official rooms, enhanced media facilities, and improved spectator areas with accessible seating. The focus on crowd safety, player amenities, and media engagement showcases our commitment to excellence in sports infrastructure.

The financial framework of the project is robust, underpinned by a mix of grants, council contributions, and fundraising efforts, including innovative approaches like naming rights and ticket pre-sales.

We are on track to begin major construction works in the second quarter of 2024, a testament to the diligent planning and unwavering dedication of all stakeholders involved. This redevelopment is not just a construction project; it's a renewal of our commitment to the community and the spirit of Gaelic games in Meath.

Thank you to Noel Dempsey and Seamus Kenny who are leading the Páirc Tailteann Company Limited by Guarantee. The full support for the redevelopment of Páirc Tailteann is imperative, as it aligns seamlessly with our strategic plan and vision for the future of Gaelic games in Meath.

This project is much more than a structural upgrade; it represents a significant investment in our sporting culture and community. By modernising and enhancing our facilities, we are not only improving the experience for players and spectators alike but also laying a foundation for future generations.

This redevelopment is a tangible commitment to fostering excellence in our games, supporting game development, and reinforcing our position as a leading county in the GAA community. It embodies our dedication to growth, community engagement, and the enduring spirit of Gaelic games in Meath.



DUNGANNY CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The development of three new grass pitches at the Dunganny Centre of Excellence is a pivotal enhancement to Meath GAA's infrastructure. The comprehensive plans include sophisticated site layouts, precise cut and fill measurements, and an advanced drainage system, ensuring top-quality playing fields. These new pitches are crucial for accommodating the growing participation in Gaelic games, providing more opportunities for training and matches. The expansion aligns with our strategic goals to foster talent, enhance player development, and support the increasing demand for GAA activities in the county, signifying our commitment to the future of Gaelic sports in Meath.

Thank you to Jason Plunkett who has led the project and helped me greatly in drawing down funds from the Sports Capital and GAA Infrastructure Grants. We are hopeful that the project will be completed in the springtime with the first use of the pitches in the autumn of 2024.

Signed Contract

We have an agreed and signed contract with Tony Patterson Sportsgound and Hayden Turfcare. Both organisations have proven themselves this year to be incredible at what they do. Their reputations as high-level professionals is not in doubt and they will be back in the new year to finish off the project.

Update on Sports Capital 2023

We have been actively engaged in ensuring that all the necessary prerequisites for the Sports Capital 2023 grants were met. Our application has been submitted, and we are currently awaiting feedback. The application was for Dunganny COE.



We are transitioning to LED lights for energy efficiency and sustainability. This project enhances our facility's capability to host events with superior lighting, elevating player, and spectator experiences.

We have liaised closely with the relevant authorities and have ensured that all required documentation is in order. We remain optimistic about our chances and will update the County Committee as soon as we receive any communication.

Update on GAA Infrastructure Grant:

Our application for the GAA Infrastructure Grant was successful. We held a series of meetings with the GAA's Finance Team to discuss the particulars of our proposal. We have been awarded a grant of €250,000 for the three new pitches in Dunganny.

The payment of the grant will be retrospective and on a pro-rata basis. Payments will be made to the County Committee on submission of final invoices and proof of payment.

Approval of our AIB Bank Loan

Regarding our ongoing loan negotiations with AIB, we have reached a preliminary agreement on the terms and conditions. The loan will be used for the infrastructure projects in Dunganny.

We have been working diligently to ensure that the terms are favourable and that the repayments will be sustainable for the county's finances. A formal agreement is expected to be signed soon.



COUNTY FINALS

The 2023 County Finals in Meath were a resounding success, marked by thrilling matches and a fantastic atmosphere that truly celebrated the essence of Gaelic games.

A special congratulations to Joe Cassells, All-Ireland SFC Winning Captain in 1988, who graced the Senior Football Championship final as our guest of honour. His presence added a layer of inspiration and nostalgia, reflecting the rich legacy of Meath GAA.

In the Senior Hurling Championship final, we were honoured to have Fergus Smith, a distinguished Senior Inter-County Referee, as our guest of honour. Fergus, who is courageously battling Motor Neuron Disease, exemplifies strength and dedication, and his contribution to the sport has been invaluable.

Both guests of honour significantly enhanced the spirit and prestige of the finals, making the 2023 County Finals a memorable event for all involved. It was a great honour to present the Keegan Cup this year as the Secretary of the County Committee.



STAGING OF GAMES

The successful staging of games at our county grounds, Páirc Tailteann, is a testament to the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders.

A major thank you is due to Jim Lane, the Stadium Manager, whose role as the event controller has been crucial in ensuring that all events run smoothly. He dedicates himself to ensuring that Páirc Tailteann is in top order. This was evident especially with our SFC final which showcased our grounds on TG4. A special mention to John McBride for his pitch maintenance work that keeps Páirc Tailteann and Dunganny COE to the highest standard.

At the Dunganny Centre of Excellence, we extend our gratitude to Eugene McBride, the caretaker, for maintaining the facility in top condition and hosting numerous primary and post-primary school games throughout the year. Eugene is there for all our county teams and makes sure that our grounds are available to our teams.

Additionally, our appreciation goes to Jim Cooney, our head steward, and all the stewards at both Páirc Tailteann and Dunganny, as well as our safety & facilities officer, Jason Plunkett.

A big thank you also to Peter Meehan, Declan Black, Dessie Murtagh, Denise Farrelly, Joanna Duff, and all the gate personnel for their diligent work in collecting admissions. Their combined efforts ensure the smooth operation and safety of our games, contributing significantly to the success of our events.



REGIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2023 Brady's Skoda Regional Football Championship has once again proven to be a resounding success in its second year.

I extend thanks to all the stakeholders - teams, players, referees, and competition organizers - for their commitment and enthusiasm. A special acknowledgement to Conor O'Donoghue, who has been instrumental in leading this project.

For the competition to continue thriving, it's essential that the clubs comprising the regions assume greater control, allowing the Meath GAA County Committee to step back from direct organisation.

Looking ahead, there's potential to further integrate the competition with the county's broader football framework, such as offering the four semi-finalists a place in the following year's Feis Cup, thus creating a seamless and competitive structure that benefits all involved.



CAMOGIE/LGFA

The Senior Meath Camogie team, in a display of exceptional skill and teamwork, reached the All-Ireland Intermediate final. This achievement stands as a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the spirit of camaraderie that defines this talented group of players.

Although the final victory eluded them in a closely contested replay, this does not diminish the magnitude of their accomplishment. Their journey to the final was marked by determination, resilience, and a deep commitment to excellence, qualities that resonate deeply within the team and serve as an inspiration to upcoming players in the sport.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the team and their coaching team for their remarkable performance and for proudly representing the spirit of Meath Camogie on such a prestigious platform. Their journey to the final, despite the outcome, is a remarkable achievement that has undoubtedly set a high standard for future seasons.

In 2023, the Meath Senior Ladies Football Team continued to build upon their already impressive legacy in the sport. Their performances throughout the year demonstrated not only their skill and tactical acumen on the field but also their resilience and team spirit.

The team, a blend of experienced players and emerging talent, showcased their capability to compete at the highest levels, reflecting the depth and strength of ladies' football in Meath. Unfortunately the team exited the championship at the quarter-final stage, yet all in Meath Gaelic games, hope that they will be back on top soon.



INTEGRATION

I am heartened by the growing momentum for the proposed integration of the Gaelic Athletic Association, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, and Camogie Association, as highlighted by GAA Director General Tom Ryan in his 2022 Annual Report.

This potential unification, reflecting the rapid expansion and prominence of women's sports, signals a progressive step in Gaelic games. The GAA has enjoyed close collaboration with both bodies, with initiatives like the Player Pathway, Healthy Clubs, and Cúl Camps, illustrating the positive impact of working in tandem.

However, the essence of this integration lies in the mutual agreement and satisfaction of all parties involved. Each association must be fully content with the shape, extent, and pace of change. As such, this integration cannot be perceived as a takeover by any organisation, nor can it lead to a loss of identity or compromised ambitions. The GAA, respecting the independence and unique identities of its constituents, can serve as a model for a new organisation that encompasses all Gaelic games codes.

It is crucial, however, to acknowledge that the integration of these bodies does not automatically resolve existing tensions and imbalances. These challenges are a natural part of everyday operations within each independent organisation.

Financial integration poses a complex challenge. While pooling resources could lead to greater efficiency and possibly increased sponsorship and funding opportunities, it is vital to ensure that funds are allocated fairly. Each code has its unique financial requirements, from player development to administrative costs. The integration should involve a detailed financial model that transparently allocates funds based on the needs and growth potential of each code. This model must be adaptable to the evolving landscape of Gaelic games.

Games and competition scheduling is a critical issue, particularly with the increasing popularity of all codes. Integration demands a comprehensive approach to the fixtures calendar, ensuring that no code is marginalised. This may involve staggering major competitions, optimising the use of prime seasonal times, and ensuring equal media coverage and promotion for both men's and women's games. Consideration of



player welfare is also paramount, avoiding scenarios where players are overburdened with matches.

The increased demand for facilities requires a strategic approach. This includes not only the equitable allocation of playing fields and training facilities but also considerations for upgrades to accommodate all codes. Facility management should be approached with an inclusive mindset, considering factors like location accessibility, pitch maintenance, and the need for multi-purpose facilities that can cater to various sporting events. Collaboration with local authorities and community groups could also enhance facility development and maintenance, benefiting all codes involved.

Achieving financial stability in the integrated body will require major government investment. This funding is essential not only for daily operations but also for hiring full-time personnel to efficiently manage the organisation. A robust financial structure, supported by government backing, will ensure that each code receives the necessary resources to thrive.

The goal is to create a stronger, more effective front to promote Gaelic games, aligning with the GAA's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 "Towards One GAA for All". This proposed integration is not just a structural change but a commitment to enhancing Gaelic games by embracing diversity and fostering unity while respecting each association's unique identity and independence.



SUB-COMMITTEES

I am deeply honoured to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the Sub-Committees of the Meath GAA County Committee in this Annual Report. Each committee's dedication and hard work have been instrumental in advancing our goals and supporting our community.

1. **Audit and Risk Committee:** Your meticulous oversight of financial processes and risk management has been crucial in maintaining our organisation's integrity and sustainability.
2. **Child Safeguarding Committee:** Your firm commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our young members is commendable. Your efforts provide a safe and nurturing environment for our youth to thrive.
3. **Coaching and Games Development Committee:** Your dedication to enhancing coaching quality and developing our games has significantly contributed to the growth and skill development of our players at all levels.
4. **Cultural Committee:** Your efforts in promoting Gaelic culture and heritage have been vital in preserving our rich traditions and fostering a deeper sense of community identity.
5. **Finance Sub-Committee:** Your astute financial management and strategic planning have been key in securing the financial health and future of our organisation.
6. **Fixtures Analysis Committee:** Your careful evaluation and recommendations have greatly assisted in streamlining our fixtures, ensuring fair and efficient scheduling for all.
7. **Football Development Committee:** Your strategic initiatives and programs have significantly contributed to the advancement and popularity of football within our county.
8. **Go Games Committee:** Your commitment to organising and managing these games has been essential in providing our young players with valuable playing opportunities.



9. **Health and Well-Being Committee:** Your initiatives focused on the physical and mental well-being of our members are commendable and have contributed greatly to the overall health of our community.
10. **Hearings Committee:** Your fair and impartial handling of disputes and disciplinary issues has been vital in maintaining the integrity of our competitions and fostering respect among members.
11. **History and Commemorations Committee:** Your dedication to preserving and celebrating our history has been instrumental in educating and connecting our members with their heritage.
12. **Hurling Development Committee:** Your efforts in promoting and developing hurling at all levels have been pivotal in enhancing the profile and skill level of this ancient sport in our county.
13. **Information Technology Committee:** Your work in integrating and optimising technology solutions has greatly enhanced our operational efficiency and communication capabilities.
14. **Minor Committee:** Your commitment to youth development and engagement has been essential in fostering the next generation of players and supporters.
15. **Páirc Tailteann & Dunganny Games Committee:** Your management of these facilities and games has been crucial in providing top-class venues and experiences for players and supporters alike.
16. **Planning and Training Committee:** Your strategic planning and training initiatives have been key in equipping our volunteers and staff with the skills and knowledge necessary for their roles.
17. **Post-Primary Schools' Committee:** Your collaboration with schools has been essential in promoting Gaelic games and nurturing young talent at the grassroots level.
18. **Public Relations/Marketing Committee:** Your innovative strategies in public relations and marketing have significantly raised the profile of Meath GAA and enhanced our engagement with the community.



19. **Referees' Administration Committee:** Your dedication to the recruitment, training, and support of referees has been crucial in ensuring the integrity and quality of our games.

20. **Safety and Facilities Committee:** Your focus on safety and the maintenance of our facilities ensures a secure and enjoyable environment for all our players and supporters.

21. **Supporters' Club Committee:** Your efforts in rallying support and generating enthusiasm among our fans have been invaluable in creating a vibrant and supportive atmosphere.

Each of these committees has played a unique and vital role in the success and progression of Meath GAA. Your collective efforts have not only enhanced our operations and sporting endeavours but have also strengthened the bonds within our community. On behalf of Meath GAA, I extend my deepest gratitude for your dedication, passion, and hard work.



REFEREES/DISCIPLINE

Referees and discipline are crucial aspects of our games, embodying the spirit of fair play and respect that are foundational to the ethos of Meath GAA.

Addressing the unfortunate instances of abuse directed towards referees, it is imperative to emphasise that such behaviour is wholly unacceptable and contradicts the values of our community. Practical steps must be taken to eradicate this issue, including enforcing strict penalties for offenders, and promoting a culture of respect through educational campaigns. While many stakeholders acknowledge this problem, it is vital that words are backed by decisive action and consistent enforcement of rules.

Equally important is addressing the issue of players displaying abusive behaviour towards each other on the field. Adult players must recognise their role as models for younger members and peers. They must embody the principles of sportsmanship and respect, setting a positive example for the next generation of players.

The issue of supporters abusing each other at games is also a matter of concern, as it reflects negatively on our community and Irish society at large. It is essential to remember that individual responsibility plays a key role in creating a supportive and positive environment at games. Measures such as awareness initiatives and swift action against misconduct can help foster a more respectful atmosphere.

In closing, it is crucial to extend our utmost gratitude to all referees who officiate our games. Their dedication, despite the challenges, is commendable. We encourage our referees to continually strive for excellence, improving their knowledge of the rules and maintaining high fitness levels.

Their commitment to raising standards is not only beneficial for themselves but also for the integrity and quality of our games. Their role is not merely to enforce rules but to uphold the spirit of fair play and respect that is at the heart of Gaelic games.



FUNDRAISING

In the realm of fundraising, a key pillar that supports the many activities and initiatives of Meath GAA, we have much to be thankful for. The efforts and successes in this area are a testament to the dedication and hard work of various committees and individuals who have tirelessly contributed to our cause.

I extend a wholehearted thank you to all the committees who have spearheaded our fundraising efforts. Your commitment and innovative approaches have played a crucial role in securing the necessary resources for our association.

The two major fundraisers, the Golf Classic, and the Race Day, have been standout events, reflecting the creativity and hard work of our teams. These events have not only been successful in raising funds but have also served as excellent platforms for community engagement and promoting the spirit of Meath GAA.

However, as we celebrate these successes, it is also clear that there is a need to broaden our commercial efforts. Building on the strong foundation laid by these events, we must explore new avenues and opportunities for fundraising. This expansion is crucial in ensuring the sustainability and growth of our association in the years to come. The evolving landscape of sports financing and community needs calls for innovative thinking and diversification of our fundraising strategies.

In this context, special thanks are due to Gene Smith, our County Treasurer, for his organisation of these fundraising endeavours. Thank you to Conor Tormey and Tony McEntee for their expertise on making the race day a massive success each year.

As we move forward, we are encouraged to think creatively, act boldly, and work collaboratively in our fundraising efforts. Our goal is not only to sustain but also to enhance the operations and projects of Meath GAA, ensuring we continue to thrive and make a positive impact in our community. The road ahead is filled with opportunities, and with the continued support and dedication of our committees and members, we are confident in our ability to meet and exceed our fundraising goals.



SPONSORSHIP

As we reflect on the contributions that have propelled Meath GAA forward, it is essential to extend our profound gratitude to our sponsors. Their support has been invaluable in helping us achieve our goals and sustain our various initiatives.

Firstly, a special thank you to Noel & Valerie Moran of Bective Stud, Tea Rooms, & Apartments for their generous sponsorship of our Senior, U-20, Minor, and Underage Academy Football Teams. Their commitment has been a cornerstone in the development and success of our football programs at various levels.

We are grateful to Glenveagh Homes for their support of the Senior and U-20 Hurling Teams. This partnership has been vital in providing the necessary resources and opportunities for our hurling players to excel.

Additionally, we thank WillowWarm for sponsoring the Minor Hurling Team. Their dedication to supporting youth sports is commendable and aligns perfectly with our mission to foster talent and passion for hurling at the grassroots level.

Our competition sponsors also deserve a special mention for their support and they are listed under this section. While we deeply appreciate the support we have received, there are further opportunities to expand and enhance our sponsorship relationships.

We are actively seeking a sponsor for the naming rights of the Dunganny Centre of Excellence. This presents a unique opportunity for potential sponsors to associate their brand with a state-of-the-art facility that is central to the development of Gaelic games in Meath.

We understand the value that these partnerships bring, not only to Meath GAA but also to our sponsors, in terms of brand visibility and association with the rich heritage and community spirit of Gaelic games. We are committed to working closely with our sponsors to ensure mutually beneficial relationships and to explore innovative ways to provide value.

In conclusion, our heartfelt thanks go to all our sponsors for their unwavering support. Your contributions are more than financial; they are investments in the lives of our players and the broader community. We look forward to continuing and growing these partnerships, and we warmly welcome new sponsors to join us in our journey to nurture and celebrate Gaelic games in Meath.



Senior Football Championship	Fairyhouse Steel
Intermediate Football Championship	Meade Farm Group
Junior Football Championship	Balreask Bar, Restaurant & Guest Accommodation
Junior "B" Football Championship	Coolrite
Premier Football Championship (Div. 1 – 9)	Meath Cleaning Supplies
Regional Football Championships	Brady's Skoda
A Football League Div. 1A & 1B:	Seamus Connolly Catering
A Football League Div. 2A:	PS Supplies Doors & Floors
A Football League Div. 2B:	JMB Sportsfield Services
A Football League Div. 3A & 3B:	Tommy Dowd Oil
Feis Cup	JMB Sportsfield Services
Corn na Boinne	Seamus Connolly Catering
Tailteann Cup	N2 Electrical & Security Supplies Ltd.
U-19 Football Competitions	Coolrite
Minor Football Competitions	L.M.F.M.
U-15 Football Competitions	O'Reilly & Co. Solicitors
Juvenile Football & Hurling Competitions	R.S. Awards



Senior Hurling Championship	Ted Murtagh Clothing & Footwear, Trim
Intermediate Hurling Championship	J.M. Food Services
Junior & Junior 2 Hurling Championship	K Windows and Doors
Adult Hurling Leagues	LMES Ltd.
Brendan Davis Cup	Harmon Oil
U-21 Hurling Competitions	N/A
Minor Hurling Competitions	DG Stoves & Fireplaces
U-15 Hurling Competitions	N/A
Meath County Football Teams	Bective Stud, Tea Rooms, & Apartments
Meath Senior & U-20 Hurling Teams	Glenveagh Homes
Meath Minor Hurling Team	WillowWarm
Meath GAA TV	Ideal Bathrooms
Meath County Team – Water	Carraquil
Coach SF	Brady's Cavan
SF Kit Van	Northgate Vehicle Hire
SH Kit Van	DK Motors
Milk	Glanbia
Other	The Grafton Group Callmetrics



CENTRAL COUNCIL/LEINSTER COUNCIL

Thanks to the staff of both Leinster Council and Croke Park for their help during the year. I want to particularly thank Julie Quinn, Patricia Clear, Hannah Horan, and Michael Reynolds in Leinster GAA for all their support during my first years as Secretary. Thank you to Derek Kent for his support and leadership as the Chairperson of the Leinster GAA Council.

Likewise, thank you to Teresa Rehill, Lorena Kelly, David Connellan, Bernard Smith, and Emma Tormey. Your support has been instrumental to completing the operations of Meath GAA. Thank you to our Ard Stiúrthóir Tom Ryan and Uachtarán Larry McCarthy for their leadership centrally. We wish Jarlath Burns well as he takes over the presidency next year.



PRIMARY SCHOOLS/POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The relationship between Meath GAA and the educational sector, encompassing both primary and post-primary schools, is a cornerstone of our community's sporting and cultural development. This year, we have seen significant strides in strengthening our ties with these essential sectors, a development that is crucial for the nurturing of young talent and the promotion of Gaelic games.

I would like to acknowledge the immense importance of reestablishing great relations with both the primary and post-primary sectors. This has been effectively achieved by appointing dedicated representatives from both committees. The impact of these appointments has been palpable and immensely positive.

A special word of gratitude is extended to James Battersby from Cumann na mBunscol. His contribution and commitment have been instrumental in bridging connections and fostering a strong partnership with our primary schools. Likewise, Kevin Reilly, as the Chairperson of the Post-Primary Schools' Committee, has played a pivotal role in enhancing our engagement with secondary education institutions.

Moreover, it is essential to recognise the outstanding work of Nodlag O'Neill-Forde, the secretary of Cumann na mBunscol. Her exemplary work in running the primary schools' sector has not only ensured the smooth operation of numerous initiatives but has also significantly contributed to the growth and promotion of Gaelic games at the grassroots level.

Additionally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Christine O'Brien, our Head of Games Development. Christine's efforts in recruiting a new committee of active post-primary school teachers have been crucial. Her vision and initiative in this regard, culminating in the appointment of Kevin Reilly as Chairperson, have brought renewed vigour and direction to our post-primary school engagements.

The active involvement and leadership of these individuals have been central to our success in reinvigorating our connections with the educational sector. Their dedication and passion for Gaelic games have not only enriched the sporting experience of countless young players but have also laid a strong foundation for the future of our sports in Meath.



In conclusion, the strengthened relationships with both primary and post-primary sectors are a testament to the collaborative spirit and shared vision of all parties involved. We look forward to continuing this fruitful partnership, nurturing young talent, and celebrating the rich legacy of Gaelic games in our schools and communities.



MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS

In the ever-evolving landscape of sports and community engagement, the role of media and public relations is indispensable. As we reflect on the year gone by, it is imperative to extend our gratitude to both the local and national media for their unparalleled coverage and support of Meath GAA. The visibility and reach they provide are crucial in disseminating our messages and celebrating our achievements.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Fergal Lynch, the editor of the Meath Chronicle, and his colleague, Jimmy Geoghegan, for their exceptional work in publishing the newspaper in both print and digital formats each week. Their dedication to providing comprehensive coverage of local sports has been invaluable in keeping our community informed and engaged.

Colm Corrigan, the head of sport for LMFM, deserves special recognition for the excellent radio coverage of our games. His work is not just appreciated locally but also by fans across the globe, serving as a vital link for those who cannot attend the games in person. Brendan Cummins and Mattie Kerrigan are voices synonymous with live games on the radio and their coverage this year was excellent. David Sheehan led great debates on his Sunday show on LMFM and it is a great platform for discussion on our games.

Our gratitude also extends to Declan Lynch, and everyone involved at Meath HoganStand for their diligent work in publicising our games. Their efforts ensure that our sporting events receive the attention and recognition they deserve. Declan is ever-present at our games and his photos provide so much content.

I would like to thank David Rispin and Mickey Brennan from We Are Meath for their fresh and modern approach to media coverage. Their game coverage and podcasts have brought a new dimension to how our sports are followed and discussed. The passion they show is unbelievable and the content enriches our association.

Stephen Markey with Meath Daily TV deserves recognition for his excellent video content, providing fans with an engaging visual experience of our games and events. Thank you to Brendan Boylan for his insightful blogs, and to John O'Brien for his engaging Meath GAA TV podcasts. Their contributions enrich the discourse around our sports and bring diverse perspectives to our audience. A special mention goes to Seán



Wall, who not only attends County Committee meetings but also nearly all games. His commitment and dedication to covering our activities are truly commendable.

Finally, I extend my deepest appreciation to our County PRO, Brian Kelly. His efforts throughout the year to promote Meath GAA using digital and social media have been outstanding. His skill in publishing programs and his innovative approach to media relations have been instrumental in enhancing our public profile. We wish him the very best with his 2023 programs in the GAA Mac Namee awards.

In summary, the support and dedication of all these individuals and media outlets have been pivotal in promoting the spirit and activities of Meath GAA. Their efforts have not only helped in keeping our community connected but have also played a significant role in advancing the profile of Gaelic games. For this, we are truly grateful.



MEATH GAA AWARDS

As we celebrate the achievements and contributions of various individuals and clubs within Meath GAA, it is with great pride that we discuss the award winners for this year. Each recipient has demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication, and a deep commitment to Gaelic games, making them not only deserving of these accolades but also vital contributors to the fabric of our community.

Footballer of the Year - Donal Keogan (Rath Coinnig):

Donal Keogan's recognition as the Footballer of the Year is a testament to his outstanding performances and leadership on the field. His commitment, skill, and sportsmanship have made him an exemplary figure in Meath football, inspiring both teammates and aspiring players. His play for Rathkenny and Meath this year was exceptional.

Hurler of the Year - Brendan McKeon (Cill Dealga):

Brendan McKeon's distinction as Hurler of the Year highlights his exceptional talents and contributions to hurling. His prowess on the field has been a driving force for his team and has significantly uplifted the standard of hurling in our county. Kildalkey this year were incredible. His display this year versus Kiltale was one that stood out.

Young Footballer of the Year - Adam McDonnell (Druim Samhraidh):

Adam McDonnell, as the Young Footballer of the Year, represents the bright future of Meath football. His remarkable skill, determination, and potential shine a light on the depth of talent we have in our youth ranks. Adam is a man that really enjoys his football and his enthusiasm to improve is heartening for the future.

Young Hurler of the Year - Kyle Ennis (Átha Troim):

Kyle Ennis, awarded the Young Hurler of the Year, is a beacon of promise for hurling in Meath. His dedication and exceptional performances at a young age are indicative of a bright future in the sport. The Trim man is a keen sharpshooter and will be on the scene for many years.



Referee of the Year - Andrew Smith (Domhnach Seachnail):

Andrew Smith, as the Referee of the Year, has shown commendable officiating skills and integrity. His role is crucial in upholding the standards and fairness of our games, making him a respected figure in Meath GAA. The Leinster MFC final and the Meath IFC final were two great spectacles this year. The Dunshaughlin man confidently kept the game in check while allows the players to take centre stage.

Most Improved Referee - Robert Purfield (Naomh Pádraig):

The recognition of Robert Purfield as the Most Improved Referee speaks to his dedication to personal growth and professionalism in his role. His improvement is a positive sign for the quality of officiating in our county. The St Patrick's clubman has a great family history in the GAA and it is great to see him continue to develop.

Grounds of the Year - Baile an Bhaitearaigh:

Walterstown receiving the Grounds of the Year award is a recognition of their exceptional facilities, which play a key role in providing a high-quality environment for players and fans alike. The new fencing and scoreboard are two parts that are a credit to their club. The work there is admirable and deserving of recognition.

Club of the Year - Cill Dealga:

Kildalkey, as the Club of the Year, exemplifies excellence in management, player development, and community involvement. Their success is a model for other clubs and a significant contribution to the strength of Meath GAA. The achievement of winning the SHC, IHC, and JHC has not been achieved anywhere in Ireland before. Well done to my colleague County Assistant Secretary Nick Fitzgerald for his achievements this year.

Public Relations - Beag Teach:

The Public Relations award to Bective acknowledges their outstanding efforts in promoting their club and engaging with the community. Their innovative approaches in public relations have set a high standard for others. Paula Grief and her team have kept the standards high for some many years and she is a credit to her club.



Hall of Fame - Announced at the Annual Awards Night:

The Hall of Fame inductee, to be announced at the Annual Awards Night, will undoubtedly be a person who has made a lasting impact on Meath GAA, celebrating a legacy of commitment and excellence in Gaelic games.

In conclusion, each award recipient has played a unique and vital role in the success and vibrancy of Meath GAA. Their achievements are not just personal triumphs but also reflections of the collective spirit and dedication that define our organization. We are immensely proud of their contributions and look forward to their continued impact in the years to come.



Meath Co Board chairman John Kavanagh outside Pairc Tailteann last week. Photo: John Quirke / www.quirke.ie

COUNTY CHAIRPERSON

As we reflect on the tenure of John Kavanagh as the Meath GAA County Chairperson, it is with a profound sense of gratitude and respect that we acknowledge his incredible contributions over the past four years. His departure marks the end of a significant chapter in the history of Meath GAA, one characterized by dedicated leadership, unwavering commitment, and significant progress.

His tenure as chairperson has been marked by a deep understanding of the complexities involved in leading an organization as diverse and dynamic as Meath GAA. Kavanagh navigated these challenges with a quiet yet firm resolve, preferring collaboration and consensus over conflict. This approach was not just a reflection of his personality but also a testament to his leadership philosophy – seeking the best for Meath GAA while balancing the interests of its 60 clubs.

Kavanagh's deep roots in the GAA were evident from his early days, having been actively involved in various capacities since his youth. His father, a well-known referee, introduced him to the administrative side of the games, a foundation that would serve him well in his later years. His own playing career, marked by both talent and unfortunate injuries, added a layer of empathy and understanding to his role as chairperson.



During his chairmanship, John Kavanagh demonstrated a unique ability to balance the immediate needs of the county committee with the long-term vision for Meath GAA. His tenure was characterised by a pragmatic yet progressive approach, whether dealing with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic or advancing the development of Gaelic games in the county.

On a personal note, I am immensely grateful for the mentorship and support that John Kavanagh provided me during my time as Secretary. His guidance was invaluable, and his example as a leader was inspiring. His departure leaves big shoes to fill, but also a legacy of effective leadership and genuine commitment to the betterment of Meath GAA.

In conclusion, John Kavanagh's time as County Chairperson will be remembered as a period of significant contribution and steadfast leadership. He navigated the challenges with grace, led with integrity, and always placed the interests of Meath GAA at the forefront. His impact on the organization will be felt for many years to come, and his presence at the helm will be deeply missed. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours and thank him sincerely for his extraordinary service to Meath GAA.



MODERNISING OUR ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL PRACTICES

Reflecting on our current use of the Microsoft Dynamics system, it has become increasingly clear that to align with the evolving needs of our association and its members, a shift towards a more contemporary solution is warranted. Thus, I recommend transitioning to a cloud-based Xero service. This Microsoft Dynamics system will be discontinued by the GAA on 01/10/24.

The essence of Gaelic games lies in their dynamism and community spirit, qualities that should be mirrored in our financial management systems. Xero, a cloud-based platform, offers an unparalleled ease of access. This real-time accessibility enables us to make informed decisions from any location, a significant improvement over the limitations posed by the localised nature of Microsoft Dynamics. Imagine the agility and responsiveness this could lend to our financial operations, especially during crucial times of decision-making.

Another aspect where Xero shines is its user-friendly interface. The intuitive design ensures that our staff and volunteers can adapt to it with minimal training, fostering efficiency. This is particularly important for an organisation like ours, which heavily relies on the dedication and time of its community members.

Furthermore, the integration capabilities of Xero stand out. It seamlessly connects with a plethora of other business applications, enhancing our operational connectivity and responsiveness. This integration is crucial for a thriving organisation such as ours, where diverse needs and quick adaptability are the norm.

In today's digital age, the security and reliability of financial data are paramount. Xero offers robust security features and frequent updates, ensuring that our sensitive financial information is well-protected against potential digital threats. This aspect is especially critical considering the increasing sophistication of cyber threats.

Moreover, scalability is a key factor in our choice. As our association grows, so do our needs. Xero's flexible platform can effortlessly adapt to these changing requirements, proving itself as a solution that can grow alongside Meath GAA.

Lastly, the real-time financial reporting feature of Xero is a game-changer. It allows for immediate insights into our financial status, facilitating timely and more



informed strategic decisions. This capability is invaluable for an organisation that is constantly evolving and seeking to improve its operations and services.

In conclusion, while our tradition and history are deeply valued, embracing modern solutions like Xero for our financial management will undoubtedly propel Meath GAA forward, ensuring efficiency, security, and adaptability. This transition is not just about changing a software system; it's about evolving with the times to better serve our members and the community at large.



REVIEW OF COMPETITION STRUCTURES

As the County Secretary, I am tasked with the continual evaluation and improvement of our association's operational and structural aspects. It is in this spirit that I propose a second recommendation for our annual report: the streamlining and adaptation of our competition structures, particularly at the adult level, for both hurling and football.

This proposal aims to establish a unified and efficient framework that respects the unique nature of each sport while ensuring a practical and consistent approach to scheduling and competition structure.

Reforming the Premier Football Championship:

The current iteration of the Premier Football Championship, reshaped in a post-COVID environment, inadvertently merged elements of the B Football League and the Junior B, C, and D Championships. This fusion, though well-intentioned, has resulted in fewer games for the players it aimed to benefit and added unnecessary complexity to a previously straightforward system.

My proposal is to revitalise the Premier Football Championship by ensuring it aligns more closely with its original intent and is more responsive to the needs of our players and clubs.

Inclusion in Football Leagues: A significant aspect of this reform involves including all teams in the Football Leagues, potentially creating divisions ranging from 1 to 10. This would be ready-made system that runs in many counties.

This structure would encompass 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th teams from any club willing to participate. Such inclusivity ensures that all players, regardless of their team's hierarchy within a club, have ample opportunity to compete and develop.

Football Championship Structures: For the Championship, we propose maintaining the current structures of Senior, Intermediate, Junior, and Junior B levels. However, to address the specific needs of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th teams, we need a county discussion on whether they will participate in their own respective Championships or not.

Hurling Championship Structures: There is a review ongoing at the minute with the different stakeholders and it would be ill-advised to pre-empt any possible outcomes from the review.



Streamlining Adult Championships: Our current format for adult championships in both hurling and football varies significantly, leading to complexities in scheduling and sometimes disparity in competitive opportunities. To address this, I propose a uniform structure where adult championships are organised into groups of four. This format would not only simplify the scheduling process but also ensure a fair and balanced competition environment. Each team would have a clear and equal path to progress, fostering a competitive spirit that aligns with the values of our association. Each player would be guaranteed 3 group games and 1 knockout game in each championship.

Adapting League Structures: Regarding our league competitions, the recommendation is to organise them into groups of six or eight. This structure would be dependent on the number of participating teams and would be designed to optimise the number of games and the overall competition experience. By having a flexible yet consistent framework across different group sizes, we can ensure that leagues are competitive, engaging, and fit well within the broader calendar. Each player would either play in a division of 6 with 5 home games and 5 away games. In divisions of 8, each player would play 7 group games with 1 knockout/relegation game guaranteed.

Adapting Cup Structures: For cup competitions, these should be played either on a straight knockout basis or with a backdoor in the summertime. Each player would play in 1 or 2 games minimum.

Calendar-Centric Scheduling: A crucial aspect of these recommendations is the emphasis on scaling games to fit the calendar, rather than trying to force predetermined competition structures into a calendar that does not accommodate them well.

This approach prioritises practicality and feasibility, ensuring that our competitions are not only exciting and competitive but also manageable for players, coaches, and administrators. It acknowledges the various commitments and constraints faced by our members and aims to provide a structure that is respectful of these.

Conclusion: This proposed streamlining and adaptation of competition structures for adult hurling and football championships and leagues are designed to bring about a more cohesive, fair, and practical sporting experience.

By aligning these structures, we not only simplify administration and scheduling but also reinforce the core values of equity and excellence that Meath GAA stands for.



This change is a step towards ensuring that our competitions are not just a test of skill and teamwork but also a reflection of our commitment to the well-being and development of our sports and their participants.

Each player regardless of they are playing first, or second team should be afforded a minimum standard of games.

Minimum games:

Football only -	Option A	8 league, 2 cup, and 4 championship = 14 games
	Option B	10 league, 2 cup and 4 championship = 16 games
Dual Player -	Option A	16 league, 4 cup, and 8 championship = 28 games
	Option B	20 league, 4 cup and 8 championship = 32 games
Hurling only -	Option A	8 league, 2 cup, and 4 championship = 14 games
	Option B	10 league, 2 cup and 4 championship = 16 games



SUB-COMMITTEE REFORMS

I present a recommendation focused on the restructuring of our committee systems, specifically the Competition Controls Committee (CCC) and the Finance Sub-Committee.

This proposal is inspired by a successful model implemented in Wexford, regarding the C.C.C., and the GAA Finance Manual regarding finance, aimed at reducing the workload and enhancing the effectiveness of committee operations.

C.C.C.

Issue at Hand: Currently, the workload of the C.C.C., particularly in fixture-making, has become increasingly burdensome for volunteers. This situation not only leads to inefficiencies but also risks volunteer burnout, which could impact the quality of their contributions and their ongoing engagement with our organisation.

Proposed Restructuring: To address this issue, I propose a ready-made solution from Wexford and make a subdivision of the C.C.C into two distinct yet unified wings:

Fixture-Making Wing: This wing will focus solely on the fixture-making process. It will handle the scheduling of games, considering various factors such as team availability, venue allocation, and potential clashes with other events. By concentrating exclusively on fixtures, this wing can ensure that our scheduling is as efficient and conflict-free as possible.

Disciplinary and Administrative Wing: The second wing will deal with all disciplinary actions, including player and club transfers, and other non-fixture-related issues. This separation allows for a more focused and specialized handling of disciplinary matters, ensuring fairness and consistency in our decisions.

Leadership and Organisation: Both wings of the restructured CCC will be led by a chairman and a secretary, supported by a vice-chairman and an assistant secretary. This leadership structure will provide clear guidance and oversight, ensuring that both wings operate effectively and in alignment with the overall goals and policies of Meath GAA. Overall a Chairperson and Secretary will connect both subdivisions as well.

Clear Terms of Reference and Workload Separation: It is essential that each wing has clear terms of reference, outlining their specific responsibilities and limits of authority.



This clarity will ensure a well-defined separation of workloads, allowing volunteers to focus on their area of expertise and responsibility, thereby reducing the risk of overload and enhancing overall efficiency.

Conclusion: This restructuring of the C.C.C. into two specialised wings is designed to streamline our processes, reduce volunteer workload, and improve the overall management of competitions and disciplinary matters within Meath GAA. By learning from the successes of other counties like Wexford, we can adapt and implement strategies that benefit our volunteers and, ultimately, our players and clubs. This recommendation represents a proactive step towards enhancing the organisational structure of Meath GAA, ensuring it remains effective, fair, and sustainable.

Finance Sub-Committee

It is recommended that we adopt a two-pronged structural model inspired by the successful strategies outlined in the GAA Finance Manual. This approach aims to streamline the committee's functions while effectively managing the workload of our dedicated volunteers.

Advisory and Financial Management Wing: This subdivision will focus on the day-to-day financial management of Meath GAA. Its responsibilities will include budgeting, financial planning, expense tracking, and regular financial reporting. The team will consist of essential officers and will provide critical financial oversight and guidance.

Fundraising and Commercial Income Wing: The second wing will concentrate on fundraising efforts and the generation of commercial income. This involves strategising and implementing fundraising campaigns, seeking sponsorships, and exploring new revenue streams. The team will consist of some essential officers, and others from outside experience and will provide critical income generation.

Unified Leadership: Both wings of the Finance Sub-Committee will be collectively overseen by the Treasurer, who will act as the Chairperson for the entire committee. This ensures cohesive leadership and a unified approach to the committee's overall financial responsibilities.

Dedicated Roles and Responsibilities: Each subdivision will have its own chairperson and secretary, along with other appointed members, to ensure clear terms of reference



and separation of duties. This division of labour allows for specialised focus on distinct areas, increasing efficiency and effectiveness.

Regular Collaboration and Reporting: While operating independently in their respective areas, both wings will collaborate regularly to ensure that the financial strategies and actions are aligned with the broader goals of Meath GAA. Regular reporting to the County Management Committee will ensure transparency and accountability. This will be enhanced by the new GAA accounting software Xero.

Conclusion: This proposed restructuring of the Finance Sub-Committee is designed to alleviate the workload on volunteers while enhancing the financial management and income generation capabilities of Meath GAA. By dividing the committee into two focused wings, we not only optimise our financial operations but also open avenues for innovative fundraising and commercial strategies. This approach aligns with the best practices in financial management within the GAA framework and is tailored to meet the evolving needs of our organization.



BEREAVEMENTS

As we pause to reflect upon the past year, it is with profound sadness that we acknowledge the major bereavements within the Meath GAA community.

In a community as close-knit as ours, each loss profoundly affects us all. The passing of these individuals has left an indelible void in our hearts and our organisation, and it is crucial to recognise and remember their contributions and the impact they had on our lives.

While we cannot mention everyone, we have lost this year, two individuals who were sitting members of the Meath GAA County Committee must be mentioned. Ultan Fitzpatrick, a member of the County Committee from Gaeil Colmcille, and Mena Geraghty, an Honorary President of Meath GAA from Kilbride, were pillars of our community. Their dedication to Gaelic games and their deep-seated passion for their clubs and county were evident in all their endeavours.

Each person we have lost was a unique and valued member of the Meath GAA family. They represented a diverse array of roles within our community – players, coaches, administrators, supporters, and above all, friends, and loved ones. Their commitment to the values of our organisation, their fervour for Gaelic games, and their dedication to their roles, however varied, were unmistakable.

In remembering them, we reflect not only on their accomplishments within Gaelic games but also on their personal qualities – their kindness, their zeal, their indomitable spirit, and their ability to inspire those around them. Their contributions extended beyond the pitch and meeting rooms; they were integral to their communities, touching many lives with their generosity and warmth.

As we grieve their loss, it is also an opportunity to celebrate their lives and the lasting impressions they have made on Meath GAA. Their legacy will endure in the clubs they represented, the players they mentored, and the many lives they influenced.

To the families and friends of those we have lost, we extend our deepest sympathies. We share in your sorrow and stand with you in remembering and honouring your loved ones. Their memories will forever be cherished in our hearts and in the spirit of the games they so dearly loved.



Let us take a moment to remember the happy memories we have of these individuals. We are committed to carrying forward the lessons they taught us and the enthusiasm they had for Gaelic games. Though they are no longer with us, their memory will never be forgotten. Their spirit will continue to inspire and guide us as we move forward in the spirit of camaraderie, unity, and sportsmanship that epitomises Meath GAA.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha uaisle.



CONCLUSION

As we draw this annual report to a close, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the fellow officers of the County Management Committee for their commitment and exceptional service to Meath GAA. Your collective efforts and dedication have been instrumental in advancing our goals and upholding the proud traditions of Meath GAA.

A special thank you to John Kavanagh and Gene Smith who I have closely worked with all year. We have continued to build and improve our teamwork with a view to continuing to improve the operations of Meath GAA. I extend my best wishes to the incoming Management Committee for 2024. May your tenure be marked by success, collaboration, and continued growth for our beloved association.

A special acknowledgment goes to Tara Rowan, our Senior Administrator, for her administrative work in the County Office in Dunganny. Her proficiency and dedication have been key to our smooth operations. I also thank Christina Buckley and Olivia Cussen for their support and assistance in helping Tara with her duties.

To the liaison officers for all the county teams, your contributions in facilitating team operations this year have been invaluable. Your hard work behind the scenes ensures our teams can perform at their best. I express my gratitude to Paul Garrigan, our Football Academy Head Coach, and Barry Horgan, Head of Football Athletic Development, for their close collaboration and support. Your expertise and commitment to developing our players are deeply appreciated.

A personal note of thanks goes to my GAA clubs, Dunsany and Kilmessan, for their constant support in my multifaceted roles in the GAA as a player, coach, referee, and administrator. Your support has been a cornerstone of my journey in the GAA.

To my girlfriend Rachel Coyne, thank you for your support and encouragement in all my endeavours. Your understanding and patience have been a source of strength and motivation. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to my parents, Ann and Francis Flynn, for their guidance.

Finally, I thank everyone in the Meath GAA community for their support and encouragement. Your passion and dedication to the game are what make Meath GAA



truly special. Here's to a future filled with continued collaboration, success, and the unwavering spirit of Gaelic games.

Coiste Bainistíochta an Mhí C.L.G.
Meath GAA Management Committee

Role	Name	Club
Chairperson	John Kavanagh	Naomh Ultan
Vice-Chairperson	Paddy Kelly	Cill Teidhil
Secretary	Ciarán Flynn	Dún Samhna
Assistant Secretary	Nick Fitzgerald	Cill Dealga
Treasurer	Gene Smith	An Obair
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Mullery	Baile Shláine
Coaching Officer	Martin Blake	Naomh Bríd
Irish Cultural Officer	Joseph O'Brien	An Scrín
Public Relations Officer	Brian Kelly	Baile Sencaill
Leinster Council Representative	Damien Griffin	Na Fianna
Leinster Council Representative	Mairead Delaney	Domhnach Seachnaill
Central Council Representative / Safety and Facilities Officer	Jason Plunkett	Cluain Íoraird
Children's Officer	Michael Bennett	Ó Mathúna
Planning and Training Officer	Brian Carberry	Naomh Uinsíonn
Hurling Development Committee Chairperson	Martin O'Halloran	Rath Moliadhain
Minor Committee Chairperson	Ray Finnegan	Naomh Ultain
Football Development Committee Chairperson	Conor O'Donoghue	Naomh Peadar Dún Bóinne
County Competitions Control Committee Chairperson	John Daly	Baile an Bhaitearaigh



2. Competitions Control Committee

2023 kicked off with the usual anxiousness by our clubs to get the show on the road and start playing games even though the weather and other factors stalled our initial cup competitions until the league kicked off.

As usual for the CCC it's a busy start to the year with many inter club transfers and permission to play requests submitted, along with intense work on reviewing, arranging, re-arranging and finally putting together a calendar to put together to be discussed, changed, and ratified by the county committee.

The Cup competitions that were sought after games at the start of the year did not get to the finish line, weather and player availability stood in their way, however the leagues and premier competitions for the most part ran successfully.

I congratulate Kildalkey GAA Club on their unique success across the championship and Cup competitions, keep up the tremendous work, well done to all involved.

The fixture dates being released well in advance of time proved a very welcome piece of work, giving clubs and teams ample notice and preparation time ahead of their games.

The appointment of referees to all our games and working with the numbers of referee's we have is indeed a tough ask, but much credit goes to Dudley Farrell and Denise Farrelly and the referees committee for their meticulous attention to detail in their appointments to our games this year. The shortage of referees is a huge issue for the county, it is imperative that clubs discuss this at your club level and do your level best to seek potential referees from your club for 2024.

A report such as this cannot pass without mentioning discipline or lack thereof at our games, the number of incidents that come to the attention of the CCC is increasing at a very concerning rate, it's up to you as our clubs to bring to the attention of your players, mentors, members and supporters your code of conduct and the expected behaviour by all and in particular towards our referee's.

Many thanks to our club secretaries, executive committees and many volunteers 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 so well. To the county committee, and in particular John Kavanagh whom I send every good wish to in the future, thank you for your support and guidance throughout the year.



Congratulations to the Christy Ring and Tailteann Cup winning teams of 2023, wishing you every success as you strive, build and work hard for 2024.

The final whistle is fast approaching on 2023 and the jerseys are almost dry and put away for another season. The U20 football, U21 hurling and the regional competition will round off another successful year.

Countless games were played on all our pitches across all codes, grades and levels, it takes a huge amount of enthusiasm, innovation and continuous effort to from all of us volunteers to get these games played and off the ground. Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank my fellow colleagues on the CCC, in particular John Daly our chairman, and all our team, your dedication, teamwork, commitment and unwavering support to the GAA holds no bounds. In conclusion I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for another great year of memorable clashes and sporting fixtures in 2024!

Is mise le meas,
Niamh Uí Riagáin,
Rúnaí CCC an Mhí

Discipline Secretary's Report

I wish to thank my fellow CCC members for their support and patience in my first year in the role as well as the Club Secretaries, Hearings Committee, Tara and the Administration staff, and particularly the referees who continue to perform a most vital function delivering fairness and consistency sometimes under the most difficult of circumstances.

An overview of the year will show of a total of 186 straight red card dismissals that 10 clubs had none and that the three clubs with the worst records had 10, 11, and 12 respectively. The most common category for dismissal was a 3(i) offence; Striking or attempting to strike with minimal force, accounting for over 30% of all dismissals. It must be said that most matches pass off with little or no disciplinary issues.

Regrettably the abuse of our Referees, Umpires, Linespersons, and Sideline Officials is still evident and while not widespread the instances that have been reported have been addressed in line with Annual Congress' policy regarding the abuse of officials. The doubling of suspensions involving abuse of officials by coaches and mentors at



underage matches has been applied on a few occasions with fines ranging from €200 to €1000 also being imposed on clubs based on the gravity of the offence by the coach, mentor, or member. In considering the gravity of any of these issues the content, nature and duration of this abuse reported by the referee as well as the age group involved are some of the issues weighed up in evaluating the gravity of each offence.

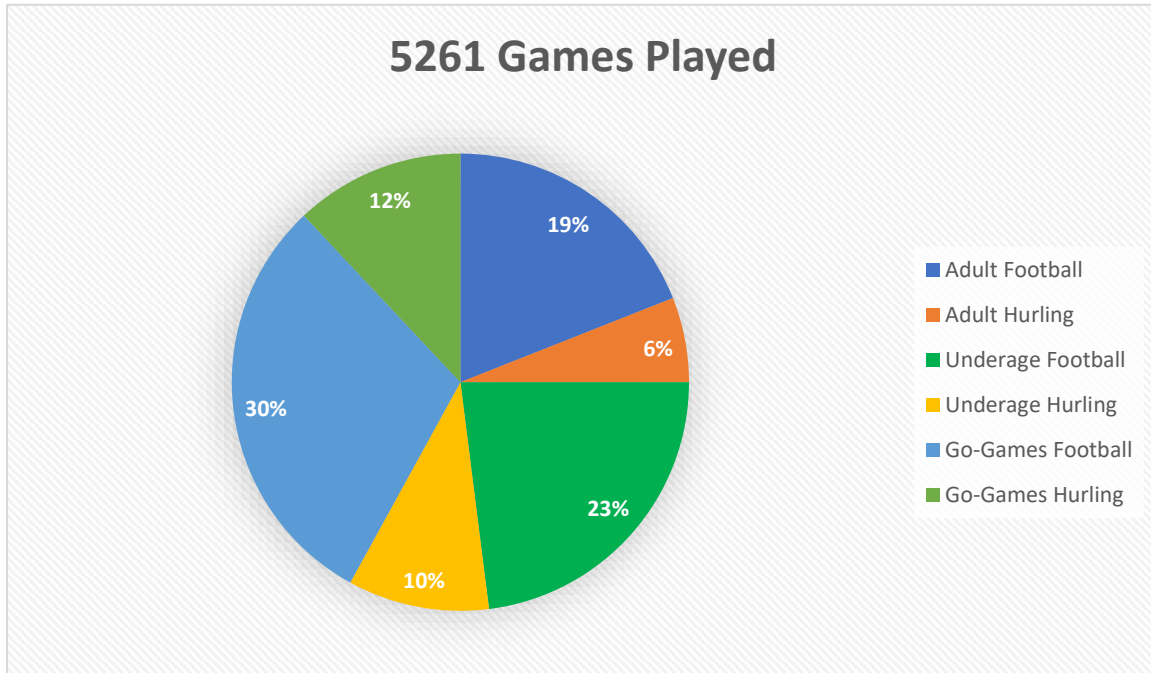


3. Fixtures Analysis Committee

Fixture Analyst Report 2023.

The objective of the Meath CCC in 2023 was to ensure the provision of an optimum programme of GAA fixtures and competitions in a planned and organized Master fixtures calendar so that all players and officials have the opportunity to play and enjoy Gaelic games in accordance with national guidelines.

Games played in 2023.



<i>Year</i>	<i>Adult Football/Hurling</i>		<i>Underage Football/Hurling</i>		<i>Go-Games Football/Hurling</i>		<i>Total games played</i>
2022	1021	347	1357	452	728	336	4241
2023	1013	301	1238	501	1552	656	5261

As can be seen from the above charts there will be approximately 5261 games played in 2023 which is an increase of 19% of pre-covid activity. This increase is mainly due to the tremendous work that is being done at go-games and underage level, which now accounts for approximately 75% of all GAA activity. Participation in underage hurling continues to show significant growth with 32 teams now participating at u13 level including new teams from North and East Meath. Well done to Coiste Go Games for promoting dual code participation as well as those clubs that facilitate dual code nurseries. The Minor board are to be congratulated for organizing and running the under 17 football



and hurling 7 aside competitions which has been a major mid-season attraction for the past two years for players not exam tied.

Adult Competitions.

<i>Competition</i>	<i>No of Teams</i>	<i>Games Played</i>	<i>Walkovers</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
Football				
<i>Feis Cup</i>	15	24	1	Moynalvey and St Pauls did not field.
<i>Corn na Boinne</i>	18	27		15% walkover rate in reserve cups.
<i>Tailteann Cup</i>	10	15		
<i>Tailteann Shield</i>	9	11		
<i>Reserve D1</i>	16	27	4	
<i>Reserve D2</i>	16	27	10	
<i>Reserve D3</i>	9	11	7	
<i>League Div 1A</i>	12	68	3	All divisions completed before champ start.
<i>Div 1B</i>	12	68		Finished on time despite losing 3 dates
<i>Div 2A</i>	12	68	2	due to weather
<i>Div 2B</i>	10	46	2	Lower divisions get less games.
<i>Div 3A</i>	10	46	7	Walkover rate of 5% vs 3% in 2022
<i>Div 3B</i>	8	29	2	
<i>Premier Div 1- 9</i>	65	221	31	Less walkovers than old junior B at 14%.
				Too many 1 st team players being used.
<i>Reserve Div 1-3</i>	41	73	30	Knockout comp- 40% walkover rate.
<i>Senior Champ</i>	16	38		
<i>Inter</i>	16	42		No issues other than DRA case for teams
<i>Junior</i>	10	28		Level on points. Completed as per calendar



Tuarascáil an Rúnaí
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<i>Junior B</i>	8	30		.
<i>Post Season</i>				
<i>Under 19 F</i>	42	83		Round robin v knock out, weather
<i>Regional F</i>	8	15		dependent.
Totals	324	1013	99	(9.7% walkover rate in football)
Hurling				
<i>Davis cup</i>	13	12	1	Prioritized leagues due to weather- so
<i>Billy Byrne</i>	12	10	3	completed after championship.
<i>Donal O Loinsigh</i>	12	8	1	
<i>League Div 1</i>	8	29	1	All games as per calendar
<i>Div 2</i>	8	29	3	
<i>Div 3</i>	8	29	3	11% walkover rate mostly from 2nd
<i>Div 4</i>	7	22	3	teams.
<i>Div 5</i>	4	12	3	
<i>Senior Champ</i>	12	35		All games as per calendar.
<i>Inter</i>	12	35	4	
<i>Junior</i>	6	17	1	
<i>Junior 2</i>	4	12	0	
<i>Under 21</i>	18	48		
Totals	124	308	23	(7% walkover rate in hurling)

1314 games have been played so far in 2023 at adult level, accounting for 25% of the total. Prior to the pandemic, approximately 1100 games would be played in 12-month period. All competitions finished on time as per fixtures calendar.

On the negative side 122 games in both hurling and football were conceded to walkovers, accounting for 9% of adult activity. 11 teams also withdrew from Premier cup competitions for a variety of reasons. Walk-overs were mostly conceded in the reserve football cups but there were also 4 walk-overs in the intermediate hurling championship. Rural GAA clubs in particular were



subject to unprecedented emigration in 2023, which had a major impact on the fielding of 2nd and 3rd teams. It is no coincidence that a number of clubs involved in relegation battles lost a number of key players to emigration.

The inclusion of the regional football competition has been received very favorably by players and officials from intermediate and junior clubs. It gives every player a pathway to playing at a higher level and from the inaugural competition in 2022, 6 players progressed to the county senior and development squads. Weather and facility dependent, this competition in 2023 will be played on a home/away/neutral venue basis, which should lead to more excitement and the potential for greater attendance.

In 2023, Meath CCC has introduced the under 19 football championship as a post season competition played on a league basis. This competition should help bridge the gap between minor and adult football. Patrons frequently ask why the under 19 football and under 21 hurling are played post season as these are 2 important competitions for nurturing future talent. Unfortunately, there is no room in the current congested fixtures calendar to accommodate these competitions mid-season. There is also the fact that under 19 football is coupled with minor and that there are a number of combined teams competing in both.

A welcome addition in 2023 was the publication for the 1st time by Meath CCC of actual fixtures with dates, venues and times for all league and championship games prior to the start of each competition. This was very well received by players, officials and supporters.

Adult Game Provision/National guidelines.

Meath CCC are complying in as far as possible with national guidelines in relation to the provision of football and hurling competitions. Adult players are required to be provided with the following number of meaningful competitive games during the season.

- a. Strong Code – 16 b. Weak Code – 8 c. Dual Code-12- (In each Code

County	Football		Hurling	
	Games per Player		Games per Player	
	1st Team	Reserve	1st Team	Reserve
Meath	18	14	15	12
Dublin	18	18	14	14
Kildare	18	14	11	7
Wexford	15	10	15	10
Westmeath	14	9	12	7



Kerry	15	11	7	5
Galway	14	12	16	12

As can be seen from the above 1st team and dual players in Meath are well catered for and exceed national game time guidelines. Players in lower divisions and Reserve team players are disadvantaged due to lower number of teams, in particular league divisions. This situation can be addressed by participation in Premier championship and cup competitions. In relation to player welfare, Meath CCC is committed to alleviate any fixture clashes particularly for dual players through collaboration with football and hurling boards ensuring conflicts do not occur to the detriment of both codes.

Emerging Issues.

- Maintaining participation rates as players progress from juvenile to adult particularly in large urban areas.
- Number of rural clubs unable to field 2nd teams due to player shortage.
- Emigration from all clubs in 2023.
- Too many competitions for allotted time.
- Players attached to county panels only representing their clubs in championship competition.
- Recruitment/training/respect for and retention of referees.
- Social media/verbal/physical abuse of players/officials and referees
- Proposed integration of GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association to form a single association based on the principle of equality.
- Too many matches at inter-county level leaving players returning to competitive club action carrying injuries and fatigued.
- Lack of female referees.
- Unavailability of traditional pitches in early and late season due to climate issues.

Conclusion.

In 2023, all club competitions in Meath were finished in a timely fashion as per Master Fixtures Calendar even though three weekends were rained off. The yearly calendar is always difficult when trying to squeeze a very busy schedule into the shortest possible time frame. Competitions in 2024 will be run similarly to 2023 with pre-season competitions followed by league and championships.

Meath CCC and Fixture planners are continuously working towards the provision of an adequate number of meaningful games on a regular basis to comply with national guidelines as issued by Croke Park. The aim of the CCC Fixtures Planners is to streamline fixtures at all levels to enhance the attractiveness of playing GAA and to produce a Master Fixtures Planner prior to season



commencement, so that players and officials know in advance when they are playing and can plan accordingly.

Ollie Keegan



4. Hearings Committee

Coiste Éisteachta an Mhí C.L.G. dealt with 49 cases.

Transfers	16
Permission to Play	2
Club Fines	4
Adult Football	12
Adult Hurling	8
Under Football	6
Under Hurling	0
DRA Cases	1

Le meas,

Proinsias Ó Floinn

Rúnaí Coiste Éisteachta an Mhí C.L.G.

Coiste Éisteachta an Mhí C.L.G.

Meath GAA Hearings Committee

Role	Name	Club
Chairperson	Pat O'Reilly	Gaeil Baile Shiomóin
Secretary	Francis Flynn	Baile Sencaill
Committee Members	Andy Fahy	Rath Tó
	Francis Lynch	Cill Teidhil
	Liam Kerrane	Ó Mathúna
	Brian Rennick	Dún Doire
	Brendan Lynch	Magh nEalta
	Gerry Giblin	Domhnach Mór Cill Dhéagláin
	Michael Mullaly	Gaeil Bhláth Gall



5. Safety and Facilities Committee

The role of the Safety and Facilities Officer is to provide advice and support to the Clubs of the County and the County Committee on best practice in several key areas including Ground Health & Safety, Control of Property, Insurance and the development of Grounds and Facilities'.

The key areas identified that the Safety and Facilities Officer and the Safety and Facilities Committee have responsibility for to give advice and aid clubs and the county committee were:

- a. Facilities & Infrastructure (advice and assistance to clubs on grounds and facility developments, loan application and approval process, grant applications)
- b. Property (advice and assistance on Trustee's and promote the GAA Corporate Trustee model for clubs)
- c. Insurance (advise and assist clubs on insurance required for infrastructure works)
- d. Sustainability
- e. Health & Safety

As Safety and Facilities Officer, I act as chairperson for the County Safety and Facilities Committee and liaise with the relevant personnel at Provincial Level, Central Level and with GAA Staff in Croke Park for advice, assistance and to implement various actions relating to the above areas of responsibility.

The main are of work in 2023 was in the Dunganny COE project of 3 grass pitches to be constructed under the guidance of the committee of Jason Plunkett, Ciarán Flynn, Paddy Kelly, Jim Lane, John Mc Bride, and Gene Smith. We contacted various pitch specialists to advise us in the task of construction and tendering for the project.

Hayden Turfcare was successful in being our advisor for the project in which sports capital grant of €256.863 was awarded. The spec was agreed by the committee and went to tender in which Pattersons Sportsfields was the preferred choice coming in at €1.2m. We had to start the clean-up of site before the hedge cutting season before end of February which was done by Arthur Reilly plant hire and Pat Reynolds snr.

Ciarán Flynn as secretary of the committee had the task of formatting a business plan for AIB bank to secure finance of a loan that was backed by the clubs voting to



extend the levy until 2035, we had a positive meeting and await drawdown of loan which was approved by National finance committee.

Ciarán is the admin on the drawdown of sports capital which has taken a lot of time and effort also he made a further application of secure €500k max to upgrade the lighting on existing pitches. He has also started the process of SEC from the clubs of Meath GAA. Ciarán also applied for the GAA infrastructure grant 2023 for the works in which we were awarded €250k and have already drawn down part. We had to update the trustees on land registry and declaration of trust due to the sad passing of Fintan Ginnity. Ciarán has started a sponsorship pack for commercial opportunities on naming rights etc and are out with interested parties.

We had a successful sod turning event the was attended by the Ministers Byrne and McEntee which as always very sportive of our plans.



Event Control and Management Event

Control and Management forms part of the responsibilities of the Safety and Facilities Committee. An Event Controller is required at all games with attendances more than 5,000. Jim Lane acts as Event Controller for all games in Pairc Tailteann and is assisted by many on big match days. On big match days a significant number of Stewards are required to carry out duties to have safe operations during the event/games. Steward numbers are currently low in Navan and a steward training course was held in January 2023 for all existing and new stewards.

For big games to continue in Páirc Tailteann a significant number of additional/new stewards will be required. Any person interested in becoming a steward should contact the secretary of Meath GAA.



Insurances

At the Safety and Facilities Officers induction event presentation was given by a member (Sinead Leavy) of the GAA's insurance department in relation to insurances and claims.

Advised was that claim pay-outs are increasing year on year with over two thirds of the pay-outs relating to non-GAA activity (with the exception being during COVID 19 when facilities were not being used). Advice was given in relation to clubs that have third party organisations using club facilities. These clubs should inform the Croke Park insurance department of these activities, and the third-party organisations should have their own insurance cover.

An issue has arisen again this year in that some clubs undertaking infrastructure works (building/construction works) are not informing the Croke Park insurance department (Sinead Leavy / Ciara Clarke) that works are to be carried out. Clubs and county committee must inform the Croke Park insurance department of the works being undertaken and issue the relevant insurances from the contractors. Failure to do so has or may result in the facilities constructed not being covered by the property insurance cover.

Sustainability

The GAA's Sustainability Manager, Jimmy Darcy, presented the GAA's sustainability programme at the Safety and Facilities Officer induction event. A 'Green Club' initiative has been set up and pilot projects have been undertaken since 2021. The aim of the 'Green Club' initiative is to provide a toolkit with practical case studies and expert advice for clubs and county committees to utilise. Any Clubs interested and willing to participate should contact myself. Grant funding can be available for sustainability and energy upgrade works via the SAEI.

Club Development Leinster

Leinster GAA grant funding was limited to projects completed from September 2022 and selected projects that will receive funding under new criteria introduced this year.

Meath GAA informed that grant funding for 2023 is pending and no decision will be made to date, we have 23 clubs in for grants. The Meath GAA allocation for 2022 grants was €280k, well done to all clubs on the improvements and new facilities. Grounds of the year for 2022 was the Ballinlough GAA club.

All club loans over €15,000 require various levels of approval from the units within the GAA structures. It is the responsibility of the Safety and Facilities Officer to review



the approval applications from clubs and bring to the county committee for assessment and approval. All of the applications were reviewed during the year and assistance was given where needed.

Applications for land disposal & acquisition and leases were reviewed and passed by the committee. The GAA Development Fund was opened for loan application in 2023 with 7 Clubs making applications, 1 application was unsuccessful.

Conclusion

In conclusion I am the first person to serve Meath GAA in the role of Safety and Facilities Officer and it has been a great honour to do so. It has been an extremely busy year with the infrastructure works being undertaken by Meath GAA adding a significant workload to the role. Hours of unseen works are input with the end results taking time to be seen.

The volunteered free time given by many people associated with Meath GAA has been of great assistance to me during the year. The expertise given has saved Meath GAA significant amounts and reduced costs on projects being delivered. However, it must be noted that the volunteer is a dying bread in the GAA, and I hope the GAA act to keep these people who keep the organisation alive.

As seen in my report projects are being delivered at county level by Meath GAA and works should continue pending funding availability. With the split season at national level with intercounty fixtures complete in the first half of the year it now results in all intercounty teams preparing for their season from late November and in the winter months. This means floodlight training pitches are needed for all intercounty teams to prepare and with only 3 pitches lit in the centre of excellence.

Clubs continue to develop and expand facilities within the county to provide the facilities needed to cater for the needs of their members resulting in Meath GAA Clubs having some of the best facilities in the country.

Thanks to all committee members, members of management, Meath GAA staff, the County Secretary clubs and individuals for their assistance during the year.

On a special word to the John Kavanagh who has always supported me in my role, I would like to thank him and wish him well after stepping down as Chairperson due to personal reasons.

Is mise le meas

Jasun Plunceid



6. Referees' Administration Committee

In reflecting on the year 2023, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the County Committee for their support of our referees. A special thank you is due to Chairperson John Kavanagh, Secretary Ciarán Flynn, and Treasurer Gene Smith for their dedicated assistance and encouragement. Their commitment has been instrumental in the development and success of refereeing in Meath GAA.

Additionally, the support from the Competitions Control Committee in the appointment of referees to games has been invaluable. Their coordination and efficient management have ensured that all matches were fairly and effectively officiated. I also wish to express my sincere thanks to the referee administration committee for their support throughout the year. A special acknowledgement goes to Denise Farrelly, whose assistance in appointing referees has been crucial and highly appreciated.

It is with great pride that we congratulate our referees who have represented Meath on both the Leinster and National panels. In football, on the National Panel, we have David Gough and David Coldrick, and on the Leinster Panel, we commend Kieran Olwell, Andrew Smith, and Patrick Coyle. In hurling, our representatives on the Leinster Panel are Derek Ryan and Ciarán Flynn. Their dedication and excellence in officiating at these high levels are a testament to the quality of refereeing talent in Meath.

A special congratulations to David Gough on his outstanding achievement of refereeing the All-Ireland SFC final and to Andrew Smith on officiating the Leinster MFC Final. These are significant milestones and reflect the high regard in which they are held in the refereeing community.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Andrew Smith on being named the Referee of the Year and Robert Purfield on winning the Most Improved Referee award. These accolades are a recognition of their hard work, dedication, and continuous improvement, contributing significantly to the standard of refereeing in Meath GAA.

In closing, the achievements and dedication of our referees, along with the support from various committees, underscore the strength and vitality of refereeing in Meath GAA. We look forward to their continued success and contributions in the years to come.

Le meas,
Dudley Farrell



7. Coaching and Games Development Committee

Following a Coaching & Games Development review across the country in the past three years we have undergone a major structural change. The main areas reviewed were the funding model, roles and responsibilities of all staff and the structures in all counties.

Titles of all positions have been altered to the following:

- Games Manager is now the County Head of Games with the responsibility of the management and implementation of the county plan and managing all staff.
- Games Development Administrators (GDA) are now Games Development Coordinators (GDC) with the responsibility of leading specific county projects, such as Coach Education, Post Primary Schools, Cul Camps, Hurling Pathway and Child Pathway Support Programmes. They will implement the Youth Player & Coach Pathway within a region of clubs, and they will also work with our County Academies.
- Games Promotion Officers (GPO) are now Participation Officers (PO) with the responsibility for all participation projects in clubs. Their focus is the Child Player Pathway and projects will include Primary School Coaching schedules, Nursery, Turas and Go Games Support and the coordination of camps etc.

To best utilise the funding and to provide a quality service to more clubs and schools across the county we have moved to a regional PO and GDC model. In this model all schools are provided with coaching via two terms/blocks during the academic year by POs. The staff have been delivering various elements from our Coach Eile Programme which has specific focus areas for each class. They are also responsible for the Child Strand programmes being delivered to clubs. Each club will have further engagement with our GDCs who are currently working closely with the Pathway Managers on planning coaching sessions and developing coaching policies with the Youth Strand and will interact with those coaches through a mentoring process. This is an exciting and challenging time for the C&G staff and one they will endeavor to ensure coaching and development progress for each club, coach and player they engage with.

In 2023 the camp programme has continued its success with participating numbers holding their own. Cul Camps had 7.1k children participating across numerous venues. Once again Damien Sheridan was at the helm here to oversee the programme and we thank him for his dedication throughout the year, ensuring the smooth running of all venues. We are very grateful to all host clubs for their efforts and hospitality. To the 100+



coaches who are a massive part of the success of camps, we thank them for their rapport and expertise with the children weekly.

With the change of structures and staff throughout the year we wouldn't have made the impact at Club, Easter and Halloween Camps that would have been expected for the year. That is something that we will approach and plan for in 2024 to engage more children during the holiday periods.

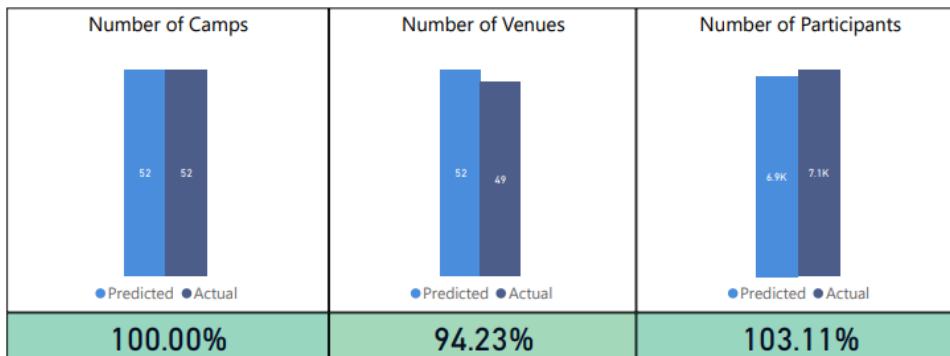


Figure 1: Meath Cul Camp Figures for 2023

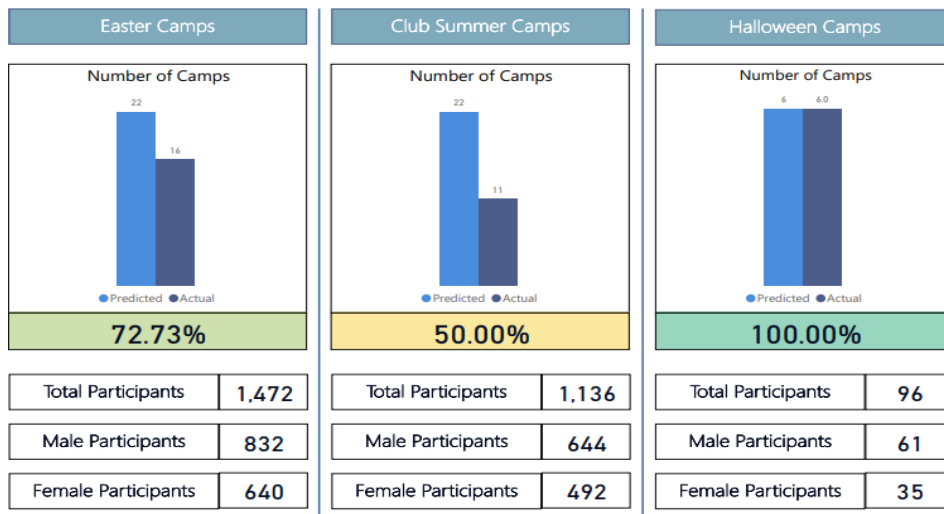


Figure 2: Club Camp Data

A review of all Club Nurseries was assigned to all POs during the year with all clubs running a version of a nursery programme, which is excellent feedback, but we will focus on the content and coach delivery of these nurseries for 2024 through the PO club support visits.

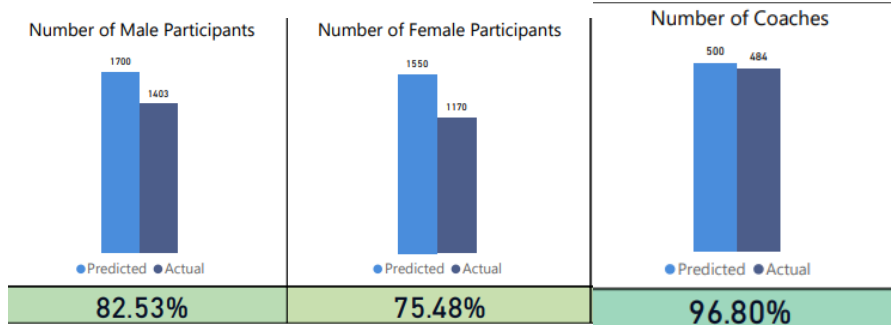


Figure 3: Nursery Coaches and Participation Data.

We have worked closely with Coiste Go Games this year and we are determined to ensure the “Ethos of Go Games” is adhered to and embraced by all clubs. Fintan Porter and Martin Kelly have been instrumental in driving this forward with C&G and we fully appreciate all the work the two men have put into Go Games and especially in the fixture coordination. PO Staff have been delivering a new “Why Go Games Presentation” across the county and this will continue over the next couple of months and then the focus will move to our Go Games Referees for the spring. Our GDC Owen Sullivan will play a major part in this drive to revive the Go Games ethos and ensure that all children are awarded the opportunity to play and enjoy our games in the positive environment they deserve and that our teenagers are supported in their learning as new referees.

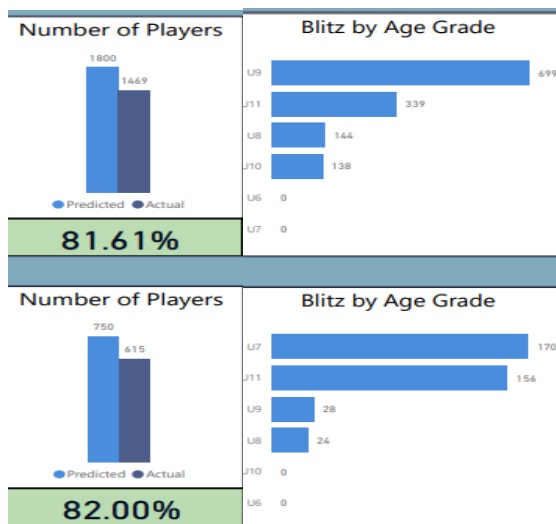


Figure 4: Go Games Blitz per Age Rates Football (Top) Hurling (Bottom).



The Primary School Programme has been invaluable with regards to maintaining and in many areas increasing the participation rates in schools and clubs. PO's deliver quality programmes through our Coach Eile initiative, which has been designed by our staff, and it has gathered momentum throughout 2023. Schools and clubs in consultation with their PO can choose elements of Coach Eile that they wish to incorporate into their schedule.

The leadership programmes we provide for 5th and 6th classes through Reiteoir and Playground Leaders will help establish a culture of coaching and mentoring amongst the participants and give them invaluable tools to be an assertive and cooperative volunteer in their school and club community.

The programme is laid out as follows:

- Junior and Senior Infants - Fundamental Movement Skills and Caman & Play
- 1st/2nd Class - Have A Ball and Caman & Play
- 3rd/4th - Cooperation Games, Go Games Blitzes, Coaching Classes
- 5th/6th - Reiteoir, Playground Leaders, Go Games Blitzes, Coaching Classes and 100 Touch Challenge.

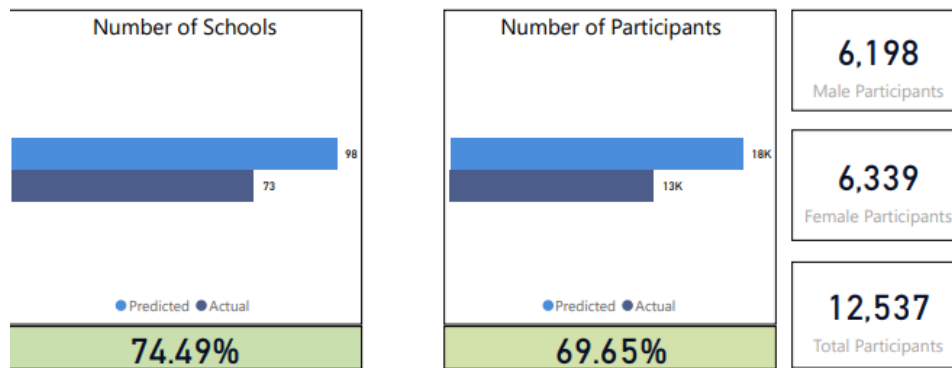


Figure 5: Primary School Participation Rate 2023

Coach Education has been in huge demand once again with our impact being divided between Formal (Award 1 & ICGG) and Informal (Workshops) more than ever before. Thanks to Jenny Rispin who manages our LMS (Learning Management System) with such expertise and coordinates all staff and volunteer tutors in the delivery of our Formal Coach Education Programme. We are indebted to her contribution to C&G.

Our Informal Coach Ed Programme has been immensely boosted by the Player Pathway Workshops that have been designed by Football Academy Head Coordinator,



Paul Garrigan, and are being implemented by the GDCs across the county. To date 24 of these workshops have been delivered with over 480 participants attending to date. Paul has been an excellent appointment for Meath County Board, and we are certainly foraging a truly positive Pathway for Players and Coaches through his guidance with GDC staff. We are all enthused as to where we can elevate this pathway to.

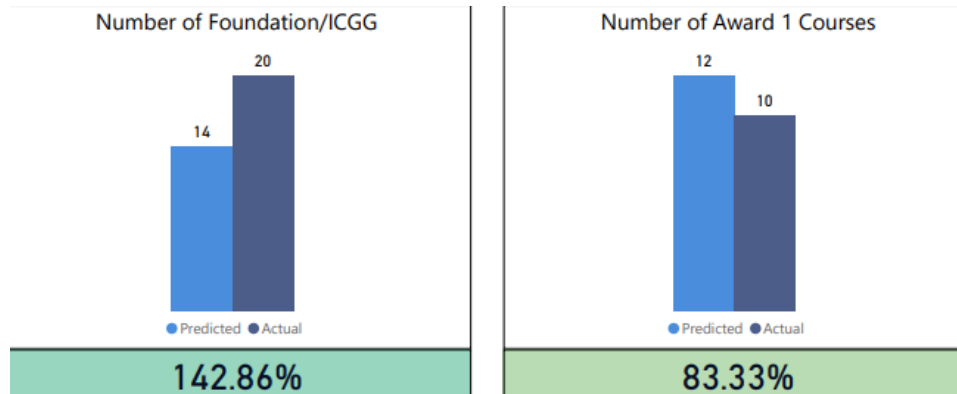


Figure 6: ICGG and Award 1 Courses 2023

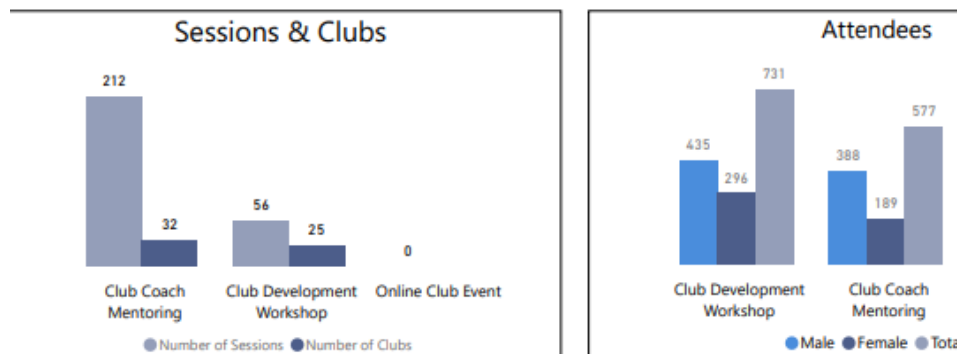


Figure 7: Informal Coach Ed Attendance 2023

The Football Development Committee are now working closely with C&G to establish a Pathway for Players and Coaches in our Clubs and Academies. We are driven to provide the best possible support to all clubs in their efforts of development through all the C&G staff. Going forward in 2024 we will have our Hurling Pathway established, through our lead Hurling GDCs Peter Durnin, Pauraic Burke and the Hurling Development Committee. This will initially be at the Child Strand, and we will look to have Hurling Pathway Mangers in place by the Spring.



Unfortunately, there has been a turnover of staff in 2023 and this continues to be a challenge for C&G and the clubs. Our team has been reduced from 16 POs to 9 in a matter of months with staff following opportunities elsewhere. We wish each of them well. We would like to acknowledge the impact that both Sarah Doran and Teresa Molohan had during their time with us. They have a huge bank of knowledge in all things coaching and imparted so much with their colleagues and the clubs they worked with. We wish them both well in their future endeavors.

In saying that our team of GDCs has grown and we welcome our promoted POs Owen Sullivan and Conor Brennan to the team. Both have gained experience through their PO roles, and I have no doubt that they will make an impact in all areas they delve into. Also welcome to GDC Robbie Brennan. His managerial experience will be significant as he establishes himself within his region of clubs.

Meath U16 Hurling:

We had 35 Players for 2023 season. Two teams entered the Celtic Challenge with semifinal and quarter final stages being reached by each team. A tremendous competition but some tweaking required from an organisational point of view.

In the Leinster League they defeated Clare and Wicklow. On finals day they defeated Kerry and were beaten by Laois. Several challenge games were played during the year which proved to be very progressive.

Chloe Mahon and David Wade were added to the backroom team as a Stats/ Nutritionist (Chloe) and Athletic Development (David) which was very successful.

GDC staff also involved during the year to provide S&C (Peter, Jenny & Pauraic)

Coach/Mentors:

Martin Lynch (Manager), F Porter, R Curley, L Ward, M Elliott, S Doyle.

Meath U15 Hurling:

Trials were held in February without the top 25 players from 2022. A total of 60 players went through the trial system. 9 new players joined the U15 Academy Team.

They played in the John Doyle competition with teams A and B. Both were beaten at the semifinal stages.

Great progress in educating players on S&C technique through GDC Peter Durnin. The focus, skill wise, was on the speed of striking off both sides and ball to hand.

Looking for a Pathway for Academies to follow (We will be implementing this in 2024)



Coach/Mentors:

Andrew Snow (Manager), D Gaughan, P Purcell, S Carroll, C Ferguson, Q Ashe.

Meath U14 Hurling:

We started with 96 names for trial matches and finished with 46 players in April.

Our overall season was very successful with Meath finishing on August 26th winning the Sonny Walsh Tournament, beating Clare in the Semi-Final & Galway in the Final, in Offaly.

We also had a second team in the Tony Forrester Tournament, and they competed very well on the day against Westmeath & Carlow.

Mentors:

Ray O Connor – Manager, Neil Cole, John Ennis, Kevin McKenna, Fergie Fagan, Charles Hutcheson, Cian Smyth S&C Coach.

Meath U14 Academy Football:

Our U14 panel consisted of 120 players this year with 8 teams playing in 5 National Game Days over the course of the playing season. A huge focus was put on bilateral skill development with these players and huge improvements were seen with all players in training and games during the year. The panel was managed and coached by Trevor Giles (Skyrne), Owen Creevey (Trim), Kieran Harten (Seneschalstown), Kevin Walsh (Trim), Conor McNally (Na Fianna), Shane Keogh (St Patricks), Enda Grogan (St Colmcilles), David Sheeran (St Colmcilles), Alan Campbell (Clonard) and Keith McGuinness (Ballinlough)

Meath U15 Academy Football:

Our U15 Football panel consisted of 48 players this year with 2 teams competing in the U15 Adam Mangan competition during the year. Games against Kerry, Kildare, Cork, and Offaly were of a high standard this year and players showed great improvements in their technical, tactical, physical and character development in all these matches. The panel was managed and coached by Kenny Morgan (Trim), Nicky Hamill (Skyrne), Alan Mulvaney (Seneschalstown) and Finbarr Clarke (Trim)

Meath U16 Academy Football Squad

Our U16 Football Panel consisted of 43 players this year with 2 teams competing in both the U16 Gerry Reilly and Ted Webb Competitions. Both squads competed well in each competition with players showing huge improvements in their tactical awareness/knowledge, decision making, and skill execution in games v Mayo, Galway, Kerry, Louth, Laois, Kildare, Armagh, Dublin, Clare, and Cavan during the year. The panel



was managed and coached by Niall Flynn (Dunsany), Stephen Claire (Dunshaughlin) and Vinny Byrne (Longwood)

Meath U17 Football Squad

Our Under 17 Football Panel consisted of 34 players this year and competed in Group 2 of the Leinster U17 Championship with victories recorded against Westmeath, Louth, and a narrow defeat to Dublin. A quarter final win over Wexford was followed by a narrow one-point defeat to Kildare in the semi-final to conclude their playing season. This panel put a huge effort in this year on and off the pitch and have made massive improvements in all areas of their development and we look forward to seeing some of these players on our U19 and U20 Football Squads in 2024. The panel was managed by Stephen Morgan (Curraha), John Leonard (Trim), Fintan O'Brien (St Marys), Timmy Reddy (Donaghmore Ashbourne), Justin Carry Lynch (Gael Colmcille) and Stephen Reddy (Gael Colmcille)

Finally, a huge thanks to all the clubs who provided players and coaches to our Academy in 2023 and to the Meath GAA County board who provided support to all our teams.

We had over 245 players from U14 to U17 in the Football Academy who took part in our player development pathway training sessions and games. This pathway is supported by our Coaching Curriculum which will allow and assist our players to maximise their potential and hopefully go on to represent our clubs and county in future years.

In the hurling academies we had 126 players included in our training sessions and games. In 2024 our Pathway for Hurling Academies will be developed with the intention of ensuring our players have the best opportunities for development within our system and that we can build on the recent Christy Ring success for Meath hurling.

Christine O'Brien – County Head of Games

Martin Blake – Coaching Officer



8. Cultural Committee

The Scór na nÓg competition was held on Saturday 11 February in Halla Ráth Cairn. Numbers competing have not yet reached back to pre-pandemic levels but nonetheless a very competitive competition took place with winners going forward to the Leinster semi-final. This was held in the Downs GFC community centre on 2 April.

Meath participated in five events in this semi-final. These were solo singing, recitation, Ballad Group, Ceol Uirlise, and Set dancing. Two entries from Meath got through to the final in Wexford. This was in the Solo Singing and recitation events. Unfortunately, neither got through to the All-Ireland final.

The Scór na nÓg quiz was held in the Navan O'Mahony's centre on Friday 24 February. Na Fianna represented Meath in the Leinster final. The Scór Sinsir table quiz was held in Dunganny on 29 September and the winners on the night were the St Brigids club who went on to represent Meath in the Leinster final.

The main Scór Sinsir event was held in Wilkinstown Community Centre on 7 October. The Leinster semi-final was held in Allenwood on Sunday 15 October. Meath took part in four events and three of these got through to the Leinster final which was held in Carnew on Sunday 22 October. Unfortunately, there was no success this year.

The level of competition in both Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsir was again very high and this was reflected in the comments of the adjudicators in the Meath competitions as well as the Leinster semi-finals and finals. It was noted that all performers really enjoyed their participation and looked forward to participating again.

In 2024 it is proposed to have Scór Sinsir in the Spring with Scór na nÓg reverting to the Autumn. This arrangement is likely to aid more competition as the time frame for the adult competition was found to be too tight. Also, there will be less pressure of Scór na nÓg participants in a competition held later in the year.

I want to express my thanks to all the Scór committee officers who worked extremely hard to arrange and conduct these events. To the various halls and Community Centres for giving us their facilities to hold our competitions.

Seosamh Ó Briain

Oifigeach Culthúra agus Gaeilge



9. Public Relations/Marketing Committee

This has been a most enjoyable year as County Public Relations Officer, and it is my pleasure to present my annual report for 2023. It is both an honour and a privilege to run what is often the public face of Meath GAA.

Over the course of the year, we as a committee have strived to improve the output of Meath GAA by improving the level of communication both on and offline. One element of this was the development early in the year of the new Meath GAA App in association with Club Spot and this proved to be a very valuable tool for getting important information out to supporters and club members in a timely fashion. Our thanks to all the team in Club Spot and in particular John and Podge for their assistance over the course of the year.

The Meath GAA Official Photographers for 2023 were as follows:

- Paula Greif (Beag Teach)
- Brian Mulligan (Naomh Colmcille)

Each member of the team played a vital role in getting our message out to the public over the course of the year and it was a pleasure to be a small cog in a relatively large wheel as the team worked well together.

Three people who it would be impossible to carry out the role as P.R.O. without their assistance are Tara Rowan, Christina Buckley and Olivia Cussen who form the triumvirate of staff in the office in Dunganny. No matter what was asked of them over the past year, including once having to go into the office on a Sunday morning to print programmes, it was never an issue, and they are of huge importance to the running of our organisation. We are deeply indebted to them.

Social Media has taken over as a primary method of communication and while previously the method of keeping up to date with games involved keeping an ear to the radio whether at home or at a game, these days people are heavily reliant on platforms such as Twitter. And while these social media platforms are excellent when used for purposes such as this, they can also be dangerous when people anonymously use them or online forums to anonymously abuse people. If you are not willing to put your name to a comment, then it says more about you than about the people you wish to abuse.



Our local media provide a valuable service to Meath GAA, and it has long been a personal bugbear that clubs don't make enough use of them. Whether it is LMFM, the Meath Chronicle, Drogheda Independent, Hoganstand.com or We Are Meath, I wish more clubs would submit written match reports to the media. Players and particularly family members of players love to read about a game, and it is a valuable method of promoting our games that many seem to have forgotten about in this digital age. It is important to embrace the new methods of communication without forgetting the ones that should be a staple element of the diet.

Over the course of the season, we strived to improve the promotion of our club championships and team sheets were published on our App, website, and social media platforms for games across all first team football championships as well as across all our hurling championships. We are cognisant that this request each week increased the workload on the hardworking Club Secretaries and P.R.O.s and we are grateful for their co-operation with this. It was a great way of promoting the games each week and was a welcome addition for supporters and media alike. This complimented the physical handout which was always available in Páirc Tailteann and it was wonderful to see an increasing number of clubs providing these when they were hosting games. It all makes a difference in promoting our games.

In advance of the two weekends of finals for our club championships, we organised Press Evenings in Páirc Tailteann to facilitate our local media partners and enable them to gather the information they required for their pre-final coverage. These proved to be a huge success and I would like to thank all clubs for their cooperation on both nights and to Ellen Blake who co-ordinated events on both evenings. These were in addition to the Media Night held in Bective Stud in advance of the Tailteann Cup Final.

Two elements of feedback which were received over the Championships were that the increased coverage of the Junior Championships was well received while a number of hurling clubs expressed a view that there was an increased level of coverage and promotion of the club hurling championships. These are two elements that I hope will be built upon in the coming seasons.

In advance of the commencement of the Allianz Leagues at the start of the year, the committee along with Shane Kelly repurposed the old office in Páirc Tailteann into



being a dual-purpose room under the stand. Serving as both an area where sponsors and dignitaries could be brought on match day, it also served as a media room where all members of the media could interview players and the team manager after games. This proved to be a very welcome addition to what we can offer and saved the media waiting around outside dressing rooms, with players brought down to them for interview.

The meet and greet nights in Páirc Tailteann in advance of the Christy Ring Cup and Tailteann Cup Finals were both big successes and our thanks to the players who spent hours taking selfies and signing autographs with the hordes of young supporters who showed up on both nights. Events such as this are of huge importance for the promotion of our games and fostering a relationship between the teams and supporters.

In addition to Paula Greif and Brian Mulligan, we are indebted to David Mullen and Gerry Shanahan who provide photography to Meath GAA to assist in the promotion of our games. This is following on from the service which was provided by John Quirke, and it is very valuable. Unfortunately, this was somewhat restricted this year following an intervention and this was a disappointing turn of events. Declan Lynch of the Royal County Yearbook is another who provides photography whenever asked and there is no one individual who covers more games in the county each year than the Ballinlough clubman. Whether it is an adult or juvenile game, Declan is likely to be there in the corner taking photographs and it truly is remarkable the miles he clocks up each year covering our games.

One thing which as an organisation we need to be better at is encouraging women to take up roles at committee level. It can often be off-putting for a woman to come into a room full of men and every effort needs to be made to be more inclusive and foster a sense of belonging for everyone. Two of the most important cogs in the Meath GAA PR wheel in 2023 were Ellen Blake and Paula Greif and there is no doubt that with the right attitude displayed by all, there are many more like Ellen and Paula who could offer a huge amount to our organisation. The GAA tagline is "Where We All Belong" and rather than using this as a tagline, we could all do with adopting it as a permanent motto.

The MacNamee Awards in Croke Park recognise excellence in the communications sector and it was wonderful this year to see Walterstown recognised when they won the 2022 Award for Best Digital Impact. Under the stewardship of Ruth



Chambers, the PR team in Walterstown produce excellent content and their award was richly deserved.

Is mise le meas,

Brían Ó Ceallaigh,

Oifigeach Caidrimh Phoiblí na Mí C.L.G.



10. Health and Well-Being Committee

The Meath GAA Health and Wellbeing Committee agreed its 2023 Action Plan in January 2023; primarily focusing on the four distinct areas outlined by Croke Park: (i) Continued Development of the County Committee; (ii) Support and encouragement for clubs in the Irish Life Healthy Club Project; (iii) Ensure that all clubs have a Critical Incident Response Plan in place; and (iv) encourage clubs to initiate and organise physical and mental wellbeing activities within their communities.

(i) Continued Development of the County Committee:

Three new members were coopted on to the Committee in late 2022 and seven Committee meetings were held in 2023.

(ii) Support and encouragement for clubs in the Irish Life Healthy Club Project;..

Twenty five clubs in Meath have, over the last ten years, succeeded in qualifying to be part of the Irish Life Healthy GAA Club Project Meath. The GAA Health and Wellbeing Unit in Croke Park have commenced an assessment process (which they will carry out every two years) to establish if such clubs are still active in the Health & Wellbeing space and carrying out the tasks required. This assessment is done through an examination of the club portal which records all health and wellbeing activities carried out by a club.

The assessment was carried out in August and 23 of the clubs retained their Irish Life Healthy Club status. Those clubs were presented with their awards at a Recognition Awards ceremony in Portlaoise last October. Meath had the greatest number of clubs receiving awards in Leinster.

The timeline for applications for the next Phase of the Health Club Project was opened at the National Conference in November and Expressions of Interest must be submitted by end January 2024. The Meath Health & Wellbeing Committee is hoping that five additional clubs will apply.

(iii) Critical Incident Response Plan (CIRP)

In 2023 Croke Park introduced a new template for Clubs to draw up their Critical Incident Response Plan. A webinar was held for all clubs explaining the new procedures. The Meath Health & Wellbeing Committee is asking all clubs to have the new Critical Incident Response Plan in place by mid March 2024. The Committee will assist where necessary.



The Committee plan to work with the incoming County Committee to draw up a new Plan for County Grounds and County organised activities.

(iv) Encourage clubs to initiate and organise physical and mental wellbeing activities within their communities.

The functions of the Healthy Club Officer are twofold: (i) help their club become a healthier place for everyone to enjoy – be that players, officials, parents, supporters and the community – by proposing and organising healthy activities within the club,; and (ii) when presented with complex health or wellbeing issues such as mental health or addiction, they signpost people to the relevant support services. Most Clubs carry out this function by organising such activities as :

- Physical activity, such as walking initiatives, exercise classes, and social Gaelic Games
- Community development, including supporting older members of the community, youth leadership and supporting local charities etc;
- Mental health awareness and education;
- Diversity and inclusion, including games opportunities for all;
- Substance use and gambling awarene

Meath GAA Health and Wellbeing Committee holds an Annual Gathering of Healthy Club Officers to bring such Officers up to date on developments and allow them exchange ideas. Ther third such Gathering was held in the Meath GAA Centre in Dunganny in February where close on sixty people were in attendance, representing almost 40 clubs.

Substance Use Policy

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael is committed to discouraging the use of drugs and tobacco and the misuse of alcohol on the basis that such activity is incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity. As a consequence, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael have developed a policy document to assist GAA clubs in preventing alcohol and other drug related problems from happening through educating members about relevant issues

Following a request from Cathaoirleach Coiste ns Mhi John Kavanagh to assist clubs in the adaptation and implementation of this new Policy Document, the Meath H&W Committee organised a series of seven seminars for GAA Clubs around the County



- held in Dunshaughlin, Ballinlough, Simonstown Gaels, St Michaels, Duleek/Bellewstown and Na Fianna.

Some 40 clubs attended the seminars where Stephanie Kane and Andy Ogle from the HSE North Eastern Drug and Alcohol Task Force; Sgt Patrick Smyth the Crime Prevention Officer for Co. Meath; and Aideen Howlin Croke Park's Health and Development Department gave presentations.

The two take home messages were (i) clubs should adopt the Policy; and (ii) clubs should engage with the new focused workshop developed by the HSE and Croke Park.

Other activities

The Meath H&W Committee also organised Samaritan signs for Croke park and for individual clubs. The Committee also booked 'Smoke/Vape Free' signs for Páirc Tailteann. The H&W Committee also worked closely with MSP; HSE; Healthy Ireland and other such organisations.



11. Planning and Training Committee

1. In January, we attended the County Officer Development Conference in Croke Park
2. Then in February there was a County / Province Risk Management Webinar which covered:

- An Introduction to Risk Management Training.
- "Recognising Risks" – Jim Gavin presented on recognising risks and bringing his experience as a Director in the Irish Aviation Authority.
- Discussions on risk register preparation.

3. This was followed by the Club Officer Forum in Dunganny – David Deniffe

4. The first Module of the County Executive Development Programme was delivered in March and the second in April and third in September. From this the team agreed to prioritise the development of a Strategic Plan for Meath GAA. Chairman John Kavanagh appointed a Sub - Committee to set parameters and guidelines prior to engaging with all stakeholders through surveys and a workshop forum.

5. Leading, Managing and Governing your Club. This focused on 4 areas:

- Leading a GAA / LGFA / Camogie Club
- Building your off the field teams
- Developing a vision as a Club Officer
- Evaluating and improving your Club's governance

6. Club Compás Programme Launch

The Club Compás Programme gives Clubs a digital self-assessment tool to review performance and get direction on how to address any operational shortcoming within the Club.

7. The Club Officer Training event

- This covered the different functionalities within Foireann
- Substance Abuse Awareness

8. The National Planning and Training Officer Forum took place via Microsoft Teams.

- The focus of this forum was on Club officer training and Club planning.

9. County Planning and Training Officer Forum

This module gave an introduction and awareness to Diversity and Inclusion programmes in Gaelic Games.

- GAA Games for ALL Initiatives
- Prevention, Education & Response, guide for GAA clubs on matters of best



practice on prevention and proactively responding to different forms of hostilities with the focus on the promotion of our Give Respect, Get Respect program.

- Cultural competence in Clubs by putting into everyday practice cultural awareness, knowledge, and sensitivity

Date for your Diary

Club Leadership Development Programme (CLDP) for 2024.

Completion of mandatory elements in Jan-Apr 2024 earns a Certificate in Club Leadership (Gaelic Games)



12. Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) is a newly formed committee, as recommended by Croke Park, to provide guidance and oversight to aid the Meath Management Committee in their duties and responsibilities.

The Committee was only formed in June 2023 and currently has three members serving, all coming from a variety of backgrounds. The ARC is only in the early stages of its development and has been working with the principal officers in Meath GAA to agree a schedule of work that will be required going forward.

To date, good cooperation has been received and this will now need to be extended to all the sub committee's operating within Meath GAA to agree a risk register for the county. The ARC is also currently engaging with the finance team and the external auditors as part of their required duties.

Coiste Iniúchta agus Riosca an Mhí C.L.G.

Meath GAA Audit and Risk Committee

Role	Name
Chairperson	Tom Gallagher
Committee Member	Anne Quigley
	Brendan Fulham



13. Post-Primary Schools' Committee

The Meath Post Primary Schools were invited to an online "Leinster Review Meeting" back in early September 2023 with Noel Delaney (Rúnaí Comhairle Iarbhunscoileanna Laighean C.L.G.).

The agenda for that meeting was as follows:

- Leabhran Eolais overview
- Existing /Planned Competitions within the county
- Opportunities for cross border games
- Provision of Coaching Supports from C&G
- Re-energise PPS Committee.

We had a good attendance on that meeting with our Minor Committee Chairman, Ray Finnegan, also present which was very beneficial with a view to planning going forward. On the back of this we instigated a revamp of our Meath PPS Committee with new members offering their willingness and commitment to guide the Post Primary Programme with the assistance of Meath C&G.

With a further meeting, in October, to vote in our new committee we also identified key areas as a focus for this group:

- Super Games Centres (Super 7s) for 1st Year Students – Internal Leagues and County Finals Day.
- Availability of Páirc Tailteann as a venue for any school who gets a home quarter/ semi-final fixture.
- We will organise a reduced rate for teachers to complete the Award 1 course and inform all schools of the upcoming schedule.
- Build good communication and understanding between the PPS and youth committees.

The new committee for 2023/2024:

Chairperson – Kevin Reilly (Colaiste na Mí)

Vice-Chairperson – Anthony Sheridan (Athboy Community School)

Secretary – Robbie Brennan GDC (Meath C & G)

Committee Members: Cathal Harvey (St Oliver's PP Oldcastle), Pat O' Sullivan (Kells Community School), Paddy Rossiter (Colaiste Clavin Longwood) and Seamus Peppard (St Pat's Navan), Ciarán Flynn (County Committee Secretary), Ray Finnegan (Minor Committee Chairperson).



At this point we would like to acknowledge the fantastic and dedicated work of two men over the last number of years on this committee, Brendan Cummins, and Ultan Fitzpatrick (RIP). We are indebted to what you both brought to the table and your regard for the teachers and students who continue to develop and enjoy GAA activities in our 21 Post Primary Schools in Meath.

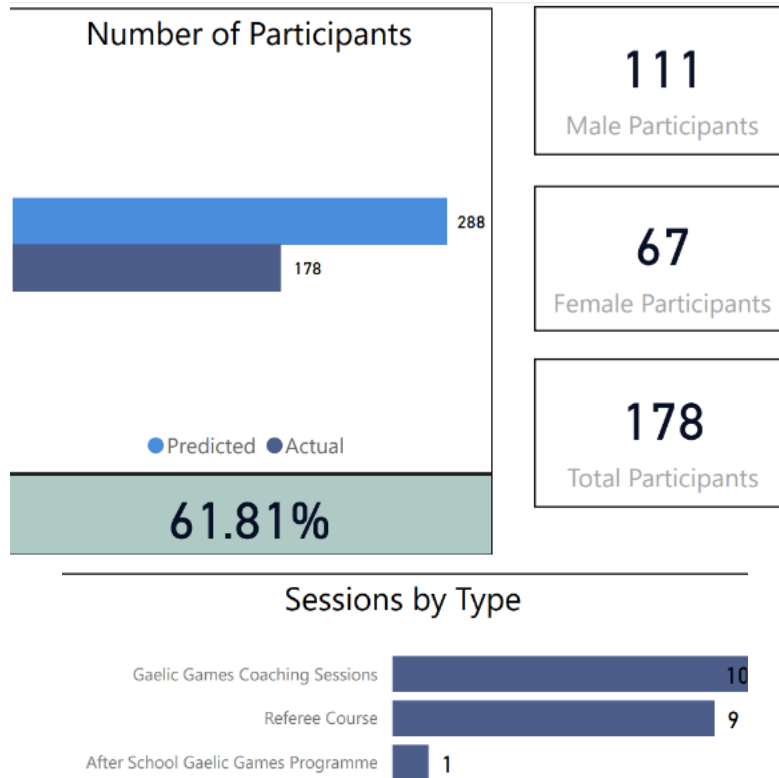


Figure 1: PPS TY Workshop Attendance

Christine O’ Brien (County Head of Games)



14. Hurling Development Committee

This year was a year not to forget, with promotion to division 2A and getting out hands on the Christy Ring again.

This was topped off with 5 players getting on the team of the year. Congratulations to Seán Geraghty (Maolach/Cill Scíre), Simon Ennis (Rath Moliadhain), James Toher (Átha Troim), Jack Regan (Cill Teidhil), Éamon Óg Ó Donnchadha (Clann na nGael) on their awards, and to Jack on his player of the year award.

Congratulations to Seoirse and his back-room team on delivering what he and the players aimed for at the start of the year. A massive thanks to David O'Reilly, Steven Clynch, Mark Cooney, Ciarán Keogh, John Andrews, David Tobin, Alan Bracken, Darren Nicol and John Perry. Without your commitment this year we couldn't have got to where we are today. To our physios Niamh and Ritchie who kept the lads going this year, a massive thank you. To our dynamic duo Paul and Gerry, thanks for all you do for the lads from training nights in the rain in Dunganny to the special days in Croke Park, thanks lads.

To Dom for organising everything this year, thanks very much, and we all hope you are on the mend. A special thank you to Hanley's Clean Meals, Adam and Carol, for feeding us all year. Thanks to Diarmuid and Oisin for all the matches that you recorded for us. Thanks to Charlie, Cathal, and Cillian Ennis from Cara Quill for supplying us with water all year.

A huge thanks to James Andrews and his backroom team for all their work with the 20s this year. Thanks to Brian Kelly and all on the PRO committee for their county final programme this year, and all the work done throughout the year. A special thanks to the girls in the office for all you do for us for match days and everything else that asked of you, thanks Tara, Olivia and Christina for everything.

To the County Committee and especially John Kavanagh, thanks for your support this year, and we wish John well on his retirement, to Ciarán Flynn thanks for all you help this year, and we wish you well going forward in all you do. To Gene Smith and all on the finance committee thanks for everything, it's not an easy job you do, and we really appreciate all you do to help us on our journey.

Thanks to all our stewards in all the grounds around the county for all you do. Without your commitment these games could not go ahead so a massive thanks from not just the hurling committee, but from all the players. Thanks to Eugene McBride for looking after us in Dunganny. To all in the CCC thanks for all you work to make sure all the



games happen to all on the referees committee thanks for your hard work during the year.

Club scene

It was a year that was dominated by one team and that was Kildalkey. Congratulations to them on all their success from their senior, intermediate, and junior teams for their success throughout the year winning their respective championships. They also won the Brendan Davis and Billy Byrne cups and are in the final of the Dónal Ó Loinsigh as I am writing this.

Congratulations to Nick Fitzgerald and his team and we wish you all the best for your Leinster adventure. Congratulations to all the league winners and best of luck to all the under 20 teams who are currently in their championship.

I must now say a massive thanks to all our sponsors especially Glenveagh and WillowWarm, without your kind sponsorship we could not run the competitions, so thanks for your continued support.

Finally, a massive thanks to my fellow clubman, Martin O'Halloran for all you help over the last number of years. Hopefully we will work together again in the future.

Yours in sport
Colin Brennan



15. Football Development Committee

Congratulations to all our county champions, across all grades in recent weeks. The finals weekend was a marvellous spectacle of football in Meath in stark contrast to other county finals. The good weather helped a great deal, but the standard was good with teams focused on attacking front foot football getting to finals and ultimately winning.

The new format at senior and intermediate is delivering exciting games with plenty at stake, whilst still providing a minimum number of championship games. Summerhill, Rathkenny, and Kilbride all won their opening round of Leinster fixtures providing further big championship days for our clubs and players. Unfortunately, we saw Summerhill and Kilbride fall away against strong opponents yesterday. We wish Rathkenny every continued success in their provincial campaign.

The FDC would like to see our Meath club teams progress much further than we have in recent years and see provincial competition as a key development opportunity. Our record in Leinster is one that we would like to see improve. The change in structure from Groups of 6 to Groups of 4 has added consequence to championship games that we believe will help to improve standards and ultimately results.

The regional championship is also well underway with two rounds complete. We are very grateful to our sponsor, Brady's Skoda, who are sponsoring the competition and providing every participant from all 8 regions with a free jersey in their regional colours and new regional crest. Our manager Colm O'Rourke launched the competition in Dunganny and the feedback from players involved is very positive again.

The primary purpose of the competition is to give players from junior and intermediate clubs an opportunity to compete at a higher level, with higher level coaches and set ups, and to play with the best players from their region. There was a slight change in the way that regions are formed, to ensure teams that had clubs that won their championships would not be disadvantaged. The relegated senior team was added to the region with the intermediate winners; and three senior development players were added to the region with the junior champions.

There is no perfect solution to ensure regional equity, but all of the first-round games had no more than a kick of a ball between them, suggesting some parity exists. In addition, the first home gate in each region now goes to the region to help support the region, on top of a request to each club to make a small contribution directly to their



region. The clubs in the region will need to take ownership to ensure the continuation of the concept. Putting regions on a firmer independent financial footing is a first step.

It is noted that there is some disquiet in Kerry and Cork around their divisional/regional structure, with teams that are way too strong, and other divisions not able to field at all. We have fielded multiple queries from other counties about our competition, which is more flexible and stand alone. There are possible next steps for the regional concept, but we must carefully consider all the trade-offs.

The new U-19 championship has also begun. The purpose of this competition is to give clubs the best chance to retain post minor players. U-20 and U-21 teams were naturally dominated by full age players that are usually well-established adult players, negating its ability to help retain 18-year-olds. Therefore, it is critical that full age 18- and 19-year-olds are prioritised for game time over U-17s, who have just completed their minor championship and have had plenty of games. The U-19 grade is the preferred grade at national level because it dovetails in the two-year cycle with decoupled minor (U-17) competition.

There is scope for another U-19 'tournament' for players that are not playing adult for their club. An opt-in U-19 3 game tournament (group of 4) 'decoupled' from the adult cups through competition regulation is one such option that might be explored with the C.C.C. As that potential tournament completes, the players would naturally flow into adult league teams and would still have their main championship later in the year. That would provide another outlet for the retention of our underage players in whom we invest so much time and energy.



16. Minor Committee

Introduction

On behalf of the 2023 Meath Minor Committee, it is with great pride and pleasure that I submit my first annual report as minor secretary of Meath GAA to our clubs and members.

My appointment to the role of Meath Minor Secretary at the start of this year was on the back of the great progress achieved by previous committees and the challenge to build further towards the overall betterment of Meath GAA. I would firstly like to extend my sincere thanks to the current Minor Committee members of Ray Finnegan (Chairperson), John Gilmartin (Vice-Chairperson), Niall Gogarty (Assistant Secretary), Denise Farrelly (Referee Administrator), and Declan Black, who supported and assisted me throughout the year, in addition to performing their own busy specific duties.

I acknowledge being very fortunate to be part of such a committed, strong, and dedicated working group who constantly thrive to improve all matters of football and hurling at Under 15 and Minor level in Meath GAA. Thanks to my predecessor, Brian Kelly, who was always available for advice and support throughout the year, especially at complicated and challenging times. His vast experience and knowledge were vital to performing this role in my maiden year.

Fixtures and Games

This year's minor committee inherited an extremely robust and busy fixtures calendar which facilitates one of best games programme at Under 15 and Minor level in the country. A total of 1,193 games were played from March to November, as illustrated in the following table:

Under 15 and Minor Games 2023						
	<u>Tournament</u>	<u>League</u>	<u>Championship</u>	<u>Feile*</u>	<u>7-a-side*</u>	<u>Total</u>
<i>Football</i>						
Under 15	-	214	209	26	-	449
Minor	126	154	84	-	32	396
	126	368	293	26	32	845
<i>Hurling</i>						
Under 15	-	98	78	14	-	190
Minor	41	67	36	-	14	158
	41	165	114	14	14	348
Total Games	167	533	407	40	46	1,193

*Short sided games counted as one game per day per team



The above games programme ensured between 15 (minimum) and 20 (maximum) football games per under 15 team and between 17 (minimum) and 24 (maximum) football games per minor team in the year. In hurling we provided and between 13 (minimum) and 18 (maximum) hurling games per Under 15 hurling team and between 16 and 23 minor hurling games. The fixture schedule at under 15 level was alternate weeks for football and hurling games and week on week for minor games, with a break for state exams.

Some opinions exist to allow gaps between minor games to facilitate trainings and also to shorten the under 15 playing year due to weather and other factors. Playing finals and securing venues in November has proved very challenging due to weather, U19/U21 clashes, and other factors. Both opinions have merits but would reduce the overall number of games provided. This is something we intend to discuss with clubs at our youth forum with all juvenile secretaries and chairpersons.

Minimum and maximum games per team in 2023 are illustrated in the following table:

Under 15 and Minor Games - GAMES PER TEAM 2023 (Min to Max #)						
	<u>Tournament</u>	<u>League</u>	<u>Championship</u>	<u>Feile*</u>	<u>7-a-side*</u>	<u>Total</u>
<i>Football</i>						
Under 15	-	7 to 9	7 to 9	1 to 2	-	15 to 20
Minor	5 to 7	7 to 9	3 to 5	-	2 to 3	17 to 24
	5 to 7	14 to 18	10 to 14	1 to 2	2 to 3	32 to 44
<i>Hurling</i>						
Under 15	-	7 to 9	5 to 7	1 to 2	-	13 to 18
Minor	5 to 7	7 to 9	3 to 5	-	1 to 2	16 to 23
	5 to 7	14 to 18	8 to 12	1 to 2	1 to 2	29 to 41
Total Games	10 to 14	28 to 36	18 to 26	2 to 4	3 to 5	61 to 85
# Minimum and maximum games based on majority divisional size.						
* Short sided games counted as one game per day per team						

Regulations & Related Matters

Regulations are central to the proper and efficient running of our games. Our Minor Regulations are regularly under review for improvement and will be presented to the County Committee by the incoming 2024 minor committee. Areas such as fixtures changes, reserve team affiliations, competition ranking order etc. are currently being reviewed in line with Meath GAA regulations and the Official Guide.



An appeal on level ranking order was lodged for our division 1 minor football championship this year. While our minor regulations were clear and upheld it was apparent that the level ranking order was different for our adult competitions but consistent with the official guide. This is an area which may be best to be consistent across all competitions in the county.

Disciplinary matters have arisen once again this year with one competition being delayed due to a game being abandoned because of mentor behaviour. This occurred in 2022 also with a competition not completed until this year. While we recognise that overall discipline is being maintained, the behaviour of certain clubs, mentors, and supporters is something that must be improved upon, with harsher penalties enforced by our committees to deal with serious breaches. Offending clubs and mentors must be held accountable and called out on their conduct. We are writing to clubs to again remind them that the recruitment of coaches at underage level must comply with the GAA Code of Behaviour (Underage).

Referees

The shortage of referees continues to be an issue for the efficient running of our competitions. This is particularly evident for hurling with numerous games called off at Under 15 level this year due to no referees being available. The shortage of referees also contributes to the overall standard of refereeing in the county. Clubs regularly raise issues with the standards of refereeing at certain games but must realise that the ultimate responsibility lies with clubs to put forward referees for training, both at young whistler level and older.

The small pool of referees is under increased pressure for games, and in the performance of their duties on the field. Clubs must remember this. Referees also must remember their responsibilities, particularly in relation to the reporting of incidents at games. There are many incidents and unsavoury issues going unreported, for a variety of reasons, with no referees' report being submitted. The relevant county committees are unable to act or address these matters without the referee's match report.

A specific word of thanks to our Minor Committee member Denise Farrelly, who works tirelessly and efficiently to ensure referee appointments at our games. Her



volunteer work is an example to all, and we encourage more female representation on our committees.

Finals

Finals are one of the highlights of the year for our clubs, players, and supporters. A total of 67 finals were played across ten competitions this year, being four U-15 and six Minor competitions, excluding 7-a-side and Féile. Of these finals 51 were cup finals and played at neutral venues with huge thanks to the host clubs who volunteered for these finals.

A lot of committee's work and preparation happens behind the scenes to make these occasions the best possible for the participating clubs and supporters. We had several requests during the year from clubs to postpone finals at a late stage which are not considered, unless in very exceptional circumstances. An analysis of our finals for 2023 is as follows:

Under 15 and Minor - FINALS 2023				
<u>Football (CUP FINALS)</u>	<u>Tournament</u>	<u>League</u>	<u>Championship</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 15	-	8	8	16
Minor	7	6	6	19
Total Football Cup Finals	7	14	14	35
<u>Hurling (CUP FINALS)</u>				
Under 15	-	3	4	7
Minor	3	2	2	7
Total Hurling Cup Finals	6	4	6	14
TOTAL CUP FINALS	13	18	20	51
<u>Hurling (Shields Only)</u>				
Under 15	3	2	4	9
Minor	3	2	2	7
Total Shields	6	4	6	16
TOTAL FINALS (CUP & SHIELD)	19	22	26	67

Shield finals were played in hurling only at a home venue of either participating club. This is due to larger variance between stronger and weaker clubs within each division and to allow more competitive games within a shield competition.

However, quite a few of these shield semi-finals were conceded this year which questions the value of hurling shield competitions in the future. Smaller groups for hurling championship this year (4 at Minor and 6 at Under 15) meant the variance was far



less and possibly reduces further the need for shield competitions. Finals are ticketed games and provide valuable gate receipts to Meath GAA with a percentage to the host club.

In addition to hosted finals this year the Minor committee also hosted the semi-finals of the Minor football and hurling championships in Dunganny. This was a huge success once again with very large crowds in attendance and hugely entertaining games of football and hurling. Usual home or away semi-finals would not have generated this ticketed income stream. We also take this opportunity to thank all sponsors of our competitions, being LMFM, O'Reilly & Co Solicitors, DG Stoves & Fireplaces, and JM Food Services.

The minor committee does find it disappointing that Páirc Tailteann is not made available for Under 15 or Minor finals, except for Division 1 Minor championship finals as certain raisers to the adult senior championship finals in October. We completely understand the objective to maintain our county grounds to one of the highest in the country but feel it should be balanced against providing one day during the year to host, as an example, three Under 15 finals and one day to host three Minor finals, be that tournament, league, or championship finals. Giving our young players the opportunity to play in our county grounds has huge benefits for future promotion of our games and retention among both players and supporters.

Trophies

In March of this year, it was evident to the current committee that the process of presenting and returning of trophies required attention. Huge thanks to Niall Gogarty of our minor committee for his work in creating and implementing a new process for trophies which involves a temporary 2-week period for clubs to hold trophies for return with subsequent sign-out if required at future periods.

The process will also involve engraving of a unique reference on each trophy. In the interim, the use of temporary trophies and a 2-week return period facilitated the minor committee to present a trophy at all 67 finals during the year, without exception. This would not have been possible without recycling trophies as there are a significant number of trophies damaged and not returned by clubs. A request has been made to Meath Finance committee to purchase additional trophies due to the current shortage.



We hope this will be approved, especially considering the income generated from our semi-finals and finals during the year.

Public Relations

Our county P.R. committee do a wonderful job in promoting our games and the profile of our sport. I would also like to thank Paula Grief and Brian Mulligan for their photography work on our competitions and teams in 2023. The addition of a dedicated P.R. person at Minor Committee level would greatly improve the promotion and interests of our under 15 and minor games.

Grading

Grading of our divisions continues to be an important factor in the successful running of our competitions. It presents challenges in the earlier part of the year when circumstances can change from the equivalent competitions of two years previous. Amalgamations and personnel changes can also contribute to grading complications in our competitions. However, the championship competitions in the latter part of the year benefit from using results and performances from our initial competitions have achieved very competitive games and competitions for both our Under 15 and Minor championships.

Coiste na nÓg are following GAA Official Code 11.7 and are dutybound not to play any knock-out games at U-13 level. This might create a further challenge for grading at the subsequent Under 15 levels. While our committee are bound also to follow the Official GAA Rules & Codes, and we understand the concerns of increased competitiveness at a young age, it is our opinion that the problems are generally around coaches' attitudes and not children. Finals and semi-finals provide a clearer picture of teams' strengths and are of great benefit for subsequent grading of competitions.

Multiple Team Affiliations

All Under 15 and Minor competitions facilitate registration of multiple teams per club where their playing numbers permit. Additional affiliations are graded in our competitions as appropriate by the CCC.

There were several complaints by clubs during the year regarding second and third teams fielding stronger teams because of changing fixture dates or conceding first



team fixtures. The Minor committee are discussing potential changes to the regulations to streamline procedures around clubs with multiple teams.

Inter County & Development

Our County Minor teams continue our journey back to the top table of Inter County Football. Compliments to our football development committee and to all the coaches for the positive work involved with our development squads and Minor panels.

Our Minor footballers bowed out at Leinster semi-final stage losing by a point to Kildare. They had registered wins over Westmeath, Louth, and Wexford in the earlier rounds of the competition, sandwiched between a disappointing loss to Dublin. Our Minor hurlers lost out to Kildare in the Leinster Minor Hurling Championship despite a strong win over Down in the group stage. However, they did go on to capture the Corn Peadar Ó Liatháin with a convincing victory over Carlow in Páirc Tailteann. Our Under 16s reached the final of the Gerry Reilly Tournament in Millbrook but lost out to a strong Cavan side by 3 points.

Sincere thanks to both outgoing minor managers, Stephen Morgan, and Ger O'Neill. We would like to wish the incoming Minor managers for 2024 the very best of luck, being Joe Cowley from Seneschalstown and Martin Lynch from Drumree.

Conclusion

As well as thanking my fellow committee members I would also like to extend thanks to the various members of committees within the county for their help and support during the year. Huge thanks to Tara, Christina, and Olivia in the office in Dunganny as well all those who have assisted with the 67 trophy presentations over the year.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all the club juvenile secretaries for their co-operation during the year. Their role is an important one which acts as advisors to their coaches and members and not just an intermediary to forward and return information without question. Thankfully, most secretaries perform their role in that manner and for that I thank you.

Is mise le meas,

Daithi Ó Caimbéal - Rúnaí Coiste Mionúir Co. na Mí C.L.G.



17. Child Safeguarding Committee

A chairde Gael,

I give hereunder the current situation for the period November 2022 to October 2023.

As in my reports of the past number of years I again confirm that 8 years ago in September of 2015, our Association together with its sister organisations 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 these past eight 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.

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 Síochana both agree that our Association will be the subject of **electronic vetting only**. Since April 2016, a total of 8500 members of Meath GAA Clubs have been vetted in accordance with this new legislation. Some people have in fact been re-vetted as their three years validity had expired.

These persons are now considered vetted for a period of three (3) 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 quite 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. GAA Headquarters together with An Garda Síochána now advise that GAA members who are vetted from 1st January 2021 will now have to be re-vetted **every three (3) years.**

In the coming year 2024, All GAA personnel vetted prior to 2021 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 further period of three (3) years.

Since April of 2022, the method of Vetting has been transferred to the Foireann network and is overseen at Club level by the relevant Childrens Officer. Within Foireann the relevant Officer will have a full and up to date record of the current vetting status of each Club member.

All Clubs will be aware that a Child Safeguarding Risk and Assessment Management Audit was carried out in the Spring of 2023. Similarly, the relevant Child Safeguarding Statement was compiled in respect of each Club. Likewise, this process was completed at County Level in respect of Coiste Na Mi.

I am happy to report that all Clubs in Meath are now fully compliant in this regard. This process will again however have to be repeated in the month of March 2025. Further precise details will be given much closer to the time.

Micheal Mac Beineid,

Oifeagach Na Leanai Coiste na Mi.

Coiste um Chosaint Leanai an Mhi C.L.G.

Role	Name	Club
Chairperson/Children's Officer	Michael Bennett	Ó Mathúna
Vice-Chairperson/Assistant Children's Officer	Jason Plunkett	Cluain Íoraird
Secretary/Designated Liaison Person	Brian Carberry	Naomh Uinsíonn
Assistant Secretary/Deputy Designated Liaison Person	Ciarán Flynn	Dún Samhna



18. Páirc Tailteann C.L.G.

Since Croke Park lifted restrictions on capital projects post-COVID-19 we have:

- (i) established the Páirc Tailteann CLG to manage and supervise the redevelopment project.
- (ii) Submitted a list of donors for the IIP scheme totalling €12.8m.
- (iii) Secured €2m from IIP.
- (iv) Redesigned the original scheme to reduce costs and commence the redevelopment by replacing the existing stand.
- (v) Applied for extra funding under the LSSIF scheme (current grant €6.2m).

In the year ahead, we hope to finish the design this year, go to tender in Q2 next year and, subject to finance being in place, commence construction by Q4 2024.

Páirc Tailteann C.L.G.

Role	Name
Chairperson	Noel Dempsey
Secretary	Seamus Kenny
Committee Members	Liam Mulvihill
	John Kavanagh
	Aoife Farrelly
	Gene Smith
	Keith Loughman
	John Horan
	Jason Plunkett



19. Supporters' Club Committee

Just an update on our year in the supporters' club. As you can imagine a busy year of fund raising by the supporters' club, as usual most of the income came from the car park, the online membership has been very poor this year it's something we will have to look at in the future.

We lost some members during the year so doing the car park collection was difficult at times unfortunately most of the team live in the Ratoath /Dunshaughlin area making it hard for them to get down.

One thing that stood out again this year was putting three finals on the one day. This extremely difficult to manage particularly in trying to get six teams accommodated in the car park, it's very tiring and a long day, the biggest losers are the teams' followers who cannot get into the car park because of the lack of space. We would ask that the County C.C.C. would take this into consideration when fixing these matches.

On a positive note, we were delighted to be able to donate all the money taken at the senior hurling final to Fergus Smith with his brave fight. Thanks to the generous supporters on the day, we raised €2,265 for his cause, we would like take this opportunity to thank those generous people for their support.

On the issue of membership, we would like to see more members taking up membership in the future, we do have some, there could be more.

We wish all Meath teams a successful 2024.

Is mise le meas

Tony O'Brien

Secretary Meath Supporters Club



20. I.T. Committee

The IT committee have been primarily focused on supporting 3 areas:

1. Supporting the Office365 email and related issues
2. Supporting and Maintaining the Games/Fixture Management system in conjunction with Competition administrators
3. Inputs to the County Audits and Risk Assessment.



21. Cumann na mBunscol

Cumann na mBunscol Coiste na Mí would like to extend its thanks to Coiste na Mí for allowing us to play our competitions during the year in Dunganny and in Páirc Tailteann.

Your support and co-operation in hosting our school finals in Páirc Tailteann every year is greatly appreciated. The opportunity to play in Páirc Tailteann is as important for the children themselves as reaching their respective finals. It allows them to showcase their talents and skills in our county ground and to dream of bigger days ahead with their clubs in years to come.



22. Youth Committee & Go Games Committee

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. 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 cooperation 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 number 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 some incidents at our games that have caused us concern. Players and mentors must 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.



We would like to thank Cathaoirleach Coiste na Mí John Kavanagh and Rúnaí Coiste na Mí Ciarán Flynn and all the members of the 2023 Meath Management Committee. I would like to thank all the people who work in Dunganny, especially Tara, Christina, and Olivia who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Thank you to Christine O'Brine, our Head of Games Development and all her GDC/PO team. Thanks to all who help promote our games through social media. Thanks to all the media who helped promote our games throughout the county.

Go raibh maith agaibh to Adrian Madden, Denise Farrelly, Andrew Lenehan, Aidan Quinn, 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 2023. 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 the Coiste Chontae every success in 2023.

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

Is mise le meas,

Fionntáin Ó Portair

Cathaoirleach Coiste na nÓg an Mhí

GO GAMES

On behalf of the Meath Go Games Section, I would like to thank all Meath County committee members from our outgoing chair to the Go Games section itself for all the help and support throughout the year.

Meath Go Games had another successful year in 2023 and hopefully the effects of the covid years are behind us. With 1,552 football fixtures and 656 hurling fixtures catering for over 70 clubs averaging 24 players per team in each age group from U7 to U11. Some teams boasting 50+ players and some teams with the bare minimum.



Blitzes were introduced at u8 and u10 this year to try boost this age bracket. It was overall a success and may be further expanded in 2024. Mini combinations were also set up to allow bigger teams (number wise) play 2/3 teams blitzes every week. This was met with both positive and negative but overall was again a success.

We must congratulate and thank all the youth referees this year and we must strive to continue to grow this next year. I must also congratulate clubs in adverse conditions and pitch closures move, rearrange and transfer matches to make sure all fixtures were played.

Many thanks also to Christine O'Brien and all the Meath coaching and games staff in their efforts this year. I look forward to an even bigger year next year and again I thank everyone involved at county level in assisting Go Games in Meath

Is mise le meas,

Máirtín O'Ceallaigh

Rúnaí Coiste Go Games



23. Buaiteoirí Comórtais C.L.G. na Mí 2023

Comortás	Club
Senior Football Championship	Druim Samhraidh
Intermediate Football Championship	Rath Coinnig
Junior Football Championship	Cill Bhríde
U-19 Football Championship	Naomh Colmcille
Minor Football Championship Div. 1	Naomh Peadar Dún Bóinne
Senior Hurling Championship	Cill Dealga
Intermediate Hurling Championship	Cill Dealga
Junior Hurling Championship	Cill Dealga
U-21 Hurling Championship	
Minor Hurling Championship Div. 1	Naomh Peadar Dún Bóinne
Junior "B" Football Championship	Baile Shláine
Premier Football Championship Div. 1	Rath Tó
Premier Football Championship Div. 2	Druim Samhraidh
A Football League Div. 1A	Rath Tó
A Football League Div. 1B	Baile na Breacai ghe
A Football League Div. 2A	Naomh Pádraig
A Football League Div. 2B	Clann na nGael
Feis Cup	Gaeil Colmcille
Corn na Bóinne	Naomh Pádraig



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Tailteann Cup	Cill Maighneann
Premier Cup Div. 1	Naomh Colmcille
Premier Cup Div. 2	Gaeil Colmcille
Premier Cup Div. 3	Naomh Bride
Div. 1 Hurling League	Átha Troim
Div. 2 Hurling League	Clann na nGael
Brendan Davis Cup	Cill Dealga
Billy Byrne Cup	Cill Dealga
Corn Dónal Ó Loingsigh	
Premier Football Championship Div. 3	Naomh Pádraig
Premier Football Championship Div. 4	Sean Chaisleán
Premier Football Championship Div. 5	Baile an Locha
Premier Football Championship Div. 6	Rath Tó
Premier Football Championship Div. 7	Naomh Uinsíonn
Premier Football Championship Div. 8	Baile Shlaine
Premier Football Championship Div. 9	Carn na Rós
Junior 2 Hurling Championship	Maolach/Cill Scire
U-21 Hurling "A"	
U-21 Hurling "B"	
A Football League Div. 3A	Naomh Bride
A Football League Div. 3B	Baile Shláine
Div. 3 Hurling League	Cill Dealga



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Div. 4 Hurling League	Cill Teidhil
Div. 5 Hurling League	Clann na nGael
Tailteann Shield	Magh nEalta
Reserve Cup Div. 1	Naomh Colmcille
Reserve Cup Div. 2	Naomh Colmcille
Reserve Cup Div. 3	Domhnach Seachnaill
U-19 Football "A"	
U-19 Football "B"	Baile an Locha
U-19 Football "C"	Gael Baile Seinicín
U-19 Football "D"	
Minor Football Championship Div. 2	Emmet Cill Fhiobrich
Minor Football Championship Div. 3	Rath Coinnig/Naomh Mhuire
Minor Football Championship Div. 4	Clann na nGael
Minor Football Championship Div. 5	Baile an Locha
Minor Football Championship Premier	Domhnach Mór/Cill Dhéagláin
Minor Hurling Championship Div. 2	Rath Tó
Minor Football League Div. 1	Naomh Colmcille
Minor Football League Div. 2	Dún Doire
Minor Football League Div. 3	Na Fianna
Minor Football League Div. 4	Damhliag-Baile an Bheileogaigh
Minor Football League Div. 5	Gaeil Naomh Ultain/ Baile Corr
Minor Football League Div. 6	Maigh Dearmhaí



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Minor Football Tournament Group A	Naomh Colmcille
Minor Football Tournament Group B	Naomh Pádraig
Minor Football Tournament Group C	Magh nEalta/Carn na Rós
Minor Football Tournament Group D	Baile Íomhair
Minor Football Tournament Group E	Rath Coinnig/Naomh Mhuire
Minor Football Tournament Group F	Coill Chille Maighneann/An Obair/Naomh Mícheál
Minor Football Tournament Group G	Baile Shláine
Minor Football 7-a-side [Cup]	Naomh Colmcille
Minor Football 7-a-side [Shield]	Naomh Pádraig
U-15 Football Championship Div. 1	Naomh Colmcille
U-15 Football Championship Div. 2	Domhnach Seachnaill
U-15 Football Championship Div. 3	Dún Samhna
U-15 Football Championship Div. 4	Carn na Rós
U-15 Football Championship Div. 5	Baile an Locha
U-15 Football Championship Premier	Domhnach Mór/Cill Dhéagláin
U-15 Football Championship Premier 1	Scrín
U-15 Football League Div. 1	Naomh Colmcille
U-15 Football League Div. 2	Scrín
U-15 Football League Div. 3	Magh nEalta
U-15 Football League Div. 4	Dún Samhna
U-15 Football League Div. 5	Droimconrach/Cnoc na Mí



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U-15 Football League Div. 6	Coill Chille Maighneann
U-15 Football League Premier	Naomh Colmcille
U-15 Football League Premier 1	Naomh Pádraig
Minor Hurling Championship Div. 1 Shield	Cill Dealga
Minor Hurling Championship Div. 2 Shield	Dún Doire
Minor Hurling League Div. 1	Átha Troim
Minor Hurling League Div. 2	Cill Dealga
Minor Hurling League Div. 1 Shield	Dún Doire
Minor Hurling League Div. 2 Shield	Cúil Mhaoilín
Minor Hurling Tournament Group A	Na Fianna
Minor Hurling Tournament Group B	Ó Mathúna
Minor Hurling Tournament Group C	Cill Teidhil/Clann na nGael
Minor Hurling Tournament Group A Shield	Domhnach Mór/Cill Dhéagláin
Minor Hurling Tournament Group B Shield	Bord an Mhúilinn/Rath Moliadhain
Minor Hurling Tournament Group C Shield	Bhulf Tón
Minor Hurling 7-a-side [Cup]	Bord an Mhúilinn/Rath Moliadhain
U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 1	Ó Mathúna
U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 2	Gaeil Colmcille/Gaeil Loch Craobh
U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 3	Bhulf Tón
U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 4	Naomh Feichín (An Lú)



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U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 1 Shield	Cill Mheasáin
U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 2 Shield	Naomh Peadar Dún Bóinne
U-15 Hurling Championship Div. 3 Shield	Rath Tó
U-15 Hurling League Div. 1	Ó Mathúna
U-15 Hurling League Div. 2	Cill Liadhain
U-15 Hurling League Div. 3	Bhulf Tón
U-15 Hurling League Div. 1 Shield	Domhnach Mór/Cill Dhéagláin
U-15 Hurling League Div. 2 Shield	Bord an Mhúilinn/Clann na nGael
U-15 Hurling League Div. 3 Shield	Gaeil Bhlath Gall
U-15 Hurling League Div. 4 Shield	Gaeil Colmcille/Gaeil Loch Craobh
U-13 Football League Div. A	Naomh Peadar Dún Bóinne
U-13 Football League Div. B	Dún Samhna
U-13 Football League Div. C	Magh nAilbhe
U-13 Football League Div. D	Baile Shláine
U-13 Football League Div. E	Naomh Mhuire
U-13 Football League Div. F	Naomh Uinsíonn/ Currach Atha
U-13 Football League Div. G	Gaeil Colmcille
U-13 Football League Div. H	Baile Sencaill
U-13 Football League Div. I	Naomh Peadar Dún Bóinne
U-13 Football Tournament Div. A	Naomh Colmcille



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U-13 Football Tournament Div. B	Druim Samhraidh
U-13 Football Tournament Div. C	Scrín
U-13 Football Tournament Div. D	Droimconrach/Cnoc na Mí
U-13 Football Tournament Div. E	Magh nEalta
U-13 Football Tournament Div. F	Beag Teach
U-13 Football Tournament Div. G	Baile Sencaill
U-13 Football Tournament Div. H	Átha Troim
U-13 Football Tournament Div. I	Magh nAilbhe
U-13 Hurling League Div. A	Cill Mheasáin
U-13 Hurling League Div. B	Ó Mathúna
U-13 Hurling League Div. C	Cill Dealga
U-13 Hurling League Div. D	Gaeil Colmcille/Gaeil Loch Craobh
U-13 Hurling Tournament Div. A	Cill Mheasáin
U-13 Hurling Tournament Div. B	Rath Moliadhain
U-13 Hurling Tournament Div. C	Dún Doire & Naomh Peadar Dún Bóinne
U-13 Hurling Tournament Div. D	Cill Teidhil
U-12 Football League Div. A	Rath Tó
U-12 Football Tournament Div. A	Rath Tó
U-12 Football Tournament Div. B	Domhnach Seachnaill