

An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2018



An Deardaoin 24 Eanáir 2019,
ar 6.30 a chlog

Ionad Chonnacht CLG,
Cloonacurry, Beacain,
Clar Chlainne Mhuiris,
Co Maigheo.



CHAMPIONS: Ballintubber players, management, and supporters celebrate with the Paddy Moclair Cup in the dressing room after their Mayo SFC final victory over Breaffy.
Photo: Piaras Ó Midheach/SPORTSFILE



CHAMPIONS: The Clann na nGael players and management celebrate their county final win at Dr Hyde Park.
Photo: Barry Cregg/SPORTSFILE



COVER PICTURE - Michael Lundy (left) and Ciaran McGrath of Corofin lift the trophy after their victory over Ballintubber in the Connacht SFC final. Photo: David Fitzgerald / SPORTSFILE.



CELEBRATIONS: Kilkerrin-Clonberne captain Louise Ward lifts the cup after victory over Carnacon at Ballyhaunis GAA Club.

Photo: Eóin Noonan / SPORTSFILE.





Comhdháil Connacht CLG

Áras CLG Chonnacht,
Cluain an Churraigh,
Beacain,
Clár Chlainne Mhuiris,
Co. Maigh Eo.

4 Eanáir, 2019

A chara,

Tionólfar an Chomhdáil Bhliantúil don Chomhairle Connachta Cumann Lúthchleas Gael ar an Deardaoin 24 Eanáir 2019 ar a 6.30 a chlog san Ionad Chonnacht CLG, Cloonacurry, Beacain, Clár Chlainne Mhuiris. Co Maigheo.

An Clár

	<i>Time</i>
1. Dinnéar	6:30 pm
2. Address of Welcome	8:00 pm
3. Adoption of Standing Orders	8:04 p.m.
4. Miontuairiscí Comhdáil 2016	8:05 pm
5. Óraid an Uachtaráin	8:10 pm
6. Tuarascáil an Rúnaí	8:25 pm
7. Tuarascáil an Chisteora	8:45 pm
8. Tuarascáil ó na Coistí Éagsúla	8:55 pm
9. Tógadh an Uachtaráin, Leas-Uachtaráin Cisteora, Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí	9:00 pm
10. Guest Speakers	9:10 pm
11. Aon ghnó eile.	9.:30 pm
12. Críoch (Cupan Tae)	9:40 pm

Ainmniúcháin

Uachtarán:	Gearoid Mac Samhrain (Liatroim)
Leas-Uachtarán:	Seán Ó Murchu (Sligeach)
Cisteoir:	Mairtin Mac Cartain (Liatroim)
Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí:	Seán Ó hOibicin (Maigheo)

Rúin

Amend Rial 3.20 T.O 2018 by addition of a new section (e)

(iii) Fixtures Analysts

(A) At least one Fixtures Analyst shall be appointed on the nomination of the Management Committee.

(B) The Fixtures Analyst(s) shall be responsible for monitoring and analysing the County Fixtures Programme on an annual basis.

(C) The Fixtures Analyst(s) shall present a Report to Annual Convention on fixtures played in all club competitions and make recommendations for changes in the fixture calendar where appropriate.

(D) This report will be submitted to the Provincial and Central Fixtures Analysis Committees annually.

(E) A Fixture Analyst shall be a member of the County Competitions Control Committee Amend Rial 3.20 (ii) as necessary. (Comhairle Chonnacht)

Connacht GAA Council Publication



Galway claim back-to-back All-Ireland minor hurling titles



DOMINANT: The Galway squad ahead of their final meeting with Kilkenny in Croke Park.



GALWAY: P Rabbittie; M Flynn, S Jennings, O Salmon; S Quirke, S Neary (C), E Duggan; J O'Donoghue, Oisín Flannery (St Thomas); D Kilcommins, O Flannery (Padraig Pearses), A Brett; D Reilly, D O'Shea, N Collins.
Subs: C Cunningham for O'Donoghue (33), C Keane for Brett (34), S McDonagh for Flannery (Pearses) (41), I McGlynn for Flannery (St Thomas) (45), K Creaven for Collins (49).



VICTORY: Galway captain Seán Neary lifts the Irish Press Cup after the Electric Ireland GAA Hurling All-Ireland Minor Championship final match between Kilkenny and Galway at Croke park in Dublin.

Photo: Piaras Ó Midheach/ SPORTSFILÉ.





Comhairle Cuige Chonnacht CLG

Minutes of An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2017

Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Thursday, 25th January, 2018

Micheál Mac Concarraighe, Uachtaran, presided at An Comhdail Bliantúil held in The Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, on Thursday, 25th January, 2018.

The following members were present: Leas Uachtaran, **Gearoid MacSamhrain**; **Matias MacGiolla Rua** (Cisteoir); **Seán Ó hOibicín** (Oifigeach Caidreamh Poibli); **S. Ó Míochain**, **E Ó Tiarnain** (Liatroim); **R. Ó Braonain**, **S. Ó Niolain** (Sligeach); **P. MacNíochlais**, **G. De Burca** (Leithsceil, Maigh Eo); **Antaine Ó Flathertaigh**, **S. Ó Maoileannaigh** (Ros Comáin), **S. S. Ó hAllmhurain**, **N. Ó Treasaigh** (Gaillimh); **Seán Ó Mairtín** (Reiteoiri); **Aodh Ó Rodain** (Scoileanna Dara Leibheil); **Eanna Ó Falluín**, Leithsceil (Triu Leibheil); **Gearoid Ó Gara** (Cumann na mBunscol); **Seán Ó Tobin**, PGDM; **Adrian Hasaid**, Operations Manager agus an Rúnaí, **Seán Ó Pronntaigh**. Also present were: Iar Uachtarán, **Tomas Ó Morain**, **Pádraig Ó Gormain**, **Lorcan Ó Cuinn**, **Pronnsias Ó Cionnaith** and Auditor, **Micheál Mac Aodha**. Friteadh leithsceil o **Tomás Ó Cuinneagain**

Officers and members of the various county committees were represented as follows:



Gaillimh: P. Ó Cearnaigh, Seán Ó hEidhin, S. Ó Grada, C. MacLanncaidh, C. Mac an tSionnigh, S. Ó Finneachta



Liatroim: A. Ni Raghallaigh, T O Baoil, M. MacArtain, Seán Ó Muilbhígh P. S. Ó Míochain



Sligeach: S. Ó Taift, Bearnadin Ni Samhrain, Seán Ó Murchu, Seoamh Ó Bheadaigh, Pádraig Ó Dubhthaigh



MaighEo: Micheál S. Ó Conghaile



Ros Comáin: Séamus MacSuibhne, Brian Ó Cearbhaill, Seán Ó Corcorain

Other attendees included: Christina Ó Murchu, E. Ó Campion, Labhras Mac Cartaigh, Nua Eabhrach, D. Ó Buachain, Gearoid Ó Concubhair, Gearoid Ó Mathuna, An tAth Ciaran Mac Samhrain, Aodan Ó Braonain, Cathriona Ni Gallachoir, Aodh Ó Gallachoir.

Welcome to Delegates

T. Ó Baoil, Cathaoirleach, Coisde Chondae Liatroma, CLG, welcomed delegates to the convention. He said that it was a great honour for Leitrim GAA to host Connacht GAA Convention on a night that Gearoid Mac Samhrain became Uachtaran Comhairle Chonnacht. He paid tribute to M. Mac Concarraighe for his help and advice during his term of office. He wished delegates well in their deliberations. The Uachtaran thanked T. Ó Baoil for his kind words.

Standing Orders

Standing orders were adopted on proposition of **S. Mac Suibhne** (Ros Comáin); seconded by **S. Ó Míochain** (Liatroim).

Minutes

The Minutes of the 2016 Convention were adopted on the proposition of **N. Ó Treasaigh** (Gaillimh); seconded by **S. Ó Maoileannaigh** (Ros Comáin).

Oráid an Uachtaráin

A Iar-Uachtaráin, Oifigigh an Chomhairle, oifigigh eile agus a dhaoine uaisle.

Ba mhaith liom fáilte a fhearradh romhaibh go Comhdháil Bhliantúil Comhairle Chonnacht anseo in Ostán Bush, Cora Droma Rúisc.

Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a gabháil le Coiste Chondae Liatroma as ucht a n-iarnachtaí chun an Chomhdáil a eagrú, agus don Cathaoirleach, **Traoileach Ó Baoill**, as ucht an fáilte a chuir sé romhainn.

It seems so short a time since I stood in front of you as President of Connacht GAA for the first time, and yet three years have passed in an instant and it is my turn to pass on the baton to my colleague, Gerry McGovern. I have been very privileged to represent my province and have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of my tenure as your Uachtarán.

As usual, our secretary's report provides a comprehensive account of our activities for the year gone by and acknowledges the contributions of all those who contributed to this work. I don't intend to delay your unduly by covering that same ground, but





rather to reflect briefly on the past three years in the life of Connacht GAA.

At inter-country level, the undoubted highlight was Galway taking the McCarthy Cup back across the Shannon for the first time in almost 30 years. It brought to an end three decades of frustration and created a new generation of heroes for the long-suffering Galway supporters. I congratulate everyone involved with this outstanding achievement. Galway minor hurlers took two of the last three All-Irelands, the Intermediate team won in 2015 and, of course, the seniors took this year's Allianz League as well.

Elsewhere Mayo and Roscommon captured Nicky Rackard Cup titles in 2015 and 16 and Joe Canning was our Hurler of the Year for 2017.

On the inter-country football front it was a case of so near and yet so far for Mayo. Their quest continues but they have provided us with tremendous entertainment and excitement throughout the last three years. They have been marvellous ambassadors for our province and we are immensely proud of them. Mayo, of course, did win an U-21 title in 2016, an outstanding achievement in itself.

As an indication of the strength of the game in the province is the fact that we crowned three different counties as Connacht champions at senior and U-21 level over the past three years, Mayo, Galway and Roscommon, which makes the achievement of Galway minors all the greater in taking all three of the last minor championships.

No less worthy of note was the success of the Leitrim Junior team in winning the Connacht title in the year gone by. And, of course, we also boast the last two Footballers of the Year in **Lee Keegan** and **Andy Moran**.

At club level Corofin added another glorious chapter to their history with All-Ireland success in 2015 and all our good wishes go with them this Spring as they seek to capture yet another Andy Merrigan Cup.

We also had All-Ireland successes for the Intermediate footballers of Westport and the ladies of Carnacon, as well as a host of All-Ireland titles at Scór and Scór na nÓg.

All in all, an impressive tally of achievement from the smallest province in our Association.

From an infrastructural point of view there have been significant developments. Things may not have moved as fast as we all would like in Hyde Park, but the most basic requirement, a top-class pitch has been achieved, providing the actors, our players with a fitting stage on which to perform. But other upgrades remain an urgent priority, particularly health and safety issues which impact on capacity and other spectator comforts. These and the commencement of development on a county training facility are being addressed and we would hope to see further progress in the near future. Meanwhile the Sligo training centre has been officially opened and the Leitrim centre hosted a recent FBD game. There are also plans in the pipeline for Tuam Stadium.

Of course when we look back we remember all we have lost in the past three years, too numerous to mention but all fondly remembered and sorely missed. If I single out the loss of **Joe McDonagh** it is

only because of his iconic status as a much-loved ambassador for our province who perhaps best personified that the West was indeed awake. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha go léir.

The GAA is usually portrayed as slow to change, but at the moment we have embarked on a period of profound change, both in the province and nationally.

Connacht took the decision not to partake in the Railway Cup, thus probably signalling its demise, which could be described as a 'mercy killing', we have welcomed the London champions into Connacht Club Competition and confined the FBD league to the Connacht counties.

Meanwhile the usage of the Connacht Centre in Began has expanded significantly in terms of numbers of teams and services available. Over the last few years it has hosted the All-Ireland Féile football, the Sigerson weekend and later this Spring the Feile Hurling Competition. It is now a state-of-the-art facility and a model for the other provinces.

At National level change is all around us. This year our hurling and football championships will look very different indeed. I would ask people to reserve their judgement until we see them in practice. We have made our decisions, now let's try our best to make them work and then review them in the light of experience. Our age grades have changed too, we have some new playing rules and more games finishing on the day. I firmly believe that there will be far more positives than negatives from these changes and a most exciting summer awaits.

What's in the pipeline down the road?

I think our games' structures will continue to evolve. We may have provided more summer excitement at the top end of the scale, but the less successful counties are not well served by our current football structures. Sooner or later we will have to 'bell the cat' and adopt some form of a tiered championship. We take it for granted in hurling, we accept it as normal in our county competitions at club level. Surely our imagination can stretch to devising something meaningful and balanced at inter-county level.

If, in over 130 years a county such as Wicklow has never even won a provincial title, much less an All-Ireland, it is time to consider an alternative format. There are other examples ... I picked Wicklow, only because it is so far away!

A major review of coaching is underway at national level. In many respects this is timely and welcome as the huge resources we invest in this area need to be used as efficiently as possible. As a province, Connacht has embraced the current coaching model more enthusiastically than most and under the leadership of **John Tobin** has benefitted enormously from it. We must be mindful that we do not throw out the baby with the bathwater and that whatever change we embrace is for the betterment of our games in our province.

As I have said many times there is an urgent need to re-focus attention on the club. It is not that anyone wishes the club ill, but conflicting priorities have directed attention away from "the basic unit of the





Association". We still have many excellent clubs, vibrant and well run, but we have an increasing number who are in terminal decline, struggling, or just going through the motions from year-to-tear. We are all aware of the dysfunctional fixture schedule most clubs endure, but the problems go far deeper than that. Clubs feel disenfranchised, disillusioned and detached. The light has gone out of many of them. Many a county chairman might be glad of that at county board meetings but it is profoundly not in the interests of our Association. They need to be better resourced, more empowered and carefully nurtured. The continuing marginalisation of clubs is, I feel, the greatest threat facing the GAA.

And of course the elephant in every GAA room is money, finance and commercialism.

When I stood in front of you three years ago, the training costs of our county teams in Connacht the previous year was €3.3 million. Two years later it was almost €5 million. Thankfully this year there has been a reduction. Let's hope that's not a temporary blip but even so it is still at unsustainable levels.

As every aspect of our preparation becomes more professional, we find ourselves hurtling headlong towards some form of professionalism of county players. It is also this increase in the cost of funding teams and demands on players that fuels increased needs for commercialism in the form of, for example, Sky deals, or GPA funding. We don't always join the dots and make that connection. Sooner rather than later we must examine our core values and decide what direction we want to go. Our current practice is to pretend we can go in opposite directions at the same time.

In conclusion a few general words of thanks

Firstly, to all of you here tonight, the council members and county board officers. You have always been co-operative and welcoming and great company. In particular, I want to extend every good wish to retiring members of the council, **Jim Meehan**, **Enda Tiernan**, **Richie Brennan** and **Seán Martin**, and to thank them for their valued contributions.

To our international partners, especially our good friends in London and New York, I thank you for your courtesy and welcome on all our visits there. The Connacht championship games in Ruislip and Gaelic Park are focal points for the Irish communities there. Long may they continue. I congratulate London on their re-development of McGovern Park and I wish New York well with their plans for Gaelic Park.

To all the staff in Aras Connacht, *Adrian, Cathal, Séamus, Brian, Damian, Amanda* and *Attracta*, I 'thank you' for your assistance and friendship at all times. In particular I want to wish *John Tobin* well in his retirement. He has been a beacon of inspiration in the coaching field for the past 17 years. He has been at the cutting edge of innovation in Gaelic coaching and has ensured that Connacht has been at the forefront of good coaching practice. He will be sorely missed.

Any Uachtarán of Comhairle Chonnacht is

privileged to have a secretary of the calibre of **John Prenty**. His experience, common sense and energy are an invaluable asset to the GAA, both provincially and nationally. More than that, he has been my good friend and confidante and will remain so. I wish John and Mary good health for decades to come.

I want to thank all who served on our various committees and assisted the council in areas such as coaching, refereeing, Scór, public relations, finance, Health & Safety, schools to name but a few. I endorse the remarks in the secretary's report. You all did a marvellous job.

'Thanks' to all the media personnel I worked with. You were professional and fair and played an important part in promoting our games. Special mention to the "Into the West" team with whom we had many dealings concerning publications and programmes and to James Molloy for his photography and good humour! To my club, Elphin, and my county, Roscommon, for nominating me for this position. I say 'thank you' and, perhaps, I may have more time now again to increase my involvement with both.

Finally, to my wife, *Anne*, for her support in so many different ways, the most recent being the deciphering and typing of these illegible words!

And so, "the moving finger writes and having writ moves on".

I warmly congratulate **Gerry McGovern** on this very special night for him and his family. He has served a testing apprenticeship over many decades in his club, county, and province. He is well-qualified to take on the mantle of Uachtarán and I wish him every success and offer him my full support.

Similarly, **John Murphy** is no 'new kid on the block'. He is vastly experienced in GAA affairs and will be very much at home in his new role. I wish him well.

Ba mhór an onóir don bheith mar Uachtarán Comhairle Chonnacht.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

Micheal Mac Concharraige



Tuarascail an Runai

The Secretary's Report was adopted on the proposition of **S. S. Ó hAllmhuráin** (Gaillimh), seconded by M. Ó Conghaile (Maigheo).

A number of issues were highlighted including: Injury Premia, Sustainability of Clubs and Trustees.

The Rúnaí highlighted a number of concerns he had outlined in his report.

Tuarascail an Cisteoir

The Treasurer's Report was adopted on the proposition of **S. Ó Miochain** (Liatroim), seconded by **S. Ó Taift** (Sligeach).

The Uachtarán paid tribute to **Matias Mac Giolla Rua** for the way he presented his report and complimented him and his team for their co-operation during the year.





The Treasurer, *M. MacGiolla Rua*, gave a comprehensive explanation of the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet. He returned thanks to the Council, **M. Mc Hugh**, the various council officers and members and the officers of the various Provincial Park Committees and his team of sellers and collectors for their co-operation during the year. He highlighted the increase in rent for the use of the Connacht Centre which continues to grow. He also thanked the office staff, *John Prenty, Adrian Hassett, John Tobin and Attracta and Amanda*. He paid special tribute to his willing band of gatemen and helpers during the year. The council showed an income of €3,242,993 and an expenditure of €3,096,114 resulting in a surplus of €146,879 compared to a surplus of €209,155 for 2016.

The Uachtarán, **M. Mac Concarraighe** paid tribute to the cisteoir for the way he presented his accounts.

Tuarascail o na fo-choisti

The Uachtaran thanked the various sub-committees for their work during the year and wished them well in the future.

Development Committee Report: Adopted on proposition of **M. Ó Conghaile** (Maigheo), seconded **E. Ó Tiarnain** (Liatroim).

Fixtures Planners Report: Adopted on proposition of **M. Mac Cartain** (Liatroim), seconded **P. Mac Niochlas** (Maigheo).

Coaching & Games Development Report: Adopted on proposition of **S. Mac Suibhne** (Ros Comáin), seconded **T. Ó Baoil** (Liatroim).

S. Ó Tobin gave a run down on the activities covered in his report with particular reference to the Club Mentoring Programme. He thanked the various officers he had worked with during his term as Provincial Games Manager. He was wished well in his retirement.

Games for All Report: Adopted on proposition of **S. Ó Niolain** (Sligeach), seconded **E. Ó Tiarnain** (Liatroim).

Coach Education Report: Adopted on the proposition of **A. Ó Rodain**, seconded by **A. Ó Flathartaigh**.

Coiste Eisteachta Report: Adopted on proposition of **S. Ó Mairtin**, seconded by **P. S. Ó Miochain**.

Post Primary Schools Report: Adopted on the proposition of **S. S. Ó hAllmhurain**, seconded by **S. Ó Muilbhigh**.

Cumann na mBunscol Report: Adopted on proposition of **P. Ó Cionnaith**, seconded **S. Ó Fiannachta**.

Third Level Report: Adopted on proposition of **S. Ó Murchu**, seconded **S. Ó hOibicin**.

Glacadh leis Tuarascail Ó Coiste Scór ar mholadh: **T. Ó Baoil, S. Ó hOibicin** ag cuidiu leis.

Coiste Comarsaide Report: Adopted on proposition of **B. Ó Cearbhuill**, seconded **M. Ó Conghaile**.

Coisde Iomana: Adopted on the proposition of **A. Ó Flathartaigh**, seconded by **T. Ó Baoil**.

Coiste na Reiteoiri Report: Adopted on proposition of **R. Ó Braonain**, seconded by **P. Mac Niochlas**.

Togadh an Uachtarán, Leas-Uachtaran, Cisteoir, Rúnaí

The following Officers were elected:

Uachtaran: **Gearoid Mac Samhrain** (Liatroim), proposed, **T. Ó Baoil**, seconded **E. Ó Tiarnain**. **T. Ó Baoil** said that he was honoured to propose **S. Mac Samhrain** who brought vast experience to the role from club, county, province, refereeing and national level. **E. Ó Tiarnain** gave an excellent résumé of Gerry's career and said that he was ideal for the job on hand.

Leas-Uachtaran: **Seán Ó Murchu** (Sligeach), proposed, **S. Ó Taift**, seconded, **P. Ó Gormain**. **S. Ó Taift** highlighted the various roles that John has held in the association and said that it was a privilege to propose him. He wished **G. Mac Samhrain** well in his new role. **P. Ó Gormain** said that **S. Ó Murchu** was bred for the position as his grandfather, **Jack Brennan**, was a former chairman of Connacht Council, his father was a member of Ard Chomhairle and John has been chairman of Sligo County Board and currently is a member of A/C and Coisde Bainisti. **Seán Ó Murchu** said that he was honoured to be chosen as Leas-Uachtaran Comhairle Chonnacht. He thanked Coisde Chondae Shligigh and the clubs of Sligo for nominating him. He outlined his various roles in the Association. He said that he was pleased that his mother was able to attend Convention.

Cisteoir: **Matias Mac Giolla Rua** (Gaillimh), proposed, **P. Ó Cearnaigh**, seconded, **B. Ni Samhrain**.

Oifigeach Caidreamh Poibli: **Seán Ó hOibicin** (Maigheo), proposed, **M. Ó Conghaile**, seconded, **P. Mac Niochlas**.

Rúnaí: **Seán Ó Pronntaigh** (Maigheo).

Rúin

1: That in the event of their existence each club participating in Connacht Club Championship matches be circulated with a copy of the Provincial Council Match Regulations governing the organisation and presentation of these games in advance of the competition commencement. Such regulations to be amended, if required in 2018 to specify arrangements regarding venues that are suitable for all these matches, covering all eventualities.

Achadh na Síleann, Aughnasheelin GAA. Referred to CCC

2: In the event that no specific Connacht Club Championship Match Organisation Regulations exist that such be formulated in 2018 for circulation to clubs in advance of their participation in the relevant competition. Such regulations to specify arrangements regarding venues that are suitable for all these matches, covering all eventualities.

Achadh na Síleann, Aughnasheelin GAA. W/D.





3: That Rule 4.1 (ii) Rules of Specification – Equipment – Rule 4.1 (ii) – Official Guide Part 2 – (Page 14) be amended to read as follows:

“County/Club teams shall wear their registered distinctive colours in Inter-County/Inter-Club Competitions. Where there is similarity of colours, the two counties/clubs shall wear their registered alternative colour(s) or other colours authorised or directed by the committee in charge.”
(Comhairle Chonnacht) O.O.O.

Aon gno eile

S. Ó Taift, M. Ó Conghaile, S. MacSuibhne, P. Ó Cearnaigh and T. Ó Baoil paid tribute to M. Mac Concarraige and wished G. Mac Samhrain and S. Ó Murchu and the council well in the coming year.

Micheal Mac Concarraige thanked the Coisde Chondae Liatroma staff for making the arrangements for Convention; he thanked the Bush Hotel for the meal. He said that it had been a very workman-like Convention.

Oraid an tUachtarán Nua, G. Mac Samhrain

A Daoine Usaile is Chairde.

Ócáid an stairiúil e seo dom fein, do mo Chlann, do mo chumann dúcheas Cluain, agus mo chontae Liatroma.

Is Onóir Speisialta é bheith mar Uachtarán Chomhairle Chonnacht, agus déanfaidh me mo dhícheall, éifeacht maith a bheith ar chumann Luth Chleas Gael I gach Contae sa Chuige, le linn mo thréimhse.

Tonight ladies and gentlemen it is a huge honour for me to accept the position of Uachtarán Comhairle Chonnacht for the next three years.

It is a huge honour for me, my family, my club, Cloone, and my native County Leitrim.

My C.V.

I started my GAA administration life on December 6th, 1970, in the old school in Cloone, when I was elected to the position of club secretary. Things were much different back then, there were no mobile 'phones and I certainly had no car, not even a bike! I held the position for ten years, culminating in the winning of the Leitrim Senior Football Championship, a medal I'm very proud of and, of course, we opened our splendid new football pitch, Pairc Naomh Mhuire, the same year.

I held many other positions in the club following that. I then was appointed to the national refereeing panel, a position I held for twelve years, obviously, there were no assessments back then. I was then elected to the position of assistant secretary of Leitrim County Board, then vice-chairman and eventually chairperman. Following that I progressed to Connacht Council and as they say: 'I never looked back'.

I served on the GAA National Financial Management Committee in Croke Park for three years; I have done three years as Cathaoirleach of CCC Chonnacht, and three years of Coiste Scór Chonnacht, and also for the last three years as a member of Coiste Scór Naisiúnta. I have served a **47-year apprenticeship** and I hope it will serve me well as I progress in this new role of Uachtarán Comhairle Chonnacht.



One of the greatest administrators

Unfortunately for me I have the unenviable job of following in the footsteps of one of the greatest and most experienced GAA administrators, and one of the finest orators within the GAA, and while I can never expect to match his ability in these areas, I can only match it with honest endeavour.

We have been fortunate for the last three years to have a man of the calibre of **Mick Rock** as President of Comhairle Chonnacht. Mick has led GAA affairs in the province to the highest standards and represented the province at Ard Comhairle and Coiste Bainistí with distinction. He has earned for himself a reputation as someone we will be hearing more about in the highest echelons in GAA administration in the future.

Mick has also led and directed us on our foreign trips as part of the international dimension of the Connacht Council and has led by example, whether it was an impromptu session in *Barrett's in Cricklewood*, or *Rooney's in Manhattan*, after our Connacht Championship matches, Mick would act as M.C. and perform his self-composed pieces, which he did for Scór, and one thing for sure everybody from the travelling party would get the opportunity to perform.

'Thanks Mick' for being an outstanding President.

Behind every good man there is a great woman and tonight I pay tribute to **Anne Rock** who has accompanied Mick on all his endeavours as Uachtarán. Your charming company, your good nature, and pleasant personality, has made you a very popular member of our group, and in any company you were in. When it came to the entertainment stakes you never let the side down, and you always let us know the county nearest your heart, your native Co. Wicklow as you proudly sang '*Among The Wicklow Hills*'.

Thanks Mick and Anne for your wonderful contribution to Connacht GAA. Mick, we look forward to your future exploits in the administration of GAA affairs.





Acknowledgement

Tonight as I Accept this wonderful honour, I pay tribute the men from Leitrim who have held this honour and respect the great work that they have done in the past, namely, the late **Michael McIntyre**; the late **Dick Ellis**, the late **Aidan McGowan**, the late **George O'Toole** and most recently the outstanding **Tommy Moran**.

I'm delighted to be taking office at a time when Gaelic Games are at a high in the province. Galway are All-Ireland Hurling Champions; Mayo within one point of winning the football All-Ireland; Roscommon are Connacht Champions and GAA development is at a high standard in Leitrim and Sligo and Leitrim's appearance in the Lory Meagher Final in Croke Park a notable highlight.

Centre of Excellence

I'm delighted to be taking on the role of President in a province that is so well-equipped and has the finest *Centre of Excellence* in the country. This is a *Centre of Excellence* that can boast of the finest facilities in Ireland. The amount of initiatives that are being promoted in the centre are phenomenal with over 50,000 people using the centre in 2017. This is an outstanding facility and I urge all counties to avail of the facilities for the good of their clubs and counties. The list of activities is listed in your convention book and we look forward to further developments at the centre in the near future.

I pay tribute to the work of **Cathal Cregg**, and **Séamus Burns** and all the staff at the centre for the outstanding work they are doing.

Next three years

For the next three I intend to focus on **club and county development**. I believe clubs are being neglected and more assistance is needed.

As I take on the role I fully realise the many challenges that face the organisation in the immediate future. Looking at the GAA right now, and from the outside, we see the organisation thriving in a most glamorous way. We see the International Rules Competition, All-Star banquets, All-Star tours, Fenway Games, Sky deals, Super 8s, packed houses for our All-Ireland finals. Sure we are flying. I applaud all of this and it is great the association is going so well.

However I have a concern for the organisation at the other end ... at the **grass roots level**.

The Club

I don't want to be seen as another official paying verbal platitudes to the club, but I'm concerned that we are losing units of the Association as clubs struggle to survive or are facing amalgamation with some going out of existence. The club means so much to every member of the GAA in the community. Everybody has an affinity with the club, as is evident from the youngest child, to the club veteran wearing and supporting their club jersey, the club colours.

It is a sad day in any county if we lose a unit of the Association. Tonight I'm asking county boards to work closely with clubs that are finding it difficult and I have no doubt the provincial council can help.

How can we help?

How can county boards and provincial councils help?

1. I believe we need to provide appropriate training for club officers in all aspects of GAA administration; too often club officers are elected and left to their own devices to run the club, without any formal training.
2. We must provide assistance in the provision of club plans. If we fail to plan, we plan to fail.
3. How many clubs have a plan of any nature.
4. Clubs must provide team management from within the club for all their teams and cut the enormous cost of hiring outside team managers some with very little qualifications. This financial burden cannot be sustained and unfortunately it's the dedicated club members out on Saturday nights selling lotto tickets to pay the cost!
5. In order that clubs can do this we have to encourage clubs to utilise the Coaching & Games Development Programmes that are at present being rolled out by the coaching staff at the Connacht Centre of Excellence in Began to upskill members of the club who can well perform the management duties at a lot less cost.
Connacht GAA can provide the highest quality training in the areas of Coaching, Strength & Conditioning, Sports Science, etc., and I urge clubs to avail of this service and save hard-earned money. I urge counties to use the very excellent facilities at Began.
6. For clubs we must continue to lobby for more funding to be made available for club development. I believe grant percentages must be increased for the various aspects of GAA club developments to encourage club development.
7. We must continue to lobby for European funding through Leader and County Development Companies to be made available directly to GAA clubs **for all** developments, and GAA clubs must be recognised as leading community groups. We must continue to lobby for this funding to be made available to GAA clubs.

County Boards

The business of county boards has changed dramatically in the last number of years and further change is on the way. County board officers are under huge pressure and this will increase. Look at how the county board budgets have increased in the last number of years and this is indicative of the enormous change that has taken place.

In order to face the challenges, county boards must be structured in a way that every elected officer has a specific duty to perform and is answerable to the county executive.

Training and support systems must be available to assist our officers in carrying out their duties. County boards must embrace the ethos of planning, and every county must prepare their own relevant Strategic Plan. I welcome some counties are involved this process.

County board officers must be able to evaluate the requests from team managers for investment in team





training, and it is they who must know what is best their county rather than spending hard-raised money unnecessarily.

Once again, I urge counties also to use the facilities and the expertise that are ar present available within the provincial council to provide training for your own personnel from within the county and provide the required standard of training techniques at a fraction of the cost.

County team management

The present level of expenditure on county team preparation cannot continue and while I fully appreciate that county boards are making genuine efforts to reduce expenditure, but we cannot continue to spend at this level. Counties must take immediate further measures to curb spending.

I ask the question are county senior teams doing too much training?

Are we over exposing our players to extensively rigorous training regimes in pursuit of results, they probably are never going to achieve? And in the process are we turning our top-quality players away from inter-county football? Inter-county players are now beginning to highlight this. Do we need to be training five nights a week in November, December January, preparing for our most important competition that commence in May-June? These question need to be addressed sooner rather than later!

Tiered championship

For some counties, I believe it is time to grasp the nettle, have robust discussions in relation to their participating in a form of tiered championship, **following their exit from the provincial championship**, where teams from the less successful counties have an opportunity to compete at their own level, play matches in Croke Park, and get promotion to the next grade. In doing this counties will reduce the training burden on county players and the financial burden on county boards. How long can we persist with the present system which has brought heartbreak in the qualifiers, year-in year-out?

However, in order that this will work, we must have a properly-structured and properly-marketed competition, that will attract counties to play in. If we have Super-8's we can extend the Super-8s to have three further groups of eight.

Fixtures

Fixtures will always be a source of concern for club players, while we welcome the efforts to improve the plight of the club players the responsibility for fixtures lies directly with county boards. The intentions of the **Club Players Association** is good, I honestly believe their presence in unnecessary. County boards should direct their CCC committee to put a **fixture plan** in place that will cover all eventualities and insure that county champions are decided in adequate time for the provincial championship.

I believe there is an obsession with playing Round-Robin competitions. What's wrong with knock-out

competitions? It is my belief, though not everybody will agree, a championship should be confined to groups of a maximum of three.

I urge county boards to respect the efforts that are being made to address the fixture problem and implement the proposed changes for 2018. There is no point in criticising the present system if we do not adopt the proposed changes.

Pillars

To the existing pillars of authority with the provincial council I believe we need to add a new Pillar under the heading of Governance, with responsibility for Club and County Development.

As a provincial council we need to work with county boards in providing information to counties and clubs on a range of issues.

I propose that as a council we will meet the five County Development Officers in the very near future, and following that I propose to have an *Information Seminar* in each county at which every club must be represented.

We are very fortunate to have personnel with the provincial council, in our Provincial Council Secretary, **John Prenty**, and Development Manager, **Adrian Hassett**, who have a wealth of expertise in these areas, and who, with other qualified personnel will deliver the various seminars.

Issues that include:

- (1) Appointment of Trustees
- (2) Corporate Trustees
- (3) Proper Procedures for Borrowing Money.
- (4) Appointment of Contractors
- (5) Proper Procedures in Carrying Out Developments
- (6) Applying for Grant Aid
- (7) Drawing Down Grant Aid
- (8) Insurance Issues
- (9) Any other relevant issues

Other issues

In the modern world in which we live and with the influence of Social Media there are many very important issues for GAA clubs. Counties must have proper structures in place. Croke Park are, at present, providing training and I urge county boards to avail of this very important training.

Referees

A serious amount of excellent work has been done in the province in relation to refereeing standards and now we have more referees on the national panel than ever before. This is a tribute to the outstanding work of our referee's co-ordinator, **Seán Martin**.

However, I was disappointed to hear - in reports from county conventions - about the abuse of referees and the resultant shortage of referees. I would ask counties that when they are highlighting the problem in relation to referees, that they would refrain from highlighting the problem, because it might have a detrimental effect in attracting new candidates.

Referees must report the abuse and county boards must penalise the culprits.





New system

I hope to introduce a new system where by the provincial council will have direct responsibility for training and all matters pertaining to refereeing standards in each county where refereeing personnel in each county would be directly responsible to the provincial council.

Hurling

I look forward to working with the hurling boards in each county and to continue to support the great work they are doing. I trust their knowledge and experience in promoting the game and to assure you of my full support for their work.

Handball

The great work of the handball boards has also to be recognised and while I don't propose to advise you on how to develop the game I can assure of my total support in your endeavours.

Scór

Scór has been my baby for the last three years. We were asked to increase our participation in Scór and to increase the enjoyment of the participants. We had three very good years and I'm glad to say that our efforts in Connacht have been very successful, a fact that was recognised by Coiste Bainistí and Ard Comhairle. I sincerely thank Coiste Scór Chonnacht members for their assistance and co-operation with me for the last three years, and in particular to our excellent Rúnaí, **Aodáin Ó Braonáin**. It has been a most enjoyable journey.

We look forward to hosting the All-Irelands of Scór na nÓg and Scór Sínsir in Sligo later in the year and to recognise the great work being done by Coiste Scór Sligeach. I wish the new Coiste Scór Chonnacht, under the direction of **John Murphy**, the very best.

Other initiatives

There are a number of very important initiatives that are being promoted under the auspices of Comhairle Chonnacht. I pay tribute to the great work being done by our 'Games for all Committee', 'Health & Well Being', and all the other various initiatives.

School bodies

I salute the enormous work of the people who are promoting GAA activities within all our schools. It is serious piece of work on a weekly basis and their dedication and commitment has to be recognised and admired. You can be assured of my total support in the great work you are doing.

County Boards

I look forward to working the five county boards and being of assistance to them in the many challenges that they face in promoting Gaelic Games in their counties and hopefully, by working together, we can make their work less stressful, more efficient, and most importantly, more enjoyable.

Likewise, I look forward to working with all the delegates to the council, the representatives of the various sporting bodies that make up the council.

Officers

The Province of Connacht is very fortunate to have a man of the calibre of **John Prenty** as Rúnaí, Comhairle Chonnacht. With his vast accumulation of knowledge and experience in the administration of GAA affairs, John is a guiding light to county officers on all GAA matters. I look forward to working with him in the administration of GAA affairs in the province. I look forward to working with all the staff at the Connacht Centre of Excellence in Began.

Likewise I look forward to working with the others members of the Management Committee, PRO, **John Hopkins**, and Treasurer, **Mattie Kilroy**. We joined the council together, the class of 2010, it was like the first day at primary school. We spent five years on the CCC and performed the duties of field officers even to international standards.

Agus ar deireadh

All my GAA life I have been fortunate to have been surrounded with great people, whether in the administration of GAA affairs at club, county or provincial level, acting as umpires for me, or whatever GAA task I was doing, and tonight I want to acknowledge their help, assistance and great support over many years.

I want to also acknowledge the support I have received from my family for my involvement in GAA affairs. Without their support and encouragement I couldn't do it.

I can assure you that I will give my absolute and total effort to carrying out my duties of Uachtaráin Comhairle Chonnacht to the best of my ability.

Go raibh Mile Mhaith go leir.

This concluded Convention.

Cathaoirleach.





Tuarisc an Rúnaí 2018

Seán Ó Pronntaigh

AR dtús ba mhaith liom mo fhíor buíochas a ghabhail do gach duine a chabhraigh le gníomhaíochtaí Comhairle Chonnacht i rith na bliana. Bhí bhlain an mhaith againn sa bhlian seo.

Ba mhaith liom freisin comhghairdeas a gabhail do na foirne a bhuaidh Craobhacha na hÉireann I 2018.

2018 was a very successful year on the field of play. All-Ireland titles came to:

Gaillimh: All-Ireland Minor Hurling Champions.

Corofin: All-Ireland Senior Club Football Champions.

Sligeach: Lory Meagher Hurling Champions.

Maigheo: Sraith Iomanoicht Roinn 2 'B' Champions.

Presentation, Athenry: All-Ireland Junior 'A' Hurling Champions.

St Cuan's, Castleblakeney: All-Ireland Senior 'D' Football Champions.

Unsuccessful in national finals were:

Gaillimh: Allianz Football League Division I Final

Gaillimh: All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final

Gaillimh: All-Ireland Minor Football Final

Maigheo: All-Ireland U-20 Football Final

Michael Glavey's, Roscommon: All-Ireland Intermediate Football Final

Rice College, Westport: Hogan Cup Final



St Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen: Senior 'B' Football Final

Off the field, football All-Stars were won by: **Ian Burke** (Gaillimh)

Hurling All-Stars went to Galway's, **Padraic Mannion, Daithi Burke and Joe Canning.**

Christy Ring Champion 15 Awards went to **Naos Connaughton** (Roscommon) and David Kenny (Mayo).

Nickey Rackard Champion 15 Awards went to Leitrim's **Declan Molloy.**

Lory Meagher Champion 15 Awards went to Sligo's **James Weir and Gary Cadden.**

Ladies' All-Stars were won by Galway's **Sarah Dervan** (Camogie) and **Sinéad Burke** (Ladies' Football).

Our Scór Committee had a very successful year. 2018 saw three All-Ireland titles come to the province with a wins at Scór na nÓg level by **Katie Heneghan, Naomh Aodán, Ros Comáin** (sa chomórtas Aithriseoireacht/ Scéalaíocht) and at Scór Sinsir by Achadh Mór, Co. Mhuigheo (sa Cheol Uirlise agus Rince Seit).

The outgoing Scór Committee had a busy year with the organisation of the All-Ireland Finals at the Knocknarea Arena in the Institute of Technology, Sligo. I wish to congratulate Scór Chairman, **Gearoid Mac Samhrain**, and Rúnaí, **Aodan Ó Braonain**, for all of their hard work and dedication over the years and welcome the new Scór Committee under Chairman, **Seán Ó Murchu**, and Rúnaí, **Tomás Ó Muiri**. They are



HEROES: Corofin are All-Ireland champions.





now busy preparing for the Connacht Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsir finals and the upcoming All-Ireland finals which, again, will be hosted in the province at the TF Royal Theatre in Castlebar.

The upcoming celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of Scór will see special events taking place to celebrate the past 50 years of Scór activity. Hopefully, this milestone in the history of Scór, will see an increase in participation and a renewal of activity from clubs who have previously engaged in Scór.

Handball, Ladies Football and Camogie continue to flourish in the province and I compliment the provincial committees for their work in each area.

The Connacht GAA Centre was very busy during the year with the highlight being the procurement of a grant of €2.1m from the Department of Rural & Community Development towards the erection of an Indoor Playing Pitch.

Overall, we can reflect on a positive 2018, and also, a good year for the Association in the province.

Senior Football Championship

For the first time ever the Connacht Senior Football Championship quarter-finals in London and New York were played on the same date, 6th May. This scenario has come about from a desire by the council to shorten the championship schedule in order to make more dates available for club competition.

Sligo was first out of the traps when they travelled to London to play the Gaels at McGovern Park, Ruislip. Sligo were impressive in the first-half and put up an early lead but London started the second half in determined fashion, clawing their way back into contention and put it up to the young Sligo men. However, Sligo held their nerves and ran out impressive winners by 1-21 to 1-11.

Later that evening in Gaelic Park, New York, Leitrim and the council members in attendance, got the fright

of their lives when a well-drilled, organised and determined New York side took the game to extra-time and were unlucky to lose by the narrowest of margins, 1-15 to 0-19.

A crowd of over 30,000 patrons flocked to MacHale Park, Castlebar, for the third quarter-final between Mayo and old rivals Galway. Mayo, who had contested the All-Ireland final the previous September, were determined to stop the championship rot against Galway and avoid three championship defeats in-a-row.

In a niggly, testy affair which replicated the earlier Allianz League game between the two counties - Mayo finished the game with fourteen men and **Tom Parsons** suffered a serious knee injury but Galway, by virtue of a much stronger overall panel, held sway and a marvellous **Johnny Heaney** goal in the dying minutes saw the Tribesmen win by 1-12 to 0-12.

Connacht Champions, Roscommon, travelled to Pairc Séan Mac Diarmada to play a confident young Leitrim side and had a facile 0-24 to 0-10 victory.

Sligo, after their exploits in London, travelled with great hope to Pearse Stadium, Salthill, to play Galway and in what proved to be a steep learning curve for the Sligo-men, they were defeated by 4-24 to 1-12.

The Connacht final was eventually fixed for Dr Hyde Park following an agreement between the council and Roscommon County Board on the future hosting of finals in Dr Hyde Park.

Roscommon put up an early lead and looked like regaining their Connacht crown, to add to the Div. II league title they had won in Spring, but completely fell away in the middle third of the game and allowed Galway to completely take over and win by 0-16 to 2-6 to become the first provincial champions to enter the newly-revamped All-Ireland quarter-final series.

In the qualifiers Mayo travelled to Limerick and prevailed by 5-19 to 3-7 in round one. London hosted



WINNERS: The Glenamaddy CS players celebrate winning the All-Ireland Senior B final following their side's victory over Presentation, Thurles, at Duggan Park in Ballinasloe.





Louth in Ruislip in round one also and exited the championship on a 1-19 to 2-26 scoreline.

In round two Mayo travelled to Thurles to take on Tipperary and eventually came away with a 1-19 to 1-11 victory. Sligo welcomed Armagh to Markievicz Park where they exited the championship by 1-13 to 1-19 at the hands of Armagh. Leitrim had their second ever qualifier victory when they defeated Louth at Carrick-on-Shannon by 0-25 to 1-12.

In round three Leitrim were defeated at home by Monaghan on a 1-19 to 0-9 scoreline. After much controversy Mayo travelled to Newbridge to play Kildare and exited the championship when losing by 0-21 to 0-19 in an exciting and enjoyable game.

No county has a right to refuse to play a game of this magnitude anywhere but at their home venue and there is a need to strengthen our official guide to ensure that there are no grey areas that leave a loop hole to drive a *coach and four* through our regulations. Patron comfort and safety must be paramount when deciding on venues and unfortunately some of our county grounds do not meet this basic criteria!

In round four, defeated Connacht finalists, Roscommon, met Armagh in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise. In a year in which many justifiable concerns were made around the style of football currently in vogue, this game showcased the many highlights and skills of Gaelic football, when played properly, can show.

After an excellent game Roscommon qualified for the All-Ireland quarter-final series when holding on to win by 2-22 to 1-19.

In the All-Ireland quarter-final series, Dublin, Donegal, Tyrone and Roscommon were in Group 2, with Galway, Kerry, Monaghan and Kildare in Group 1.

Roscommon had a torrid time in their group with defeats to Tyrone 4-24 to 2-12 at Croke Park; to Donegal 0-20 to 0-13 at Dr Hyde Park and Dublin 4-24 to 2-16 at Croke Park to see them exit the championship. Dublin and Tyrone qualified for the All-Ireland semi-finals from Group 2.

In Group 1 Galway started their campaign with a brilliant 1-13 to 1-10 win over Kerry in Croke Park. They followed this with a trip to Newbridge where they had a 0-19 to 0-16 victory over the home side and although they were defeated 0-16 to 0-8 at home in round three they qualified for the All-Ireland semi finals.

In the semi-final Galway suffered a 1-24 to 2-12 defeat to Dublin; while Tyrone had a thrilling 1-13 to 0-15 victory over Monaghan.

Dublin took their 4th All-Ireland in-a-row when defeating Tyrone by 2-17 to 1-14. Much commentary has centred round the perceived financial and other benefits available to Dublin but I feel it is time that they got credit for their achievements. The simple fact is that they are better footballers than everybody else at the moment!

The end of the Connacht Championship saw **Stephen Rochford** (Mayo), **Cathal Corey** (Sligo) **Brendan Guckian** (Leitrim) and **Kevin McStay** (Roscommon) all step down from their roles. All four were huge football men who improved the fortunes of their counties during their term of office. They were always co-operative with council officers and I wish them well in their future endeavours.

In 2019, the only man standing is **Kevin Walsh** (Galway). New managers, **Paul Taylor** (Sligo) **Terry Hyland** (Leitrim), **Anthony Cunningham** (Roscommon) and the re-incarnated **James Horan** (Mayo) have been installed and will be working hard



CHAMPIONS: Coláiste Bhaile Chláir, Claregalway, captain Gemma Coll holds aloft the Lidl All-Ireland Post Primary Schools Senior C title at Kinnegad.





to progress the fortunes of their respective counties.

The upcoming Connacht championship promises to be intriguing. Mayo and Galway travel to Gaelic Park and Ruislip respectively in May and will be anxious not to put their feet on a landmine.

Leitrim and Roscommon must be fed up of meeting each other in the early rounds of the championship and the winners will face the winners of Mayo/New York in the semi-final. In the other semi-final Galway or London will travel to Markievicz Park to play Sligo.

2019 promises to be an enthralling championship and hopefully managers, players and pundits will buy into the type of football that we all long for which will see an increase in the number of people attending our games.

U-20 Football Championship

The inaugural Connacht U-20 Football Championship proved to be very successful. In the first round a very good Sligo team, depleted by the loss of a number of players to the senior championship, met Roscommon in the first round at Dr Hyde Park. In the first quarter they blitzed the home side but Roscommon held firm and ran out winners on a 3-10 to 3-5 scoreline. In the semi-final Mayo travelled to Carrick-on-Shannon and had an easy 0-18 to 0-7 scoreline over Leitrim. In the other semi-final played at Tuam Stadium, Roscommon had a 1-11 to 0-11 victory over a fancied Galway side.

In the final, played as a curtain raiser to the senior final at Dr Hyde Park, Mayo had a facile 3-16 to 1-6 victory over Roscommon.

In the All-Ireland semi-final Mayo defeated Derry on a 2-14 to 2-11 scoreline to qualify for the All-Ireland final at Croke Park versus Kildare. On the day Kildare were much more incisive and clinical than the Mayo men and took the first U-20 All-Ireland title on a 1-18 to 1-16 scoreline.

2019 sees a number of changes to the format of the U-20 competition:

- Teams are permitted to train from the 1st March, 2019, i.e. in five months after those who have already commenced training
- A development league in late May-June will be played
- Challenge games will not be allowed
- The championship proper will be 'knock out' played in the window **Wednesday, July 19th – Wednesday, July 31st**. All-Ireland final on the 3rd August.

The new format will alleviate the problem of Leaving Certificate students having to play championship games during the examination period and will also free up inter-county senior players to play at this level when out of the senior championship.

Unfortunately, it will not alleviate the problem of county officers allowing team managers disregard the rules and train from at least December

Minor Football Championship (U-17)

The Connacht Minor Football Championship was ran in a *Round Robin* format this year.

Unfortunately the format led to an uncompetitive championship with the finalists almost known after the first two rounds. Galway defeated all the other four counties to qualify for the final. Roscommon had an easy victory over Mayo in round two to effectively decide the other finalists and after further victories over Sligo and Leitrim qualified to meet Galway in the final. The round one meeting between the two sides led to a facile 4-18 to 0-8 victory for the Tribesmen. The Connacht final, at Dr Hyde Park, was a much-closer affair before Galway took the title by 2-13 to 2-9.

In the quarter-finals Galway defeated Munster runners-up, Clare by 0-18 to 0-11; while Roscommon were defeated by Ulster champions, Monaghan, on a 2-7 to 2-11 scoreline. Galway qualified for the All-Ireland Final by virtue of a 3-13 to 2-9 victory over



CHAMPIONS: Mayo players celebrate with the cup after the inaugural EirGrid Connacht GAA Football U-20 Championship Final match between Mayo and Roscommon at Dr Hyde Park in Roscommon.





Meath in the semi-final. The All-Ireland Final pitted Galway against Kerry who were seeking a history making five All-Ireland Minor titles in-a-row. After a very entertaining game Kerry made five-in-a-row history when winning by 0-21 to Galway's 1-14.

2019 sees a new and fairer format with the top team qualifying for the final and teams two and three in semi-final and teams four and five in 'B' final.

Junior Football Championship

All teams entered but only four teams competed in this competition. Mayo defeated Roscommon by 2-15 to 1-17 and Leitrim by 0-17 to 0-8 in the semi-final. Galway got a walk-over into the final which they won by 1-11 to 1-10.

A telling feature of this championship in Connacht is that the fines were bigger than the gates!

In the All-Ireland semi-final Galway defeated British Championship Kilkenny by 2-22 to 2-8 to qualify for the All-Ireland Final versus Kerry. In the final which was a well-contested affair Kerry took the title by 2-13 to 2-11.

2019 sees all counties in Connacht willing to enter the competition which in a revised format, will mirror the senior championship draw and be played as curtain raisers to the senior games. At best it should not interfere with club fixtures.

FBD Insurance League

The FBD in 2018 was organised on a 'Round Robin' format. It drew good crowds, eager for action after Christmas, but was dogged by bad weather. As can be expected this type of format can throw up some dead rubbers but it is not possible to compromise the competition by not playing all the games.

Roscommon and Galway qualified for the final which saw Roscommon

take the title by the narrowest of margins 2-16 to 3-12.

2019 sees the competition run in a straight knock out format.

On behalf of the council I wish to thank FBD for their continued support.

Ted Webb Cup

Galway retained the Cup and Shield with Sligo retaining the Plate.

Club Championships

Pride of place in club football went again to Corofin who on St Patrick's Day took the All-Ireland club title in style.

At Intermediate level Michael Glavey's were defeated in the All-Ireland Final by Moy (Tyrone); while Lahardane lost out at semi-final level when losing to Westmeath and Leinster champions, Multyfarnham.

The 2018 Club Senior Football Championship had a new format with the addition of London champions, Tir Chonaill Gaels, into the semi-final of the competition.

Aughawillan (Leitrim), Ballintubber (Mayo) and Clann na Gael (Roscommon) regained their country championship titles while Tourlestrane (Sligo), and Corofin (Galway), retained their championships.

By virtue of the fact that Markievicz Park is undergoing remedial work, Enniscrone became the home venue for Sligo clubs participating in the Connacht Club Championship. I wish to pay tribute to the Enniscrone Kilglass club for the manner in which they organised all aspects of the fixtures from pitch condition, parking, stewarding and above all the courtesy and welcome they afforded all teams, patrons and officials who visited Quigabar?



Corofin's Liam Silke is presented with the 2017/18 AIB GAA Club Footballer of the Year award.



Pictured are the Corofin contingent who won awards in the AIB GAA Club Player Awards at Croke Park in Dublin. From (L to R): Dylan Wall, Martin Farragher, Liam Silke, Kieran Fitzgerald, Michael Farragher and Ian Burke.





Ballintubber travelled to play Tourlestrane in round one and came away with a 0-6 to 0-5 victory after a game which was definitely not one for the purists.

Tir Chonaill Gaels travelled to Dr Hyde Park to play Clann na nGael and were defeated by 1-15 to 1-10.

In the semi final Ballintubber travelled to Carrick-on-Shannon and defeated Aughawillan by 3-11 to 1-8. In the other semi-final Corofin had a facile 4-22 to 0-7 victory over Clann na nGael.

The final was played at MacHale Park, Castlebar, and after a dour first-half, Corofin retained their title on a 2-10 to 1-9 scoreline.

In the All-Ireland semi-final Corofin will meet Gweedore at AvantCard Pairc Seán Mac Diarmada in Carrick-on-Shannon and we wish them the best of luck in their quest to retain their All-Ireland crown.

At Intermediate football level Fenagh St Chaillín's (Leitrim), Béal an Mhuirthead (Mayo), An Spideal (Gaillimh), Shamrock Gaels (Sligo) and Fuerty (Roscommon) won the respective county titles. In the preliminary round Shamrock Gaels 2-11 defeated Fenagh St Chaillín's 2-10 at Enniscrone but were defeated by Roscommon champions Fuerty in the semi final on a 2-12 to 0-6 scoreline.

In the other semi-final Beal an Mhuirthead travelled to Tuam Stadium to play An Spideal. Following a ding-dong struggle which went to extra-time the Galwaymen qualified for the final when winning by 0-13 to 0-9. Tuam Stadium was also the venue for the final where An Spideal raced into an early lead before Fuerty came roaring back before losing by the narrowest of margins 0-16 to 1-14.

We wish An Spideal all the best in the All-Ireland semi-final.

At Junior Football level Balla (Mayo), An Fhairche (Galway), Easkey (Sligo), Glenfarne-Kiltyclogher (Leitrim), and Kilglass Gaels (Roscommon) took the county titles.

Easkey defeated Glenfarne Kiltyclogher by 2-17 to 1-9 in the quarter-final before defeating Balla by 3-7 to 0-9 at Enniscrone in the semi-final.

Kilglass Gaels travelled to Tuam Stadium to play An Fhairche in the other semi-final which was won by the Galway champions on a 1-12 to 0-12 scoreline.

An Fhairche travelled to Enniscrone in the final to play Easkey. Easkey ran up what appeared to be an unassailable lead at half time but An Fhairche came on fire in the second half and it took a fantastic last kick point for Easkey to take the Connacht title by 1-11 to 1-10.

Easkey play Red Hugh's Donegal in the All-Ireland semi-final and hopefully they can go all the way to an All-Ireland title.

Leo Kenny Cup

Padraig Peares took the title when defeating Charlestown in the final by 0-12 to 0-11 after an absorbing battle.

Minor Club Competitions

These competitions have again proved to be an outstanding success at 'A' and 'B' level.

The 'B' competition was contested by Mountbellew-Moylough, Tourlestrane, Claremorris, St Dominic's and Melvin Gaels with Mountbellew-Moylough taking the title when defeating Tourlestrane in the final.

In the 'A' competition, Westport, St Brigid's, St



The Irish Consulate in New York hosted a first Friday breakfast for the GAA in New York to mark Connacht's Contribution to Gaelic Games in the city. And pictured here at the function were Gerry Mc Govern (President), Pat Murray (NFL player, guest speaker and former Rocklands GAA player), John Hopkins (PRO) and Mattie Kilroy (treasurer).





Mary's, St Molaise Gaels and Salthill-Knocknacarra took the county championships with a brilliant final seeing St Brigid's defeat Westport by the narrowest of margins.

Hurling

The All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship, the Munster and Leinster Hurling Championships were the highlights of the GAA Year. The new *round robin* format saw Galway defeat Offaly, Kilkenny, Wexford and Dublin to qualify for a Leinster final meeting with Kilkenny. The final a 0-18 each draw at Croke Park brought the teams back to Semple Stadium, Thurles, before Galway retained their title on a 1-28 to 3-15 scoreline.

In the All-Ireland semi-final Galway were again brought to a replay when drawing with Clare on a 1-30 all scoreline after extra-time. In the replay they qualified for the All-Ireland final after another brilliant game by the narrowest of margins 1-17 to 2-13.

In the final against Limerick, Galway were very slow out of the blocks and trailed 1-10 to 0-9 at half-time. Limerick increased their lead early in the second-half but a tremendous last quarter saw Galway almost level the game before Limerick took the All-Ireland title by 3-16 to 2-18.

At minor level Galway again retained their All-Ireland title with a deserved victory over Kilkenny 0-21 to 0-14.

At the U-21 level Galway competed in the Leinster Championship for the first time and defeated Offaly by 1-20 to 0-8 in the quarter-final.

In the semi-final they defeated Kilkenny by 3-13 to 1-17 before defeating Wexford by 4-21 to 2-26 in the Leinster final.

In the All-Ireland semi-final Galway were defeated by 3-17 to 1-17 by a Tipperary side that went on to take the All-Ireland title.

In the Ring, Rackard and Meagher Cups, pride and place must go to Sligo who took the Lory Meagher Cup when defeating Lancashire by 4-15 to 0-15 in the final.

In the Christy Ring Cup Mayo and Roscommon suffered two defeats before a winner take all final round game saw Mayo relegated on a 1-17 to 0-11 scoreline.

In the Nicky Rackard Cup Leitrim suffered three defeats to Donegal, Tyrone and Louth.

At club level St. Thomas took the Galway hurling title and will play Ruairi Og (Antrim) in the All-Ireland semi final.

In the Intermediate Hurling Championship, Tooreen travelled to play Athleague in the quarter-final where they eventually emerged victorious by 0-17 to 1-9.

This set up an historic first ever Connacht Club Championship game in London. Tooreen travelled in numbers and had a hard-earned but well-merited victory over London champions St Gabriel's by 0-18 to 1-13.

In the final at Athleague, Connacht Champions, Tooreen, met fancied Galway champions, Oranmore-Maree, who took a hard fought, well-contested final by 1-20 to 1-15.

The highlights of the hurling year in the province saw Carrick Hurling Club defeat Coolera Strandhill by 0-16 to 1-8 in the semi-final before bringing an historic first-ever Connacht club title to Leitrim by defeating Galway champions Ballygar by 2-11 to 2-9.

In the All-Ireland semi-final Carrick Hurling Club will play Castleblaney Hurling Club (Monaghan). It is a pity that Carrick Hurling great, Paddy Phelan, who died earlier in the year, did not see history being made by his beloved club.

At under-age level Four Roads defeated Meelick Eyrecourt to retain their title.

The competition was also contested by Easkey/St Farnan's and Westport.

Tain Leagues

The underage and adult Tain Leagues proved to be disappointing due to the lack of entries. A final effort is being made in 2019 to try and find a way to provide meaningful competition for teams from the lower tiers of the hurling?

Where there is a way there must be a will.

Club Fixtures Scheduling

In my report last year I concluded by saying: "Finally I wish to encourage all of our county officers and especially those charged with fixture making to embrace the new changes and enhance the fixtures



TITLE: The Sligo team celebrate their win over Lancashire in the Lory Meagher Cup final at Croke Park.





scheduling for the benefit of our clubs. I recognise the difficulties encountered with county team managers in balancing the schedule of club fixtures, involving county panellists versus the inter-county schedule. The time for double talk is over and as a council we will be adequately monitoring the progress. We have a responsibility to ensure that we reward *good practice* and put monetary penalties in place for those that do not comply.

“This is our last chance to get the balance right and if we fail the alternative may be to remove club fixture scheduling and management out of the hands of county officers and out of the influence of county team managers”

Tonight I pose the question: **“Has anybody taken heed of that statement?”**

- Has any county reviewed the fixtures in their county to take into account of the increased level of inter-county activity?
- Are we still trying to fit a quart into a pint bottle?
- Have our clubs any say on the fixtures schedule in their county?
- Are clubs being bullied into submission?
- Are rounds of the championship being played in April with a break of up to 20 weeks for the next round?
- Are starred games being played in December?
- Have county officers completely submitted to the inter-county scene?
- Is your county adhering to Rial 6.22?
- Are you like Basil Fawlty when asked did your county break Rule 6.22 and you answer, “I remember nothing”?

Most of the fixture problems being encountered by clubs have solutions in each of our counties. The question is where do we start? Do we want to continue with the Round Robin Hurling Championship, which has been very successful? Do we want to continue with the football qualifiers or do we want to go back to the pre-qualifier days and have a knock-out competition? It is unlikely that we will ever return to the old ways and consequently our counties will have to be creative in how they manage the whole club fixtures programme. Each county is an ‘independent republic’ and manage as best suits them.

Nationally, since 2016, the main policy of the Association has been the development of a Club Fixtures Strategy. The following changes have been made:

- Changes to rules and competitions structures at Congress & Central Council
- Two significant club windows in the calendar year –April window (between league and championship) –end of the inter-county season
- Making August, September and October an enhanced period of intense activity for the club game at adult level. There is no doubt that this period has been of enormous benefit to our club games and the emergence of teams like Mullinalaghta and Gaoth Dobhair, plus the major promotional work of TG4 has made those months special in the history of the GAA calendar

Since the strategy of prioritising club fixtures was developed it is interesting to compare the situation in 2015 v 2018. This will help expose some of the myths

being promoted by those who wish to portray our club fixtures as being chaotic:

- Almost four extra weeks per county available for club fixtures in 2018 v 2015 (121 extra weeks created) from the end of the inter-county season to the end of October
- In 2015, there were 15 Counties (47%) who were left with less than 10 available weeks (some as little as four) between their elimination from inter-county competition and the last week end of October
- In 2018, only four counties (12%) will have less than 10 weeks – two counties will have eight weeks
- 29 of 32 counties will have benefited positively from the changes (or will have the same number of weeks as pre-change)
- While the above all relates to the amount of time being created for counties post their exit from the inter-county championships, all the above is in addition to the April window created for club activities
- There was a 12% drop in the number of sanctions to the New York, US GAA and Canadian since 2015.
- Obviously there are a number of negatives, which are difficult to circumvent, experienced by counties who had previously been able to play some rounds of championship in the gaps between games in May and June in particular.

Nationally, it is planned to bring all stakeholders together later in the year to examine all aspects of fixtures scheduling.

In order to help counties develop a coherent fixtures schedule the National Fixture Analysts Committee has developed a number of **quality statements** to assist fixture makers in their mammoth task. They should be used as a guide to ensure best practice in each county:

- The adult league season should begin no earlier than February
- The adult league season should be concluded by the end of October
- The season’s length should be between six to nine months for every player (in terms of internal competitions only)
- Adult players should have the following meaningful competition games during the season (meaningful games = league and championship) – (A) Strong Code – 16 (B) Weak Code – 8 (C) Dual Code – 12 (in each code)
- A **master fixtures plan** should be circulated to all clubs before the end of February.
- The start and end dates specified in the **master fixture plan** should be met
- Confirmed weekly fixtures should be posted on the county website before 10 a.m. on Tuesday each week during the season
- All adult championship fixtures – including relegation play-offs where relevant – should be completed by the end of October
- The finals for competitions that progress onto provincial level, should be played at least two weekends before a team is required to play in the provincial championship





- No team should be eliminated from the championship (including relegation play-offs) before the start of July
- Games in the adult championship that were drawn, did not affect the scheduled dates for the remaining rounds of the competition
- The maximum gap between official games for any club's first team should be three weeks
- A county should review their postponements and re-fixturing policy every year and circulate these policies to clubs
- Where pitches for county league games are unplayable, counties should have regulations that provide that the game is moved to the away team's pitch
- The **master fixture plan** should contain a contingency in the event a county exits the championship earlier than planned or progress further than planned
- No rounds of the championship - as originally laid out in the **master fixture plan** - should be postponed due to the progression of any county team
- No rounds of the league - as originally laid out in the **master fixture plan** - should be postponed due to the progression of any county team
- A forum/review should be planned with engagement with players and club representatives before the end of the year and before the master fixture plan for the year is commenced
- The county officers/CCC should meet with county managers before the master fixture plan for the year is commenced
- There should be provisions included in the **county teams/players charter** that outline when players will be released to play with their club.

Are the above being adhered to in your county?

Finally, I repeat what I said last year: "This is our last chance to get the balance right and if we fail the alternative may be to remove club fixture scheduling and management out of the hands of county officers and out of the influence of county team managers." *The future is now.*

Coaching & Games Development

Our Coaching & Games Development Committee, under the chairmanship of **Padraic McGourty** oversees a significant number of games and projects in the province which has ensured that the standard of Gaelic Games continues to improve. This is due, in no small measure, to the continued support of a **games-based approach** in all of our activities

Under the stewardship of our new Provincial Games Manager, Cathal Cregg, our Spring and Autumn Coaching Programme, Cúl Camps, Academies, Second Level Schools Programmes, Coach Education Courses, Transition Year Courses, Primary Teachers Courses and our Coach Education Courses, Super Games Centres (SGC's), Primary Schools activity days, Supertouch Programme, Féiles, Skill Challenges, Sceimoiiluna have brought coaching to every corner of the province in 2018.

I wish to congratulate the National Coaching & Games Development Committee who progressed a number of very important events including:

- The receipt of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) recognition from UNESCO for
- The launch of a Rights Awareness Programme with the Ombudsman for Children's Office
- The launch of LCPE.IE, which places the Association at the forefront of the leaving certificate PE curriculum
- The finalisation of age-grades and the agreement, in principle, to optimise coherency at club and county level and alignment with the Féiles
- A pilot programme aimed at optimising the club and post-primary school interface - based on the cultivation of Wellbeing & Lifelong Learning (WeLL)
- Talent Academy Blitzes
- Youth Forum
- Celtic Challenge

All of the above initiatives will have long-lasting benefits for those who work at the coalface of coaching development in our counties and schools.

Our Connacht Coaching Programme continues to be delivered to a significant number of primary school



CHAMPIONS: The Roscommon footballers celebrate with the Division 2 title after their win over Cavan at Croke Park.





and post-primary school children each week due to the provision of our part-time and full-time coaches. In order for this to flourish there is a vital link needed between the clubs and the schools and it is essential that the local clubs provide assistance where required. The cultivation of this relationship is imperative and will bear fruit in the medium/long term. There has been a significant improvement in this relationship through the club coaching officers.

Super Games Centres

This concept has been trialled over the past number of years especially at secondary school level whereby, in effect, transition year students have overseen the organisation of the game and it is working very well. It has been enhanced by the Future Leaders Programme with 57 schools at present participating. A GAA Super Games Centre should provide all of the following, at a minimum, for participants:

- Minimum 6-week period of activity
- 60 mins per week
- Games-Based Approach (small-sided games)
- Play-to-Stay Values/Minimal Coaching Input
- Dedicated Super Games Centre Co-ordinator
- Suitable facilities - Indoor and/or Outdoor

In order to promote the concept at club level **Cathal Cregg** organised an initiative called: **Friday Night Lights** at the Connacht GAA Centre on two Friday nights in December. This was a overwhelming success with over 350 participants from 39 clubs and all of the five Connacht counties. The event was for u-14 boys Gaelic football players that were mixed up into random teams and played 4 x 12 minute games where all players played for the whole duration of the games in a variety of positions. Two further **Friday Night Lights** events are planned for January 18th and 25th at the Connacht Centre and then, hopefully, it will be expanded into the counties at venues to be decided.

The level of positivity from parents and the children participating was very encouraging. The initiative is being developed to try and counteract the 49% drop off rate seen across the GAA in the age groups 12-17 year of age.

I would like to pay tribute to **Cathal Cregg** and **Charles Harrison** for the huge amount of work they put into making the initiative such a success.

National Schools 5-Star Centre

This initiative, which embraces a games-based player-centred approach, is in the main delivered by teachers in the school with support from Connacht GAA Coaching and Games Development staff

Currently there are 70 national schools in Connacht participating in the National Schools 5-Star Centre Initiative, which is above the 10% national target set out for the province for this year.

The programme consists of a minimum one hour per week over 26 weeks tuition in the five existing programmes listed below:

1. Have a Ball Programme
2. Fun & Run
3. Come on and play/catch a kick
4. Go Games
5. Go Games Skills Challenges

Schools completing all the five initiatives will be recognised as a 5-Star Centre and receive a 5-Star Centre flag. This is a most worthwhile initiative and deserves the fullest support.

Club Support Programme

The next phase of our Club Support Programme is being rolled out in the counties in the coming weeks with all of the participating tutors upskilled to give a common approach at each session. Its main priority is to reinforce the concepts of self-sufficiency and self-sustainability for all clubs. Clubs are crying out for help in this area and face many issues regarding:

- Declining Player Numbers
- Recruiting Volunteers
- Facilities
- Finance
- Fixtures

The Club Support Programme is based on 4 visits:

- 1 Assessment of the current status of coaching and games within the club (Club Coaching Forum). This will be facilitated by a tutor and requires the full club executive to be proactive
- 2 Identification of **prioritised coaching projects** for year (Club Coaching Committee). Each club will identify their own specific needs and identify at least three coaching and games objectives that will contribute towards the primary purpose
- 3 Provision of **practical coaching assistance** by our coach education tutors.
- 4 Assessment and review of the programme by the county games manager and the tutor who initiated the process in Phase 1. This will decide the outcomes to be written into the plan.

This process is a start to a club becoming self-sufficient in providing coaches at all levels.

Our Cúl Camps take a huge logistical effort by our games managers who are overseen and co-ordinated by National Cúl Camp Coordinator, **Charlie Harrison**.

This year saw 1,234 camps being held nationally with a record of 153,858 boys and girls participating in camps during the months of July and August - an overall increase of 8%. In Connacht we had 177 camps with 22,859 children in attendance.

On behalf of the council I wish to thank the following:

- Our coaching committee under the chairmanship of **Padraig McGourty** and our County Coaching Officers, **Liam Moffatt** (Mayo), **Michael Geraghty** (Galway), **Seán Kilbride** (Roscommon), **John McPartland** (Sligo) and **Hughie Clinton** (Leitrim). Seán Kilbride is not continuing as Roscommon Coaching Officer in 2019. I look forward to working with his successor
- Our Coach Education Committee under the Chairmanship of **Denis O'Boyle**. They conducted 134 courses (up from 122 in 2017) and qualified 3,261 coaches (up from 2,675 in 2017). There are now in excess of 35,000 coaches qualified in the province.
- To our games managers, **Tom McManus**, **Thomas Keenan**, **Willie Hegarty**, **Billy McNicholas** and **Liam Óg Gormley**. Special thanks is also due to **Padraic Ó Conaire** for his work under Sceimoiliuna.





- Also to our Third Level Officers, **Michael Harte** (SIT), **Damien Curley** (GMT) **Michael O'Connor** (NUIG) for all of their efforts throughout the year.
- **Séamus Burns** had a massive influence on clubs and development squads with fitness testing, training programmes and video analysis. Student trainees, **James Mitchell** (Leitrim), **Darren Duffy** (Mayo), **Jack Casey** (Roscommon), **Fiachra O'Grady** (Sligo), **Eoin Kirwan** (Galway Hurling) and **Aidan Claffey** (Galway football) who worked for six months from March to August in their assigned county and I would like to thank them for all their hard work and we wish them well in the future.

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to our Provincial Games Manager, **Cathal Cregg**, and our Hurling Director, **Damien Coleman**, for their continued commitment to the promotion of our games within the province.

Also the National Coaching & Games Development Committee, under the chairmanship of **Ciaran McLaughlin** and the guidance and direction of **Pat Daly**, **Jimmy Darcy** and **Peter Horgan** and **Caoimhe Ni Neill**.

Games For All /Health & Wellbeing

The past year has been a very busy year for our committees dealing with Games for All and Health & Well Being. Games for All worked tirelessly to meet the targets for 2018-19 as listed below:

- a) Organisation of a Wheelchair Hurling event
- b) Promotion of games for people with disability
- c) Organisation of a Connacht Games for All Gaelic Football team in association with the ISSSC
- d) Ongoing promotion of the Respect Initiative
- e) Promotion of the GAA Fun & Run Initiative as a Recreational Game for All
- f) To continue to address and promote facilities and access for disabled and wheel chair supporters
- g) Encourage the counties in Connacht to hold a 'Have a Go Day'
- h) Connacht to support all counties in the achievement of their targets
- i) To carry out any task as requested from national level

I wish to pay tribute to all involved with the various initiatives: **Denis O'Boyle** (Chairman), **Mattie Kilroy** (Secretary), **Christy Tyrrell** (Galway), **Tim Hynes** (Sligo), **John Hopkins** (Mayo), **Barry Lowe** (Roscommon), **Pat Feely** (Leitrim), **Cathal Cregg** (Connacht GAA Games Manager), **Gerry McGovern**, Connacht President.

Our Health & Wellbeing Committee under the Chairmanship of **Mattie Kilroy** were very active during the year. I wish to compliment Mattie and his committee members *G. Burke (M), J. Niland (S), M. Judge (G) M. Prenty, A Rock, N Collins (R), Aoife Lane, Justin Campbell, Iggy Clarke (G); Ruth Mulherrins (G) Barbara Byrne, Niall Brady, J. Tobin* for their work in this field.

In the new year, because of the overlap in the workload between Games for All and Health & Wellbeing it is proposed to amalgamate both committees into a single committee which is intended to progress issues in a co-ordinated fashion.

Schools & Colleges

2018 was a successful year for schools and colleges competing at second and third level competitions.

Our Connacht Second Level Schools Committee were shocked at the sudden death of their Chairman, **Ciaran Byrne**, during the year. Ciaran gave sterling service to all aspects of second level schools and left a huge void. We offer our sincere sympathies to his wife, Marie; daughters, Ursula and Carina.

2018 was a very successful busy year for our colleges and vocational schools where the standard of our games continues to improve grow in these post-primary educational institutions. Two All-Ireland schools titles came to the province with defeats for Rice College and St Nathy's in finals.

On the playing fields Rice College, Westport, took the senior 'A' football title, for the first time after beating St Attracta's in the final. They went all the way to the All-Ireland final before being defeated by St Ronan's, Lurgan, by the narrowest of margins in the final.

St Nathy's College took the 'B' football title and the Richie Bell Cup when defeating Colaiste Mhuire, Strokestown. In the All-Ireland series St. Nathy's made it to the All-Ireland final, losing out to an impressive Holy Trinity team from Cokestown.

At 'C' level Colaiste Chiarain, Athlone, defeated St Paul's, Oughterard, to take the Connacht title before being defeated by eventual All-Ireland champions, Ardee C.S. in the All-Ireland semi-final.

For the third year in-a-row the All-Ireland Senior Football 'D' title when St. Cuan's, Castleblakeney, who defeated Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin in the Connacht final and eventually went on to have a clean sweep in taking the Connacht League and championship and the All-Ireland title. This was a huge achievement for the school.

St Joseph's, Galway, won the Junior 'A' title when defeating St Gerald's in the final. They were defeated by Colaiste Mhuire, Mullingar, in the All-Ireland semi-final.

In Senior 'A' Hurling Presentation, Athenry, defeated Gort CS, Athenry, to take the Senior 'A' Hurling Championship.

In the All-Ireland quarter-finals Gort were defeated by St Kieran's, Kilkenny; while Presentation, Athenry, went all the way to the All-Ireland Final before, also being defeated by St Kieran's, Kilkenny.

In recent weeks Presentation College, Athenry, were crowned All-Ireland Junior 'A' Hurling Champions when taking the 2018-19 All-Ireland title.

Over 2000 games were organised for our second level schools in 2018 including our leagues and championships. There were also a number of Blitz Days scheduled at the Connacht Centre. These blitzes were very important for our smaller schools who struggle with numbers but who reap the benefits of being able to compete at their own level. I wish to thank our games managers, especially for their work in organising those days.

The coming year will present new challenges for our schools with the new *Junior Certificate Class-based Assessments* being rolled out to more subjects. This will have a significant effect on junior and





juvenile school games, in particular with less time being made available for preparation and competition. It is an issue that will impact on coaching and games development in particular and all counties should put contingencies in place to lessen the impact.

I wish to thank our Second Level Schools Committee, under the Chairmanship of **Joe McCabe**, for their great cooperation during the year. **Hugh Rudden** has done tremendous work to ensure that second level games are organised and played on time. All games cannot be scheduled for the centre and I wish to thank the many clubs and county committees who make their facilities available to our second level schools.

At third level 2018 was an action-packed, fixture heavy and very busy year with teams from NUI Galway, GMT, IT Sligo, GMT Castlebar, GMT Letterfrack and a number of colleges of Further Education and ETBs across the province competing in all grades within the Comhairle Ardoideachais Electric Ireland Leagues and Championship.

NUIG won the Intermediate football league title while their senior team qualified for the Sigerson Cup final before losing to UCD by a single point.

GMT competed in the Trench Cup where they reached the quarter-final stage before losing out to eventual winners, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. GMT and IT Sligo met in the opening round of the Freshers 1 Championship with IT Sligo progressing to the quarter-finals where they lost out to Cork Institute of Technology. NUIG Galway progressed to the quarter-finals of the Freshers competition where they lost out to UUJ.

In the hurling championship GMT Letterfrack took part in the **Fergal Maher Cup** progressing all the way to the final where they lost out to St Mary's, University College, Belfast.

College Bursaries

The council has continued its commitment to providing Bursaries to third level students from the province who are active members in their higher

education club in an administrative or playing capacity. All five Connacht counties are represented in the initiative which provides financial assistance to students who have displayed potential and commitment on the Gaelic Games front. This scheme, which is in place for over ten years, has invested over €300,000 in our young players and administrators during this time and is a significant contribution to our young people.

Our Third Level Committee, under the Chairmanship of Pádraig McGourty, continue to do trojan work at this sector and play a valuable part in promoting Gaelic Games.

I wish to thank our Third Level Development Officers, **Damien Curley** (GMT), **Michael Harte** (Sligo IT) and **Michael O'Connor** (NUIG) for their co-operation and dedication to promoting Gaelic Games in their colleges.

At primary schools level our Cumann na mBunscol committee are a very enthusiastic group who work closely in the promotion of Gaelic Games in conjunction with our games managers, coaches and GPO's.

Coaching & Games Development initiatives were well-organised and supported with personnel being provided on a regular basis visiting schools.

Go-Games and **modified games** are now the norm in all counties up to U-12.

The Respect Initiative is being promoted as an essential part of our coaching and the Young Whistlers Programme helps to reinforce this initiative with 160 boys and girls participating.

The exhibition games during our senior football championship were, again, very successful with over 150 boys and girls participating. Cumann na mBunscol also brought new initiatives for handball and Rounders and are to be complimented for their work.

In 2018 the Primary Teachers In-service Course continued to grow in popularity with record number of teachers participating.

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to the representatives of the educational sector on the council, **Padraig**



Students from the third level sector were acknowledged by Connacht GAA in the annual student bursary awards at a ceremony which took place in the Connacht GAA Centre.





McGourty (Third Level), **Hugh Rudden** (Secondary Schools), **Seán Wynne** (Vocational Schools) and **Gerry O’Gara** (Cumann na mBunscol) for their contribution to their respective sectors and also to the overall work of the council.

On behalf of the council I wish to thank all of those who promote Gaelic Games in each sector and I look forward to working with them in the future.

County Structures, Finance, Infrastructure

During the past year the council has organised a number of very informative Seminars in each of the five counties and in a number of clubs covering the following topics:

- Governance
- Club Planning
- Vetting in the GAA
- Player Injury Scheme & GAA Insurance
- Coaching (in terms of self-sufficiency)
- Trustees & the Corporate Trustee System
- Disciplinary Process

The council also produced a **Club Manual** which was distributed to all clubs who attended the Seminars and they are a invaluable reference point for club officers/coaches, etc., on a wide range of topics and issues.

A Seminar was delivered to the county officers by the members of the various committees in Connacht, these included:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Games for All
- Cultural/Scor
- Insurance
- Planning & Physical Development
- Coaching & Games Development
- CCC & competition dates

Further Workshops were delivered in the Connacht GAA Centre on new *Corporate Trustee Model*, *GDPR*, a presentation by Clann Credo, Healthy Club, Pitch Maintenance. These workshop/seminars were well-attended and highlight the need to deliver workshops that focus in on defined areas/topics.

By rule Rial 3.19 T.O outlines the powers of a county committee which “Shall be the governing and controlling body of all affairs within a county.”

A worrying theme from all of the seminars/workshops and individual club meetings, highlighted an information deficit and disconnect between the clubs and the county committee in such areas as:

- Clubs feel removed from the decision making process
- Club delegates feel they are treated like mushrooms - fed manure and kept in the dark
- Who approves the various expenditure budgets in each county?
- Do outside influences carry more weight than the clubs?
- County board meetings are a sprint. Delegates are told what is happening with no real discussion or decision making opportunity
- All decisions are made by the county sub-committees and in many cases by a kitchen cabinet within the sub-committees

The question needs to be asked whether lack of governance is the cause of the financial problems many counties are experiencing currently? In fairness to many of our county officers they are making huge efforts to raise the money needed to progress their counties but they are having little or no success in curbing the expenditure side.

As an Association the two big financial issues which face all counties facing us are:

(A) The cost of preparation of Inter-county Teams

- Almost €6m has been spent in the province in 2018 in this area.
- Is this sustainable?
- Do the clubs know what the budget was or did they approve it?
- Are we getting value for money? The mantra of our county officers is that: “Our players deserve only the best” which is true but the players come in very low in the expenditure chain. Huge amounts are being spent of backroom teams and professional services which appear to be uncontrollable with numbers as large as a small hospital!
- Are all backroom teams’ personnel agreed on the managers charter?
- Are they getting the same expenses as the players?

It appears that we are locked into a system where we must copy what other teams, including professional outfits, are doing and to hell with the cost. It is ironic that at a time when we are spending more than ever before that Gaelic football, in particular, it is losing spectator appeal and TV audience appeal.

The results of the ESRI report are frightening. Players are spending a huge portion of their careers and time in training in particular. Players are beginning to question the time commitment involved and as an Association it is now time to put a process in place whereby the welfare of our players must be protected in order for our games to flourish by addressing the time commitments required of players. Maybe it is time that a *fair play* financial ceiling is put in place on how much should be spent on inter-county teams?

(B) The planning, budgeting, preparation and delivery of Infrastructure projects

The financing the development, maintenance and up-keeping of county grounds and training centres is proving a major headache/noose around the heads of county officers. Currently the National Infrastructure Committee, under the Chairmanship of **John Murphy**, is drawing up a **Strategic Plan** and template for all counties to follow when undertaking any type of infrastructural development.

The plan will be based on **Infrastructure, Health & Safety and Training**. Currently the committee is carrying out audits on the training centres in the country and this will be aligned with the information contained in the 2017 County Grounds Report and the IT Audits. It is important that the plan clearly sets out the:





- I. The procedures to be adopted
- II. The role of the clubs
- III. The role of the county committee
- IV. The role of the provincial council
- V. The role of National Finance and Infrastructure Committees
- VI. The role of Coiste Bainisti

Ultimately clubs are responsible for the affairs of their counties.

Benjamin Franklin once said that: *"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."* It appears in the GAA World this could be restated as that: *"In this GAA world nothing can be said to be certain, except debt and levies."*

Looking at past experiences and history in infrastructural development it is obvious that county officers cannot be expected to have the financial acumen or practical experience to undertake major developments on their own. I think that is time for the Association to put together a unit that will take this burden out of the hands of our counties and that all aspects of planning, budgeting for and development of training centres and county grounds should be handled at a central level.

Connacht GAA Centre

2018 was an exceptional year at the Connacht GAA Centre with an estimated 60,000 people passing through the centre and participating in various activities. This is a phenomenal amount of activity.

Among the highlights during the year were:

- Féile na nGael
- The Papal visit. Headquarters for Gardai & Aer Corps
- "Friday Night Lights"
- Hosting of various county teams
- Performance Analysis Workshops
- Club championship games
- FBD League
- Hosting of Celtic Challenge
- Over 1,000 school games
- Ladies & Camogie Blitzes
- Third Level Competitions
- Inter-Firm Championships, etc
- Galway Hurling U-8 & U-10 Blitz Day brought over 1,000 children to play at the centre
- All counties organised their County Club Go Games Day for their U-10, U-12 teams in the centre. Large numbers attended with over 800 participants attending for the Roscommon Go Games day alone. We look forward to all counties increasing their numbers in 2019
- The "Festival of GAA Days" for national schools, which was an initiative started in 2014, has been one of the best projects at the centre. Each county was allocated days where a selected number of primary schools were invited to participate in a Day of GAA Activities in the centre. During that day the children were given the opportunity to play football, hurling, Camogie, Rounders and various Skills Challenge Games. The feedback from teachers and pupils was very positive and, no doubt, the demand will grow

- Cumann na mBunscol utilised the facilities for a number of initiatives including the Mini-Sevens, School Blitzes and their Rounders Initiative
- Healthy Club Exhibitions
- Mayo Honey Show
- The centre has also been extensively used by the wider community. The Blood Transfusion Board set up regular quarterly clinics during the year.

Our facilities continue to be utilised by county teams, club teams, schools, third level colleges and academies and development squads for some or all of the following:

Video Analysis & Performance Analysis. Our recording and analysis suite was upgraded during the year to give a top-class service. Streaming services have proved very popular in the last two years and with our new camera angles and quality of footage we see a bright future for this growing part of our in-house services.

- Recording of games
- Conditioning Education Course
- Tutoring on Coaching Courses
- Workshops on different fitness components such as physical fitness, injury prevention, etc
- GPS Monitoring
- Referee Education and Training
- Coach Education & Player Welfare
- Club Development Seminars.

Since the promotion of **Cathal Cregg** to Provincial Games Manager; **Séamus Burns** has been responsible at the Connacht GAA Centre for the provision of a range of services available to schools, clubs and counties in the areas of:

- Fitness testing
- Movement screening
- Conditioning programme design
- Match analysis.

In co-operation with the county games managers and the third level students on placement from college, Séamus continues to work closely to prepare all the academy squads. A student is placed in each of the five Connacht counties where they assist in the roll out of the strength and conditioning programmes with each of the Academy/Development Squads. Overall, this has been a huge success and offers a great support to each of the counties' volunteer coaches. The students play a key role in overseeing the national monitoring system.

Smartabase: This involves fitness testing, movement screening and supervising resistance training programmes, helping with field sessions and performing video analysis. This programme will continue in 2019.

Strength & Conditioning Courses have been delivered across the five counties. 70 coaches took part in the courses and they will now work with club and county teams across the province.

Modules have been delivered in:

- Physical Demands of Gaelic Games
- Basic Science Theory
- Fitness Testing
- Warm Ups
- Recovery
- Conditioning for Gaelic Games
- Supervision of a Resistance Training Programme





The course is designed and delivered so that coaches can carry out training in a safe and effective manner in their own particular club/county setting with the assistance of Séamus.

Long-term the plan is to make units self-sufficient so that they can implement a safe and cost-effective physical fitness programme in place within their own club. This course will, again, be offered out to all clubs in Connacht in 2019.

The highlight of the year has been the announcement, by Minister for Rural Affairs, **Michael Ring**, of a grant of €2.1m, under the *Rural Regeneration & Development Fund Scheme*, for the development of the a new 150x100m. Air Dome (height of 26 metres). The new facility will contain a full-size GAA field, a gym with testing area and office space. The dome will provide year round indoor facilities to ensure the continued focus on sports as a cornerstone of rural communities.

On behalf of the council I wish to thank **Minister Ring** and also CEO of Sligo Leader Partnership, **Chris Gonley**, for their co-operation in progressing this project which will place Connacht GAA and its constituent counties and clubs at the cutting edge of preparation and development of all of our teams and projects.

Work will commence on this project in Spring with a projected completion date of early to mid-Summer.

2019 promises to be an exciting time and I look forward to a further increase in activity at the centre.

Club Development

There is little doubt but that the profile and status of clubs has diminished in recent decades. This has not happened deliberately but society in general and the GAA, in particular, has chipped away at the clubs with the effect that they are feeling less relevant. Among the challenges faced by clubs include the expansion of the game at inter-county level, both in terms of games played and in profile and publicity, lifestyle changes, both sporting and otherwise, changing educational and work demands, demographic changes resulting in the exodus of so many of our young people to the cities and beyond, leaving both rural and urban clubs facing new challenges

Uachtaran, **Seán O hOrain**, established a National Club Committee, under the Chairmanship of **Mick Rock**, to engage with clubs, identify their needs and concerns and make recommendations for improvement.

The committee undertook a major survey of every club to get first-hand information on what they perceived as their challenges and issues. 853 clubs responded, over 53% nationally, with a fantastic Connacht response of 163 clubs or 76.53%. There are many different challenges facing clubs and that one size does not fit all in terms of solutions. Clubs urgently need assistance with:

- Recruiting volunteers to deal with a more demanding administrative burden
- Finance
- Advice and training and, of course
- Fixtures.

Following the survey a very beneficial **Club Forum**

was organised in December where clubs were given an opportunity to air their views and be heard. An immediate outcome from the process has been an increase in club grants to €2.5m and that further increases are promised in future years.

Over the past number of years the council and Ard Chomhairle has provided grant aid towards club development. Annually €300,000 has been awarded to clubs in the province to supplement the great works they are undertaking in very difficult times.

Our Grounds Improvement Scheme was, again, a great success with Killererin, Galway, taking the overall prize for Connacht. I wish to congratulate each of the clubs that took part and the five county winners were:

- Killererin, Galway
- Drumreilly, Leitrim
- Castlebar Mitchels, Mayo
- Oran, Roscommon
- St Michael's, Sligo.

On behalf of the council I wish to thank all our County Grounds Committees, Event Controllers and Match Day Stewards for their contributions throughout the year.

Finally, I wish to thank our Council Development Committee, in particular, for their help and co-operation during the year.

Twinning

The council is twinned with London, New York and Asia and there has been an appreciable increase of contact and activity with each area during the year. Each has very distinct areas of activity and concern that we, as a province, try and accommodate as best we can.

Cathal Cregg has visited Singapore and Bangkok in conjunction with the Asian Games. In Singapore he visited six different schools and undertook multiple training sessions in each of the schools over three days. He also had a very successful meeting with the Singaporean head of PE and Gaelic Games will now be an elective subject on the PE curriculum in Singapore. This contact was established following the visit five Singaporean PE teachers who spent time at the Connacht GAA Centre during the summer learning about Gaelic football.

Asian Games were held in Bangkok where a total of 190 games were played over the two days in three locations with 14 clubs, 40 teams and 36 different nationalities taking part. The Council provided a referee, Paul Lydon, for those games.

Our *Twinning* with New York is a long-established one with the county being an integral part of the Connacht Senior Football Championship. New York also had boys and girls team participating at the Féile Peil in 2018 and they have plans for two teams to travel again in 2019 when Connacht will be hosting Féile.

New York has also embarked on the major project to develop Gaelic Park. This is a very ambitious project and in order for give the New York Board an opportunity to raise the funds necessary to complete the project I feel that Ard Chomhairle should support a moratorium on fund-raising in New York by counties from Ireland and the GPA until the development is





completed. We should recognise the drive and energy these people have to give to in order to keep the Irish tradition going overseas and we should be in the forefront in helping them.

In November **Cathal Cregg** and **Damien Coleman** delivered an Award 1 Course over two days.

London is also an integral part of the Connacht Senior Football Championship and now the Connacht Club Senior Football and Intermediate Hurling Championships.

The London U-15s travelled to the Connacht Centre in 2018 and participated in the second Dermot Earley Blitz Day.

They underwent fitness testing with Séamus Burns at the Connacht Centre, which was followed by a talk from Sligo's, **Charlie Harrison**, on the lifestyle of an intercounty footballer.

London played three games against two Mayo selections and a Galway North team. It was a very worthwhile exercise for London and I would in particular like to thank **Brian Breen** and **Tony Griffin** who organised the trip and all the players and parents who made the trip worthwhile.

Communications & Media

Our PRO, **John Hopkins**, has had a very busy year with all aspects of the promotion of the affairs of Comhairle Chonnacht. He has dealt with all media partners to ensure that our activities get maximum publicity.

Our PR Committee, under the chairmanship of John, has ensured that Comhairle Chonnacht keeps

up-to-date on all media platforms and is actively promoted on Twitter, Facebook, Email, Snapshots, Websites, Photo Galleries, Face painting, Big Screen on match days which were all used to communicate our message and to increase the match day experience of our patrons.

Particular thanks is due to **Brian Mangan** who managed our media communications. Brian has done tremendous work in promoting all aspects of the council especially the production of Match Programmes, Infographs, match reports and Facebook and twitter feeds. He has been a brilliant addition to the council.

Our PR committee has been involved in the organisation of our *Man of the Match Awards*. The council held an enjoyable *Club of the Year Awards* function at the Connacht GAA Centre and proved to be very successful.

The promotion of our championship in the coming year will, again, be vital to keep our numbers up and hopefully to grow from 2018.

Photographer, **James Molloy**, has kept our photo gallery supplied with interesting photographs.

Tickets.ie, our ticketing provider, has stream-lined the distribution and sale of tickets. The sale of tickets through Centra and SuperValu has been an outstanding success and again over 75% of our tickets are now sold directly to the public through their outlets. It is also important to acknowledge the efforts of our own office staff in selling tickets directly to the public.

The installation of Boscas into all of our major grounds has been a huge benefit for match day sales.



Pictured are the St Cuan's Castleblakeney team after their win against Colaiste Ailigh from Letterkenny in the All-Ireland D final.





I especially want to thank the staff in the Croke Park Ticket Office, **Emma Tormey**, and her staff, have been particularly supportive and cooperative.

Live television coverage again enhanced the availability of our games to the general public and with the advent of live games on EIR, TG4, SKY and RTÉ most weeks throughout the year, sees some type of game shown on television.

TG4 and RTÉ Radio have given tremendous coverage to the club championships in the Autumn and they are to be commended for their support.

In the Connacht Championship we had two games televised live both on RTÉ Mayo v Galway, and the Connacht Final. Both games reflected positively on the standard of the games in the province. I wish to thank all of the television stations and their staff for their co-operation during the year.

On behalf of the council I wish to thank the media for their support in 2018. The local radios, newspapers Radio na Gaeltachta, RTÉ Sport, Newstalk and Today FM have been most cooperative.

"Into the West" magazine has been a most important communications tool for the province. It has showcased our clubs, schools, counties and volunteers in a most effective way. All clubs receive both hard and soft copies of the magazine and I appeal to them to make its distribution as wide as possible.

I wish to thank **DBA** for the production of our senior championship programmes.

In 2018 the Council continued to produce our own programmes for all games except the senior inter-county championship and it proved to be an outstanding success. I wish to thank our producer, **Padraig Corcoran**, for producing top-quality programmes often under severe time pressure.

On behalf of the council, I wish to thank our communications committee for their endeavours during the year. I also wish to thank **Alan Milton** and **Siobhán Brady** from the Communications Department in Croke Park for their help.

Changes to the Council

Like the seasons and the dawning of a new year, 2019 will see a number of changes to the council and to the Association at large.

This Convention sees former Uachtaran and PRO, **Mick Rock**, come to an end of his term on Connacht Council. Mick has moved on to greater things as Chairman of the National Club Committee appointed by the Uachtarán. We wish Mick well in his new endeavours.

Noel Treacy, Galway Delegate, is leaving the council at this Convention. Noel was a very experienced delegate having completed a term as Galway Chairman and was a valuable asset to the council at all times. We wish Noel well in the future. The new Galway Delegate will be **Christy Browne** and we wish him well during his term of office.

This Convention sees **Mattie Kilroy** come to the end of his term as Treasurer. Mattie has served the council with distinction in his current role and also as a Galway Delegate for five years. No gate was left uncollected under Mattie's tenure and I wish to thank

him and his loyal team of gatemen and stewards for a job well done for Connacht. Míle Buíochas Mattie and maybe we will see him return in another role in the future.

Mattie is being replaced by current Leitrim Treasurer, **Martin McCartin**, who will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the role. We look forward to working with Martin and wish him well during his term of office.

Sympathy

Many GAA families suffered bereavements in 2018. Leitrim has been particularly hard hit with the passing of former Council Treasurer and Leitrim Delegate, **Jim Meehan**. They also lost **Shay Reynolds**, former Treasurer of Connacht Scór and Connacht Coisde Iomana Delegate, **Paddy Phelan**; former Connacht and Leitrim player, **Paddy Dolan**, and in recent days, **Brian Mulvey**, who was a stalwart at Pairc Seán Mac Diarmada.

Galway lost former footballer, **Noel Colleran**; former football team sponsor, **Tommy Varden**, and noted football board officials, **Tommy Kelly** and **Bobby Mullins**.

In Roscommon former county footballer, **Fr Gerry Scott**, and former sponsor, **Des White**, also passed away.

Sligo Asst.-Secretary, **Donie Kirby**, passed away suddenly during the year.



Ciaran Byrne



Mick Timlin

In Mayo, **Ciaran Byrne**, Chairman of Connacht Second Level Schools Committee; North Mayo Treasurer and Connacht steward, **Mick Timlin**, and former Oifigeach na Gaelige and Connacht Scór Delegate, **Pronnsias Ó Maolmhuaidh**, and in recent weeks former noted player **Willie Loftus**, **Seamus O'Connor** and former Mayo, Galway and Connacht player, **John Nallen**, all went to their eternal reward.

On behalf of the council I wish to extend deepest sympathy to all of the families of the bereaved. Go ndeara Dia Trocaire ar a n-ainmneacha.

Buíochas

On my own behalf and on behalf of Chomhairle Connacht, it is a pleasure to record our gratitude to the many groups and individuals who have ensured the smooth running of the council over the past year:

- To the members and representatives on the council and its various sub-committees, CCC, Coisde Iomana, Development, Coaching & Games Development, Scór, Games for All,





Communications, Marketing and our schools bodies.

- Our Referees Co-ordinator, **Marty Duffy**, and his committee and to his tutors and assessors.
- To the members from the province who are representing us on national committees.
- To the five county secretaries, for their assistance and help, and to all of the county board officers and members. Roscommon County Secretary, **Brian Carroll**, has come to the end of his term of office as county secretary and I thank him for his help and advice. Brian is replaced by the Asst. Secretary, **Valarie Murray**, and I look forward to working with Valarie in the future. Galway Secretary, **John Hynes**, has left his post and is replaced by Asst. Secretary, **Séamus O'Grady**. Séamus has vast experience in various posts in Galway and I wish him well in his new office. Sligo Chairman, **Joe Taaffe** has come to the end of his term as County Chairman. Joe has been an experienced administrator and I thank him for all his help during his term of office. Joe is replaced by former Vice-Chairman, **Brendan Leonard**, who is wished well during his term.
- To the members of the various development and park committees and, in particular, to our Event Controllers for their assistance at the many major games we have hosted this year. To our voluntary workers, ticket collectors, stewards, stiles men and medical personnel.
- To **Brendan Gilmore Security** for their assistance, at all of our major games.
- To the Gardai and services for their co-operation, at all times.
- To the media in its various forms for the continued excellent reporting and previewing of our games.
- To our sponsors **EIR, AIB, SuperValu, Bord Gais Energy, Centra, Littlewoods, GAA GO, FBD Insurance, Galway Crystal**, for their immense contribution to our affairs.
- To the many players, referees and officials who have given many hours of pleasure and enjoyment a special word of gratitude is due.

- I want to thank auditor, **Michael McHugh**, for his advice and professional assistance during the year.
- I wish to thank **Ger Mulryan, Kathy Slattery** and the members of the National Finance Committee, with whom we have worked very closely during the year.
- I want to record our sincere thanks to Ard Stiurthoir, **Tomás Ó Riain**, and all of the staff at Pairc an Chrocaigh for their continued valued advice, courtesy and assistance.
- To Uachtarán, **Sean Ó hOrain**, I say míle buíochas for his advice, support and help during the past year.
- I wish to thank Connacht Coaching & Games Manager, **Cathal Cregg**, for his tremendous work in the area of coaching and games development in his first year in office.
- I also wish to thank our Operations Manager, **Adrian Hassett**, for his work and co-operation.
- I pay tribute to **Séamus Burns**, Strength & Conditioning Officer, for his trojan work in the Connacht GAA Centre. Séamus has co-ordinated the activities in the gym and the new top-of-the-range Video Analysis Suite. Also, **Brian Mangan**, who looks after our various information and media platforms.
- To our Féile committee under **John Hopkins** and **Michael O'Connor** who did trojan work in organising Féile na nGael and who face an even bigger task in organising Féile Peil in June 2019.
- A special word of thanks is due to **Amanda Diskin** and **Attracta Hunt** in the office for the way that they have undertaken their duties. Also thanks to caretaker, **John Clancy**.

Finally I want to thank my fellow officers, **Gerry McGovern, John Murphy, Mattie Kilroy** and **John Hopkins** for their major and unselfish contribution to the workings of Chomhairle Connacht in 2018

In conclusion I look forward to 2019 and hopefully it will be a successful one for the province.

Rath De oraibh go leir.

Seán Ó Pronntaigh,
Rúnaí.



Pictured are the Connacht GAA Council Officers at the 2018 convention in the Bush Hotel, Carrick on Shannon. Back Row from (L to R): Adrian Hassett (Operations Manager), John Hopkins PRO (Mayo), John Prenty (Connacht Secretary), Mattie Kilroy Treasurer (Galway). Front Row from (L to R): John Murphy Vice President (Sligo), Gerry McGovern President (Leitrim) and Michael Rock out-going President (Roscommon).





Planning & Physical Development Committee 2018

By Adrian Hassett

THE Planning & Physical Development Committee is responsible for advising and assisting all units within the province on:

- Physical Infrastructure Development
- Best Practice in the area of Physical Infrastructure
- Administering Club Grants
- Sourcing financial aid towards club development
- Preparing and managing our venues in hosting our games
- Steward Training
- Club Officer Training
- Club Planning.



The members of the committee are:

Gerry McGovern, John Murphy, Mick Rock, John Prenty, Mattie Kilroy, John Hopkins, Noel Treacy, Pat Feeley, Gerry Burke, Anthony Flaherty, John Gerry O'Connor, Adrian Hassett.

Club Grants

Annually the council has grant-aided Connacht GAA Clubs to the tune of €300,000 towards club infrastructure development. In the past year 58 clubs have benefitted from this funding with the monies going to numerous projects like pitch development, club houses, floodlights and spectator facilities. The clubs are to be complimented on having the vision and bravery to take on these projects in these difficult economic times. The full list of recipients is posted elsewhere in this booklet.

Our Club Ground Improvement Scheme is a continued success, the five county winners for 2018 were as follows:

- **Galway:** Killererin GAA
- **Leitrim:** Drumreilly GAA
- **Mayo:** Castlebar Mitchels GAA
- **Roscommon:** Oran GAA
- **Sligo:** St. Michael's GAA.

Killererin GAA Club emerged as the overall winner of the Connacht GAA Club Ground of the year 2018.

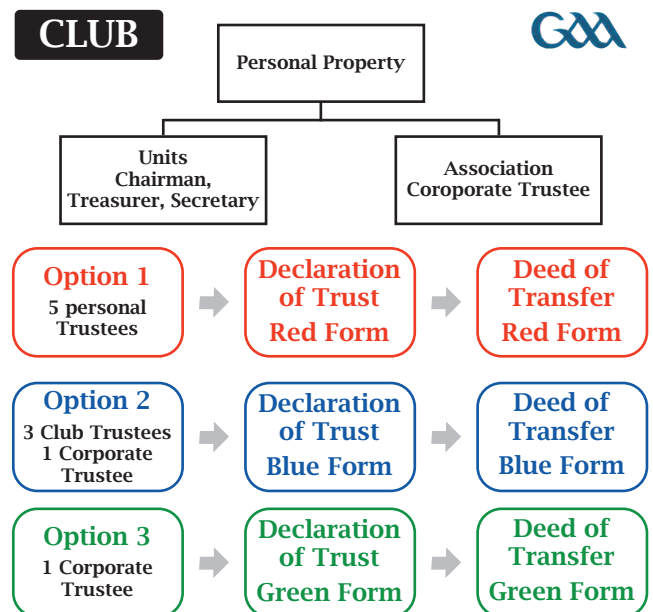
Sports Capital

The closing date for Sports Capital funding in 2018 was last October with over 115 clubs from the province applying. This funding is most welcome and ensures that our clubs have facilities that are *fit for purpose* for our many members. The benefits accrued from funding sporting organisations are well documented and are an investment in the future well-being of our state.

Connacht GAA were approved €2.1 million from the Department of Rural & Community Development Minister, **Michael Ring's** €1 billion Rural Regeneration & Development Fund. This money will all go towards the development of the a new 150 x 100m Air Dome (height of 26 metres), at the Connacht GAA Centre in Cloonacurry, Began. The new facility will contain a full size GAA field, a gym with testing area and office space. The dome will provide year-round indoor facilities to ensure the continued focus on sports as a cornerstone of rural communities.

Club Trustees & Vesting

Five 'Club Trustee Update' workshops were delivered in the last year. The GAA has established a trust company ("Iontaobhas Corparáideach Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Cuideachta Faoi Theorainn Ráthaíochta") Corporate Trustee to hold on trust property for various units of the Association. Traditionally, real property of the Association was held by personal trustees and this can prove cumbersome from time-to-time. In an effort to streamline how property is held throughout the Association the GAA is providing its units with the option to hold property through the Corporate Trustee. This is a facility open to units but is entirely optional. Holding property through the Corporate Trustee does not in any way affect the ownership; the Corporate Trustee is merely holding on trust in the same way as personal trustees do.





Following various meetings with clubs over the past year it has been evident that it is an area that clubs do need more information on and I would urge all county officers to support these workshops and that club officers would attend.

Hosting of games

I would like to thank all our major grounds for hosting games throughout the year, a special word of thanks to the *Event Controllers* and their diligent staff for their co-operation and help throughout the year. We had a particularly busy year in the province in the hosting of games with our own programme of games and the addition of All-Ireland football qualifiers, All-Ireland Club Championships, All-Ireland U-20 Football and U-21 Hurling Championships and Galway's home games in the Leinster Hurling Championship as well as the National Féile na nGael Competition.

The various *grounds' committees* and county boards had their facilities prepared and ready with a full quota of voluntary stewards, gate-men and staff to assist in the smooth running of each event. I would like to pay particular credit to the **Enniscrone GAA Club** in Sligo, who hosted four of our club football championship games in November, their facilities and set up as well as the number of club volunteers who made themselves available, made for four enjoyable and successful days in West Sligo. It was a huge credit to the club despite the misgivings of **one person**.

The venue for the Connacht GAA Championship finals came under the microscope earlier this year prior to the semi-finals of our senior championship being played. Once the identity of our finalists were confirmed and following discussions between the Connacht GAA Council and Roscommon County Board officers and in consultation with the national infrastructure and the National Health & Safety Committee, agreement was reached to host these games in Dr. Hyde Park, Roscommon, subject to a number of conditions.

All supporters were treated to two excellent games at the venue on the day and credit to all in Roscommon who rallied round to ensure that the venue was ready for the biggest day in the Connacht GAA Calendar. Certain actions must now be followed up on for this venue to host future Connacht Finals, and I have no doubt that these measures will be in place in the near future.

As we look forward to the year ahead, the safety of our players, officials and patrons are of paramount importance and each county should take the opportunity early in the year to review their practices for the *match day experience* and further enhance the match day experience for all involved. The release of the *Slattery Reports* in early 2012 concentrated the minds of county board executives and they are to be complimented on their response to these reports and the manner in which they addressed all concerns raised. In the past year this has included training for our **Match Day Stewards** and correct reporting procedures in each ground.

However, we must ensure that we remain vigilant in the safety of our stadiums and that we maximise the enjoyment of all those that attend our games.

Every year the clubs in the province have made their facilities available to us for our games' programme, especially for schools and college matches, I would like to thank them for this.

National Infrastructure Committee

The *National Infrastructure Committee* under the Chairmanship of **John Murphy** are currently devising a strategic plan to set out a road map for all counties in relation to infrastructure development. This plan will be based on the information gathered from the audits carried out, this includes the county grounds in 2017, the county training centres audits, which were carried out this year, and the IT audit. The plan is divided into three areas:

- (I) Infrastructure
- (II) Health & Safety
- (III) Training.

The information gathered is currently being reviewed with a detailed report and actions to be submitted for National Congress.

National Health & Safety Committee

Under the chairmanship of **Shay Bannon**, this committee are tasked with:

1. To draft Health & Safety policy proposals
2. Develop and make available H&S documentation
3. Provide Health & Safety support, advice and guidance
4. Site visits and audits
5. Safe capacity in grounds
6. Training Courses.

The committee is currently finalising an action plan to best deliver, inform and equip all units of the Association on their responsibilities in relation to Health & Safety. One of the actions will be to ensure that all counties appoint an active County Safety Officer and to place Health & Safety as an agenda item on all county board meetings. Unfortunately a large number of units are completely failing to address control over activities and use of property and their responsibilities in the upkeep of our club and county grounds. There is a need for a central online database of resources for all units to access, this to include Health & Safety statements, good practice guidelines, templates towards risk assessments, etc. A Training Day for County Safety Officers is planned for 2019, with workshops to be delivered in each county to assist clubs in these areas.

Club Audits

In 2012 Connacht GAA undertook a significant project in conducting a full audit of every club facility in Connacht. This aim was to get a 'snap shot' of the current status of every club facility in Connacht, to ensure that every club in Connacht would have a Club Health & Safety Statement in place, and that each club in Connacht would have all the necessary club policies in place (Child Protection, Updated Club Trustees, Club Constitution, ASAP Policy, etc).

For the year ahead it has been agreed to repeat this audit and review and update all Club Safety Statement. This should be of major benefit to all clubs and I





would ask all county officers for their support with this project.

The **National Steward Training Course** continues to be delivered across the country.

It is imperative that we qualify all our stewards that assist at our games and we should aim that all counties organise training to expand our pool of qualified stewards.

Pitch Maintenance Committee

This committee, chaired by **Kieran McGann**, has been tasked by an *Iar-Ard Stiúrthóir*, **Paraic Duffy**, to raise the standards of playing surfaces across the GAA, particularly at inter-county stadia. The National Pitch Maintenance Committee delivered a number of workshops/ conferences on the preparation and maintenance of GAA grounds. Connacht hosted a *Pitch Maintenance Workshop* in the Connacht GAA Centre in September. This committee have been active in advising clubs/counties on proper procedures and policies in maintaining GAA grounds. **Hugh Rudden** is our provincial representative on this committee and has been active in communicating the good work carried out.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the support and assistance of both the *National Health & Safety Committee and the National Infrastructure Committee* throughout the year, this committee has been loud in their praise of the work carried out in Connacht. **Conor Hayes**, our Connacht representative on the National Infrastructure Committee, has also been excellent in his representation for Connacht on this committee.

Club Officer Support

In the past year the National Club Officer Development Committee have delivered **club officer training days** and **support workshops** in each of the five counties. Although there was good attendance at the workshops, it was notable that some officer workshops were not very well attended. All club officers need assistance and advice throughout the year and these training days can provide club officers with a forum to source information and learn from each other. Club officer workshops are scheduled in each county for 2019; however, clubs are reminded that **they can only be of benefit to you, once you attend!**

It is planned to deliver this programme within the province for the year ahead with additional workshops to be delivered on various topics which will be of benefit to club officers.

Officer training has also been delivered to our county officers, with workshops being delivered in Croke Park and in our Connacht GAA Centre. These workshops are, again, planned for 2019 and I trust that they are of benefit to all officers when they carry out their duties throughout the year.

Connacht GAA Club Information Seminars

Connacht GAA delivered a Club Information Seminar in each of the five counties in April. The

seminars were well received with good engagement from the clubs at each event. Topics that were discussed on the night included:

- Governance
- Club Planning
- Vetting in the GAA
- Player Injury Scheme & GAA Insurance
- Coaching (in terms of self-sufficiency)
- Trustees & the Corporate Trustee System
- Disciplinary Process.

The attendances at each seminar was

	No of Clubs	No of Clubs Attended	Attendance
Galway	81	31	46
Leitrim	23	22	41
Mayo	47	38	74
Roscommon	32	22	41
Sligo	26	20	50

A **Club Manual** was distributed to all clubs who attended the seminars and they are an invaluable reference point for club officers/coaches, etc., on a wide range of topics and issues.

Credit to the five County Development Officers for organising the event and informing the clubs and also to **Gerry McGovern, John Prenty, Adrian Hassett and Cathal Cregg** for delivering the presentations at each seminar.

In October a seminar was delivered to the county officers by the members of the various committees in Connacht, these included:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Games for All
- Cultural/Scór
- Insurance
- Planning & Physical Development
- Coaching & Games Development
- CCC & Competition Dates.

Further workshops were delivered in the Connacht GAA Centre on new Corporate Trustee Model, GDPR, a presentation by Clann Credo, Healthy Club, Pitch Maintenance. These workshop/ seminars were well-attended and highlight the need to deliver workshops that focus in on defined areas/topics.

Club Planning

The GAA Strategic Plan - covering the period 2018 to 2021 - mandates the requirement for an *improved club support programme* with a renewed emphasis on club planning.

As you may already be aware the Club & County Planning Committee, established in April of this year, is now responsible for the roll-out of the GAA Club Planning Programme. The committee aims to engage at least three clubs per county in 2019, supporting them through the creation and subsequent implementation of three-year Club Development Plans. Having reviewed the Club Planning Programme, the following are the main changes:

- Upskilled Club Planners
- An improved Club Planning Pack
- An updated Club Planning Workshop
- Practical implementation guidelines





- On-going monitoring and evaluation
- Better promotion of the programme and support materials available.

The facility is available to clubs who are not yet ready to develop a **3-Year Plan** but who may develop a **1-Year Action Plan**, that, in time, can lead the club into developing a *3-Year Club Plan*.

The Club Planning Programme will be available to all clubs from 2019; however, in advance of undergoing a club plan, all clubs should reflect on the following questions:

- (1) Has your club currently got a *Club Development Plan*?
- (2) If so:
 - (A) What stage is it at? (e.g. Year 2 of 5)
 - (B) Has the plan been forwarded to your county committee and Croke Park?
 - (C) What has worked well for your club regarding club planning?
 - (D) What further assistance is required to ensure that your Club Plan is delivered successfully?
- (3) If not, Is this something your club would be interested in?

What is a Club Plan?

A club development plan is a simple document that outlines the following:

- Where are we now?
- Where are we going?
- How are we going to get there?
- Who is responsible for getting us there?

It is developed when club officers and members undertake an analysis and examination of all club activity. They then decide on actions for their club and outline how these actions can be achieved.

A good club plan is:

- Concise
- Well-presented
- Practical
- Achievable.

Most importantly a club plan will be developed by the club and for the club

Why Plan?

Planning can help your club to:

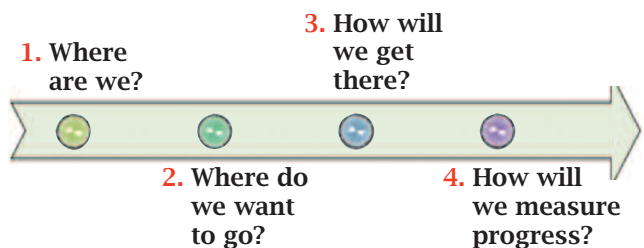
- Look objectively and honestly at the current position of the club.
- Clarify its purpose and status in the community
- Determine priorities for improvement and to cope with changes
- Agree the best method of delivery
- Monitor progress.

Club planning is best achieved by thorough review and honest assessment by the club officers and members.

County Planning:

The GAA has established a County Planning Group chaired by **Ciaran McLaughlin** (Tyrone and Ulster GAA). In its simplest form, the function of the group is to put in place a programme that will assist counties to develop a 3-Year Strategic Plan.

Each county that engages in the process will successfully address the following questions:



A **County Plan** will help a county to:

- Set a direction and priorities for a 3-year period
- Ensure that resources are used as best as possible
- Give those with an interest in the growth of the GAA in the county an opportunity to shape its future
- Position the county better in relation to provincial and National GAA Plans.

Suggested timelines:

- **December:** Appoint County Planning Co-ordinator
- **January:** Appoint Steering Group
Agree on Roles within Groups
Gather information
- **February:** Determine Strategic Position
Review documentation to date
Design consultation process
- **April:** Drafting Plan
- **May: Launch Plan.**

In Connacht, Leitrim launched their **3-Year Plan** at the Convention, with Roscommon currently in draft stage. Galway, Mayo and Sligo are to undergo this process. Each of these counties are currently finalising their County Planning Co-ordinator to start the process in January.

Role of County Development Officer

From 2019 onwards the role of the County Development Officer has been redefined. At Congress, 2018, it was approved that the County Development Officer would be selected as opposed to elected. The County Development Officer will report to the county committee and be responsible for assisting it to deliver officer development and club planning programmes for the principal club officers in the county, i.e. Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and PRO. The development officer will work with the county committee and the provincial council in addition to other full-time and voluntary personnel in delivering the goals of the Association as set by the National Officer Development Committee.

Responsibilities

The County Development Officer will fulfil the following responsibilities:

- Organise the delivery of *club officer development initiatives*, e.g. Club Leadership Development Programme
- Co-ordinate the roll-out of the National Club Planning Programme
- Identify clubs in need of assistance in specific areas and facilitate support for them
- Establish networks of clubs within each county





- Advise on requirements for enhancing current and developing new club support initiatives
- Assist with succession planning at county level

The County Development Officer role will remain part of the management committee and as an officer and member of a county committee, a development officer will have voting rights in line with current rights. Their role will be subject to the 5-Year Rule (Rule 3.19 (l) T.O. 2018).

It will be a matter for each county committee to select a person to fulfil the functions of *Physical Development & Safety*, advise on club grants and advise towards club infrastructure development, functions previously carried out by the County Development Officer. The County Planning & Physical Development Committee shall be responsible for:

- (A) Club Planning & Development
- (B) The Planning & Development of grounds and facilities and Health & Safety.

The training of club officers is no longer part of the remit of this committee. See Rule 3.20 (v) T.O. 2018.

Each county will have to decide whether the person who chairs the County Planning & Physical Development, and Health & Safety be a member of their County Management Committee.

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work carried out by the five County Development Officers, **Tommy Kelly** (Galway), **Seán Ó Suilleabhain** (Leitrim), **Willie Kelly** (Mayo), **Tomas Murray** (Roscommon) and **Richard Brennan** (Sligo), they have been active in assisting and guiding clubs and have been a valuable point of contact in answering the various queries that clubs have posed to them. I wish to thank our council development committee for their help and co-operation during the year.

Finally our Provincial Treasurer, **Mattie Kilroy**, is stepping down as his term has come to an end. At all times Mattie and his trusted lieutenants and especially **Frank Coyne** have carried out their duties in a quiet efficient manner. Mattie will be a loss to the council after serving on the council for many years and I would like to wish Mattie and his family best wishes in the future.



Roscommon players celebrate after defeating Galway in the shield final during the 2018 LGFA U-17 academy day, at the GAA National Games Development Centre in Abbotstown, Dublin.





Coaching and Games Development Report 2018

By Cathal Cregg



OUR Coaching Committee under the Chairmanship of **Padraig McGourty** consists of our five County Games Managers: **Thomas Keenan** (Leitrim), **Willie Hegarty** (Roscommon), **Liam Og Gormely** (Sligo), **Tom McManus** (Galway) and **Billy McNicholas** (Mayo) along with the County Coaching Officers, **Hughie Clinton** (Leitrim), **Seán Kilbride** (Roscommon), **John McPartland** (Sligo), **Michael Geraghty** (Galway) and **Liam Moffatt** (Mayo). **Cathal Cregg** (Provincial Games Manager) and **Damien Coleman** (Provincial Hurling Director) make up the last two places on the committee.

2018 seen the change of Provincial Games Manager. I feel very fortunate to have received the opportunity to take up the role in April of this year. I must thank John Tobin for all his work in the previous 17 years. He left a great structure and body of work in place for the rest of us to build on and everyone in the province is eternally grateful to John for all his vision, work and dedication over this time.

Since taking up my position as Provincial Games Manager on April 2nd I have enjoyed it immensely. In the first few weeks the majority of my time was spent meeting the main stakeholders from coaching and games within the counties, provincially and nationally. I found those meetings very beneficial and helped me in forming my opinions on where coaching and games was at in the province and where we need to go in the future. It was great to get the opportunity in my first month to speak to club delegates in Leitrim, Sligo and Galway as part of the club seminar road show in conjunction with **Gerry McGovern**, **John Prenty** and **Adrian Hassett**. In the rest of this report I will focus on the projects that are happening throughout the province.

Cúl Camps

This initiative continues year-on-year to be a massive success and all Connacht counties experienced an increase in numbers again this year. The table (*in next column*) gives a breakdown of the numbers of camps in each county and the number of attended a camp in each county.

This year 1,234 camps were held across the 32 counties with a record of 153,858 boys and girls participating in camps during the months of July and August - an overall increase of 8%.

To deliver a project of this size requires a huge amount of work and I would like to thank **Charles Harrison** the National Cúl Camp Co-Ordinator, the County Games Managers, all the full-time personnel in the counties, the clubs and all the coaches who worked on our camps, helping to deliver such an enjoyable experience for all the children in attendance.

County	No. of Camps	Overall No. of Participants
Galway	79	9,680
Sligo	21	2,626
Roscommon	15	1,942
Leitrim	15	1,759
Mayo	47	6,852

Go Games

All of the counties continue to deliver a valuable Go Games Programme across the province. This programme has been successfully implemented through schools and clubs over the past decade. The underpinning idea behind the GAA Go Games is that all hurling / camogie and football played up to and including 11 years of age, is played under the ethos that every child gets to play in every game.

Through the official Go Games Programme, the blitz game format is largely working well in all counties. What we have seen creeping back in is competitions at u-8 and u-10 level, which goes against all the values of what the Go Games is about. These competitions at younger age grades, creates a culture of “winning is all that matters” where invariably the best players play the majority of the games and the weaker players sit on the bench! With this culture you are: “looking after the best and forgetting the rest” to borrow a phrase from our National Coaching & Games Director, Pat Daly. I would encourage clubs and their coaches to sit down and discuss this topic and review the direction they are going within their club at this age group.

The Connacht GAA Go Games days in Croke Park took place again this year and provided the 48 U-12 teams selected and their clubs from all five Connacht counties a great experience of Croke Park. The players involved played under the Go Games model in Croke Park and also went to see the Croke Park Museum.





Super Games Centre

Super Games Centres are where small-sided games are provided for youth participants aged 12-17 years on an age-related and developmental needs basis. Super Games Centres in essence can be defined as informal developmental opportunities where participants oversee the organisation of the game, are youth-centred and where they set the prevailing values. They can be based in club, school and community locations catering for a population not adequately served by regular school or club games through the traditional competitive structure. A GAA Super Games Centre should provide the following, at a minimum, for participants:

- Minimum 6-week period of activity
- 60 minutes per week
- Games-Based Approach (small-sided games)
- Play to Stay Values/Minimal Coaching Input
- Dedicated Super Games Centre Coordinator
- Suitable facilities - indoor and/or outdoor.

The Super Games concept has worked quite well over the past few years in the secondary school setting and this has been strengthened considerably by the Future Leaders Programme where the TY students organise and oversee the games. There are now 57 secondary schools in the province running Super Games Centres.

The concept at club level has been slow to take off nationally, but I feel it will be a huge initiative in the future. In the month of December Connacht GAA have run the first large Super Games Centre at the Connacht Centre called "Friday Night Lights" with over 350 participants from 39 clubs and all five Connacht counties in attendance over two nights. The event was for u-14 boys Gaelic football players that were mixed up into random teams and played 4 x 12 minute games where all players played for the whole duration of the games in a variety of positions.

In 2019 we plan to run two more "Friday Night Lights" events taking place on January 18th and 25th at the Connacht GAA Centre and then expand it into the counties at venues to be decided. The level of positivity surrounding the event has been quite surprising, particularly from parents and the children participating. The initiative is being developed to try and counteract the 49% drop off rate seen across the GAA in the age groups between 12-17 years of age. We, as an Association, have to provide formal and informal games for our players that are based around development and *fun of the game* and not all based around winning.

Féile

Connacht GAA hosted the National Hurling Féile on the 8th, 9th and 10th of June. The launch took place in the Connacht GAA Centre and was attended by GAA President, **John Horan**, and National Féile Chairperson, **Brendie Brien** from London, a native of Killimor (Galway). 128 teams from Connacht, Westmeath and Longford took part with 128 more visiting teams participating. It is estimated that 7,500 players and official mentors were in action over the weekend as part of 72 hurling teams and 56 camogie teams. There were nine hurling divisions and seven

camogie divisions with a total of 608 games played. On Saturday morning 128 pitches in the province as well as Longford and Westmeath were in action as host teams played their visiting counterparts. 15,000 people plus were in the Connacht Centre on the Sunday with 5,000 present on the Saturday making it the largest gathering of people for underage sport in one place in the country.

Social Media

Connacht GAA through the five counties have started a new initiative in relation to promoting coaching and games activities around the province. This will be done through multiple social media channels. Since May of this year all of the counties have set up their own County & Games Coaching Twitter Pages to share content of all the work that is taking place within their county. For anyone who wants to follow them their twitter handles are:

- @MayoGAACoaching
- @RosCoachingGAA,
- @CoachingGalway,
- @LeitrimG and
- @SligoGAACandG.

Over the past couple of months all of the pages have grown thanks to the work of the full-time coaches who load activities onto the pages for their counties. I would like to thank **Brian Mangan** from Connacht GAA for overseeing and co-ordinating this project. He also links this work onto the Connacht GAA Facebook page and Connacht GAA website. The link between Brian, the county PRO's and the coaching and games pages will maximise exposure of the work currently taking place in each of the counties. There has been a lot of work put into compiling resources and these can be viewed by visiting the provincial and national coaching pages at:

- <http://connachtgaa.ie/coaching/>
- and <https://learning.gaa.ie/coach>

Secondary Schools

The ever-changing face of the GAA in our secondary schools is something that needs to be thought out and considered over the next few years. The change in the junior certificate curriculum from its existing format to a continuous assessment type structure will be a challenge particularly for competitions at junior and juvenile level. The change in the junior certificate curriculum may have a huge impact on availability of schools to play games. This is also on top of a lot of schools adopting to move to a 4.5 day week.

The second levels school's competition, for the most part, has gone well throughout the year. I would like to thank all the clubs who facilitated games throughout the year and also acknowledge the grounds staff at the Connacht Centre, which hosted a large amount of the fixtures during the year. I would like to acknowledge and thank **Hugh Rudden**, the Provincial Schools Co-Ordinator and all the teachers for their work in promoting our Games.

A very positive development in the secondary school sector for the Association is the new Future Leaders Transition Year Programme. It is a further development of the existing TY Programme that has been running for a number of years. The Future





Leaders Transition Year Programme is a joint initiative from the GAA and the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST). It is a cross-curricular programme comprising of a series of modules designed to encourage maturity, initiative, responsibility and leadership skills in pupils. The programme gives pupils the knowledge and skills to support all roles required in the effective staging of Gaelic Games. As part of the programme pupils are challenged to organise and run a GAA Super Games Blitz or set up a Super Games Centre for younger students and/or support the coaching of younger players in their school or community. The programme consists of eight modules, varying in length but generally lasting between six and ten hours in duration with each module being stand alone and individually certifiable. The modules cover areas such as the Coaching of Hurling/Football, Refereeing, Administration, Sports Journalism, Analysis, Nutrition, Wellbeing and Event Management.

There are at present 47 secondary schools across the province taking part in the initiative with that number set to increase in the coming years. Given the skills that these students are developing at such a young age, if they are linked in with local clubs it can only be a positive for the association in the future.

National Schools 5-Star Centre

September saw the launch of the GAA's new 5-Star Centres in our primary schools around the country. The programme consists of the five existing programmes listed below:

1. Have a Ball Programme
2. Fun & Run
3. Come on and play/catch a kick
4. Go Games
5. Go Games Skills Challenges

Schools that participate in all of the five initiatives for a minimum of one hour per week and over a period of 26 weeks will be recognised as a 5-Star Centre and presented with a 5-Star Centre Flag. All of these activities are games-based and player-centred. The activities will ideally be delivered by the teachers in the school. Given that teachers have different levels of competence and confidence when it comes to developing and delivering Gaelic Games, our full-time coaching and games staff will act as a support to the teacher's where they offer assistance, upskill and train the teachers as needed.

Across the province there are 70 national schools taking part in the initiative, which is above the 10% national target set out for the province for this year. For the most part the schools have really embraced the initiative and it is working well. I see this as been a huge project for the Association going forward and I would encourage clubs to harness this project with their local national schools and help them where necessary.

Talent Academies

It has been a successful year for all our academy squads in terms of development and getting adequate games for their players. We ran our **Dermot Earley**

Blitz on 14.07.18 and 15.08.18; **Seán Purcell Blitz** on the 11.08.18 & 29.10.18 and the **Ted Webb Tournament** ran on the 29.08.18, 01.09.18 and 07.09.19. All academy days were competitive and played in great spirit by all the counties.

The national monitoring system **Smartabase** has been revamped in the last 12 months to be more of an education platform to help increase engagement by the players and to improve player welfare. The data captured gives the players and coach real time feedback on where the player is at in areas such as training load, sleep, hydration and injury status. Our 3rd level students placed in each of the counties have done great work in helping get the system implemented in all the counties.

Nationally, there has been a Talent Academy & Player Development Workgroup Review ongoing over the past two months. This group was headed by Micheal Dempsey and also included: **Jenny Duffy** (Maynooth University), **Jeffrey Lynskey** (Galway), **Jason Sherlock** (Dublin), **Shane Flanagan** (Leinster), **Eugene Young** (Ulster), **Ray O'Brien** (Third Level), **Gareth Coyle** (Ulster Post Primary), **Brian Cuthbert** (Cork), **Fergal O'Donnell** (Roscommon) and **Jamsie O'Connor** (Clare). They have now completed all of the Connacht counties and we await to hear the results.

Coach Education

Our **coach education system**, through our full-time staff and body of Connacht GAA tutors, have delivered a total of 134 GAA Football and Hurling Coaching Courses throughout Connacht with 3,261 participants involved. Saturday, 24th November, saw the start of our Provincial Award 2 Coaching Course for 2018/2019. It will be run over five full days with one day in each of January, February, March and April of 2019. There are 51 participants in total from football and hurling and from each of the counties. All modules will be delivered by our Connacht GAA tutors.

My predecessor **John Tobin** had developed a very worthwhile initiative, the Club Support Programme. The priority of the programme is to reinforce the concept of clubs becoming self-sufficient and self-sustainable. The great thing about this initiative is it allows us to get out and work with clubs in their own setting.

The programme assesses the club's current status of coaching and games through a forum facilitated by a Connacht GAA tutor. The club then sets out three to five goals to improve coaching and games within the club. The final night of the process is a review of the programme by the County Games Manager and the tutor that facilitated night one. By the end of 2018 there were 38 clubs from around the province that have completed the programme. Over a five-year period, we hope to get all clubs in the province, that are willing to participate, through the programme.

Going forward, through the new Club Support Programme, we hope to be more targeted in our approach to coach education. The Club Support Programme allows us to get into the clubs and gain access to coaches who are working on the ground and help identify the needs of both the clubs and coaches.





We want to get away from the model of everyone doing courses for the sake of doing courses. We should be concentrating on upskilling the people who are on the ground working in the clubs and counties. This would be a better use of our valuable resources.

As an Association we need to provide more outlets for our club coaches to move fluidly between the child, youth and adult sectors within their own club. The current merry-go-round of paid managers going between clubs is killing opportunities for coaches in their own club. It is also using valuable resources within clubs that could be used much more wisely on coach, player and facility development. It may be time for the Association to look at the rule of only having coaches that are members of their club over their teams.

There are more details available on coach education in the report from the Coach Education Committee.

Connacht Centre

Séamus Burns took over the role of Connacht GAA Strength & Conditioning Officer in April, 2018, and has continued offering a wide range of services to all schools, clubs and counties in the areas of:

1. Fitness Testing
2. Movement Screening
3. Conditioning Programme Design
4. Match Analysis

As with the previous years there has been a larger uptake of these services from clubs and county teams throughout the province with players from all five provincial counties been tested and screened at the centre in Began.

Séamus continues to work closely with the county games managers within each of the counties to prepare all the academy squads. Our third level placement programme is now in its third year and again it has been a huge success from its initiation in 2016. There is a student placed in each of the five Connacht counties where they assist in the roll out of the strength and conditioning programmes with each of the Academy/Development Squads.

Overall, this has been a huge success and offers a great support to each of the counties' volunteer coaches.

The students play a key role in overseeing the national monitoring system, **Smartabase** mentioned earlier. This involves fitness testing, movement screening and supervising resistance training programmes, helping with field sessions and performing video analysis. This programme will continue in 2019.

Séamus has also rolled out five Strength & Conditioning Courses across the five provincial counties. A total of 70 coaches took part in the courses and will now work with club and county teams across the province. The course covers many aspects surrounding the physical preparation of our teams with modules including physical demands of Gaelic Games, Basic Science Theory, Fitness Testing, Warm Ups, Recovery, Conditioning for Gaelic Games and Supervision of a Resistance Training Programme. This course is designed and delivered so that coaches can carry out training in a safe and effective manner

in their own particular club/county setting with the assistance of Séamus. The idea behind such a course is to build a volunteer led module for clubs so that they can implement a safe and cost-effective physical fitness programme in place within their own club. This course will again be offered out to all clubs around the province in 2019.

Oversees - Asia

In November I spent a week in Asia, where **Pat Daly** and I visited Singapore and Bangkok. In Singapore we visited six different schools and undertook multiple training sessions in each of the schools over three days. We also had a very successful meeting with the Singaporean head of PE and Gaelic Games will now be an elective subject on the PE curriculum in Singapore. This follows on from a trip of five Singaporean PE teachers who spent time at the Connacht centre during the summer learning about Gaelic football. These teachers are now coaching Gaelic football as part of the PE curriculum in Singapore. On one of the evenings we visited the local park where we watched both men's and ladies' teams prepare for the Asian Games that was taking place in Bangkok the following weekend. It was great to see over 60 ladies and over 50 males training on the evening from many different countries.

We then went to Bangkok to attend the Asian Games where I witnessed everything great about the GAA. A total of 190 games were played over the two days in three locations with 14 clubs, 40 teams and 36 different nationalities taking part. It was a huge effort and it was run solely by volunteers from all over Asia. Two of the highlights from the weekend were a Japanese ladies' team that were all Japanese bar one girl from Cork and also the male and female teams from the townships in South Africa where the GAA have three development officers working. One thing we could learn from the way the Asian Games are structured is the way they provide games for all adults regardless of ability. 850 male and female adults played across six divisions that catered for the abilities of all adults in attendance. It was much different from Ireland, where we generally focus on the elite players in counties and clubs.

New York

In November I made my first trip to New York as Connacht Provincial Games manager with the Connacht Hurling Director, **Damien Coleman**, and it was great to finally put the face to so many names. From once we set down, we had meetings with the full-time staff and board members in terms of where New York were at and where they hoped to go in the future. That evening we got to take in the u-14 final in Gaelic Park with a game of high standards on show. The highlight of the trip for me was the Award 1 Course **Damien Coleman** and I delivered over two days. The enthusiasm of the coaches participating in both football and hurling was great.

Like I witnessed in Asia the drive and energy these people have to keep the Irish tradition going overseas is amazing and it is great to be in a position to help them. We also took coaching sessions for both girls





and boy's teams in Gaelic Park. The level of skill on display was of a high standard and a testament to all the work their coaches have done over the years. New York also had boys and girls team participating at the football Féile in 2018 and the plan is for two teams to travel again in 2019 when Connacht will be hosting Féile.

London

During the summer the London U-15s participated in the second **Dermot Earley Blitz** day. The team came on Friday and stayed locally in Ballaghaderreen. After arriving on the Friday, they underwent fitness testing with **Séamus Burns** at the Connacht Centre, which was followed by a talk from Sligo's **Charlie Harrison** on the lifestyle of an inter-county footballer. When they went back to Ballaghaderreen that evening they had another talk from Mayo's **Andy Moran** which the players really enjoyed. On Saturday, London played three games against two Mayo selections and a Galway North team. It was a very worthwhile exercise for London and I would in particular like to thank **Brían Breen** and **Tony Griffin** who organised the trip and all the players and parents who made the trip worthwhile.

Third Level

I would like to acknowledge the work being done in the third level institutions in the province and to thank the Games Promotion Officers, **Damien Curley** (GMIT), **Michael O'Connor** (NUIG) and **Michael Harte** (Sligo IT) for all of their work in co-ordinating the team across all codes in camogie, hurling, men's and ladies' football. This can, at times, be a very challenging role given the reduced times available to students in recent year due to the ever-increasing pressure on students

to achieve high grades, continues based assessment and student placements off campus.

Acknowledgements

- Our Coach Education Committee under the chairmanship of **Denis O'Boyle**
- To our Games Managers, **Tom McManus, Thomas Keenan, Willie Hegarty, Billy McNicholas** and **Liam Óg Gormley**. Also, to all the GPO's and GDA's working in the counties we are very grateful for all the work you are doing delivering our projects on the ground.
- Also, to our third level officers, **Michael Harte** (SIT), **Damien Curley** (GMIT) **Michael O'Connor** (NUIG) for all of their efforts throughout the year.
- To our six third level students, **James Mitchell** (Leitrim), **Darren Duffy** (Mayo), **Jack Casey** (Roscommon), **Fiachra O'Grady** (Sligo), **Eoin Kirwan** (Galway Hurling) and **Aidan Claffey** (Galway Football) who worked for six months from March to August in their assigned counties and I would like to thank them for all their hard work and we wish them well in the future.
- I would like to thank our secretaries, **Amanda Diskin** and **Attracta Hunt**, **Adrian Hassett** (Operations Manager), **Séamus Burns** (Strength and Conditioning Officer), **Brían Mangan** (Communications), and our Secretary, **John Prenty**, for all their assistance with coaching and games throughout the year.
- Finally, I would again like to thank **John Tobin** for all his work for Connacht GAA. He left Connacht GAA coaching and games in a great place. We would all like to wish John well in retirement and in all his future endeavours.



Participants, members of the Earley family, and Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan in attendance at the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Recognition Day at Croke Park.





GAA Risk & Insurance Committee

By Adrian Hassett

THE GAA Risk & Insurance Committee The main areas of focus under GAA's Risk & Insurance Committee can be considered under the following headings:

- Monitor, review and update the GAA Players Injury benefit Fund including all financial and procedural arrangements.
- Evaluate and maintain systems and procedures for the GAA Liability programme.
- Ensure that the GAA Property insurance programme is well maintained and upgraded as required and where possible.
- Promote Risk Management at all levels of the Association including effective administration at club and county level via the County Administrator programme.
- Ensure an effective claims administration process for all aspects of the GAA insurance programme
- Be available to advise all units of the association on GAA Insurance matters.

Players Injury Benefit Fund

Following the rebranding of the GAA Injury Benefit Fund and updating of all Injury Fund documentation, awareness that cover is provided from GAA resources via a fund has marginally increased. Challenges still remain to reinforce across all level of membership that the Benefits provided are funded solely from GAA resources fund and the fund has finite resources.

Claim numbers have remained consistent at just over 6,000 a year due in part to the removal of high frequency covers such as pre-operative expenses. Imbalances in claims benefit payments across the country have been a concern for a number of years.

The first attempt to rebalance the fund was the introduction of the Injury Fund reward rebate in 2014. In the past four years, €800,000 was made available from central funds and was distributed across qualifying counties to clubs in counties who were net contributors to the Injury Fund during these years. On a review of the fund with counties where the highest claims trend disparity has been consistent, the consensus agreed was that the application of a Claims loading would be the most effective method to address this imbalance.

A New method of **team subscriptions fee calculation** introduced in 2017. Claims loading/

discount has been incorporated into the team registration effective from January 2017 whereby a discount or loading is applied to annual total team subscriptions depending on a unit's prior three years claims experience. Units who draw more from the fund than they contributed in subscriptions are subjected to a claim loading of either 10%, 50% or 100%. Units who pay more into the fund via team subscriptions than they draw from the fund in claims benefits will obtain a 10% discount on total subscriptions.

The following table (*below*) shows the effect it had on the various units in Connacht.

In conjunction with this change the U21 team rate was reduced from €450 to €200 as the team fee was previously highlighted as a barrier to participation. The claims loading / discount will remain in place for 2018 and the coming years.

Cover provided by the injury fund is provided on a calendar year basis and cover period is Jan 1 to December 31. To be eligible for cover under the terms of the fund all units must register all teams via the GAA Management System Servasport. All teams are required to be registered annually at Jan 1 or before training commences for the calendar year. In addition as per rules of the Official Guide all playing members must be registered annually via the GAA Management System (Servasport). Details of team registration are submitted to Willis (Injury Fund Administrators) via a feed from GAA Management System. Records are not submitted to Willis until payment has been received and marked off in the system.

To ease the burden on clubs and to facilitate clubs in the collection of funds a maximum of 3-month credit period is extended. Since the introduction of the rebate many counties have addressed late registrations and late payments by implementing no play rules but not all counties are doing this or utilising the Servasport Registration system to manage this at a local level.

Please see the breakdown below of the number of clubs registered and unregistered as at the deadline date of the 8th of March (this was pushed back due to the snow in early March 2018)

County	Registered	Registered & Paid	Registered & Unpaid	Unregistered
Galway	87	81	6	0
Leitrim	23	21	2	3
Mayo	56	56	0	0
Roscommon	36	34	2	0
Sligo	30	27	3	2

2018- Team Subscriptions

Band	A - 10% discount	B - 10% Loading	C - 50% Loading	D - 100% Loading	Overall position	
Galway	65	12	0	8	Equal - subs = fees	County Panel - D
Leitrim	11	7	5	5	Excess - Claims greater than subs	County Panel - B
Mayo	37	4	6	7	Excess - Claims greater than subs	County Panel - D
Roscommon	26	1	3	4		County Panel- A
Sligo	17	5	3	2	Excess - Claims greater than subs	County Panel - D





Counties must enforce compliance in registration and submission of subscriptions. Injury scheme registration continues to be completed via the online registration system Servasport and the efficiencies of centralised data are continuing. Refresher and new user training is required on the system and the National Officer Training committee continue to manage requests for delivery of training across counties in 2018.

Preferred Medical Providers Initiative launched with effect from 1 Oct 2017. A large number of hospitals have committed to work with GAA on this initiative which will result in savings of 5%-10% on treatment costs incurred by registered playing members in the event of injury requiring medical treatment. GAA Risk and Insurance Committee intend to build working relationships with the providers in the long-term which we hope will provide further benefits to our registered members.

What is the Preferred Medical Provider Initiative?

Through the operation of the GAA Injury Benefit Fund, which costs Cumann Lúthchleas Gael €9,000,000 to fund per year, medical expenses make up over 70% of the claims payments issued. Given this significant cost, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael approached hospitals and clinics countrywide with a view to agreeing preferred prices for our registered members who present at these hospitals/clinics following an accidental bodily injury sustained while playing in an official competitive match/sanctioned challenge match or taking part in an official supervised training session on a team registered under the Fund and for which full payment of registration fees has been received in Croke Park. Furthermore, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael have also obtained service commitments from the Preferred Medical Providers which will help in delivering quality healthcare to our registered members and enhance our commitment to Player Medical Welfare. The committee is now at the advanced stages of finalizing agreements which will provide cost savings on treatment costs for participation injuries requiring surgical intervention.

The Club officer information and training workshops are important for clubs to obtain an overview of the Player Injury Fund and its cover details. Clubs and members continue to view the Fund as an insurance cover which is in place to cover all expenses. Counties should encourage all clubs to attend these events as they are highly beneficial to clubs and their members.

GAA Liability Programme

The number and cost of personal injury claims taken against GAA units continued to increase in 2018. Annual claims costs to GAA insurers are now exceeding €3m per annum and if claims continue to rise the continued provision of the central placement will be unsustainable. Annual renewal with existing insurers has been very challenging and ultimately, we were

unable to secure agreement on pricing and cover terms in 2017 and the placement moved to a new insurer Allianz Ireland with effect from 1 November 2017 with a 30% premium increase.

The highest number of personal injury claims pursued continue to arise from claims which could have been avoided or minimised if clubs and counties had adopted very basic risk management and controls. Many GAA Units have undertaken a much more proactive approach to risk management and control of activities and proactively report activities and maintain records. Unfortunately a large number of units are completely failing to address control over activities and use of property. Little or no documentation is in place to assist in investigation and to support defence of claims. Clubs who cannot demonstrate that they took all reasonable precautions to manage activities may be refused a indemnity or face a significantly increased claim excess.

The Broker declarations issued to all units have been updated and clubs have been advised to seek best practice guidance and advise from Willis or GAA Risk and Insurance Manager once they start planning activities. Clubs who run Major fundraising events without seeking extension of cover or permit excluded activities to take place will not be provided with an indemnity in the event of a claim.

The continued deterioration of claim trends arising from the use of GAA properties for non-GAA Associated activities and the provision of use of GAA facilities to Third parties organisations and groups continues to be a concern. It has previously been communicated and acknowledged that there has been huge investment by GAA clubs in their facilities over the last 10-15 years. This is most welcome as we seek to make our facilities as attractive as possible to encourage greater participation. However, in order to fund the cost of this investment many clubs now make these facilities available for Non GAA Associated use by members and / or non-members.

In addition, resources are not being allocated to maintain and upkeep facilities which may result in them becoming hazardous for use by both members and/or non-members. The GAA plays an important role in the communities of Ireland but this provision of facilities can only be undertaken in the context of a well-managed, well laid out process operating to a clear set of standards. Unfortunately, the claims trends highlight that this has not been adhered to in recent years and has resulted in the GAA having to pay out in excess of €6 million in liability claims over the last 5 years solely in respect of claims arising from Non GAA associated use of our facilities.

The situation is now critical and the continued provision of cover for such activities via the central insurance cover is under serious threat of discontinuation. The future viability of provision of our facilities for non-GAA use has been called into question as claims data indicates that units in the absence of seeking proof of other insurance are in default assuming risks that are not ours and are unmanaged. Efforts made to get information from our Clubs and counties in relation to property have at all times proved frustrating, a survey in 2016 was issued for completion by units and unfortunately feedback was less than 30%, this unfortunately is common occurrence. Without the assistance and engagement of all counties the viability of the programme and its continuation for all units





cannot be secured.

Allianz have visited a number of clubs in 2018 and the data gathered will be utilised to update current documentation available to assist clubs in managing their properties and activities.

By utilising all resources available from insurers and brokers the Risk and Insurance Committee aim to assist club officers by providing easier methods to manage record-keeping and the management and control of activities at club properties.

GAA Property Insurance Programme

Weather incidents continue to impact on Property Premiums and availability of Property cover for both individual households and organisations with the GAA no exception. Property rates increased across all markets and the trend of weather incidents is expected to continue.

Damage caused by Storms, snow and water contributed to a large portion of claims costs. As previously advised the provision of this cover is outside the cover normally afforded under a property policy cover as property in the open is a general policy exclusion. In 2018 storm, snow and flood events accounted for €1.6m in claims costs at October 1, 2018 and were the sole contributing factor to insurers rate increase at renewal. Property renewal was agreed with existing insurers subject to a 15% premium increase for 2018 and an increase in the standard excess from €4,000 to €5,000 each and every claim. 65% of the total paid out by Insurers in property claims over the last 5 years has been attributed to storm and weather events. Given the expected increase of such events in the years ahead, the Association is going to face enormous challenges in maintaining the covers it has in place owing to the location and number of properties we cover. Insurers will continue to decline claims for property losses where adequate maintenance and upkeep is not in place and / or where the property is not fit for purpose. Property Insurance is not in place to act as a maintenance programme. Clubs must be proactive in maintaining and replacing equipment as cover cannot be provided for losses occurring as a result of poor installation and / or wear and tear and/or lack of maintenance and upkeep of property.

Clubs who have invested heavily in developing properties must remain vigilant in protecting property when weather warnings are issued. Freeze prevention guidelines, and flood best practice guideline have been issued to all units and notifications in advance of adverse weather will continue to be issued.

Risk Management Programme

Following site visits completed by the Risk and Insurance Committee and by individual county boards the GAA Willis H&S template was reviewed and updated in 2017. The GAA Willis H&S statement template includes an annual inspection checklist to assist clubs in identifying risks and documenting controls required. The annual review and utilisation of the checklist would not appear to form part of club activities with reviews taking place following an incident as a reactive rather than proactive measure. Lack of documentation when incidents occur continues to be a challenge due to the changing nature of volunteer committees and the available IT systems could be better utilised to address this. Refresher and new user training can be requested via the National Officer Training committee. The

National Health & Safety Committee continue to work closely with the Risk & Insurance committee to educate and promote best practice in the control and management of facilities across all activities and all units.

In 2018 Insurance Information presentations were delivered in all five Counties. The training evenings provide the only face to face opportunity to deliver overview of cover, deliver key messages and improve knowledge amongst club officers in understanding the Injury Fund, Insurance policy coverages and improving risk management at properties and across all activities. Full documentation in relation to the Injured Fund including an updated 2019 Summary document was issued to all units on the 10/12/2018 and likewise a copy of the liability policy document, broker declarations and advices on the Insurance program were issued to all units on the 20/12/2018. It is imperative that all units read the information issued.

Challenges Ahead

1. The GAA Players Injury Fund is funded to meet the current claim trends. However, the fund is not entirely self-sufficient and without the contribution from Central council gates receipts the fund would not meet the current annual cost of claims. The implementation of the claims loading to rebalance the fund will be closely monitored by the Committee.
2. The GAA Injury Fund online reporting system was relaunched in 2018 and in order to further enhance the delivery of benefits full utilisation will be required. Clubs who have not completed Player Injury Benefit Fund registration and submitted payment of subscriptions will not be covered by the fund and will be unable to register a claim to the system or directly with Willis.
3. To improve insurance knowledge and communication of key messages at county and club level.
4. Local delivery of key information on Insurance covers and the Injury Fund terms and conditions will be supplemented with access to on line information for GAA clubs and members. The club manual has been updated and many guides and standard templates are available to assist clubs in managing activities and implementing controls to ensure the safety of all users of club facilities.
5. Unless there is a serious improvement in the management of GAA property and activities and the provision of property and facilities for Non GAA Activities we will not be able to continue to secure Insurance cover.

On behalf of the Council I wish to thank the National Insurance & Risk Management Committee for their help and co-operation throughout the year. It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Seamus Howlin. Seamus was chairperson of the GAA Risk & Insurance Committee, his energy and work rate and his ability to get on with people and bring them together will be a huge loss to not only the Committee but the GAA at large. "Go dtuga Dia suaimhneas síoraí da anam."

I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the Connacht representative on the workgroup, **Mr P. J. Meehan** and also to acknowledge **Mr Paddy Muldoon**, who is a constant source of information, advice and devilment.





Connacht GAA Coach Education Convention Report 2018

By Denis O'Boyle



THE Connacht GAA Coach Education Committee met on four occasions during 2018 on the following dates: 26/02/2018, 31/07/2018, 04/09/2018 and 09/11/2018.

The Connacht GAA Coach Education Committee comprises of nine GAA Tutor Trainers also known as Coach Developers, representing all five counties in Connacht, together with **Cathal Cregg**, Connacht GAA Provincial Games Manager and the former Provincial Games Manager, **John Tobin**.

Each member of the Connacht Coach Education Committee has a wide range of experiences and expertise within the GAA and is also a qualified GAA Tutor Trainer/ Coach Developer, having undertaken an intensive training course facilitated by the GAA in association with Sport Ireland. Over the years, members of this committee have attended the National GAA Coaching Conference's in Croke Park and partake regularly in GAA Tutor/Coach Development Training.

The main role of the Connacht Coach Education Committee is to oversee the training and development of GAA Coaches and GAA Tutors in Connacht and to ensure the smooth delivery of the GAA Coach Education Programme for GAA Coaches throughout Connacht. The Connacht Coach Education Committee

members are as follows: Chairperson, **Denis O'Boyle**, Mayo; Secretary, **Adrian Hassett**; Galway, **Matt Gaffey**; Leitrim, **Martin Connolly**, Mayo; **Seán Silke**, Galway; **Liam Óg Gormley**, Sligo; **Willie Hegarty**, Roscommon; **Damien Coleman**, Galway; **Damian Curley**, Galway; **Cathal Cregg** Connacht GAA Games Manger and **John Tobin**, former Connacht Games Manager.

Football and Hurling Courses delivered in Connacht during 2018

During 2018, a total 134 (122 in 2017) GAA Football and Hurling Coaching Courses were delivered throughout Connacht with 3261 (2,675 in 2017) Coaches taking part, as can be seen from the table below collated by Attract Hunt in Connacht GAA. (See below)

These courses were co-ordinated by the Connacht Coach Education Committee and on its behalf, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous work of all the GAA tutors throughout Connacht who facilitated the provision of these courses, in association with their respective Games Mangers, and congratulate all of the coaches, who attended and received their GAA Coaching Certification. I wish them continued success and enjoyment in their coaching careers and thank them for their ongoing promotion of our Gaelic Games in Connacht.

		Galway		Sligo		Roscommon		Leitrim		Mayo		Connacht	
		No of C	No of P	No of C	No of P	No of C	No of P	No of C	No of P	No of C	No of P	No of C	No of P
Foundation	Football	6	132	6	97	9	160	6	93	13	255	40	737
Award 1 Youth	Football	2	70	4	56	1	23	1	32	4	89	12	270
Award 1 Adult	Football	2	79	0	0	1	23	1	32	2	23	6	148
Award 1 Child	Football	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	16	0	0	1	16
Transition Year	Lifeskills	3	71	6	350	8	194	0	0	21	631	38	1,246
Transition Year	Lifeskills (Hurling)	9	221	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	221
Foundation	Hurling	5	136	1	5	0	0	0	0	4	59	10	200
Award 1 Youth	Hurling	2	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	42
Award 1 Adult	Hurling	2	42	0	0	1	13	0	0	0	0	2	42
Award 1 Child	Hurling	2	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	44
Foundation	Dual	4	118	0	0	1	17	0	0	3	92	8	227
Award 2 Adult	Football											1	25
Award 2 Youth	Football											1	25
Award 2 Adult	Hurling											1	9
Award 2 Youth	Hurling											1	9
Totals		37	946	17	508	20	417	9	173	47	1,149	134	3,261





Meeting of the Connacht Coach Education Committee 2018, left to right: Liam Óg Gormley, Sligo; Matt Gaffey, Leitrim; Martin Connolly, Mayo; Adrian Hassett, Secretary, Galway; Denis O'Boyle, Chairperson; Damian Curley, Galway; John Tobin, former Connacht Games Manager, Galway; Willie Hegarty, Roscommon, and Cathal Cregg, Connacht Games Manager. (Missing from Photograph: Damien Coleman and Seán Silke, Galway).

Cathal Cregg appointed new Connacht GAA Provincial Games Development Manager

On the 15th March 2018, John Prenty announced the appointment of **Cathal Cregg** as the new Connacht GAA Provincial Games Development Manager in succession to **John Tobin**.

The press release stated that:

"Cathal had worked as Head Strength & Conditioning Officer with Connacht GAA for the past five years having previously qualified with a Sport Science Degree and a Research Masters in Exercise Physiology from Dublin City University and is currently finishing his Ph.D.

He is a member of the Western Gaels GAA Club in Roscommon and has been part of the Roscommon Senior Inter-County football team since 2006. He has represented Connacht on many occasions since 2007 winning an Interprovincial title in 2014, played for Ireland in the 2014 International Rules Series in Australia, won two Sigerson Cups with DCU and a Freshers All-Ireland with NUIG."

The Connacht GAA Coach Education Committee look forward to working with Cathal in the promotion of Coach Development throughout Connacht and wish him continued success in his new role.

Connacht GAA Representatives on National Coach Education Committees and Work Groups

The following are the Connacht GAA Representatives on National Coach Education Committees and Work Groups which commence their work in 2019:

National Coach Education Workgroup

Cathal Cregg
Damien Coleman
Denis O'Boyle

Club Engagement Programme Action

Cathal Cregg

Mandatory Coaching Standards Action

John Tobin

Programme Development: Coach Development Work Group

Damien Curley

Accreditation Work Group

Denis O'Boyle

GAA Mandatory Coaching Standards

The *mandatory coaching standards* for the GAA refer to the specific coaching qualification aligned with particular roles within club and inter-county teams and these are as follows:

Inter County Management Teams

For the 2019 season, all Inter-County 'Head Coaches' will be Award 2 qualified

Club Management Teams

For the 2019 season, all Club Head Coaches will be Award 1 qualified.

The GAA Strategic Plan (Fís Shoiléir 2021) includes a specific action and progress indicators related to the mandatory standards under Objective 1.3 (p 19) -

Specific Action:

"Re-launch and implement mandatory coaching standards and align with the strategy to create self-sufficiency and sustainability at club and county levels."

The GAA Coaching Pathway

The GAA Coach Education Programme focuses on continuing education, so that coaches can improve by means of a series of specifically designed courses, workshops and conferences incorporating internationally recognised principles of *best practice*. These opportunities will include a combination of theoretical and practical inputs and allow for the use of digital and e-learning techniques.

The programme of Applied Lifelong Learning makes provision for coaches to continually develop their skills and to progress at a rate suited to their own development. In so doing the GAA has identified the immediate need to prioritise and support the development of players and coaches as key to the long-term success and health of Gaelic Games.





Prospective coaches of children, youths and adults in Connacht now have the opportunity to develop their coaching knowledge, skills and competencies over a number of awards specific to dealing with whichever playing group they intend to work with. Below is an illustrated model of the GAA coaching pathway and includes a variety of *Face-to-Face, Blended and Online Courses*:



The GAA has developed this model of Coach Education in order to create a coaching system which produces and supports the development of coaches and players. The model takes into account of the different playing capacities that exist between:

- Children (up to 12 years)
- Youths (age 13-18)
- Adults (age 19+)

and the competencies that a coach is required to display when working with each of the playing populations. These streams have been identified to cater for the diverse needs of children, of youths and of adults.

Quality Coaching: as part of an overall Games Development Plan - promotes fair play, builds social cohesion, self-esteem and enhances health and well-being as well as supporting social and economic objectives.

It is important to state that all our GAA coaches in Connacht should be committed to creating fun, safe playing environments for all of our players, regardless of age or ability level.

To safeguard our players, all coaches should abide by the GAA Code of Conduct, have completed at least

the GAA Foundation Award and the GAA Safeguarding 1 Workshop and be vetted by An Garda Síochána.

New Award 2 Youth & Adult Courses commenced in November 2018

The first day of the Award 2 Youth and Adult Course took place on Saturday, 24th November, 2018, in the Connacht GAA Centre in Began. The County Coaching & Games Committee's in Connacht nominated a total of 51 coaches to undertake this particular Connacht GAA Award 2 Coach Education Course. The Award 2 Coach Education Course is the third award on the coaching pathway of Gaelic Games and is aimed at coaches that have progressed through the Foundation Award and Award 1 Programmes and have extensive experience as a coach.

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This Award 2 Youth Course, is 27 hours in duration with an add on of 4.5 hours (minimum) to complete the Award 2 Adult part of the course. The course covers a number of key modules, as well as Introductory and Conclusion modules and are as follows:

- Role of the Coach
- Technical Proficiency
- Tactical Prowess
- Team Play
- Physical Fitness
- Participant Feedback/Playing Facts
- Psychological Focus
- Talent Identification



Tutor Damien Colman with participants on Day 1 of the Award 2 Course





- Nutrition and Hydration
- Communication
- Lifestyle
- Rules.

The focus of this Award 2 course is to further develop one's coaching skills by placing the participant coaches in situations that they will encounter in their respective clubs and or counties and will involve the organisation of games activities, activities to develop skill and activities to develop the various physical fitness attributes. This course will run until 12th April, 2019.

Recruitment of GAA Coaches

All coaches working with young people and children are required to be suitable for their chosen role(s), and should be appropriately trained, qualified and supported to fulfil such roles.

All persons working or volunteering for such roles are required to:

- Undertake agreed vetting and background Gardai checks within the jurisdiction(s) in which they operate
- Attend relevant Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Training
- Possess a coaching qualification relevant to their role as recognised by their association.

Coaches of adult teams, which include any player under-18 years of age, must also undertake the **vetting, child safeguarding training and coaching** requirements as outlined above.

Maintaining appropriate levels of behaviour in our work with children and young People

During 2018 a booklet was published titled: *'Maintaining Appropriate Levels of Behaviour in our Work with Children and Young People'* and it addressed the minimum levels of behaviour, practice and conduct required from our young players, coaches, supporters, parents/guardians, referees and clubs and from those who work with them on our behalf.

All GAA coaches should ensure that young people

and children benefit significantly from our games by promoting a positive, healthy and participatory approach in our work with underage players. In developing the skills levels of every player, coaches should always encourage enjoyment and fun while ensuring meaningful participation in our games and activities. Coaches should always remember that they are role models for the players in their care.

Post Primary Schools in Connacht are delivering the GAA Future Leaders Transition Year Programme

The *Future Leaders Transition Year Programme* is a joint initiative from the GAA and the *Professional Development Service for Teachers* (PDST). The National Co-Ordinator of Future Leaders is **Eoghan Hanley**, a teacher in Gort Community School, and who is currently seconded to the GAA to co-ordinate this cross-curricular programme comprising of eight modules, each designed to encourage **maturity, initiative, responsibility and leadership skills** in pupils. The programme gives pupils the knowledge and skills to support all roles required in the effective staging of Gaelic Games. As part of the programme pupils are challenged to organise and run a **GAA Super Games Centre** for younger students.

There has been huge interest in the programme in Connacht with a total of 45 schools participating in the 2018/19 academic year. A further 13 schools are registered to start in 2019/20. We look forward to working with these schools over the years to come, helping them with the delivery of the modules and the running of their GAA events.

There are seven PDST Future Leaders Associates based in Connacht and they visit the schools and provide training to the schools Future Leaders Co-ordinators and the teachers involved in the delivery of the programme. These visits are hugely beneficial as they focus on the particular needs of each individual school. The associates are **Carmel Cruise**, St Colman's College, Claremorris; **Pádraig Hernon**, Holy Rosary Mountbellew; **Colm Madden**, Gort Community School; **Ciaran Allen**, St Mary's, Ballina;



Pictured, left to right: National Co-ordinator of the Future Leaders Programme, Eoghan Hanley; Future Leaders Steering Committee member: Denis O'Boyle; Connacht Teachers: Ciaran Allen, Carmel Cruise, Martina Finneran, Joe McCabe, Colm Madden, Pádraig Hernon. Attending the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) and GAA presenters, at a Training Day held in Croke Park in 24th November, 2018.





Joe McCabe and **Daniel Forde**, St Gerald's College, Castlebar, and **Martina Finneran**, Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown.

According to **Eoghan Hanley**: *“One of the next steps in the development of the programme is to create a strong club-school link. In the coming years there will be huge numbers of transition year pupils, many of whom with no previous experience of the GAA, who will have developed many skills and qualities vital to the running of a club. These pupils could be of huge assistance to clubs all over Connacht, playing an active part in areas like coaching, administration, refereeing and general club promotion and wellbeing”.*

Course Structure

- The programme is comprised of 8 modules
- All modules are between 6 - 10 hours long, stand-alone and individually certifiable. Pupils will receive a certificate for each completed module
- A school can choose to deliver one or more modules. Delivering five modules plus the organisation of a GAA Super Games Centre through the pupils, results in them being awarded the “GAA/PDST Future Leaders Award”
- When registered, each pupil gets an online e-Portfolio to store and share documentation and to submit tasks. Pupils receive certification for each module when all the tasks are completed and submitted to their e-Portfolio

Role for Everyone

- There are many jobs that need to be filled by Transition Year pupils to ensure the successful running of the Super Games Centre. This is the practical application of the skills pupils acquired in the various modules.
- **Future Leaders Committee** - This is comprised of a group of pupils who oversee the overall day-to-day running of the Super Games Centre. The committee is made up of a chairperson, a secretary, a PRO, etc, and oversees everything and organises the weekly roster for the various other jobs.
- Team Managers
- Referees / Umpires / Linesmen
- Journalists
- Photographers
- Performance Analysts
- Nutritionists

Club - School Link

According to National Co-ordinator, **Eoghan Hanley**: *“We are currently working with the provinces to develop a club-school link. We will be visiting all county boards in early 2019 to develop this further. We have 267 schools engaged with the programme this year with over 100 more registered for 2019/20. We also have two pilot schools in New York State. There are at present over 15,000 students developing skills and capacities which are vital to fulfil all of the necessary roles in the running of a club. We want to work with clubs to provide as many of these students as possible the opportunity to put these newly-acquired skills into practice for the benefit of both the individual*

and the club. This will be a very exciting development and a huge help to clubs all over the country.”

The following is a list of the Connacht Schools currently taking part in the Future Leaders Programme for the 2018/19 academic year:

Galway: (16 schools)

Ardcoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe
Colaiste Cholmcille
Colaiste Einde
Colaiste Iognaid SJ
Dominican College
Dunmore Community School
Garbally College
Gort Community School
Holy Rosary, Mountbellew
Portumna Community School
Presentation College, Athenry
Presentation, Headford
Presentation, Tuam
St Brigid's College, Loughrea
St Mary's, College
St Paul's Secondary School

Leitrim: (3 Schools)

Ballinamore CS
Lough Allen College
St Clare's Comprehensive School

Mayo: (13 schools)

Balla Secondary School
Ballinrobe CS
Ballyhaunis CS
Colaiste Pobail Acla
Mount St Michael Sec., Claremorris
Rice College, Westport
Scoil Mhuire, Swinford
St Colman's College
St Gerald's College
St Joseph's CS, Charlestown
St Louis CS, Kiltimagh
St Mary's, Ballina
St Muredach's, College

Roscommon (6 Schools)

Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown
Abbey Community College
Castlerea CS
CBS Roscommon
Roscommon Community College
Convent of Mercy

Sligo (7 Schools)

Colaiste Mhuire Ballymote
Coola Post Primary
Jesus & Mary, Enniscrone
Mercy College
St Attracta's, Tubbercurry
St Mary's, College
Ursuline College

For further information on Future Leaders Programme you can contact the following:

learning.gaa.ie/futureleaders,
Email: futureleaders@gaa.ie
Twitter: @gaafutureleader,
Instagram: gaafutureleader and
Facebook: GAA Future Leaders





Coach Education Personnel, Courses & Resources

Each the five counties in Connacht has a GAA Games Manager responsible for the promotion of all aspects of Gaelic Games within that county and manage the staff working for the county board and provincial council within each county.

The Connacht Provincial Games Manager, **Cathal Cregg**, promotes and oversees the objectives and policies of the GAA nationally and provincially and ensures that they are carried out to the betterment of the association as a whole.

All our GAA Coaches in Connacht can now readily avail of the many and varied opportunities available to them to expand their coaching knowledge, skills and expertise for the benefit of themselves and their players.

Should you require further information on any aspect of coach education you can google <http://learning.gaa.ie/> This is the GAA Learning & Development Portal Site, which has been specially developed to provide better access to key resources for all GAA members and those actively promoting Gaelic Games. You now have every opportunity to keep up-to-date with the most up-to-date developments in coaching.

At local level, it is important to highlight the fact that each county in Connacht advertises its coaching courses online in their County Website and also via the Connacht GAA Coach Education website <http://connachtgaa.ie/coaching> which includes the timetable of all our Coach Education Courses in Connacht. This website is updated regularly and all coaches are encouraged to register with this site, view upcoming courses and reserve a place at an upcoming course. All those wishing to organise a GAA coaching course within their club or school during 2019, should contact their local **county games managers** as outlined below:

John Tobin retires

The Connacht Coach Education Committee at its first meeting in 2018 expressed its sincere gratitude to John Tobin for the tremendous leadership, good humour, commitment, innovation and role model he has provided for GAA coaches throughout Connacht over the years. As Connacht Games Manager, John has left a tremendous legacy which will greatly benefit all those involved in the promotion of Gaelic Games for many years to come.

In 1984 John Tobin was captain for his club Tuam Stars when they won the Galway County football

championship. As well as having a successful career with Tuam Stars, John was one of the most skilful footballers ever to wear a Galway jersey. He won a minor All-Ireland with the Tribesmen in 1970 and an under-21 All-Ireland in 1972 and, in between those two victories, he joined the senior squad playing his final game for Galway in the 1983 All-Ireland Final against Dublin.

After retiring from inter-county football, John became a well-respected and innovative coach of Galway and Roscommon Gaelic footballers, his own club, Tuam Stars, and the Connacht Interprovincial Gaelic football team, which included Cathal Cregg in their Railway Cup success in 2014.

John is a former Physical Education teacher at St Patrick's CBS in Tuam and continues to be the coaching officer in Tuam Stars. While we take this opportunity to wish John all the very best in his retirement from his role as Provincial Coaching & Games Manager for Connacht GAA, we are indeed delighted that he has agreed to remain on as a most valued member of the Connacht GAA Coach Education Committee.

Acknowledgement

It is important to acknowledge the tremendous work undertaken in Croke Park by **Pat Daly**, Director of Games Development & Research; **Jimmy D'Arcy**, GAA Technical Development & Support Manager, **Peter Horgan**, Education Officer, and **David Sweeney**, Games Development Department, and I take this opportunity to thank each of them for their continued support for the Connacht GAA Coach Education Committee.

I wish to thank all our Connacht GAA tutors, all our GAA coaches, our Committee Secretary, **Adrian Hassett**, Connacht Games Manager, **Cathal Cregg** and Connacht GAA Secretary, **John Prenty**. We are most fortunate to have their calibre, experience and ongoing support. Thanks also to **Attracta Hunt** and **Amanda Diskin**, for their continued help and co-operation at all times. **John Clancy**, caretaker, ensures that the facilities are always in order for our courses, for which we are most grateful.

I wish to thank the five county boards and their dedicated games managers for their continued support, co-operation and development of GAA Coach Education Programmes.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the members of the Connacht Coach Education Committee for the giving of their time, commitment and expertise throughout 2018.

County Games Managers

Mayo	Billy McNicholas	billy.mcnicholas.gm.mayo@gaa.ie	087-2497407
Leitrim	Thomas Keenan	thomas.keenan.gm.leitrim@gaa.ie	087-6591049
Roscommon	Willie Hegarty	willie.hegarty.gm.roscommon@gaa.ie	086-8356227
Sligo	Liam Óg Gormley	liamog.gormley.gm.sligo@gaa.ie	086-8254420
Galway	Tom McManus	tom.mcmanus.gm.galway@gaa.ie	087-2612089





Health & Well Being Report

By **Mattie Kilroy**



THE Connacht Health & Well Being Committee held two meetings in 2018.

A joint meeting of the Connacht Games for All and the Connacht “Health & Well being” committees was held at the Connacht GAA Centre, Cloonacurry, Began, Claremorris, Co Mayo, on Monday, 25th June, 2018.

The attendance included: **Colin Regan**, **Stacey Cahill** and **Tony Watene** (Croke Park,) **John Prenty**, Connacht Secretary; **Denis O’Boyle** (Chairman Connacht Games for All); **Tim Hynes** (Sligo), **Christy Tyrell** (Galway), **Barry Lowe** (Roscommon), **Terence Boyle**, **Barbara Byrne** (Leitrim), **Mary Prenty** (Mayo), **Justin Campbell** (Galway), **Iggy Clarke** (Galway), **Trevor Coen** (Sligo), **Oliver Donoghue** (Roscommon), **Gerry McGovern** (President of the Connacht Council), **Mattie Kilroy** (Secretary of the Games for All and Chairman of the Health and Well Being Committee).

The meeting was chaired by **Denis O’Boyle** who welcomed all to the meeting and welcomed especially the visitors from Croke Park.

The Chairman, **Denis O’Boyle**, asked **Colin Regan** GAA Community & Health Manager to address the meeting. Colin outlined that following: the *Keegan Report* that the solid home for the Games for All was under the umbrella of the *Health and Well Being Committee* at national level. Colin also said that **Tony Watene**, in his role at Abbotstown, would remain co-ordinator of the *Wheel Chair Hurling and Football for All*. He said that a new person is to be appointed for the role of Inclusion & Integration Officer this coming October and he/she would be the liaison officer with Games for All Committees and the main focus would be on “Inclusivity”.

Colin also outlined the need for a ‘shop window’ through social media for the good work being done and that a tab would be available under www.gaa.ie/community. He outlined the research work being carried out by Sligo’s **Charlie Harrison** on the coaching of new possibilities for people with disabilities. He outlined the “Fun & Run Modified Game of Rounders” which will be part of the **games managers work programme** and of the Healthy Clubs Projects. The Fun & Run initiative will increase participation of Special Needs individuals in Gaelic Games. He outlined the need for the Respect Initiative is to be rolled out to prevent verbal abuse and any tensions with minority groups.

John Prenty raised the issues of greater respect for club officials, clubs and club players and county officers and that a level of *respect* be expected from all. **Denis O’Boyle** said he had attended the presentation of Mayo County Council on the Football

for All, representing Connacht and recalled the expressions of joy for the participants and their parents.

Colin outlined that the healthy clubs initiative now numbered 160 and their role on Inclusion & Integration was immense, but clubs needed support and training in the area of Special Needs Children at club level. He outlined the wide range of work being carried out in physical activity, cookery lessons, healthy eating, emotional well being.

A discussion was held on the formation of one committee, at Connacht level, to cater for “Games for All” and “Health & Wellbeing”

A second meeting of the Connacht Health & Well Being Committee and the County Health & Wellbeing officers of the county committees was held on Monday night, November 19th, at the Connacht Centre of Excellence, Began, Claremorris, and **Collette Coady**, Croke Park officer, attended. The attendance included representative from all counties(except Mayo) and members of the Connacht committee.

The Chairman, **Mattie Kilroy**, welcomed all to the meeting and extended a special welcome to *Colette Coady*. The agenda included: a review of the national forums held at Croke Park in October was deemed a success and Colette said that if counties had suggestions on how the forum could be improved, then please forward them to her. The county representatives all expressed satisfaction with the speakers and arrangements.

Updates on activities in the counties were reported by a representative from each county and the Chairman thanked them for their great work. Colette called for Healthy Club Officer training and targets for Autumn, 2018, and Spring, 2019, were outlined by all counties. The templates available for Critical Incidents Plans County & Clubs were now available and each county had a responsibility to continue their development.

A discussion on county boards having a representative on the county’s committee for a report to be delivered at county board meetings was recommended. The promotion of the Healthy Clubs, Fun & Run Game. The *Respect Initiative* would be promoted by the County Health & Wellbeing Committees. Calls for clarification on insurance were made and **John Prenty** reported that clarifications would be delivered.

The proposed amalgamation of “Health & Well Being” and the “Games for All” committees would happen in Connacht and Munster for a trial period but Leinster and Ulster, because of larger county numbers, would continue to have two committees. The terms of reference for the amalgamated would be delivered at a later date. The counties could also adopt a similar proposal.

Mattie Kilroy,
Cathaoirleach.





Tuarascáil Coiste Éisteachta Connacht CLG 2018

Timely, transparent and impartial manner

COISTE Éisteachta Connacht CLG has as its brief in accordance with Rule 3.32 to 2018 to adjudicate on all disciplinary matters where a hearing is prescribed and requested, relating to the enforcement of rules arising from matters under the jurisdiction of the provincial council including the activities of the Provincial Schools' Committee. It shall also hear appeals against decisions of the various county committees under its jurisdiction.

During 2018 Coiste Éisteachta met on fourteen occasions to deal with various matters in accordance with what is generally outlined above. Under the astute direction of Cathaoirleach Seán Ó Fiannaí (Maigh Eo) the workings of the committee ensured that all parties to a hearing as a result of disciplinary actions served on a party or the hearing of an appeal against a decision of a Coiste Éisteachta Chontae or indeed any appeal against a decision of a Coiste Ceannais na gComórtaisí Chontae were carried out in a timely, transparent and impartial manner.

Decisions were subsequently relayed in accordance with rule to the various parties and the respect shown to the committee, in the carrying out of its function, at all times during the season, is worthy of note. All decisions of the committee were accepted and there were no appeals to higher authority against any direct decision of Coiste Éisteachta in 2018.

Decisions

A breakdown of the various matters that came before the committee is shown below. It should be noted that in all cases brought before the committee, whether by individual or by club, they have been chronicled below in accordance with the county from which they originated. It should also be noted that any disciplinary case that occurs at inter county senior level, whether at Allianz Leagues or championship, these case are dealt with by the Central Hearings Committee.

Included among the appeal cases considered were three which ultimately came from clubs regarding decisions of the relevant Coiste Chontae regarding transfers. While one was dealt with purely on a procedural technicality and was upheld and referred back to the Coiste Chontae for reprocessing, it should be noted that in accordance with Rule 7.11(e) (2) to 2018 there shall be no appeal outside the county against a decision of a county committee, or one of its sub-committees with regards to transfers within a county. As such any such case may only be taken to the Disputes Resolutions Authority.

In dealing with the various cases as outlined above, members of Coiste Éisteachta Connacht who were from any county that was represented at any hearing, stood aside from adjudicating on such a given case. While this may have put a strain at times on the human resources of the committee, all cases were met

with and dealt with in satisfactory manner. For this we are greatly appreciative of the efforts and sacrifices made by all members of the committee to ensure that our business was completed. On occasions this duty had to be met at short notice and we are indebted to all.

Hearings

Contae	Submitted	Penalty set aside	Penalty Imposed	Penalty Imposed but less serious than alleged
Gaillimh	0	0	0	0
Liatroim	0	0	0	0
Maigh Eo	2	0	0	2
Roscomáin	1	1	0	0
Sligeach	1	0	1	0
Total Hearings	4	1	1	2

Appeals

Contae	Submitted	Appeal Upheld	Appeal Lost	Appeal Ruled out of Order or Not Allowed
Gaillimh	3	0	1	2
Liatroim	4	1	2	1
Maigh Eo	1	0	1	0
Roscomáin	2	1	1	0
Sligeach	9	3	2	4
Total Appeals	19	5	7	7

I wish to thank the various members listed below for their cooperation and courtesy with me as Rúnaí to the committee over the past year. It was a pleasure dealing with you all. I also wish to thank the officers of the various clubs and county committees across the province that I have had dealings with in carrying out this duty.

I wish to convey our sympathies to *Chrissie* and the family of the late **Jim Meehan**, a listed member of Coiste Éisteachta, 2018, who was unable to participate at any stage due to illness and passed to his eternal reward in last October. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

The gratitude of the committee is also extended to **John Prenty**, Rúnaí Comhairle Connacht CLG, for all his help and assistance over 2018. To *Amanda Diskin* and *Attracta Hunt* I wish to say Míle Buíochais for your kind attention to detail. Last, and by no means least, a particular word of gratitude to **John Clancy** who has ensured that Áras Connacht was always open for our meetings and he had the unenviable task of remaining on until we concluded our business to shut up shop after us. Many thanks John for your kindness and patience. On behalf of Coiste Éisteachta Connacht I wish all parties associated with Connacht CLG and throughout the province a successful 2019.

Mise le meas

Déaglán Ó Buacháin
Rúnaí Coiste Éisteachta Connacht





Post-Primary Schools Report 2018

Aodh reflects on successful year tinged with a little sadness

By Aodh Ó Rodáin

2018 was another successful year on the playing fields of Connacht for Post-Primary Schools. All our competitions were completed despite poor weather conditions and unavailability of pitches. All our representatives in the All-Ireland series were worthy champions of Connacht. They went on to give their best at All-Ireland level. Some were narrowly beaten at the last hurdle. St. Cuan's, Castleblakeney, crowned off an excellent year and successful year by winning the Br. Edmund Ignacious Rice Cup for the first time. It was also their first time to represent Connacht schools in senior football. We wish them well and hope they enjoy their success and good luck in the future.



Calasanctius have made great progress in the last few years. We look forward to seeing both competing at the highest level.

Senior 'C' Hurling

Connacht Champions: Seamount, Kinvara
Runner-up: St. Killian's, New Inn
A keenly-contested 'C' hurling competition saw Seamount, Kinvara, emerge as Connacht Champions. They were narrowly beaten by St. Fergal's, Rathdowney, on a score of 3-13 to 3-10.

Junior 'A' Hurling

Connacht Champions: Gort Community School
Runner-up: Presentation, Athenry
Gort lost out to St. Kieran's, Kilkenny, in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Hurling

Senior 'A' Hurling

Connacht Champions: Presentation, Athenry
Runner-up: Gort Community School
Another success year for Presentation, Athenry ... well done to them. Both Presentation and Gort took part in the All-Ireland series. Presentation, Athenry, reached the All-Ireland final, losing out after extra-time to St. Kieran's, Kilkenny. Gort were also beaten by St. Kieran's at the quarter-final stage.

Senior 'B' Hurling

Connacht Champions: Portumna C.S.
Runner-up: Calasanctius, Oranmore
Portumna C.S. had a very successful year and

Football

Senior 'A' Football

Connacht Champions: Rice College, Westport
Runner-up: St. Attracta's, Tubbercurry
Rice College had a wonderful year as first time 'A' champions and reached the All-Ireland Final, only losing by the smallest of margins to St. Ronan's, Lurgan. We congratulate them for their efforts and wish them well in the future.

Senior 'B' Football

Connacht Champions: St. Nathy's, Ballaghaderreen
Runner-up: Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown
St. Nathy's are strong contenders most years for honours. They pulled out all the stops this year to win the Connacht 'B' title beating a strong Scoil Mhuire



Tooreen Hurling Club team from Mayo who finished runners-up in the an Tain Og U-13 hurling league held at Ballaghaderreen GAA club.





team in the final. St. Nathy's then made it to the All-Ireland final, losing out to an impressive Holy Trinity team from Cookestown.

Senior 'C' Football

Connacht Champions: Coláiste Chiaráin Athlone
 Runner-up: St. Paul's, Oughterard
 Coláiste Chiaráin took second place to Ardee C.S. on a score of 4-11 to 2-08. Ardee went on to win the All-Ireland Final.

Senior 'D' Football

Connacht Champions: St. Cuan's, Castleblakeney
 Runner-up: Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin
 As already mentioned St. Cuan's had a wonderful year winning a Connacht Championship and an All-Ireland for the first time. Great credit to the people who look after teams year in year out, providing young players with the opportunity to play.

Junior 'A' Football

Connacht Champions: St. Joseph's, Galway
 Runner-up: St. Gerald's, Castlebar
 St. Joseph's, Galway, won the Junior 'A' Football Championship for the first time, beating St. Gerald's, Castlebar, in the final. They were narrowly beaten in the All-Ireland semi-final by Coláiste Mhuire, Mullingar.

General

Competitions were agreed and fixtures worked on over the summer. Copies were circulated to all schools for comment on 01/09/2017. The finalised set of fixtures were circulated to all schools on 25/09/2017. All of the above was carried out with the help of the Connacht G.A.A. office personnel. So on your behalf I want to thank them most sincerely. Thankfully all competitions are completed and preparations for 2018/2019 are now in progress.

Connacht & County coaching and games

We thank all involved in coaching and games within the province and the counties. They made time to assist us in what we are doing. Our blitz days could not be run without their help and assistance.

Media

We thank the press and radio for the coverage they give our games.

Sponsorship

NUIG continue to sponsor our games and present Man of the Match awards in our senior hurling and football finals. We thank them for their support and a special word of appreciation goes to Michael O'Connor for his help and co-operation.

Acknowledgements

A special word of 'thanks' to all games teachers for their time and effort in the promotion of Gaelic Games in our schools. Again, thanks to Connacht GAA for their support. Without their help and use of their facilities things would be much more difficult.

On a sad note we are so sorry to experience the loss of our Chairman, **Ciaran Byrne** RIP. Ciaran served Connacht Schools for a long number of years and was freely available to carry out his duties at a moments notice. His friendly personality made it easy to deal with the most difficult of situations. On a personal note I have to say we travelled many miles together and he will be sadly missed. Sincere condolences to his wife, **Marie**; daughters, **Ursula** and **Corrina**; brothers, nieces, nephews and friends.

We remember **Tony Keady** RIP, who passed away very suddenly last August. Tony was very helpful if a pitch was needed at short notice or if a referee did not turn up. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Sincere condolences to his wife, **Margaret**; and four children, **Shannon, Anthony, Harry** and **Jake**.

Sincere sympathy to all who suffered bereavements during the year.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílis.

Aodh Ó Rodáin
 Rúnaí



Castlebar Mitchels also took part in the events at Ballaghaderreen GAA club.





Connacht Cumann na mBunscol Report 2018

Tuairisc an Rúnaí, Eanáir 2019



Wonderful job of coaching in schools

Officers:

Chairperson:	Gerry O’Gara (Ros Comáin)
Vice-Chairman:	Micheál Mac Thiarnáin (Liatroimh)
Secretary:	Aodán Ó Caoimh (Maigh Eo)
Asst. Sec.:	Mick Maye (Sligeach)
Treasurer:	David Dillon (Sligeach)
PRO:	Cyril Mannion (Gaillimh)
Dev. Officer:	Danny Charlton (Maigh Eo)
Handball Officer:	Fearghas MacLochlainn (Gaillimh)

Coaching & Games Development

Coaches in all five counties are doing a wonderful job of coaching in schools. Guided by **Cathal Cregg**, **Damien Coleman** and games managers in each county, these coaches are teaching primary school children the basic skills of our games and getting them to participate in conditioned games in a non-competitive and enjoyable environment. Go-Games and modified games are now the norm in all counties up to u-12. In respect of senior pupils over-12, each county has formulated its own modifications (e.g. one hop and one/two solos) in football and the **no solo rule** in hurling and camogie. The Respect Initiative is being promoted as an essential part of our coaching and the Young Whistlers Programme helps to reinforce this initiative.

Mini-Exhibition Games

In 2018 these games were a huge success and, in many ways, the highlight of the Cumann na mBunscol Chonnacht year in terms of involvement and positive participation in Gaelic Games. We co-ordinated exhibition games at the Mayo v. Galway Connacht SFC quarter-final fixture in MacHale Park on May 13th; at the Leitrim v. Roscommon game on May 26th and at the Galway v. Sligo semi-final at Pearse Stadium on June 3rd. Our Connacht final exhibition games involved players from all five Connacht counties and was played at the Galway and Roscommon SFC final on June 17th.

All-in-all, 160 boys and girls participated with Young Whistlers from Mayo, Leitrim and Galway as referees. The Connacht final exhibition games in Dr. Hyde Park were a marvellous occasion and the participating children really enjoyed the day.

The following children participated in exhibition games at half-time in the Connacht SFC Final:

Connacht SFC Final Cumann na mBunscol Exhibition Games

Roscommon Jerseys – Girls

1. Deirbhile Collins, Lisaniskey NS, Co Roscommon
2. Gabby Compton, Cloonfour NS, Co Roscommon
3. Aisling Shanagher, Roxboro NS, Co Roscommon
4. Cara Cox, Cloonfour NS, Co Roscommon
5. Shauna Finn, Aughamore NS, Co Mayo
6. Ciara Honan, Quay NS, Ballina, Co Mayo
7. Katie Charles, Fatima NS, Co Leitrim
8. Rachel Dolan, Aughawillan NS, Co Leitrim
9. Ruth Killoran, Kilmactranny NS, Co Sligo
10. Keelin Kearins, Ballinlig NS, Co Sligo.

Galway Jerseys – Girls

1. Katie Ní Chonaire, SN An Chloch Bhreac, Co na Gaillimhe
2. Clíona Dunne, Cashel NS, Co Galway
3. Teegan Walsh, Tír na Cille NS, Co na Gaillimhe
4. Claire Meenaghan, Cahergal NS, Co Galway
5. Aisling Flanagan, Ballyheane NS, Co Mayo
6. Kia Ní Mhaolabhaill, SN na hEachléime, Co Mhaigh Eo
7. Avril Keegan, Four Masters NS, Kinlough, Co Leitrim
8. Amelie McGrath, Leckaun NS, Co Leitrim
9. Ciara Kerrigan, Holy Family NS, Tubbercurry, Co Sligo
10. Hannah Hargadon, Cloghogue NS, Co Sligo.

Girls’ Match Young Whistler

Eimear Healy, Scoil Mhuire, Bornacoola, Co Leitrim.

Roscommon Jerseys – Boys

1. Joseph Daire, St Paul’s NS, Castlereagh, Co Roscommon
2. Gavin Meares, Ballyforan NS, Co Roscommon
3. Conor Fannon, Scoil Bhríde, Fourmilehouse, Co Roscommon
4. Cormac Beatty, Tarmon NS, Co Roscommon
5. Christopher Geraghty, Parke NS, Co Mayo
6. Darragh Canavan, Murrisk NS, Co Mayo
7. Cameron Bushell, Scoil Mhuire, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim
8. Naoise McManus, Scoil Chlann Naofa, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim
9. Patrick Brady, Gaelscoil Chnoc na Ré, Co Shligigh
10. Dara Mostyn, Geevagh NS, Co Sligo.

Galway Jerseys – Boys:

1. Barry Murray, Ballinlass NS, Co Galway
2. Keelan Courtney, Castlehackett NS, Co Galway
3. Darragh Ryan, Claddaghduff NS, Co Galway
4. Mark Osborne, SN Caladh na Muc, Co na Gaillimhe
5. Jack Prendergast, Errew NS, Co Mayo





6. Mark Moore, St Patrick's BNS, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
7. Conor Kelly, Ardvarney N.S., Co. Leitrim
8. Conor McGloin, Largy NS, Co Leitrim
9. Joseph Kielty, Culfadda NS, Co Sligo
10. Corey Ewing, Highpark NS, Co Sligo.

Boys' Match Young Whistler

Dylan McManus, St Brigid's NS, Drumkeerin, Co Leitrim.

Finance

Connacht Council provided a grant of €16,510 to our committee. €13,000 of this was used as a direct grant to the counties on a pro-rata basis and the remainder was used for administrative purposes.

Connacht Council

We are very fortunate in having an excellent working relationship with Comhairle Chonnacht CLG. This is due mainly to the great support of **John Prenty, Adrian Hassett, Cathal Cregg, Damien Coleman** and the games managers in each county. Our delegate to Connacht Council, **Gerry O'Gara**, keeps us informed of all issues pertaining to our organisation and relays back to Connacht Council any problems we may have in organising exhibition games etc.

Handball

Under the leadership of **Fearghas Mac Lochlainn**, our handball officer, all county winners were invited to Salthill Handball Club for Connacht blitzes in February. Winners went on to represent Connacht in the All-Ireland series which was held in Kingscourt, Co. Cavan. Competitions include U-11 singles and doubles for both boys and girls and U-13 singles and doubles for boys and girls.

Connacht Handball Finals Results

Torthaí Liathróid Láimhe 2018 - Comórtas Chumann na mBunscol Chonnacht

Under-11 Girls' Singles: 1st Sadhbh Laila Riggott, Scoil Sailearna, Indreabhán, Galway; 2nd Shauna Hallinan, Holy Angels' NS, Mayo; 3rd Ava McGreal, Lisacul NS, Roscommon.

Under-11 Girls' Doubles: 1st Aoihe Ní Chadhain & Síle Ní Chonghaile, SN Chaomháin, Inis Oírr, Galway; 2nd Kiera Coleman & Dervla Bennett, Belcarra NS, Mayo.

Under-11 Boys' Singles: 1st Gavin Kelly, Athenry BNS, Galway; 2nd Tiernan Brady, Errew NS, Mayo; 3rd Oran McNulty, Rathcormac NS, Sligo.

Under-11 Boys' Doubles: 1st Liam Glynn & Keith Mellet, Mt Pleasant NS, Mayo; 2nd Cian Ó Duilleáin & Diarmuid Ó Díoráin, SN Rónáin, Arainn, Galway; 3rd TJ Foody & Brian Donegan, Stokane NS, Sligo.

Under-13 Girls' Singles: 1st Katie Ní Dhonnchadha, SN Rónáin, Arainn, Galway; 2nd Saoirse Walsh, SN Phádraig, Westport, Mayo; 3rd Aoife Nolan, Leitrim.

Under-13 Girls' Doubles: 1st Shauna Corrigan & Allana McGreal, Lisacul NS, Roscommon; 2nd Saoirse Flynn & Ciara Geraghty, Knockrooskey NS, Mayo; 3rd Mairéad Ní Chonghaile & Róisín Ní Dhomhnaill, SN Chaomháin, Inis Oírr, Galway.

Under-13 Boys' Singles: 1st Alan Gilmartin, Bofield NS, Mayo; 2nd Feidhlim Ó Diollúin, Scoil Sailearna, Indreabhán, Galway; 3rd Darragh Bourke, Corballa NS, Sligo.

Under-13 Boys' Doubles: 1st Criostóir Ó hAinle & Ethan Ó Cadhain, SN Thuairíní, Maigh Cuilinn, Galway; 2nd Oisín & Darragh Sweeney, Breaffy NS, Ballina, Mayo; 3rd Evan Corrigan & Joseph Noonan, Lisacul NS, Roscommon.

Rounders Initiative

It was decided, a number of years ago, that we would endeavour to promote the game of Rounders, which at the time seemed to have been somewhat forgotten about in our primary schools. Our former Cathaoirleach, Danny Charlton (Maigh Eo), organised three Rounders Days in the Connacht Centre of Excellence, Began, with the help of **Joe O'Donoghue** from the National Rounders Federation. Primary school coaches came on board in Mayo and over 400 children and their teachers participated in this initiative. Money was provided for meals and treats for pupils and, as this was a very successful pilot programme, it was hoped that other Connacht counties would follow suit.

All the good coaching work being done in the counties culminated in a Rounders Participation Day for primary schools from all Connacht counties at the end of the school year in Began. In the near future we will aim for a Rounders Exhibition Game between Galway, Mayo and Roscommon during Allianz NFL matches. All counties will report on the progress of the Rounders initiative at our Cumann na mBunscol Chonnacht AGM. Thanks to Adrian Hassett and John Clancy for all their assistance on the day.

The camógie initiative in Roscommon this year organised by Noel Dervan was very successful and provided girls from all over the county with the opportunity to work with young coaches and senior county players. It is hoped to extend this initiative to the rest of the province.

Ár seacht míle buíochas do Chomhairle Chonnacht CLG for all their help and support. Many thanks also to my fellow officers for their dedication and ongoing commitment to the cause. Special thanks to teachers who helped out at our exhibition games and parents who brought their children to the different venues. Thanks to all our referees who assist us every year. A special word of thanks to all the clubs who make the facilities available to us, and to the county board officials for their continued support. Thanks to the Connacht Council officials who help us throughout the Connacht Championship and make our exhibition games so memorable for all our young players.

Child Protection Procedures

Cumann na mBunscol Chonnacht recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and activities of Cumann na mBunscol. This must be reflected in all our procedures, practices and activities.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act, 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Secondary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the committees of Cumann na mBunscol in our Connacht counties have prepared or are in the process of preparing Child Safeguarding Statements.

Aodán Ó Caoimh,
Rúnaí Chumann na mBunscol Chonnacht
Eanáir 2019





Comhairle Ardoideachais Connacht Annual Report 2018

Significant challenges continue

Introduction

The 2017/2018 academic year saw Gaelic Games continue to be promoted extensively in the higher education institutions in Connacht with teams from NUI Galway, GMIT, IT Sligo, GMIT Castlebar, GMIT Letterfrack and a number of Colleges of Further Education and ETBs across the province competing in all grades within the Comhairle Ardoideachais Electric Ireland Leagues and Championships. The higher education institutions continue to receive extensive support from the provincial council and the County Executive Committees in their promotion of Gaelic Games.

At our AGM on the 17th September, **Pádraig McGourty** (IT Sligo) replaced **Enda Fallon** (NUIG Galway) as Chairman and provincial delegate to Comhairle Ardoideachais. It is important to acknowledge the great work done by Enda over his three terms in representing the interests of the higher education institutions at national level. Comhairle Ardoideachais ran a number of programmes in the area of Club Officer Training and a new Higher Education Player Welfare Programme in 2018. Participation from the institutions in this programme was poor and institutions have been asked to ensure that they all engage with this programme in 2019.

Participation

As stated earlier, all higher education institutions in the province were active in Comhairle Ardoideachais competitions in both Gaelic football and hurling in 2017/2018. Prior to Christmas the higher education leagues take place and in this period NUIG successfully captured the 2017/2018 Intermediate league title.

In the football championships NUIG and IT Sligo met in the opening round of the Sigerson Cup with NUIG emerging victorious on this occasion. The standout performance of the 2017/2018 academic year was the magnificent run by the NUIG Senior Football team in getting to the Sigerson Cup final. They lost out by the narrowest of margins in a nail-biting final to UCD. Credit must go to the management team led by **Maurice Sheridan** on having the team prepared to the highest standards.

GMIT competed in the Trench Cup where they reached the quarter-final stage before losing out to eventual winners, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. GMIT and IT Sligo met in the opening round of the Freshers 1 Championship with IT Sligo progressing to the quarter-finals where they lost out to Cork Institute of Technology. NUIG Galway progressed to the quarter-finals of the Freshers competition where they lost out to UUJ.

In the hurling championship NUIG competed in the Fitzgibbon Cup and were unlucky not to progress to the knockout stages following a narrow one-point loss to Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. GMIT and IT Sligo took part in the Ryan Cup where they met in the group stages. IT Sligo failed to progress from the group stages, with GMIT reaching the semi-finals where they lost out to UUJ. GMIT Letterfrack took part in the Fergal Maher Cup progressing all the way to the final where they lost out to St Mary's University College, Belfast.

NUIG and GMIT both competed in the Freshers 1 Hurling Championship with IT Sligo taking part in the Fresher 2 Hurling Championship. NUIG also had teams in the Intermediate Hurling Championship and the Fresher 'B' Hurling Championships.

NUIG, IT Sligo and GMIT entered teams in the Intermediate Football Championships and Junior Football Championships while NUIG and IT Sligo enter teams in the Fresher 'B' Championship. The list of teams and competitions entered above shows the high level of participant in Gaelic Games in our third level institutions and all clubs should be commended for their work in promoting Gaelic Games.

College Bursaries

The bursary scheme has been in place for eleven years and awards members of the Association who are active members in their higher education club. In all 33 promising young Connacht GAA players and administrators were included in the province's 2018 bursary scheme. All five Connacht counties are represented in the initiative which provides financial assistance to students who have displayed potential and commitment on the Gaelic Games front. The provincial council are to be commended for their continued support of this scheme.

Games Promotion Officers (GPOs)

The huge efforts of the three GPO's working in the higher education institutions in the province must be acknowledged. **Damien Curley** (GMIT), **Michael Harte** (IT Sligo) and **Michael O'Connor** (NUI, Galway) provided crucial support and guidance to the GAA clubs in each of their institutions. Credit should also go to **Nigel Jennings**, Sports Officer in GMIT Castlebar, for his efforts in promoting Gaelic Games there. They ensure maximum effort is put into the promotion of Gaelic Games within the institutions and ensure the smooth running of the clubs. The institutions and the provincial council are to be commended for their past and ongoing support of the GPOs initiative.





Challenges/The Future

Significant challenges continue to emerge for our constituent colleges. The linking of championship status to league positions in the Sigerson Cup is challenging for some of our smaller units as the higher education league starts while county and provincial club championships are ongoing and can result in teams being without key playing members for what can be crucial league fixtures.

With the advent of Technological Universities which will involve the amalgamation of institutions it is not yet clear what impact this will have on GAA clubs via their make up or how they will be funded going forward. A discussion will need to be held at national level as to what the best approach will be regarding participation of these type of universities or their constituent colleges in Comhairle Ardoideachais competitions once they become a reality.

Funding continues to be challenging for our clubs with a number reporting cuts to funding that they get from their institutions in the last number of years. While the continued support of the institutions is appreciated, clubs have found it increasingly difficult to maintain participation rates in competitions due to rising travel costs (increasing cost of bus hire). The clubs are very grateful to the private businesses who continue to provide sponsorship for playing gear and match day wares for the students. Without your support it would be impossible to maintain current rates of participation.

With regards to eligibility to play in higher education competitions, debate continues to take place. The changing landscape around the types of courses being delivered by our institutions has raised a number of interesting and challenging scenarios over the last few years. Institutions are continually offering new avenues of learning to students with online learning programmes, new type apprenticeships and work-based learning programmes increasing in popularity. A fresh look may need to take place at the eligibility rules for Comhairle Ardoideachais competitions in the near future to reflect this changing landscape.

Recruitment of players continues to be a challenge. Increased competitiveness in the CAO system has seen reduced student numbers in several of our constituent colleges. Better transport infrastructure from Connacht to the south of the country has also seen colleges in Limerick becoming an attractive proposition for students living on the western sea board.

Comhairle Ardoideachais Connacht would ask counties in the province to highlight the advantages for their elite players to study locally. It cuts down on their travel time for training and matches and should increase their ability to ensure both academic and sporting success.

Our constituent colleges offer as wide and varied a range of courses as institutions outside of the province. These courses stand up to scrutiny in terms of their quality and relevance when compared to any others and the graduates are highly regarded in terms of employability by the top employers in our region. The institutions continue to support academic and sporting achievement by offering generous scholarships. Comhairle Ardoideachais Connacht as the provincial council delegates to promote our local institutions as much as possible.

In summary, while challenges exist on an ongoing basis, Gaelic Games is alive and well in higher education institutions in the province. 'Thank you' to the provincial council for their ongoing support. Special 'thanks' go to provincial secretary, **John Prenty**, and to **Adrian Hassett** for their advice and support to our clubs over the last year.

'Thanks' to all the hard-working volunteers and officers in all our clubs for the trojan work they do in promoting and ensuring Gaelic Games continue to be to the fore in our third level institutions.

On behalf of Comhairle Ardoideachais Connacht I wish you all a successful 2018/2019.

Pádraig Mac Dhorcai
Comhairle Ardoideachais Connacht



NUI, Galway Senior football Sigerson finalists, who were beaten by UCD.





Pitch Maintenance Work Group Report, 2018

Regular maintenance will probably cost less than major reconstruction on an irregular basis

By Hugh Rudden

THE National Pitch Maintenance Work Group are now in existence for three years. Their main focus is to provide information on the care and maintenance of pitches at all levels of the Association. While club and county rightly consider players their greatest asset, a close second, or equally, must surely be a place to play!

The place to play will require regular maintenance especially with the extremes in climate we experience here in the West of Ireland. Naturally a maintenance programme will require funding. If we are to provide a good playing surface, funding will have to be set-aside for that purpose. **Regular maintenance will probably cost less than major reconstruction on an irregular basis.** It is in the interest of both club and county to provide a safe place to play for their players.

An effort is been made at the moment to provide a pathway for apprenticeships in grounds maintenance. This is a work in progress at the moment.

Members of the National Committee are:

Chairperson: **Kieran McGann**

Secretary: **Damian McLaverty**

Members -

Croke Park: **Ian Mc Clements, Stuart Wilson, Colm Daly, Padraic Greene,**

Munster: **Stephen Forrest**

Dublin: **Noel Brady**

Leinster: **John Colgan**

Ulster: **Eddie Hughes**

Connacht: **Hugh Rudden**

Information days are held in each of the provinces annually and it is planned to continue with this project into the future.

A well-attend event was held in the Connacht GAA

Centre on 21st September, 2018 (see report below). We thank all who attended and hope to see you all again in 2019 plus those who could not make it in 2018.

Pitch Maintenance Information Evening

The Pitch Maintenance Evening held here on 21st September, 2018, was a very well-attended event with over 45 people attending. All counties had somebody in attendance so I hope the good news will spread for future events.

The machinery demonstrations attracted a lot of interest and I would like to thank **Peter Killeen**, Sports Grounds; **Martin Walsh**, Major Machinery; **Ger Conway** Midwest Mowers, for making themselves and their machinery available for the evening.

I would like to thank our main speakers, **Colman Warde**, ICL, for his presentation on pitch fertilisation; **John Killoran**, Crop Care, for his presentation on goal mount renovation, grass seed spraying, etc. Others to attend and make a worthwhile contribution: **Nial Foran**, Drainage & Trenchless, Edenderry; **Frank Bryne**, J.F.C. Supplies; **Pat Murphy**, Darcy Sands; **Victor Trench**, Harrington Sand & Gravel; **Damien McLaverty**, Sec. Pitch Maintenance Work Group.

There was a wealth of knowledge amongst the above contributors, both practical and theoretical. We thank them for their contribution and hope all attending will benefit in some way from the experience.

Thanks to members of this committee (Connacht Council) for spreading the word about the event ensuring a very good attendance.

Thanks to Connacht Council for hosting the event and providing refreshments on the evening. Lastly, a special word of thanks to the office staff **Attracta, Amanda, Adrian** and **Brian** for their help and support.





Tuairisc Coiste Scór Chonnacht, 2018

Left no stone unturned

IS cúis mór áthais domsa an tuairisc seo ar imeachtaí Scór sa chúige a chur faoi bhráid na Comhdhála. Gabhann Coiste Scór Chonnacht buíochas leis na h'Oifigigh Cultúr & Teanga, Coistí Scór na gcontaetha agus go háirithe Oifigigh na gContaetha agus an Cúige a chabhraigh linn i rith na bliana.

2018 saw three All-Ireland titles come to the province with a win at Scór na nÓg level by Katie Heneghan, Naomh Aodán, Ros Comáin (sa chomórtas Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht) and at Scór Sinsir by Achadh Mór, Co. Mhuigheo (sa Cheol Uirlise agus Rince Seit). Great credit is due to all our representatives at All-Ireland level who performed with distinction in the Knocknarea Arena in the Institute of Technology, Sligo.

The Connacht finals of Scór na nÓg were held in a packed Claremorris Town Hall. The standard in all competitions was extremely high.

The Connacht Finals of Scór Sinsir were held in Culleen Hall, Roscommon. The day started with a presentation to the family of the late Pat Dennehy (R.I.P), a tireless worker for Scór in both Roscommon and Connacht. An unfortunate set of circumstances had led to a drop in numbers participating in county competitions and it was a great disappointment that there was no entry in the Rince Fóirne competition. However, the calibre of our performers was excellent. Mayo won the overall inter-county award, Corn Mhic Giolla.

While great credit is due to the participants who continue to support Scór Sinsir, it is increasingly difficult to maintain participation at this level as the competition has little relevance to, or support from club officials. While Scór na nÓg continues to break even financially, Scór Sinsir incurs a loss each year.

For 2018 we were delighted that a Connacht-based company, Corrib Oil, came aboard as sponsors. The D'Alton family have been great supporters of clubs across the province and we were delighted to have them join us.

Aodán Ó Braonáin has come to the end of his three-year term as Rúnaí of Coiste Scór Chonnacht. During his period as Rúnaí he has left no stone unturned at provincial and national level in his efforts to reinvigorate Scór. As someone who had little or no involvement in Scór before 2014, Aodán brought a new energy and perspective to the role. The Connacht Scór Strategy, Promotional DVD, Scór Ambassador and Scór sponsor were all rolled out during his tenure as Rúnaí alongside Cathaoirleach Gearóid Mag Samhráin. Aodán is wished well in his new role as Cathaoirleach Coiste Náisiúnta Scór.

Tom Roche of Killala GAA Club was Connacht's nominee for the National Scór Long Service Award in 2018. Tom continues to play a very active part in Scór Mhuigheo and Scór Chonnacht.

Buaiteoirí na bliana 2018 ag Scór Chonnacht

Scór na nÓg,

Rince Fóirne: Naomh Mhuire, Cora Droma Ruisc, Co Liatroma.

Amhránaíocht Aonair: Amelia Pajak, Maothail, Co Liatroma.

Aithriseoireacht & Scéalaíocht: Cáitlín Ní hÉineacháin, Naomh Aodán, Co Roscomáin.

Ceol Uirlise: Acla, Co Mhuigheo.

Léiriú: Naomh Dominic, Co Roscomáin.

Bailéad Ghrúpa: Naomh Mhuire, Cora Droma Ruisc, Co Liatroma.

Rince Seit: Mainistir Cnoic Muaidhe, Co Na Gaillimhe.

Scór Sinsir

Rince Fóirne: Níor ghlac aon ghrúpa páirt.

Amhránaíocht Aonair: Oilibhia Ní Chonmheada, Mainistir Cnoic Muaidhe, Co Na Gaillimhe.

Aithriseoireacht & Scéalaíocht: Proinséas Ní Áinle, Naomh Fearnáin, Co Shligigh.

Ceol Uirlise: Achadh Mór, Co Mhuigheo.

Léiriú: Ail Finn, Co Roscomáin.

Bailéad Ghrúpa: Achadh na Síleann, Co Liatroma.

Rince Seit: Achadh Mór, Co Mhuigheo.

Tomás O Muiri
Rúnaí



Pictured is the All-Ireland champion Katie Heneghan with Aogan Ó Fearghail.





Coiste Iomana Report 2018

A challenging year

By Damien Coleman

THE Coiste Iomana Committee comprises of Anthony Flaherty (Chairman), Damien Coleman (Secretary), John Hopkins, Eugene Connolly, Frances Hanley, Christy McDermott, Hilary Phelan, John Prenty (Provincial Secretary), Michael O'Connor (Recording Secretary), Martin Perrill, Cathal Cregg (Provincial Games Manager), Jimmy Connors.

2018 was a challenging year for those involved in promotion of hurling at provincial level. There were a number of successes, but overall, it is a time of change at Coiste Iomana level and what sufficed in the past appears not to be the template for the future, with more and more projects coming down the line, making full-time staff even busier, and volunteer officers, managements, coaches and club volunteers being loaded to near maximum in order to keep up with promotional efforts to ensure best practice, maximisation of our participant base, and ultimately optimisation of our playing standards.

The willingness is there in all counties to implement hurling programmes across all age cohorts, at the start of each season but with numerous other issues, games and internal county matters, the best laid plans can often get derailed, which frustrates everybody in the end.

Academy dates, 2018 - Hurling Development Tournaments

U-14 Academy, May 11th: 7 p.m. Connacht GAA Centre

Niall McInerney U-16s, July 21st, 11 a.m., Connacht GAA Centre

Connacht U-15s August 4th, Connacht GAA Centre

National Blitz Day, July 21st

National Finals Day, August 25th

Connolly Cuniffe U-14 Day, June 30th

In all there were five national and provincial dates and all counties were afforded game opportunities across age groups at U-14, U-15 and U-16 in our academy talent academy programme.

Academy events summary

Once again, a busy calendar of events was carried out as per fixtures schedule with Connacht GAA Blitzes occurring at under-14, 15, 16. Hundreds of young players of the future from all counties as well as a number of club blitzes were took place. These events are excellent platform and preparation for mentors and players alike for the national talent academy finals day at under-14, 15 and 16 years, which took place on the last Saturday in August throughout Ireland. Coiste Iomana would like to thank **Connacht**

GAA for offering finance, expertise and Connacht GAA Centre to host a number of the events.

The committee reviewed the dates as above, for the u-14, u-15, u-16 and u-17 days held throughout the province to develop hurling in 2018, and agreed to fully comply again in 2019 with our provincial and national talent academy programmes. Our Connacht Centre hosted teams for the Niall McInerney Cup and Shield on Saturday, 21st July. The Connacht U-15 Blitz took place at Began, August 4th. It was agreed to dispense with the Connacht v Ulster trip as it was serving no purpose for the rest of Connacht sides due to the realisation that Ulster sides only wanted to play Galway sides.

All academy squads have access to the strength and conditioning education in the province delivered by **Cathal Cregg** and **Séamus Burns**. This service is invaluable for developing our players and the committee wish to thank Connacht GAA for positive input.

National dates agreed for 2019: May 11th, June 23rd, July 20th, Aug 10th, Aug 31st. Our provincial committee also agreed that academy squads will only run at u-15, u-17 age groups in developing hurling counties with an in-house blitz programme at u-13 as a start up.

Connacht National Féile na nGael 2018

John Hopkins (Chairman) and **Michael O'Connor** (Secretary), **Damien Coleman** (Hurling Games Manager), **Anthony Flaherty** (Coiste Chairman), **John Prenty** (Provincial Secretary), **Adrian Hassett** (Operations Manager) headed up the Connacht Féile Committee for the Féile na nGael run by Connacht GAA in 2018. Other members of the committee include Connacht council staff and representation from each county, camogie, handball and referees' administrator.

A total of 72 boys' teams and 56 camogie teams played in the national Féile finals on June 8th, 9th and 10th, with a number of finals at the Connacht GAA Centre. Other finals were held in Ballinasloe, Carrick-on-Shannon and Cusack Park, Mullingar. Clubs in our province in 2018, were had the unique privilege of competing and gaining invaluable promotional opportunity for the development of the games of hurling/camogie.

A massive 'thanks' to **Michael O'Connor** and **John Prenty** who were to the fore in leading the province's biggest event in 2018. The event proved to be a massive success with National Secretary, **Peter Horgan** and National Chairman, **Brendie O'Brien**, sincerely praising Connacht GAA for their workrate and attention to detail in delivering this massive national event to fruition.





Celtic Challenge Cup U-18 2018

Michael O'Connor (NUI Galway) and Leitrim Games Manager, **Tom Keenan**, were the group co-ordinators with **Damien Coleman** as provincial co-ordinator. A good standard of match officials was visible in the Connacht group, which, in general, was one of the best regarding organisation, as it reflected well on the province's interest in the event. Every county played six games on Wednesday evenings in May, and Saturdays in June, and the successful completion of the 120-plus game programmes nationally drew plaudits from all sectors. Positive comments from each of our Connacht counties, displayed their viewpoint of the project with satisfaction. There was excellent media coverage of all the games held in the two groups comprising of Connacht sides.

A sincere 'thanks' must go to the national operation's manager, **Caioimhe Ní Neill**, for her massive dedication to the Celtic Challenge Cup project and heartfelt thanks for her listening, co-operation, advice and overall good will to Connacht throughout the process.

Jimmy O'Dwyer, our national HDC Chairman, for his thorough approach in all hurling development projects and his genuine inclusion and appreciation of Connacht counties; and finally, Pat Daly, National Games Development & Research Manager, for his facilitation and determination in improving the game nationally and his support to us provincially.

My review report to the Coiste, of the **Celtic Challenge Cup**, was positive with a huge buy in on behalf of all teams especially three teams from Galway; and one each from Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo and Sligo. It facilitated a fantastic number of 16-17 year-olds to play at the highest level available in a meaningful games' programme.

Congratulations to Sligo on winning the Division V title. A number of the Galway players impressed during the tournament in winning the Division I title, and were rewarded when included in the successful All-Ireland winning minor panel and extended panel. Next scheduled information night, Celtic Challenge Cup Roadshow in our Connacht Centre, March 11th, 2019.

In summary the calendared, meaningful games' programme delivered nationally and provincially was extremely positive for all our Connacht hurling counties at the u-17 grade, which will give counties a focal point (age group) going forward in order to focus their efforts in developing hurling. Many thanks again to our provincial staff in headquarters for their continued support, **John Prenty, Cathal Cregg, Thomas Keenan, Michael O'Connor**, and a special thanks to our provincial operations manager, **Adrian Hassett**, who always assists in bringing a successful fruition to all projects, he in co-operation with our provincial referees' co-ordinator, **Marty Duffy**, allow the fixtures happen, with there astute appointments of our Connacht referees panel for hurling.

The Celtic Challenge was the flagship initiative contained in the National Hurling Development Action Plan 2017+. The Celtic Challenge is a developmental hurling competition for 16 and 17-year-old players who are not participating in State Examinations. The

competition ran from 4th May to 24th June, 2018, and over the course of May and June, more than 1,200 players were provided with a eight-week programme of meaningful, pre-scheduled games with 120 plus games in total nationally.

County Poc Fada Competitions

The venues and dates for competitions at u-16 - adult ages in counties were ran as follows:

Mayo: Toreen, Booley Hill at 7 p.m., June 2nd, for T. J. Tyrell Cup

Roscommon: Racecourse at 7 p.m. June 18th for Joe Flaherty Cup

Sligo /Leitrim: Ben Bulben, Sligo, at 6.30 p.m. June 21st

Galway: Sliabh Aughty Kilcreest at 7 p.m. June 22nd, Inky Flaherty Cup

Provincial competition

The provincial competition took place in Began on July 2nd at 7 p.m., for the Niall McInerney Cup. Two adults and one under-16 from each county qualified for the Connacht competition. Galway's **Anthony Flaherty** (Mullagh) won the competition, with Roscommon's **Michael Donnelly** (Four Roads) taking the under-16 title.

Special thanks to all county co-ordinators and our Chairman, Anthony Flaherty, for the successful running of the provincial show-piece.

Intermediate and Junior Hurling Inter-County Competitions

It proved impossible, for a number of reasons, to get suitable dates for teams to play either Connacht intermediate or junior finals at county level, and the validity of the competitions going forward must be considered or at least a definite timeline to ensure they are played. Counties and managements must buy into the competition ethos not a case of playing when suits or not playing when it suits.

County administrators

County administrators are urgently needed to take **back** charge of adult inter-county hurling squads from appointed managements, and redress this poor reflection of what's happening in our Connacht hurling adult championships.

The phrase, "The tail wagging the dog" comes to mind in this instance. Players with good leadership and direction will play, and we, as a province, are tight enough with counties at ability levels available, to contest such prestigious games, and I'd sincerely ask all involved to support our provincial championship hurling games/leagues in 2019. In the interests of hurling promotion in the province, and all the work at all age groups with our underage talent academies, we should be giving better example at adult inter-county level, for championship fixtures in the province.

***Connacht Intermediate Final:** No inter-county fixture in 2018 (Mayo v Roscommon).

***Connacht Junior county Final:** No inter-county fixture in 2018 (Sligo v Leitrim).





County Hurling GPO's

Full and part-time staff

Roscommon (**Prionsias Killion**), Mayo (**Adrian Hession**), Sligo/Leitrim (**Darragh Cox**). Hurling mentor appointed to Leitrim (Michael Carroll). The full-time staff continue to deliver on merit-based projects as outlined by national and provincial policy, and report daily to their county games managers in their respective counties.

- Merit-based projects delivered throughout the province in hurling development on below target areas - targets agreed nationally/provincially with all county boards:
 1. Primary / Post Primary School Blitzs/Coaching
 2. Cúl Camps (increased numbers in 2018)
 3. Coach Education Tutoring
 4. Academy Development/Celtic Challenge Cup U-17 squad
 5. Go Games Club Blitzs U-8, U-10 & U-12 Mini-Leagues Programme
 6. Skills Star Challenge U-12 Club

In addition to above in 2018, staff will engage with two new projects: 5 Star centres (*national school skills and games projects*), and Super Games Centres (post-primary TY programme) in 2019.

I wish to thank all staff and project co-ordinators for their assistance throughout 2018.

Provincial Post-Primary School Blitzs

Connacht schools "Super Touch Blitzs" held in 8 provincial centres over 4 dates, Feb. 6th/13th, Sept. 19th /26th, were hugely successful with 2,036 boys participating over the four days, from 1st and 2nd years in PP schools. In total 22 PP schools participated in the initiative and well done to all pupils and teachers, for their full co-operation.

Mentor Hurling Project in Connacht

The Mentor Hurling Project initiative was supported by the national HDC, now operating in

Leitrim only on a continued basis. Roscommon, Mayo, Sligo have dis-continued with this project.

Connacht Club Championship Winners 2018

Oranmore Maree: Connacht Intermediate Champions.

Carrig Hurling: Connacht Junior Champions

Four Roads: Connacht U-16 Club Champions

Coiste Iomana sincerely congratulate above clubs on winning their perspective Connacht Hurling Championships and wish the adult clubs all the best in the national club championships while representing Connacht in 2019.

Special mention here goes to Carrig Hurling on there historic junior title win.

An Táin Leagues 2018

An Táin Leagues were run in 2018 at child (U-11), youth (U-15) regionally and expanding into the national An Táin og Leagues, and a provincial Connacht 9s is proposed for clubs at adult over two Saturdays in April. The child and youth leagues will be Saturdays / Sunday mornings in April, 11-a-side again unlimited substitution The committee felt confident that with the strategic move of the league to April, it should encourage more participation, with playing pitches more user-friendly for all involved. The proposals for 2019 An Táin Leagues are as follows: the adult Connacht club will be a 9-a-side Blitz modelled on the Kilmacud 7's in April. The under-11 child - 15 youth leagues are planned for weekends throughout April regionally.

In conclusion

In 2018 An Táin leagues ran as follows: the adult club leagues were scheduled outside of national league fixtures from March - April; the under-11 ran on sat mornings in April in a blitz format, providing



Oranmore Maree - AIB/Connacht GAA Club Intermediate Hurling Champions 2018 - Back row, from left: Paul Stevens, Padraig Keane, Rory McInerney, Martin Keane, Marcus Quinn, Niall Burke, Alan Burke, Shane Geoghegan, Rian Maher, Mark Hanniffy, Enna Burke, Seán McInerney, Noel Qualter, Darragh Byrne, Liam Keane, John Flaherty, Conor Hanniffy, Gearoid McInerney. Front row, from left: Simon Dunne, Kevin Burke, Niall Geoghegan, Stephen Flanagan, Alan Bannon, Seán Bannon, Damien O'Reilly, Niall Higgins, Jason Costelloe, Shane Hynes, Shane Lyons, John Gormally, Ross Malone.





multi games for committed clubs; the under-15 leagues ran Saturdays in April also over three weekends which also provided a meaningful games programme for interested clubs who participated. In total over 30 club teams participated; however, the committee have recognised the need to recruit more clubs and maintain our schedule for April in 2019 recognising it as the designated club month nationally, with a new format at under-11 and under-15 with unlimited substitutions, which should entice more Connacht hurling clubs to participate.

A special thanks to **Adrian Hassett** (Connacht Operations Manager) for his attention to detail on this project, and **Marty Duffy** (Connacht Referees Co-ordinator) for arranging referees for all games without question.

Connacht Hurling League

Connacht GAA Council have agreed that this type of competition will not be fixed and has being discontinued. Competitions which involve county teams at adult and colleges add to an already full fixtures calendar, and will not be continued in 2019.

Connacht Hurling Workshops

Martin Fogarty and **Damien Coleman** organised and delivered a series of *county workshops* for all volunteer coaches and county Celtic Challenge Cup managements, plus adult managements as follows: - Nov. 11th (Sligo/Leitrim), Nov. 12th (Mayo), Nov. 13th (Roscommon). Teachers' workshops were also ran in order to offer support to this sector and all combined over 300 clubs coaches and teachers attended this massively-successful project.

Hurling Workshop

On October, 20th, a Hurling Workshop was held for Roscommon, Mayo, Leitrim and Sligo and was totally practical, hosted at the Connacht GAA Centre with **Martin Fogarty** and two or three inter-county stars with the Celtic Challenge teams and coaches. Damien Coleman outlined the basics of the day with different

coaches working with each group at different stations. 155 coaches attended and benefitted from some up-skilling as a result.

Lead Coach at each station one of our high profile guest coaches were supported by a local Games Development Officers. **Brian Hogan** (Kilkenny), **Jamesie O'Connor** (Clare), **Seanie McMahon** (Clare), **Christy O'Connor** (Clare), **Derek McGrath** (Waterford).

Acknowledgements

At this juncture a heartfelt thanks must be reserved for all staff members in Connacht GAA centre especially **John Prenty**, **Cathal Cregg**, **Adrian Hassett**, **Séamus Burns** and **Brian Mangan**, for their committed backing of Best Practice, and the efforts of Coiste Iomana throughout 2018. Meetings were held from January to December as the committee guided all the various projects from start to conclusion.

Our office and administrative staff **Amanda Diskin** and **Attracta Hunt**, without whom none of the operations could happen. A sincere 'thank you' to both ladies.

I would like to thank **Séamus Burns** as conditioning coach and educator for the province who accesses all squads and puts players at academy level on tailored programmes. Both Cathal's and Séamus' contributions are invaluable to all under-age hurling academy squads, coaches and club volunteer in the province, and the helpful, polite and professional way they both conduct their business is exemplary.

Also a special thanks to our Chairman, **Anthony Flaherty**, whose commitment to the hurling projects in Connacht, and positive advice given on many occasions throughout 2018, and over his term thus far is much appreciated. Anthony's dedication and huge interest in hurling development is always noted, and for his inclusion of the four developing counties outside of Galway, is a credit and always evident.

We wish all Gaels a very happy Christmas and peaceful new year.

Damien Coleman
(Coiste Iomana Secretary)



Four Roads: Connacht U-16 Club Champions





Coiste na Reiteoiri

“Good people and deserve every reward”

Chairman: **Marty Duffy**
 Director of Refereeing: **Seán Martin**
 (Roscommon)
 Secretary: **Adrian Hassett** (Operations
 Manager, Connacht GAA)
 Tutor Co-ordinator: **Francis Finan** (Sligo)
 County Referee Administrators:
Seán McCartan (Leitrim)
Pat McGrath (Sligo)
Haulie Beirne (Roscommon)
Stephen Cahalan (Galway)
Michael Daly (Mayo)



The members now are:
 Chairman: **Marty Duffy**;
 Secretary: **Adrian Hassett**
 Recruitment & Academy: **Seán Martin**
 Director of Refereeing: **Martin Murphy**
 Referee Education & Training: **Francie
 Finan & Michael Nee**
 Advisors & Tutors: **Pat Conway &
 Michael Leyden**;
 Member of the National Referee
 Development Committee: **Vincent Neary**.

It is my pleasure and honour to present my first report to you as Chairman of the Connacht Referees Committee. At the outset, I would like to thank our Provincial President **Gerry McGovern** for inviting me to take on this challenging and fulfilling role and to the members of Connacht Council for their ratification and support throughout the year.

As with most jobs at provincial level, it is more challenging and busier than I expected when I entered the roll but also very satisfying and fulfilling when we hit our goals which we set ourselves early in the year.

I had a hard act to follow in **Seán Martin**, he brought the job to a new level in my opinion, and I am so delighted and thankful that he has stayed in the fold as Director of Refereeing. We have worked extremely well together and for me it is great to have someone of his experience to discuss and plan the roll out of our three-year programme. My aim is to build on, and develop the portfolio I have been given.

I would like to thank the five County Referee Administrators within the province who have worked closely with me over the past year. I have thrown a lot of extra work their way with many new structures put in place. To a man, they have responded in the most positive fashion and all transitions made seamlessly. I also want to acknowledge the huge workload that each does within their own county. The amount of hours that they give to doing their jobs that most people outside the fold do not see or even think about - it should be remembered and acknowledged.

Referee Development Committees

The main initiative for the year was to form a Connacht Referees Development Committee and then as an extension to set up the same structure in each of the five counties.

The purpose of this committee is ensure that all work carried out under three key headings at both national and provincial level is brought to all club referees across the province. The other main purpose is to oversee construction of similar structures in each county in order to share the workload that each county administrator has at present. It will ensure referee information and activities will be consistent and standardised across all counties.

The committee's overall objectives for 2018 were adopted and the Job Spec for the three key officers rolls were prepared, adopted and given to each county administrator for their respective counties. Each county administrator proposed officers names for ratification by the Connacht Committee.

Objectives for Referees Development Committee

- To ensure a standardised approach to refereeing in the province. Every referee in the province regardless of the county they referee in, either football or hurling receive similar education, training and mentoring opportunities.
- To assist the County Referee Administrators in their duties as guided by the Connacht Referees Committee. To share some of the workload that currently falls solely on the county administrator.
- Two members of the Connacht Referees Development Committee will act as Section Heads in each of the three key areas identified, Referee Education & Training, Advisors/Mentoring & Recruitment/Academy.
- Ensure structures are in place in each county covering the three key areas outlined. Oversee and maintain these structures and ensure a standard approach across the province.
- Agree on the Job Spec for the county officers in each of the three key areas.
- Introduce and implement the committee's plans to the County Referee Administrators and their County Referee Development Committee members.
- Oversee the work of the county officers in the key areas and ensure rollout of initiatives from the Connacht Referees Development Committee happen in a timely and efficient manner.
- Where crossover is necessary between sections, each section head should work closely with their counterparts to ensure we achieve the desired result.

Each section head to report to the Connacht Referees Development Committee as to progress or





otherwise in their particular section. In addition, to keep the committee informed of any plans made for impending actions within the counties that are relevant to the committee.

Each County Referee Development Committee consists of four members. The County Referee Administrator will chair the committee and he will propose the other three members under the headings of Recruitment Officer, Advisor & Mentoring Officer and Education & Training Officer.

So far, the structure has worked well with a lot of work done on the education and Advisor side. Each county has had three education nights during the year and we have had two training nights with advisors from across the province. Every referee in every county will receive at least two advisor reports before the end of year two of the project, with particular emphasis put on potential provincial and national referees.

Our recruitment officers are currently working throughout the province to maximise recruitment numbers and retention of our recently trained referees. This is a huge task and probably one of most challenging issues that the Association as a whole faces. It is a task that I would ask all county officers to get behind and drive forward in their respective counties. Paying lip service to the efforts of others will not put boots on the ground.

National Referees

A number of our referees were in action in the championship in various roles and all carried out their duties to the highest standard.

Two referees from the Province were involved in the officiating teams for the All-Ireland Football Finals. Paddy Nealon was the linesman for the Senior Final and Eamon O Grady was the Sideline official for the Minor Final.

The following is the Connacht representation on the various panels:

Football Championship Panel	2
Football Championship Linesman Panel	2
Liam MacCarthy Championship Panel	1
Joe McDonagh Cup & Christy Ring Cup Panel	3
Nicky Rackard Cup & Lory Meagher Cup Panel	1

Referee In-Service & Recruitment

In January and February Referee In-Service Courses were held in all five counties and also with the London and New York referees.

Courses for new referees took place in February and March. In total 68 new referees were trained in the province. The breakdown of new referees are as follows:

Mayo	19 (F)
Roscommon	13 (11F 2H)
Leitrim	4 (F)
Galway	19 (8F 6H 5Dual)
Sligo	9 (F)
London	4 Dual

Referee Mentoring

We used the *Dermot Earley Tournament* and the *Ted Webb competition* to mentor our provincial



Sean Martin, retiring as referees coordinator with Connacht Council.

referees. We assigned a mentor to each referee to advise him before, during and again at the end of the each game. The referees were happy with the process and many issues ironed out and improved on.

Connacht mentors attended club championship matches in each county to monitor members of the provincial panel. Some of the referees that we monitored were appointed to their respective county finals at intermediate and senior level. We monitored and assessed all the referees again in the Connacht Club Championship games.

We have a very high quality group of young referees coming through the system. We used the *Seán Purcell competition* to mentor our academy referees. We assigned a mentor to each referee. We appointed each of them to linesman and sideline official rolls in the Connacht Minor Club Championship in order to continue their progression and gain experience.

On behalf of our committee, all our provincial referees, and myself, thanks our provincial Secretary, **John Prenty**. He has been most supportive in everything I have done throughout the year. He is a great *sounding board* for my ideas, good and not so good, that I come up with and his insight is invaluable. My particular thanks also to **Adrian Hassett**, the Provincial Operations Manager, who is a very efficient secretary of our committee and undertakes a huge amount of work on our behalf. Big thanks to **Séamus Burns**, who is a valuable asset to all the referees in the province. He has done huge work around fitness and video analysis.

Again 'thank you' to Provincial President **Gerry McGovern** for his help and support during the year and giving me the opportunity to experience this role first hand. I have always had ideas of possible improvements to the lot of both provincial and club referees - this job has allowed me to try and 'walk-the-walk' and not just 'talk-the-talk'.

I would like to save my final acknowledgement for the referees themselves. I have demanded much from them in many different ways, fitness and training, education and a general demands to be the best panel of referees they can possibly be. They have risen to the challenge at every juncture. They are a brilliant collection, of not just good referees, but of good people and deserve every reward for their efforts. I wish each and every one the very best for 2019.

Marty Duffy
Connacht Referees Chairman





Connacht Games for All Committee 2018 Convention Report

“A proud occasion”

Uachtarán Cumann Luthchleas Gael, John Horan

By Denis O’Boyle

THE Connacht GAA Games For All Committee met on four occasions during 2018 on the following dates: 25th June, 2018; 10th September, 2018; 22nd October, 2018, and 18th December, 2018.

The membership of the Connacht GAA Games For All Committee is as follows: **Denis O’Boyle** (Chairman), **Mattie Kilroy** (Secretary), **Christy Tyrrell**, (Galway), **Tim Hynes** (Sligo), **John Hopkins** (Mayo), **Barry Lowe** (Roscommon), **Pat Feely** (Leitrim), **Cathal Cregg** (Connacht GAA Games Manager), **Gerry McGovern**, Connacht President and **John Prenty**, Connacht Council, Secretary.

A Joint Meeting of the Connacht Games For All and the Connacht Health & Wellbeing Committees was held at the Connacht GAA Centre on Monday, 25th June, 2018.

Overview of GAA Games for All Committee

The Games for All Committee will, in the areas of inclusion and integration, provide the GAA with oversight and strategic direction while supporting the GAA’s vision that:

‘Everyone be welcomed to participate fully in our games and culture, that they thrive and develop their potential, and be inspired to keep a life-long engagement with our Association’.

Inclusion: In the context of the GAA, refers to making our Association and games accessible to persons of all abilities and needs;

Integration: Refers to opening our Association and games to people from all cultures, traditions, and backgrounds.

Terms of Reference for Games for All at National and Provincial Level

The committee will sit for three years (2018-2021) and will oversee the establishment and ongoing development of the following:

- a)** Conduct an audit of existing activities deemed to fall under the umbrella of GAA Games for All and benchmark findings against the GAA’s 2009-2015 Inclusion Strategy
- b)** Promote best practice and offer strategic direction and guidance to the GAA through the development of a new Inclusion & Integration Strategy and Action Plan, taking into consideration all relevant actions outlined in the GAA’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021
- c)** Support the development and promotion of a disability inclusion training module for GAA coaches and members accessible face-to-face and through the e-learning portal



Front row, left to right: Stacey Cahill, National Games for All Secretary, Croke Park; Colin Regan, Community & Health Manager, Croke Park; Barry Lowe (Roscommon), Denis O’Boyle (Chairperson, Connacht Games for All Committee). Back row, left to right: Mattie Kilroy (Secretary, Connacht Games for All Committee), Connacht Council President, Gerry McGovern, Tony Watene, Project Co-Ordinator, Croke Park; Christy Tyrrell (Galway) and Tim Hynes (Sligo).





- d) Grow awareness of and participation in existing Games for All activities including Wheelchair Hurling, Football for All, and Fun & Run, Have a Go Days, etc.
- e) Improve the promotion and celebration of Games for All activities through GAA communication channels, events, conferences and external media coverage
- f) Identify best-practise Games for All case studies and make available to all units for learning and replication
- g) Support the delivery of an impactful Respect Initiative in collaboration with the national Respect Task Force

Connacht Games for All targets for 2018-2019

At the Connacht GAA Games for All Committee meeting held on Monday, 22nd October, 2018, the Targets for 2018-19 were reviewed and were unanimously agreed and approved as listed below:

- a) Organisation of a Wheel Chair Hurling Event
- b) Promotion of Games for people with disability
- c) Organisation of a Connacht Games for All Gaelic Football team in association with the ISSSC
- d) Ongoing promotion of the Respect Initiative
- e) Promotion of the GAA Fun & Run Initiative as a Recreational Game for All
- f) To continue to address and promote facilities and access for disabled and wheelchair supporters
- g) Encourage the counties in Connacht to hold a 'Have a Go Day'
- h) Connacht to support all counties in the achievement of their targets
- i) To carry out any task as requested from national level

Individual County Targets for 2018-2019

Galway GAA Games for All targets for 2018-2019

- 1) To encourage the progress of the "Give Respect Initiative" - signs at all club grounds
- 2) To promote "Have-A-Go Day" at club and county level
- 3) To encourage clubs to participate in "La na gClubanna" during the year
- 4) To promote the involvement and participation of disabled in our games and encourage the provision of better access at grounds
- 5) Continue to promote and expand Wheelchair Hurling/Camogie and Football for all
- 6) To foster school/club links
- 7) To support the promotion of "Fun & Run" initiative.

Christy Tyrell, Galway GAA Games for All Connacht Delegate

Sligo GAA Games For All Targets for 2018-2019

- 1) Ensure all clubs promote and practice the "Give Respect Get Respect" philosophy
- 2) Honour the Golden Jubilee Senior Football County Final winning team for 1968 Collooney/Ballisadare at the 2018 county final and also the

Sligo minor team who contested the All-Ireland Final in 1968

- 3) Promote Rounders under the guidance of **Caroline Winters** (Connacht Rep.) and the Easkey GAA Club, and **Aine McGrath** from Cumann na mBunscoil.
- 4) Continue to promote and expand Wheelchair Hurling / Camogie, for 2018/2019 efforts should be made to organise an Internal Connacht League with participation from IWA in Belmullet and Galway City and others if possible, and to hold demo days to promote the game
- 5) Clubs to organise a "Have A Go Day" and to provide coaching and game practice in Gaelic Football, Hurling, Camogie, Handball and Rounder's for all players, and to invite new people to the area to the event. Clubs should celebrate the importance of their club in the community
- 6) To further promote integration with Sligo Coaching / Development Committee and Sligo Cumann Na mBunscoil
- 7) ISSSC: Irish Special Schools Sports Council: Continue the coaching initiative at St Joseph's Special School, Ballytivnan - GAA coaches to visit the school and do some coaching with children - with the objective to have pupils prepared to represent the Connacht team in Croke Park in September, 2018, and 2019
- 8) **Social Inclusion:** Encourage clubs to organise some events to bring people together from their community that have moved away from their GAA club

Tim Hynes, Sligo's GAA Games for All Connacht Delegate

Mayo GAA Games for All targets 2018-2019

- 1) Ensure all clubs promote and practice the "Give Respect Get Respect" philosophy
- 2) Continue to promote Wheelchair Hurling and other sports within the county
- 3) Clubs to organise "Have A Go Day" and to provide coaching in Gaelic Games and other sports
- 4) Social Inclusion: encourage clubs to organise some event that would bring all the Community together

John Hopkins, Mayo's GAA Games for All Connacht Delegate

Leitrim GAA Games For All targets for 2018-2019

- 1) Promotion of games for people with disability and ensure that all clubs promote the same practice
- 2) Ongoing promoting of the "Give Respect Get Respect" philosophy
- 3) **Social Inclusion:** Help clubs to organise a "Have A Go Day" and to provide coaching and game practice in Gaelic Football, Hurling, Camogie, Handball and Rounder's for all players
- 4) Leitrim to explore the possibility of getting a Wheelchair Hurling/Camogie team for 2019. Engage with Sligo and Galway to look at best practices and learn from their success
- 5) To further promote integration with Leitrim Coaching / Development Committee and Leitrim Cumann na mBunscoil





- 6) Work closely with Connacht to support counties in achieving their targets
- 7) ISSSC: Irish Special Schools Sports Council Leitrim: GAA coaches to visit schools and participate in coaching with children, with the objective to have pupils prepared to represent the Connacht team in Croke Park in September, 2019.

Patrick Feely, Leitrim's GAA Games for All Connacht Delegate

Roscommon GAA Games for All targets for 2018-2019

- 1) To build on the momentum and good will shown to us when we hosted the Inter-Provincial Wheelchair Hurling Competition in Connacht in 2017 and to encourage those who showed an interest in the sport to join in
- 2) To encourage and promote "Have A Go Day" within clubs and host a day for all clubs in the county to attend
- 3) To monitor the facilities for people with disabilities at club and county level and advise club officials of any problems which people with disabilities may encounter
- 4) To promote the game of 'Fun & Run' especially in national schools
- 5) To encourage *special needs schools* to join the SSSC
- 6) To continue discussions with groups like the Brothers of Charity and encourage them to have their service users get involved in wheelchair hurling and explore the possibility of some of these groups getting involved in the Irish Special Schools Sports Council
- 7) Continue to monitor and promote the "Give Respect Get Respect" initiative and encourage those clubs who have not erected signs to do so
- 8) To continue the initiative under Social Inclusion to arrange trips for former GAA members who have lost touch with their clubs.

Barry Lowe, Roscommon's GAA Games for All Connacht Delegate

The Martin Donnelly Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling League 2018 Mountbellew, Co. Galway was a tremendous success

On Saturday, 21st April, 2018, the Connacht GAA Games for All Committee hosted the first round of the Martin Donnelly Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling League for 2018 in the new sports hall at the Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew, with teams from three of the provinces participating namely, Connacht, Leinster and Ulster. Unfortunately, Munster was unable to field a team on this occasion.

The event was extremely enjoyable and most successful. On the day the newly-elected GAA President, **John Horan**, attended to present the 2017 All-Star Wheelchair Hurling Awards. Two players were honoured from the Connacht Wheelchair Hurling team, **Peter Egan** and **Sarah Cregg**, both received their All-Star Wheelchair Hurling Awards for 2017.

Christy Tyrrell, Chairperson of Co. Galway GAA Games for All Committee and local organiser for this

event, ably assisted by **Mattie Kilroy**, deserve tremendous credit for ensuring the event was superbly organised and a major success. Christy paid tribute to all who made this a very special day including **Tony Watene**, Croke Park, for the preparations with the teams and fixtures; Mountbellew/Moylough GAA Club for helping with traffic management; Holy Rosary School for the use of their fine facilities.

Christy also had a special word of thanks to the Deputy Principal, **Martin Tierney**; **Denis O'Boyle** for his work as M.C. for the day; to the members of the Connacht Council together with **Mattie Kilroy**, Connacht Council Treasurer, for providing the necessary finance and support for the hosting of this event. **Adrian Hassett** was also thanked for his tremendous assistance and co-operation. T.G.4 were acknowledged for their coverage of the games and Christy paid a special tribute to the Galway Hurlers, **Padraic** and **Cathal Mannion**, **Cyril Donnellan**, and Minor All-Ireland Medal winners, **Seán Bleahene** and **Conor Fahy** for attending with the Liam McCarthy and *Irish Press* and the Bob O'Keefe Cups and making it a very special day for the wheelchair hurlers and all in attendance.

Thanks were expressed by **Christy Tyrrell** to the piper and the singer of Amhrán na BhFiann; the caterers, referees, score keeper and **Tim Hynes** and **Adrian Hession** for helping with the equipment and preparation of the venue. Thanks also to **Gerry McGovern**, President of the Connacht Council; **Pat Kearney**, Chairman Galway County Board; **Michael Larkin**, Chairman of the Galway Hurling Committee; **John Prenty**, Connacht Council Secretary . . . all of whom attended this event.

Finally, a special word of thanks goes to the Connacht Wheelchair Hurling team for their dedication and commitment and to their coaches on the day, **Tim Hynes** and **Cathal Cregg**. Well done also to all the wheelchair hurlers who participated for their skill and commitment to the game that impressed all those fortunate to be in attendance at these games. Well done also to the leadership of **Christy Tyrrell**, ably assisted by **Mattie Kilroy** and their many helpers in Mountbellew, who together have set a very high standard to be maintained in future events throughout 2018.

2018 Martin Donnelly GAA Wheelchair Hurling All-Ireland Final

On Saturday, October 27th, in the National Indoor Arena in Abbottstown, Dublin, the 6th M. Donnelly GAA Wheelchair Hurling All-Ireland Championships Finals took place. The competition comprises of a blitz between teams from the four provinces, vying for the coveted title. This year Leinster overcame Munster to win the 2018 M. Donnelly GAA Wheelchair Hurling All-Ireland Championships Finals. Connacht qualified for the Shield final against Ulster and after another tenacious and battling performance the Connacht team were winners on a score of five goals to two goals.

Uachtarán Cumann Luthchleas Gael, **John Horan** said that: "It was a great honour for any sports person





Pictured: Connacht Wheelchair Hurling team in Mountbellew with John Horan, GAA President; Liam MacCarthy Cup, supporters, mentors and members of the All-Ireland Galway senior and minor teams.

to wear the colours of their province and for each team and their families, this is a proud occasion. These games provide an opportunity to promote our unique and revered game of hurling, albeit wheelchair hurling, and I am delighted that Martin Donnelly continues to promote and support these games.” This was the final action in a thrilled packed festival of marvellous hurling where all players did their best for their province.

One of Connacht coaches, **Tim Hynes**, stated his appreciation to the National GAA Games for All Committee; **Brian Armitage** and **Tony Watene** and **Denis O’Boyle** who ensured the finals ran smoothly. Also thanks to Connacht Council for their encouragement and support and particularly **John Prenty**, Connacht GAA Secretary and **Gerry McGovern**, President.

Finally, and most importantly, a real ‘thanks’ to the players who came from the four corners of the country and did their best for their provincial teams and enjoyed this marvellous sporting occasion. ‘Thanks’ to all managers, coaches and helpers with the teams, and the parents and supporters who came out and encouraged the players. Sincere thanks to the Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurlers who competed admirably and played with great skill and

determination: **Pat Carty** (Tourlestrane-Sligo), **Aidan Hynes** (Calry-Sligo), **Stephen Melvin** Captain (Owenmore Gaels-Sligo), **Sarah Cregg** (Western Gaels-Roscommon), **Shane Curran** (Moycullen-Galway), **Liam O’Boyle** (Knockmore-Mayo), **Peter Egan** (Kilmovee-Mayo), **Tom Fleming** (Charlestown-Mayo). Managers: **Adrian Hession**, **Thaigh Morley** and **Tim Hynes**.

Connacht teams took part in the Martin Donnelly GAA Football for All Interprovincial Finals in Croke Park

Over 150 players took part in Martin Donnelly GAA Football for All Interprovincial Finals in Croke Park on Tuesday 18th September, 2018, according to Tim Hynes, Sligo Games for All Co-ordinator. The tournament is a nine-a-side competition with schools affiliated to the Irish Special Schools Sports Council (ISSSC) and the GAA together promote this third annual Martin Donnelly GAA Football for ALL Interprovincial Final.

The players represented the regions of Connacht, Dublin, Munster, North Leinster, South Leinster and Ulster and are drawn from 15 different special schools. Each squad comprises 12 Boys and 12 Girls who have been selected from regional trials to play on



Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling Team and their coaches at the All-Ireland Wheelchair Hurling Finals in the National Indoor Arena, Abbottstown, Dublin. Front row, left to right: Peter Egan (Kilmovee-Mayo), Tom Fleming (Charlestown-Mayo), Shane Curran (Moycullen-Galway), Stephen Melvin, (Owenmore Gaels-Sligo), Aidan Hynes (Calry-Sligo), Sarah Cregg (Western Gaels-Roscommon) and Pat Carty (Tourlestrane-Sligo). Back row, left to right: Cathal Cregg, Connacht GAA Games Manager; Connacht Wheelchair Hurling Coaches: Adrian Hession, Tim Hynes and Thaigh Morley, and Connacht Games for All Chairman, Denis O’Boyle.





the hallowed turf of Croke Park. The GAA's support for the Martin Donnelly GAA Football for All Interprovincial Finals reflects the Association's ongoing commitment to engaging with special schools, as set out in the new GAA Strategic Plan, Fís Shoileir 2018-2021.

"Our support for the Martin Donnelly GAA Football for All Interprovincial Finals illustrates our unwavering commitment to inclusiveness," said John Horan, President, GAA. "By participating in our games, we believe that everyone has the opportunity to thrive and develop their full potential".

The ISSSC is a voluntary organisation that provides sporting and cultural activities in special schools, as designated by the Department of Education & Science.

"As the GAA is interwoven with the very fabric of Irish life, culture and heritage, we are proud that the Association is getting behind the Interprovincial Finals," said Richie Doran, Chairperson, ISSSC. "We would also like to thank Martin Donnelly who, from the get-go, has championed the cause to bring the benefits of GAA participation to children in special schools".

The Connacht teams consisted of boys and girls teams from St Anthony's School, Castlebar; St Dymphna's, Ballina; St Bernadette's, Letterkenny, and St Joseph's School, Ballytivnan, Sligo, all were part of the Connacht teams which played in Croke Park in the Martin Donnelly GAA Football for All Interprovincial Finals on Tues 18th September, 2018. The players and their supporters savoured their time in Croke Park and made lots of new friends within the Connacht team and the players from the other provinces.

The GAA President, **John Horan**, took time to meet and greet all the players, mentors and supporters and complimented all who helped out. He thanked them for their time, enthusiasm and commitment. All players were presented with a special medal and Certificate for playing in Croke Park. The joy, excitement of the players and helpers was very evident and an acknowledgement that this event will only grow from strength to strength.

Special thanks was expressed by **Tim Hynes**, Connacht Coach to the National GAA Games for All; organisers Brian Armitage, Tony Watene and Richie Doran from ISSSC (Irish Special Schools Sports Council). Also thanks to the school principals and teachers who have taken this great game on board as

part of their sporting calendar, and have supported and encouraged the pupils to play: Roisin Ó Flaherty, St Anthony's, Castlebar; Declan Brady, St Dymphna's, Ballina; Terry Shiels; St Bernadette's, Letterkenny, and Carmel Wynne, St Joseph's, Sligo.

'Thanks' to the coaches who helped out on the Coaching Preparation Day in Scarden and also in Croke Park: **Liam Ó Gormley, Pádraig Clancy, Gerry Tuohy** and **Brian Maguire** from Sligo and **Eoin Sweeney, Martin Costello** and **Billy McNicholas** from Mayo. 'Thanks' to the parents and siblings who encouraged and cheered on the players in Croke Park. Special thanks to Connacht GAA Games for All Chairperson, **Denis O'Boyle**, who spared no effort in ensuring the Connacht team were looked after in every way possible.

The Connacht Council were acknowledged for presenting the Connacht players with shorts and socks and supporting these games, especially **Gerry McGovern**, President, and **John Prenty**, Secretary. The sun shone down on Croke Park all day and the memories and new friends the players met will live long with them and the honour of playing in Croke Park and representing their communities, schools, county and province will be a treasured for a long time.

The Connacht players were as follows: **St Joseph's, Ballytivnan, Sligo:** Scott Dunbar, Trevor Gallagher, Stephen Ward, Amy Ward, Edel Weston, Annaleigh Middleton, Gabrielle McGinley, Breena Mc Morrow; **St Bernadette's, Letterkenny:** Holly McDaid, Melissa Matthews, Kylan Dean, Gordon Wilson, Dean Whoriskey-Coyle, Anna Mikolakek, Chantelle Quigley; **St Anthony's, Castlebar:** Dylan Tighe, Ian Burke, Henry Mannion, Tina Browne, Rachel Davitt; **St Dymphna's, Ballina:** Peter Healy, Aidan Larkin, Orlaith Gallagher, Rúairi McNamara.

GAA Football for All Students from Mayo's two Special Schools visit Elvery's MacHale Park

On 23rd of October, 2018, Football for All Players from Mayo's two special schools paid a visit to Elvery's MacHale Park together with their teacher's, SNA's and parents as they were invited by Mayo GAA to a guided tour of the dressing rooms, pitches and stand in



Connacht Football for All Boys and Girls Teams in Croke Park with GAA President John Horan and coaches Gerry Tuohy, Tim Hynes, Eoin Sweeney and Martin Costello.





Elvery's MacHale Park. This day was organised by County Mayo GAA Games Manager, Billy McNicholas, and Mayo GAA Coaches, Martin Costello and Eoin Sweeney. Martin and Eoin provided GAA football coaching sessions for the students in St Anthony's Special School, Castlebar, and St Dymphna's Special School in Ballina. They also managed the Connacht Football for All Connacht Team where many of these students took part in the Martin Donnelly GAA Football for All Interprovincial Finals in Croke Park on Tuesday 18th September, 2018.

Mayo senior footballer, **Donal Vaughan**, was guest speaker together with Chairman of Mayo Co Council, **Cllr 'Blackie' Gavin**. A number of the parents in attendance thanked the Mayo GAA County Board, especially **Billy, Martin and Eoin**. They also remarked that their children were so excited before their visit to Elvery's MacHale Park that they could hardly sleep with the excitement as were they were so looking forward to the day. Light refreshments were provide and all in attendance were delighted with their visit to Elvery's MacHale Park.

Give Respect Get Respect signage in all of Connacht's County GAA grounds

It is GAA policy that all GAA clubs have "Give Respect Get Respect" signs erected and visible in their club grounds in English or Irish or both. Clubs should continue to develop the "Give Respect - Get Respect" initiative promoting respect between coaches, players, referees and spectators. The essence of Give Respect Get Respect philosophy is that we respect each other on and off the playing fields, we operate with integrity at all levels and we listen and respect the views of all.

While great strides have taken place in regard to the promotion of the Give Respect - Get Respect initiative, it is still one of the key aims of the Connacht Games for All Committee, that all GAA County Grounds and clubs in Connacht should have a "Give Respect - Get Respect" sign displayed at the entrance to their ground. You can see examples of the signage on display at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence in Began and in the photograph below.



John Prenty and Mattie Kilroy with an example of the "Give Respect - Get Respect" sign at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence.

Give Respect - Get Respect signs are available in Irish and in English to help remind everyone that our Gaelic Games should be promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner and where players, coaches, spectators and referees Give Respect - Get Respect from each other. The cost per sign is approx €30/€40. For further information contact **Mattie Kilroy** at 087 6335479.

Connacht GAA promotes the GAA Fun & Run Initiative

On the 10th September, 2018, **Charlie Harrison**, Croke Park and Sligo All-Star footballer, attended the Connacht Games for All Committee meeting to explain the GAA Fun & Run Initiative. As a result the Connacht Games for All Committee have agreed to promote the GAA Fun & Run Initiative which is an activity involving a team of batters/kickers and fielder and which is suitable for all age and ability levels.

It is an initiative particularly well-suited to meet the needs of people with disabilities, people from socially deprived and ethnic minority groups who often perceive themselves to be excluded from mainstream GAA activities.

The GAA Fun & Run Initiative aims to provide people with a strong sense of Irish culture and heritage through a purposeful activity that will enable them to grow and maintain optimum participation across the full diversity of Irish community life.

Acknowledgement

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to thank **Brian Armitage**, Chairperson of the National GAA Games for All Committee; **Tony Watene**, National GAA Project Co-Ordinator; **Stacey Cahill**, Secretary, and **Colin Regan**, Community & Health Manager for their tremendous co-operation and leadership given throughout the year.

I also wish to acknowledge the support, encouragement and commitment given by the President of the Connacht GAA Council, **Gerry McGovern**; Connacht Council Secretary, **John Prenty**, and the Connacht Council. Thanks also to **Adrian Hassett** for compiling our Connacht GAA Games for All meeting booklets over the past year and to **Attracta Hunt** for looking after the administration so efficiently for the Wheelchair Hurling team. The continued support and encouragement of the Connacht Council staff is very much appreciated.

A special word of appreciation goes to **Mattie Kilroy** deserves for his ongoing encouragement and enthusiasm and in particular his meticulous minute taking. I also wish to thank each of the five County Board Executives and their respective Games Managers for their continued co-operation.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the dedication, enthusiasm, commitment, collaboration, and time given by each member of the Connacht Games for All Committee throughout 2018.

Denis O'Boyle
Chairman





Fixture Analyst Report 2018

By Adrian Hassett



At the 2016 GAA Annual Congress, the role of what had been “Fixture Planners” was re-positioned in Rule, and re-launched as Fixture Analysts with what was formerly the National Fixtures Planning Committee becoming the Central Fixtures Analysis Committee. The role of the committee is:

- Identify and train Fixture Analysts at both county and provincial level
- Analyse the fixture programmes with the help of the County Fixture Analysts to see if counties are maximising the time available for their club
- Gather relevant data from counties to establish a clearer picture with regard to club issues and to guide the Association at all levels in understanding how policy decisions may impact on the club game
- Establishing broad principles of best practice for counties in terms of fixture making and planning generally
- Make proposals to CCC regarding Master Fixture Plan based on the evidence collected.

The Central Fixture Analyst Committee redefined the role of the County Fixture Analyst to:

- Monitor the fixtures within the county and report these observations/findings to the county board, CCC and to the Provincial Fixture Analyst

When monitoring the fixture programme within the county the analyst should focusing on:

- Fixtures played versus the master fixture plan
- Postponements and re-fixture arrangements
- Notification of fixtures to clubs (rolling/weekly)
- Identifying periods of no club activity
- Identifying busy periods of club activity.

If the fixture analyst is not a member of the CCC, they should have a working relationship with the CCC within the county.

At the end of the playing season the fixture analyst will be required to carry out the following tasks:

- Measure the County Fixture Programme against a set of quality statements
- Hold a fixtures forum with players/club officials/county officials
- Make recommendations to CCC on the fixture programme for the following year.

The Central Analyst Committee held a workshop with the County Fixture Analysts in May outlining their role. The following responsibilities were agreed upon to be carried out by each County Fixture Analyst:

- Monthly reports
- Measure the County Fixture Programme against a set of quality statements
- Attend provincial meetings
- Hold a fixtures forum with players/club officials/county officials
- Make recommendations to CCC on the fixture programme for the following year

- Present a report to Annual Convention.

A second workshop was delivered in November with chairpersons and secretaries of each County CCC and the County Fixture Analysts to review the County Club Fixtures Programme and the learnings for the year ahead.

Some of the issues highlighted were:

- Pressure on club games from inter-county scene (team managers, 10 day rule not being adhered to, development/academy squads)
- Lack of referees
- Weather/climate
- The need to strictly enforce master fixture plan as listed at start of year.

In the two most recent National GAA Congress’ significant rule change have been introduced to assist counties in scheduling a club fixtures programme, this was added to with changes made by National CCC. This resulted in:

- Creating two significant club windows pre and post championship
- Ensures 24 club weekends and 26 county weekends are created (last two weekends in December are neither)
- By end of June -
 - 21/33 counties finished county football
 - 25/33 counties finished county hurling
- By mid July
 - 25/33 counties finished inter county football
 - 28/33 finished inter county hurling
- April becomes designated for club only.

2018 was year 1 of this changed schedule with county CC’s now taking their learnings from the year gone and now planning their club fixture schedule for 2019. The two major questions to be asked of each county would be:

- How can your county get full benefit out of the new club weekends?
- Does your county need to adjust the structure of your competitions?

County Review

County Leagues – Football

Each county operate leagues that are separate to championship status, with promotion/relegation applying to all grades. The table listed below show the number of teams that compete at each grade.

	Div 1	Div 2	Div 3	Div 4	Div 5	Div 6	Div 7	Div 8
Galway	10	10	10	10	(W) 8 & (N) 8	(W) 6 & (N) 8	(W) 6 & (N) 8	(W) 6 & (N) 5 & 4
Leitrim	12	12	12	10	-	-	-	-
Mayo	12	12	12	13	12	(A) 7 & (B) 8	-	-
Roscommon	10	10	10	10	10	4	-	-
Sligo	10	10	8	9	-	-	-	-





The following table provides details of the respective County's Division 1 County League

	Round 1 of Lge	Final/ Finish date	No of Rounds & Knockout Games	Starred games	No of weeks to complete
Galway	31st Mar	22nd Dec	9 & Final	5	39
Leitrim	31st Mar	4th Nov	11 & Final	2	32
Mayo	24/25 Mar	29th Sept	11	9	27
Roscommon	17/18 Feb	9th Dec	9 & ½Final & Final	4	43
Sligo	31st Mar	22nd July	9 & Final	Not specified	17

County Leagues - Hurling

Each county operate leagues that are separate to their county championship. In Galway the teams are graded in respect of their championship status, i.e. senior championship teams play in the senior league. In Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo they only have one grade for league, adult. The Leitrim clubs play in the Sligo County League. The table listed below show the number of teams that compete at each grade.

	Senior	Intermediate	Junior
			1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Galway	2 x Groups of 12	14	4 4 4 4 4 4 5
Leitrim	Compete in Sligo Leagues		
Mayo	4		
Roscommon	2 x Groups of 4		
Sligo	2 x Groups of 4		

The following table provide details of the respective County's Division 1 County League

	Round 1 of Lge	Final/ Finish date	No of Rounds & Knockout Games	Starred games	No of weeks to complete
Galway	19th Mar	Final not played	6 x Rds + ½Final + Final	Not specified	
Leitrim	See above			Not specified	
Mayo	18th May	16th June	A cup competition with a Back door element	Not specified	5
Roscommon	31st March	24 June	3 x Rds + ½Final + Final	Not specified	13
Sligo	17th March	2 Dec	3 x Rds + ½Final + Final	Not specified	38

County Championships- Football (Senior)

	Format	Start Date	Final
Galway	Four Groups x 5 progressing to Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	7/8th April	28th Oct & 4th Nov (Replay)
Leitrim	2 x Groups of 6 progressing to Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	28/29th July	14th Oct
Mayo	4 x Groups of 4 progressing to Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	7/8th April	20th Oct
Roscommon	2 x Groups of 6 progressing to Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	14/15 April	14th Oct
Sligo	2 x Groups of 4 and 1 x Group of 3 progressing to Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	4/5th Aug	14th Oct

County Championships - Hurling (Senior)

	Format	Start Date	Final
Galway	Four Groups x 6 progressing to Prelim Quarter Finals, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	7/8th April	18th Nov
Leitrim	Final only	28/29th July	20th Oct
Mayo	Groups of 4 progressing to Semi-Final & Final	1st July	14th Oct
Roscommon	Groups of 7 progressing to Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	30th June	7th Oct
Sligo	Groups of 7 progressing to Semi-Final & Final	30th June	21st Oct

Overall -

- All counties are submitting Master Fixture Plans to their clubs at the start of the year
- Adult club leagues do need to be reviewed in relation to scheduling and availability of county players
- Starred league games/rounds are being increased in number
- Adult club championships in the main are played to schedule, only exception maybe progress of county team at latter end of AI Series
- Counties that exited the AI Championships early did not alter their championship dates (bring them forward), however, used the new window to play adult league games



Tooreen Hurling Club team from Mayo who finished runners-up in the an Tain Og U-13 hurling league held at Ballaghaderreen GAA club.





- Most counties use the Provincial Club Championships as their adult championship deadline and are meeting that target
- For some counties there was a major gap in their championships, with the competition commencing in April for 1/2 rounds and in hiatus until late August, a gap of 17/18 weeks
- A significant amount of activity for all clubs in late August and September
- County U-20/21 competitions are significant issue with no obvious window and competition being squeezed in throughout the season
- County minor being at under-18 at club level poses difficulties with scheduling and county team being at under-17

Connacht GAA Fixture Monitoring Committee

In accordance with Rule 3.31 (TO) Connacht GAA Fixture Monitoring Committee reviewed the Masters Fixtures Plan as submitted by each county. A meeting was held with each county in March to review their proposed plans and suggestions were offered to each county.

Connacht GAA Fixture Schedule for 2018

Connacht GAA have responsibility for competitions at both adult and juvenile in hurling and football for all units across the province, this includes academy and development squad tournaments and the postprimary schools programme.

Excluding the postprimary schools competitions and the academy and development squad tournaments, the province organise and schedule nineteen competitions in both football and hurling, this involves 153 fixtures. The table below details how our fixture schedule played out during the year.

Table

Inter-County

Competition	Code	Scheduled	Played on Scheduled date	Date Changed	Game not played
Senior Cship	Football	6	6	0	
Senior League	Football	11	8	2	1
Junior	Football	4	4	0	
U20	Football	4	4	0	
Minor Cship	Football	11	10	1	
Total		36	32	3	1

Club

Competition	Code	Scheduled	Played on Scheduled date	Date Changed	Game not played
Minor	Football	8	2	6	
Senior Cship	Football	5	5	0	0
Leo Kenny Cup	Football	19	10	2	7
Intermediate	Football	4	3	1	0
Junior	Football	4	3	1	0
U16	Hurling	4	4	0	0
Junior Cship	Hurling	2	2	0	0
Intermediate	Hurling	3	2	1	0
Tain Lge Adult	Hurling	14	2	9	3
Tain Lge U15	Hurling	21	11	0	10
Total		84	44	20	20



Castleconnor of Sligo took part in the an Tain Og U-13 hurling league.





Féile na nGael successfully hosted by Connacht GAA

By Michael O'Connor

CONNACHT GAA, with the assistance of Westmeath and Longford, hosted, organised and ran the annual Féile na nGael hurling, camogie and handball festival which took place from 8th to 10th June, 2018. It is quite difficult to comprehend, unless involved, how immense Féile na nGael or Feile Peil na nÓg are as sporting events and the impact they have on a community or a province.



Millions of euro are invested in the preparation of Féile, and also by teams and supporters travelling to the selected area each year. More so, and probably more important, that must be highlighted are the efforts of volunteers of each host club. They improved club facilities, decorated their communities and in general showcased off their villages for visiting teams. Féile na nGael, was for 2018, the biggest movement of people for one event in the West of Ireland. It provides clubs whose existence is based on invaluable financial support from local businesses an opportunity to give something back with the influx of visiting teams and supporters.

On an administration side, events such as Féile invigorate club officers, include parents, perhaps for the first time, and ensure that matters such as Garda Vetting, child protection and coaching courses are updated in all clubs. Many 'thanks' to all those in the 256 clubs that ensured these necessary matters were addressed in the run-up to Féile 2018. 'Thanks' also to Gearoid Ó Maolmhicil, child safeguarding manager, for his assistance throughout Féile.

Close on 7,000 hurlers and camogie players allied to with 1,000 mentors were in action at the 128 venues over the weekend as club grounds throughout the designated counties were in use.

If one was to calculate 100 people following each team it adds at a minimum 30,000 people supporting the 256 teams. In a number of cases there were over 1,000 people present at central venues for the opening round games on Friday and again on Saturday afternoon.

On Friday evening the action commenced at 64 central venues with 256 games played. Each team played two group games. Saturday morning was a mammoth undertaking for all involves as each home team played their guests that led to 128 pitches in action between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Immediately all results had to gathered with all teams still in knockout action. With the league series completed the quarter finals in cup and shield were played at central venues with action for the first time at the Connacht GAA

Centre. 128 quarter-finals were played on Saturday afternoon.

On Sunday morning the onfield action moved to the semi-finals of each cup and shield competition. 64 semi-finals in 32 competitions were played with the vast majority in and around the surrounding clubs to the Connacht GAA Centre The main centre of interest was the Connacht GAA Centre which hosted 18 finals inclusive. Duggan Park, Ballinasloe, Pairc Seán Mac Diarmada, Pairc Chiarain and Cusack Park, Mullingar, also hosted finals in this special day of hurling and camogie action. Well done to the field committees

at the five final venues for their efforts to ensure a smooth running of games. Over 20,000 people attended the Connacht GAA Centre on Saturday afternoon and for decision day on Sunday.

Special 'thanks' must be reserved for Connacht PR and media executive Briain Mangan who helped with the programme and other necessary duties in the run up to the weekend. Great assistance was provided by the Camogie Association in the run up to Féile na nGael and the work undertaken by all clubs was testament to their love of sport. Thanks to **Louise Conlon, Fiona Hamilton, Geraldine McGrath, Kitty Morley and Lizzie Flynn** who headed up nationally and locally the administration of Camogie's involvement.

It would be remiss of me not to highlight and thank the wonderful effort of Longford and Westmeath in providing teams of the highest quality and rowing in brilliantly behind the project. Special mention here to **Damian Maher** and **Séamus Browne** in Westmeath and **Willie Browne** in Longford.

Thanks to **Cyril Mannion** who organised the successful schools visits at Duggan Park, Ballinasloe, and Loughgeorge Training Centre, Claregalway. Nationally there was great guidance and advice provided to the Connacht Féile Committee led ably by Killimor-native, **Brendie O'Brien**, who was appointed by GAA President, **John Horan**. National Féile Secretary, **Peter Horgan**, from Croke Park was most helpful and his experience and practical knowledge of Feile ensured a strong guiding hand in all matters.

One of the busiest groups were the Referee Coordinators led by **Seán Martin** and **Marty Duffy** who organised the hurling referee's as well as **Lizzie Flynn** and **Louise Conlon** were in charge of appointing the match officials for the seven camogie divisions. Thanks as well to the six third level intern students who manned the phones and gathered all the results over the weekend.

Finally, to all the club secretaries, Féile officials, pitch contacts and anyone who worked with the





Connacht Féile committee in completing the adventure that was Féile na Gael, 2018, a genuine míle buíochas from the Connacht Committee.

Connacht Féile 2018 Committee: **John Hopkins** (Chairperson), **Michael O'Connor** (Secretary), **John Prenty**, **Adrian Hassett**, **Cathal Cregg**, **Briain Mangan**, **Frances Hanley** (Sligo), **Hilary Phelan** (Leitrim), **John Tobin**, **Seán Martin**, **Marty Duffy** (referees), **Damien Coleman**, **Pauric Lohan** (Galway), **Kieran Farrell** (Roscommon), **Eugene Connolly** (Mayo) and **Fiona Hamilton** (Camogie). Special mention to **Amanda Diskin**, **Attracta Hunt**, **Séamus Burns**, **John Clancy** in the Connacht Centre for their help. **Pádraic Corcoran** and **Seán** for the programmes; **Brendie Brien** and **Peter Horgan**.

Hurling teams that competed in Féile 2018

Division 1: Craughwell (Galway), Turloughmore (Galway), Tynagh/Abbey/Duniry (Galway), Castlegar (Galway), Killimordaly (Galway), Loughrea (Galway), Sarsfields (Galway), Clarinbridge (Galway).

Division 2: Ardrahan (Galway), Kilnadeema Leitrim (Galway), Ballinasloe (Galway), Sylane (Galway), Oranmore Maree (Galway), Eire-og, Ennis (Clare), Tommie Larkins (Galway), Michael Cusacks (Galway).

Division 3: Na Piarsaigh (Westmeath), Carnmore (Galway), Gort (Galway), Raharney (Westmeath), Liam Mellows (Galway), Kinvara (Galway), Cappataggle (Galway), Moycullen (Galway).

Division 4: St Thomas (Galway), Mountbellew/Moylough (Galway), Cois Ferraige (Galway), Rahoon/Newcastle (Galway), Castletown/Geoghegan (Westmeath), Meelick/Eyrecourt (Galway), Clonkill (Westmeath), Salthill/Knocknacarra (Galway).

Division 5: Mullagh (Galway), Kiltormer (Galway), Ballinderreen (Galway), Clann na Gael

(Westmeath), Skehana (Galway), Southern Gaels (Westmeath), Ahascragh/Fohenagh (Galway), Portumna (Galway), Kilconieron (Galway).

Division 6: St Oliver Plunketts (Westmeath), Michael Breathnachs (Galway), Tooreen (Mayo), Annaghdown (Galway), Westport (Mayo), Father Daltons (Westmeath), Abbeyknockmoy (Galway), Ballygar (Galway).

Division 7: Padraig Pearses (Roscommon), Killimor (Galway), Roscommon Gaels (Roscommon), Padraig Pearses (Galway), Naomh Eoin (Sligo), Athleague/Tremane (Roscommon), Castlebar Mitchels (Mayo), Tuam (Galway).

Division 8: Caiseal Gaels (Mayo), Ballyvary (Mayo), Benbulbin Gaels (Sligo), Castleconnor (Sligo), Craughwell B (Galway), Oranmore Maree (Galway), Four Roads (Roscommon), St Dominics (Roscommon).

Division 9: Wolfe Tones (Longford), Longford Slashers (Longford), St Vincents (Westmeath), Delvin (Westmeath), Tourlestrane (Sligo), Carrick Hurling (Leitrim), Claremorris (Mayo), Oran (Roscommon).

Camogie teams that competed in Féile 2018

Division 1: Carnmore (Galway), Abbeyknockmoy (Galway), Inagh/Kilnamona (Clare), Sarsfields (Galway), Craughwell (Galway), Clarinbridge (Galway), Davitts (Galway), Shamrocks (Galway).

Division 2: Raharney (Westmeath), Mullagh/Kiltomer (Galway), St Colmans (Galway), Ardrahan (Galway), Eyrecourt (Galway), St Thomas (Galway), Liam Mellows (Galway), Turloughmore (Galway).

Division 3: Oranmore Maree (Galway), Bothar na Tra (Galway), Castlegar (Galway), Killimor (Galway), Kinvara (Galway), Kilconieron (Galway), Kiltullagh/Killimordaly (Galway), Ahascragh/Caltra (Galway).



Cillian Whelan captain of Turloughmore Co. Galway lifts the Division 1 cup as his team-mates celebrate, at the John West Féile na nGael national competition.





Division 4: Padraig Pearses (Roscommon), Four Roads (Roscommon), Clonkill (Westmeath), Castletown Geoghegan (Westmeath), Ballinalsoe (Galway), Ballinderreen (Galway), Portumna (Galway), Crusheen (Clare).

Division 5: Roscommon Gaels (Roscommon) Oran (Roscommon), Delvin/ St Munnas (Westmeath), St Oliver Plunkett (Westmeath), Moycullen (Galway), Craughwell B (Galway), Cappataggle (Galway) Na Brideoga (Mayo).

Division 6: St Dominics (Roscommon), Athleague (Roscommon), Cullion/Castlepollard (Westmeath) Crookedwood (Westmeath), Skehana/Menlough (Galway), Pearses (Galway), Westport (Mayo), Castlebar (Mayo).

Division 7: Longford Slashers (Longford), Wolfe Tones (Longford), Brownstown (Westmeath) Drumraney (Westmeath), Sylane (Galway) Sarsfield B (Galway), Tulsk (Roscommon), Roscommon Gaels B (Roscommon).

Féile na nGael Camogie Winners 2018

Division 1 Cup: Kilrush, Wexford **shared** with Sarsfields, Cork

Division 1 Shield: Abbeyknockmoy, Galway

Division 2 Cup: Ballygalget, Down

Division 2 Shield Raharney, Westmeath

Division 3 Cup: The Harps, Laois

Division 3 Shield: Ballyea, Clare

Division 4 Cup: O'Moore's Laois

Division 4 Shield: St Rynagh's, Offaly

Division 5 Cup: Causeway, Kerry

Division 5 Shield: Crosserlough, Cavan

Division 6 Cup: Skehana/Menlough, Galway

Division 6 Shield: St Kevin's, Louth

Division 7 Cup: Longford Slashers, Longford

Division 7 Shield: St Enda's Omagh, Tyrone

Michael O'Connor
Féile Secretary

Féile na nGael Hurling Winners 2018

Division 1 Cup: Turloughmore, Galway

Division 1 Shield: St Finbarr's, Cork

Division 2 Cup: Naas, Kildare

Division 2 Shield: Kilnadeema-Leitrim, Galway

Division 3 Cup: Emeralds, Kilkenny

Division 3 Shield: Kinvara, Galway

Division 4 Cup: CRC Gaels, Offaly

Division 4 Shield: Castletown Geoghegan, Westmeath

Division 5 Cup: Commercials, Dublin

Division 5 Shield: Clann na Gael, Westmeath

Division 6 Cup: Clonea, Waterford

Division 6 Shield: Abbeyknockmoy, Galway

Division 7 Cup: Clara, Offaly

Division 7 Shield: Ennistymon, Clare

Division 8 Cup: Four Roads, Roscommon

Division 8 Shield: East Cavan Gaels, Cavan

Division 9 Cup: Longford Slashers, Longford

Division 9 Shield: Ringtown, Westmeath



Katlyn Sheehan of Sarsfields, Co Cork, in action against Ava Killian of Carnmore, Co Galway, during the Division 1 Camogie semi-final at the John West Féile na nGael national competition.



Grace Murphy and Tara Maher captains of Abbeyknockmoy lift the shield after the Division 1 Shield Camogie final between Abbeyknockmoy, Co Galway and Shamrocks, Co Galway, at the John West Féile na nGael national competition.





Connacht PRO Report 2018

“Busiest place in the province”

IT is my pleasant duty to again present the annual report to the council. We have had another very busy year in Connacht GAA with a huge amount of activity throughout the year. Sincere thanks to all the members of the council and all who assisted with the activities of the council. Once again, the Centre of Excellence was the busiest place in the province with all units of the GAA making use of the state-of-the-art facilities. The centre received excellent reviews following the staging of the Féile na nGael in 2018 and looks forward to hosting Féile na nÓg, once again, in 2019.



Communication is vital, just like promotion and marketing and all other form of mediums that assist in spreading the GAA gospel throughout the province, all of which must be done in a manner befitting this age of technology. The Connacht GAA website is fundamental in promoting our games. I would like to extend a special thanks to the IT department of the council in addition to our operations manager, **Adrian Hassett**. Their hard work and diligence is fundamental in keeping our website up-to-date. A special ‘thanks’ must also be extended to our photographer **James Molloy** for all the photos and materials that he provides for our website throughout the year.

This year we launched our 2018 Connacht Championship in the Connacht Centre of Excellence. We had a good representation from the participating teams as well as a good selection of both local and national media. Thanks to our county PROs who took responsibility to have senior team managers/selectors and team captains present at the event. Before the launch by Uachtarán, **Gerry McGovern**, countless amounts of interviews and photographs were taken to publicise the championship event.

The council’s bi-monthly magazine, **“Into the West”**, provides excellent coverage of all our activities. On behalf of the Connacht council I would like to extend a sincere thanks to both the editor, **John Fallon**, and the publisher, **Pádraig Corcoran**, for all the diligent work they do in producing this excellent resource for all GAA followers.

Another event that was held at the Centre of Excellence this year was the **club’s grounds awards**. These awards are a vital part of all our local clubs GAA calendar and are highly valued in the eyes of GAA clubs throughout the province. The event was well-attended by all clubs and county board members making the event a triumphant success. Following last year’s event, it was felt that the **“Man of the Match”** awards should have been presented on the day of the match. As a result, this year the committee broke with tradition and presented the awards individually on

match days.

On the 5th of January, 2019, the council presented bursary awards to third level students to assist them in pursuing their studies. These bursaries are in recognition of their active involvement with their college Gaelic Games teams in combination with their academic studies. It is a gesture that is much appreciated by the students and their families.

In 2018 we sadly lost one of our colleagues, **Jim Meehan**. Jim was a former treasurer of the Connacht Council and was also a former Leitrim delegate. Throughout his many years working with the Connacht Council,

Jim worked diligently in promoting and enhancing the GAA for future generation. He is a colleague that will be sorely missed throughout our GAA community. On behalf of the Connacht Council, I extend our deepest sympathy to Jim’s wife, **Chrissy**, and his family.

I would like to extend a special word of thanks to all members of the council who have assisted me in any way throughout the year. To the **Connacht relations committee** who assisted me in assuring that the day-to-day running of our games were well co-ordinated and organised throughout the province. The county PROs are key within the promotion of our games and their expertise in social media are vital in ensuring the upkeep and regulation of the GAA.

‘Thanks’ to all the park committees throughout the province whom I have regular contact with and who are always very accommodating. I wish to extend a special thanks to our operations manager, **Adrian Hassett**, who is always willing to assist and offer advice to me. For this I am extremely grateful.

To our Rúnaí, **John Prenty**, I would like to thank him for his support and advice that he gave to me always. Our Uachtarán, **Gerry McGovern**, had a very busy first year. On behalf of us all, I thank him sincerely for his contribution and knowledge that he brings to the Connacht Council.

Finally, I extend best wishes to all retiring members. I complement our Treasurer, **Mattie Kilroy**, on his astute management of the council’s finances and his wonderful contribution to the Association in his different roles over his many years on the council. I send best wishes to him on his retirement and thank him for his friendship, loyalty and support since we joined the council together along with An Uachtarán, **Gerry McGovern**. We look forward to 2019 and hope that it will be another successful year for the GAA.

Seán O h-Oibicín
(PRO)





COUNTY ANALYSIS 2018

MAYO COUNTY BOARD (52 Clubs)

Income	€3,169,213
Expenditure	€3,183,073
Surplus	€135,283



GALWAY COUNTY BOARD

(81 Clubs)

Income	€4,947,133
Expenditure	€4,573,302
Surplus	€373,831
Revaluation	(€117,954)
Depreciation	(€332,336)
Overall Surplus	€76,459

ROSCOMMON COUNTY BOARD

(33 Clubs)

Income	€1,602,056
Expenditure	€1,494,027
Surplus	€108,029
Depreciation	€150,783
Overall Surplus	€42,754

SLIGO COUNTY BOARD (26 Clubs)

Income	€1,131,338
Expenditure	€900,906
Surplus	€230,432
Depreciation	(€127,997)
Overall Surplus	€102,435

LEITRIM COUNTY BOARD

(33 Clubs)

Income	€1,350,844
Expenditure	€1,341,720
Surplus	€9,124

Annual Grants Schedule 2018

1	County Secretary's Honoraria	€1000 per County	€5,000.00
2	Coiste Iomana		€6,000.00
3	Cumann na mBunscol		€10,160.00
4	Cumann na mBunscol Administration Scheme		€6,350.00
5	Connacht Second Level Schools		€17,800.00
6	Bursaries		€32,000.00
7	NUIG		€4,000.00 pd
8	Galway IT		€4,000.00 pd
9	Sligo IT		€4,000.00
10	Castlebar IT		€2,500.00
11	Letterfrack Furniture College		€700.00
12	Gaeltacht Scholarships	€ 500 per County	€2,500.00
13	Agricultural Colleges		€1,000.00
14	Connacht Ladies Football Council Administration		€5,000.00
15	Connacht Camogie Council		€1,000.00
17	Connacht Handball Council		€2,600.00
18	New York Championship		€15,000.00 pd
19	London, Club Championship		€22,000.00 pd
Total Grants			€141,610.00



CLUB TEAM GRANTS

SENIOR FOOTBALL

Team	Opposition	Amount	Total
Corofin	Tourlestrane	400	
	Clanna nGael	400	
	Ballintubber	400	
			€1,200
Ballintubber	Corofin	400	
	Tourlestrane	400	
	Aughawillian	400	
			€1,200
Clan na nGael	Tir Chonaill Gaels	400	
	Corofin	€400	€800
Aghawillian	Ballintubber	400	
Tourlestrane	Ballintubber	400	
			€400

INTERMEDIATE

Team	Amount	Total
Belmullet	400	
An Spideail	400	
Fuerty	400	
Glenfarne/Kilty	400	
Shamrock Gaels	400	

HURLING

Oranmore Maree	400	
Tooreen	400	
Athleague	400	

JUNIOR

Team	Amount	Total
Clonbur	400	
Kilglass Gaels	400	
Balla	400	
Easkey	400	
Fenagh St Chaillins	400	

HURLING

Coolera Strandhill	400	
Ballygar	400	
Carrick Hc	400	





2018 Connacht GAA Inter-County Results

Connacht GAA Senior Football Championship 2018

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue	Referee
Quarter Final 1	Sun, 6th May	New York 1-15	Leitrim 0-19 (aet)	Gaelic Park	
Quarter-Final 2	Sun, 6th May	London 1-11	Sligo 1-21	McGovern Park, Ruislip	
Quarter-Final 3	Sun, 13th May	Mayo 0-12	Galway 1-12	Elvery's MacHale Park	
Semi-Final 1	Sat, 26th May	Leitrim 0-10	Roscommon 0-24	Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada	
Semi-Final 2	Sun, 3rd June	Galway 4-24	Sligo 1-12	Pearse Stadium	
Final	Sun, 17th June	Galway 2-16	Roscommon 0-16	Dr Hyde Park	

Connacht GAA Junior Football Championship 2018

Preliminary Rnd	02/05/2018	Mayo 2-15	Roscommon 1-17	Elverys MacHale Park	S. Hehir(G)
Semi-Final	10/05/2018	Leitrim 0-8	Mayo 0-17	Paicr Seán MacDiarmada	J. Gilmartin(S)
Semi-Final	09/05/2018	Galway	Sligo	Tuam Stadium	B. Healy(R)
Final	13/05/2018	Galway 1-11	Mayo 1-10	Elverys MacHale Park	P. McTiernan(R)
AISF	Sat/Sun 7/8th July	Connacht			
AIF	Sat/Sun 21st/22nd July				

Connacht GAA U-20 Football Championship 2018

Preliminary Rnd	02/06/2018	Roscommon 3-10	Sligo 3-5	Dr. Hyde Park	L. Devenney(M)
Semi-Final 1	09/06/2018	Galway 0-11	Roscommon 1-11	Tuam Stadium	E. O' Grady
Semi-Final 2	09/06/2018	Mayo 1-24	Leitrim 1-3	Elverys MacHale Park	M. Flaherty(G)
Final	17/06/2018	Mayo 3-16	Roscommon 1-6	Dr Hyde Park	B. Judge(S)
AISF	Sat/Sun 14/15th July	Mayo	Derry		
AIF	Sun, 5th August	Mayo	Kildare		

Electric Ireland Connacht GAA Minor Football Championship 2018

PRound 1	04/05/2018	Galway 4-18	Roscommon 0-8	Tuam Stadium	Barry Judge
Round 1	02/05/2018	Mayo 4-20	Leitrim 1-8	Elverys MacHale Park	Paul Daly
Round 2	11/05/2018	Sligo 0-10	Galway 3-15	Markievicz Park	Declan Corcoran
Round 2	11/05/2018	Roscommon 4-12	Mayo 0-11	Kiltoom	James Molloy
Round 3	23/06/2018	Leitrim 0-9	Roscommon 4-15	Avantcard Páirc Seán	Ronan Hynes
Round 3	23/06/2018	Mayo 2-18	Sligo 0-10	Elverys MacHale Park	Marty Parker
Round 4	29/06/2018	Sligo 0-13	Leitrim 2-14	Markievicz Park	Paul Lydon
Round 4	29/06/2018	Galway 0-15	Mayo 1-9	Tuam Stadium	Brendan Healy
Round 5	06/07/2018	Leitrim 1-11	Galway 4-17	Avantcard Páirc Seá	P. McTiernan
Round 5	06/07/2018	Roscommon 5-18	Sligo 1-13	Dr Hyde Park	Martin Flaherty
Final	13/07/2018	Roscommon 2-9	Galway 2-13	Dr Hyde Park	John Gilmartin
All-Ireland Quarter-Final	Sat/Sun 28/29th July				
All-Ireland Semi-Final	Sat/Sun 11/12th August				
All-Ireland Final	Sun, 2nd September				

FBD Insurance Connacht GAA Football League 2018

Round 1	03/01/2018	Sligo 0-11	Galway 1-12	Connacht GAA Centre	J. Henry(M)
Round 1	03/01/2018	Leitrim 1-3	Roscommon 2-14	Leitrim Centre of Excellence	J. Gilmartin(S)
Round 2	17/01/2018	Leitrim 0-13	Sligo 2-17	Connacht GAA Centre	D. Corcoran(M)
Round 2	12/01/2018	Mayo 1-9	Galway 1-10	Elvery's MacHale Park	P. Neilan(R)
Round 3	10/01/2018	Mayo 0-13	Leitrim 1-10	Elvery's MacHale Park	J. Molloy(G)
Round 3	10/01/2018	Roscommon 3-19	Sligo 2-10	Kiltoom	P. Lydon(M)
Round 4	14/01/2018	Galway 3-6	Leitrim 0-8	Clonbur GAA Club	B. Judge(S)
Round 4	14/01/2018	Roscommon 0-14	Mayo 0-11	Dr. Hyde Park	M. Flaherty(G)
Round 5	21/01/2018	Sligo 0-11	Mayo 1-10	James Stephens Park, Ballina	E. O' Grady(L)
Round 5	21/01/2018	Galway	Roscommon	Tuam Stadium	
Final	18/02/2018	Roscommon 2-16	Galway 3-12	Dr Hyde Park	

Connacht GAA Ted Webb Competition 2018

Round 1	29/08/2018	Mayo EW 5-8	Roscommon 1-9	Connacht GAA Centre	A. Coyne
Round 2	29/08/2018	Roscommon 1-4	Galway 1-10	Connacht GAA Centre	G. McMahon
Round 3	01/09/2018	Galway 1-7	Mayo EW 5-8	Connacht GAA Centre	P. Guckian
Round 1	29/08/2018	Leitrim 1-7	Sligo 4-7	Connacht GAA Centre	M. Flaherty
Round 1	29/08/2018	Galway CW 1-6	Mayo NS 0-4	Connacht GAA Centre	P. Daly
Round 2	29/08/2018	Mayo NS 4-7	Leitrim 2-4	Connacht GAA Centre	R. Hynes
Round 2	29/08/2018	Sligo 0-4	Galway CW 2-6	Connacht GAA Centre	Paul Lydon
Round 3	01/09/2018	Sligo 1-7	Mayo NS 1-8	Connacht GAA Centre	Brendan Healy
Round 3	01/09/2018	Galway CW 2-16	Leitrim 1-5	Connacht GAA Centre	Paul Lydon
Cup Semi-Finals	01/09/2018	Galway CW 0-9	Galway 0-8	Connacht GAA Centre	Ronan Hynes
Cup Semi-Finals	01/09/2018	Mayo NS 2-13	Mayo EW 1-7	Connacht GAA Centre	Patrick Guckian
Cup Final	07/09/2018	Mayo NS	Galway CW	Connacht GAA Centre	Patrick Guckian
Shield Final	07/09/2018	Mayo EW 0-9	Galway 3-9	Connacht GAA Centre	Brendan Healy
Plate-Round 1	01/09/2018	Roscommon 1-10	Sligo 1-14	Connacht GAA Centre	Anthony Coyne
Plate-Round 2	07/09/2018	Roscommon 1-8	Leitrim 0-10	Connacht GAA Centre	John Glavey
Plate-Round 3	07/09/2018	Sligo 4-17	Leitrim 0-2	Connacht GAA Centre	Paul Lydon





2018 Connacht GAA Club Results

AIB Connacht GAA Club Senior Football Championship 2018

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue	Referee
Quarter-Final 1	Sun, 4th Nov	Tourlestrane 0-5	Ballintubber 0-6	Enniscrone	P. Neilan (R)
Quarter-Final 2	Sun, 4th Nov	Clann na nGael 1-15	Tir Chonaill Gaels 1-10	Dr Hyde Park	E. O'Grady (L)
Semi-Final 1	Sun, 11th Nov	Aughawillian 1-8	Ballintubber 3-11	Pairc Seán	J. Molloy
Semi-Final 2	Sun, 11th Nov	Corofin 4-22	Clann na nGael 0-7	Hyde Park	J. Henry
Final	Sun, 25th Nov	Ballintubber 1-9	Corofin 2-10	MacHale Park	P. Neilan (R)

AIB Connacht GAA Club Intermediate Football Championship 2018

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue	Referee
Quarter-Final	Sat, 3rd Nov	Fenagh St Caillin's 2-10	Shamrocks Gaels 2-11	Enniscrone	D. Corcoran (M)
Semi-Final 1	Sun, 11th Nov	Feurty 2-12	Shamrock Gaels 0-6	Collooney	L. Devenney
Semi-Final 2	Sat, 10th Nov	An Spideal 0-13	Belmullet 0-9 (aet)	Tuam Stadium	P. Guckian
Final	Sun, 18th Nov	An Spideal 1-14	Feurty 0-16	Tuam Stadium	B. Judge

AIB Connacht GAA Club Junior Football Championship 2018

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue	Referee
Quarter-Final	Sat, 3rd Nov	Easkey 2-17	Glenfarne Kiltyclogher 1-9	Pairc Sean	B. Healy (R)
Semi-Final 1	Sun, 11th Nov	Kilglass Gaels 0-12	An Fhairche Clonbur 1-12	Tuam Stadium	D. Corcoran
Semi-Final 2	Sat, 10th Nov	Easkey 3-7	Balla 0-9	Enniscrone	M. McGirl (L)
Final	Sat, 17th Nov	An Fhairche Clonbur 1-10	Easkey 1-11	Enniscrone	L. Devenney (M)

AIB Connacht GAA Club Intermediate Hurling Championship 2018

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue	Referee
Quarter-Final	Sun, 28th Oct	Tooreen 0-17	Athleague 1-9	Athleague	K. Collins (G)
Semi-Final	Sat 10th Nov	Tooreen 0-18	St Gabriel's 1-13	Ruislip	L. Gordon (G)
Final	Sat, 24th Nov	Tooreen 1-15	Oranmore-Maree 1-20	Athleague	J. Keenan (W)

AIB Connacht GAA Club Junior Hurling Championship 2018

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue	Referee
Semi-Final	Mon, 29th Oct	Coolera-Strandhill 1-8	Carrick HC 0-16	Pairc Sean	A. Clogher (R)
Final	Sat, 3rd Nov	Carrick HC 2-11	Ballygar 2-9	Connacht GAA Centre	J. Doyle (S)

Connacht GAA Tain League(Adult) 2018

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue	Referee
Final	Saturday, 15th April	Castlebar HC 0-8	Salthill/Knocknacarra 1-15	Connacht GAA Centre	K. McGeeney

Connacht GAA U16 Club Hurling 2018

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue	Referee
1st Round	Mon, 15th Oct	Easkey/St. Farnan's w/o	Carrick HC scr	Sligo Training Centre	C. Candon
Quarter-Final	Mon, 22nd Oct	Easkey/St. Farnan's 4-8	Westport 3-8	Connacht GAA Centre	M. Farrell
Semi-Final	Sat, 27th Oct	Easkey/St. Farnan's 0-10	Four Roads 2-14	Connacht GAA Centre	J. Judge
Final	Sat, 3rd Nov	Meelick-Eyrecourt 1-2	Four Roads 3-9	Connacht GAA Centre	J. Judge

Connacht GAA Club Minor A Football Championship 2018

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue	Referee
Quarter-Final	Fri, 26th Oct	St Molaise Gaels 2-8	St Mary's Kiltoghert 2-13	Connacht GAA Centre	A. Coyne (G)
Semi-Final 1	Tues, 30th Oct	Westport 0-21	Salthill/Knocknacarra 1-9	Connacht GAA Centre	R. Hynes (S)
Semi-Final 2	Tues, 30th Oct	St Mary's Kiltoghert 1-5	St Brigid's 2-11	Connacht GAA Centre	M. Flaherty (G)
Final	Fri, 2nd Nov	Westport 1-10	St Brigid's 1-11	Connacht GAA Centre	A. Coyne (G)

Connacht GAA Club Minor B Football Championship 2018

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue	Referee
Quarter-Final	Fri, 26th Oct	Tourlestrane 2-6	Melvin Gaels 0-8	Connacht GAA Centre	G. McMahon (M)
Semi-Final 1	Tues, 30th Oct	Claremorris 1-5	Mountbellew/Moylough 2-13	Connacht GAA Centre	C. Conway
Semi-Final 2	Tues, 30th Oct	Tourlestrane 3-9	St Dominic's 0-13	Connacht GAA Centre	P. Guckian (L)
Final	Fri, 2nd Nov	Tourlestrane 0-6	Mountbellew/Moylough 0-9	Connacht GAA Centre	M. McGirl (L)

Connacht GAA Club Senior League Football 2018 Leo Kenny Cup

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue	Referee
Round 1(A)	12/06/2018	Tourlestrane 0-0	Crossmolina 0-0	Tourlestrane	B. Healy
Round 1(C)	12/06/2018	Cortoon Shamrocks 0-0	Garrymore 0-0	Cortoon Shamrocks	B. Judge
Round 1(B)	12/06/2018	Castlerea St Kevins 0-0	Monivea-Abbey 0-0	O'Rourke Park	J. Gilmartin
Round 1(D)	12/06/2018	Charlestown 0-18	Shamrock Gaels 3-8	Fr O'Hara Park	E. O'Grady
Round 2(E)	14/06/2018	St. Faithleach's 1-12	Eastern Harps 3-9	Ballyleague	M. Flaherty
Round 2(K)	19/06/2018	Kiltane 0-0	Tourlestrane 0-0	Doohoma	J. Walker
Round 2(I)	19/06/2018	Tuam Stars 1-13	Knockmore 0-6	Tuam Stars	B. Judge

Connacht GAA Club Senior League Football 2018 Leo Kenny Cup continued





Round 2(J)	19/06/2018	Garrymore 3-12	Oughterard 2-8	Garrymore	J. Gilmartin
Round 2(G)	19/06/2018	Westport 0-18	Caherlistrane 2-14	Westport	G. McMahon
Round 2(F)	19/06/2018	St Molaise Gaels 0-0	Aghamore Gaa 0-0	Monsignor Hynes Park	P. Guckian
Round 2(D)	19/06/2018	St Mary's 0-0	Charlestown 0-0	Kent Park	M. McGirl
Round 2(H)	19/06/2018	Pádraig Pearse's 1-11	Castlereagh St Kevins 1-9	Pairc an Phiarsaigh	M. Flaherty
Quarter-Final 3	26/06/2018	Pádraig Pearse's 3-11	Tuam Stars 1-14	Pairc an Phiarsaigh	B. Judge
Quarter-Final 1	03/07/2018	Charlestown 0-13	Eastern Harps 0-10	Fr O'Hara Park	P. McTiernan
Quarter-Final 2	03/07/2018	St Molaise Gaels 1-10	Caherlistrane 2-8	Connacht GAA Centre	G. McMahon
Quarter-Final 4	03/07/2018	Garrymore 0-0	Kiltane 0-1	James Stephens, Ballina	L. Devenney
Semi-Final 2	10/07/2018	Pádraig Pearse's 3-12	Kiltane 2-13	Connacht GAA Centre	M. Flaherty
Semi-Final 1	10/07/2018	Charlestown 1-15	Caherlistrane 2-8	Connacht GAA Centre	P. McTiernan
Final	18/07/2018	Charlestown 0-11	Pádraig Pearse's 0-12	Connacht GAA Centre	A. O'Connell

2019 Connacht GAA Club Fixtures

AIB Connacht GAA Club Senior Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final 1	Sunday 3rd November	Sligo	Roscommon
Quarter-Final 2	Sunday 3rd November	Leitrim	Mayo
Semi-Final 1	Sunday 10th November	London	Winner of Quarter-Final 1
Semi-Final 2	Sunday 10th November	Winner of Quarter-Final 2	Galway
Final	Sunday 24th November	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2

AIB Connacht GAA Club Intermediate Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final	Saturday 2nd November	Leitrim	Roscommon
Semi-Final 1	Saturday 9th November	Sligo	Mayo
Semi-Final 2	Saturday 9th November	Galway	Winner of Quarter-Final
Final	Sat/Sun 16/17th November	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2

AIB Connacht GAA Club Junior Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final	Saturday 2nd November	Galway	Mayo
Semi-Final 1	Sat/Sun 9th/10th November	Leitrim	Sligo
Semi-Final 2	Sat/Sun 9th/10th November	Winner of Quarter-Final 1	Roscommon
Final	Saturday 16th November	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2

Connacht GAA Club Minor A Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final	Friday 25th October	Roscommon	Mayo
Semi-Final 1	Tuesday 29th November	Winner of Quarter-Final	Leitrim
Semi-Final 2	Tuesday 29th November	Galway	Sligo
Final	Friday 1st November	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2

Connacht GAA Club Minor B Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final	Friday 25th October	Roscommon	Mayo
Semi-Final 1	Tuesday 29th November	Winner of Quarter-Final	Leitrim
Semi-Final 2	Tuesday 29th November	Galway	Sligo
Final	Friday 1st November	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2

AIB Connacht GAA Club Intermediate Hurling Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final	Sun/Mon 27/28th October	Roscommon	Mayo
Semi-Final	Sat/Sun 2/3rd November	Winner of Quarter-Final	London
Final	Sat/Sun 16/17th November	Winner of Semi-Final	Galway

AIB Connacht GAA Club Junior Hurling Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Semi-Final	Monday 28th October	Sligo	Leitrim
Final	Saturday 9th November	Semi-Final Winners	Galway

Connacht GAA U-16 Club Hurling 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
1st Round	Saturday 19th October	Sligo	Leitrim
Quarter-Final	Saturday 26th October	Winner of 1st Round	Mayo
Semi-Final	Saturday 2nd November	Winner of Quarter-Final	Roscommon
Final	Saturday 9th November	Galway	Winners of Semi-Final





2019 Connacht GAA Inter-County Fixtures

Connacht GAA Senior Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Final 1	Sunday, 5th May	New York	Mayo	Gaelic Park, New York
Quarter-Final 2	Sunday, 5th May	London	Galway	McGovern Park, Ruislip
Quarter-Final 3	Sunday, 12th May	Roscommon	Leitrim	Dr Hyde Park
Semi-Final 1	Sunday, 19th May	Sligo	Galway/London	Markievicz Park
Semi-Final 2	Sunday, 26th May	New York/Mayo	Roscommon/Leitrim	tbc
Final	Sunday, 16th June	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2	tbc

Connacht GAA Junior Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Finals	Sunday, 12th May	Roscommon	Leitrim	Dr Hyde Park
Semi-Final(1)	Sunday, 19th May	Sligo	Galway	
Semi-Final(2)	Sunday, 26th May	Mayo	Roscommon/Leitrim	
Final	Sunday, 16th June	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final(2)	
AISF	Sat/Sun 6/7th July	Connacht	Leinster	
AIF	Sat/Sun 20/21st July			

Connacht GAA U-20 Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Finals	Wednesday, 26th June	Leitrim	Roscommon	AvantCard Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada
Semi-Final(1)	Wednesday, 3rd July	Galway	Winners of Quarter-Final	
Semi-Final(2)	Wednesday, 3rd July	Mayo	Sligo	Elverys MacHale Park, Castlebar
Final	Wednesday, 10th July	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2	tbc
AISF	Sat/Sun 27/28th July	Connacht	Leinster	
AIF	Sat-Mon 3-5th August			

Electric Ireland Connacht GAA Minor Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Round 1	Friday, 17th May	Roscommon	Galway	
Round 1	Friday, 17th May	Leitrim	Mayo	AvantCard Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada
Round 1	Friday, 17th May	Sligo	BYE	
Round 2	Friday, 24th May	Mayo	Roscommon	Elverys MacHale Park
Round 2	Friday, 24th May	Galway	Sligo	Galway Venue
Round 2	Friday, 24th May	Leitrim	BYE	
Round 3	Friday, 31st May	Roscommon	Leitrim	
Round 3	Friday, 31st May	Sligo	Mayo	
Round 3	Friday, 31st May	Galway	BYE	
Round 4	Friday, 14th June	Leitrim	Sligo	
Round 4	Friday, 14th June	Roscommon	BYE	
Round 4	Friday, 14th June	Mayo	Galway	
Round 5	Friday, 21st June	Mayo	BYE	
Round 5	Friday, 21st June	Sligo	Roscommon	
Round 5	Friday, 21st June	Galway	Leitrim	
Semi-Finals	Wednesday, 26th June	Runner up in Group	3rd Placed Team in Group	tbc
B Final	Friday, 5th July	4th Placed Team in Group	5th Placed Team in Group	tbc
Final	Friday, 5th July	Winner of Semi-Finals	Winner of Semi-Finals	tbc
AIQF	Sat/Sun, 27/28th July			
AISF	Sat/Sun, 10/11th August			
AIF	Sunday, 1st September			

FBD Insurance Connacht GAA Senior Football League 2018

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Round 1	Wed, 3/1/2018	Mayo	BYE	tbc
Round 1	Wed, 3/1/2018	Sligo	Galway	tbc
Round 1	Wed, 3/1/2018	Leitrim	Roscommon	tbc
Round 2	Sun, 7/1/2018	Roscommon	BYE	tbc
Round 2	Sun, 7/1/2018	Mayo	Galway	tbc
Round 2	Sun, 7/1/2018	Leitrim	Sligo	tbc
Round 3	Wed, 10/1/2018	Galway	BYE	tbc
Round 3	Wed, 10/1/2018	Roscommon	Sligo	tbc
Round 3	Wed, 10/1/2018	Mayo	Leitrim	tbc
Round 4	Sun, 14/1/2018	Sligo	BYE	tbc
Round 4	Sun, 14/1/2018	Galway	Leitrim	tbc
Round 4	Sun, 14/1/2018	Roscommon	Mayo	tbc
Round 5	Sun, 21/1/2018	Galway	Roscommon	tbc
Round 5	Sun, 21/1/2018	Leitrim	BYE	tbc
Round 5	Sun, 21/1/2018	Sligo	Mayo	tbc
Final	Sun, 18/2/2018	Top Team in Group	Runner-up in Group	tbc





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association
Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 October 2018

O'Mara Loftus & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
Arran House
Emmet Street
Ballina
Co Mayo





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Schedules to Financial Statements (not subject to audit)	14 - 18





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association
COUNCIL'S ADDRESS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Name	Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association
Chairman	Gearóid Mac Samhrain
Secretary	Seán Ó Pronntaigh
Treasurer	Maitiu Mac Giolla Rua
Auditors	O'Mara Loftus & Co Limited Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors Arran House Emmet Street Ballina Co Mayo
Address	Cloonacurry, Knock, County Mayo.
Bankers	Allied Irish Bank Church Street, Roscommon.





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association STATEMENT OF COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2018

The constitution of the council requires the officers and members of the council to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the council and of its income and expenditure for that period.


In preparing those accounts the officers and members of the council are required to:


- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the council will continue in business.

The officers and the members of the council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the council and to help them to ensure that the accounts comply with the council's constitution.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the council and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the council


Maitiu Mac Giolla Rua
Treasurer


Seán Ó Pronntaigh
Secretary

Date: 18th January 2019





**Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association
AUDITORS REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF CONNACHT COUNCIL GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2018**

In accordance with the engagement letter dated 14/01/2019 we have audited the financial statements of Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association for the year ended 31 October 2018 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Accounting Policies and the related notes. Financial Statements have been prepared under the Historical Cost Convention and the Accounting Policies, set out on page 9.

Respective responsibilities of council members and auditors

As described on page 4 the officers and members of the council are responsible for the preparation of accounts. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those accounts and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

In accordance with the engagement letter dated 14/01/2019 we conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the officers and members of the council in the preparation of accounts and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the council's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

In accordance with the engagement letter dated 14/01/2019 we planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the information in the accounts.

Opinion

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the council at 31 October 2018 and of its excess of expenditure over income for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the council's constitution.

Jerry O'Mara, Director

For and on behalf of

O'MARA LOFTUS & CO LIMITED

Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors

Arran House

Emmet Street

Ballina

Co Mayo

Date: 18th January 2019





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association INCOME ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 October 2018

		2018	2017
		€	€
Gross Income			
Gate Receipts	(Schedule 1)	1,232,701	1,162,521
Commercial Income	(Schedule 2)	494,097	447,354
Financial Income	(Schedule 4)	119,982	122,978
Other Income	(Schedule 5)	6,136	736
Transfer Income	(Schedule 6)	1,957,734	1,753,404
Total Gross Income		3,810,650	3,486,993

Approval of Account

On behalf of the council of Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association, we approve the above Income account for the year ended 31 October 2018. We confirm we have made available all relevant records and information.

Maitiu Mac Giolla Rua
Treasurer

Seán Ó Pronntaigh
Secretary

Date: 18th January 2019





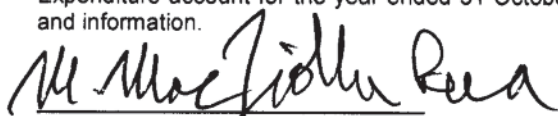
Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

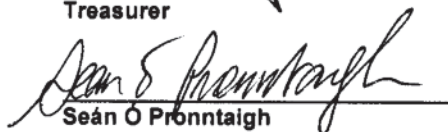
for the year ended 31 October 2018

	2018 €	As restated 2017 €
Income		
Total Gross Income	3,810,650	3,486,993
	3,810,650	3,486,993
Expenditure		
Cost of staging games (Schedule 7)	391,437	397,635
Grounds Upkeep and Investment (Schedule 8)	316,863	287,243
Administration expenses (Schedule 10)	918,842	787,886
Coaching & games development (Schedule 12)	1,567,614	1,659,101
Audit & accountancy	17,300	8,000
Financial expenses (Schedule 9)	21,593	22,073
Transfer payments (Schedule 14)	128,568	56,040
Grants & promotions (Schedule 11)	109,960	83,825
Depreciation on freehold property	301,956	301,956
Depreciation on fixtures, fittings and equipment	729	614
Depreciation on motor vehicles	5,000	-
Profits/losses on disposal of tangibles	-	22,311
Write down of Fixed Assets	160,736	-
Amortisation of capital grants	(138,883)	(138,883)
	3,801,715	3,487,801
Surplus/(Deficit)	8,935	(808)

Approval of Account

On behalf of the council of Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association, we approve the above Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31 October 2018. We confirm we have made available all relevant records and information.


Maitiu Mac Giolla Rua
Treasurer


Seán Ó Pronntaigh
Secretary

Date: 18th January 2019





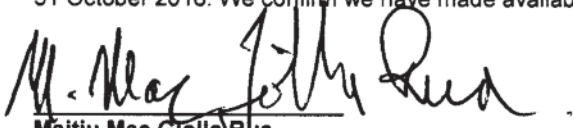
Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association BALANCE SHEET

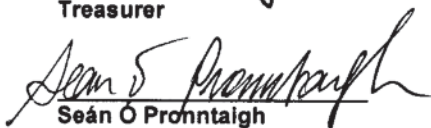
As at 31 October 2018

		2018 €	As restated 2017 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	1	8,944,293	9,411,570
Investments	2	2,651	2,651
		<u>8,946,944</u>	<u>9,414,221</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	3	1,782,839	2,358,239
Cash at Bank and in hand	4	1,851,699	652,502
		<u>3,634,538</u>	<u>3,010,741</u>
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year			
Other creditors	5	444,633	185,465
Accruals	6	27,300	-
		<u>471,933</u>	<u>185,465</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>3,162,605</u>	<u>2,825,276</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>12,109,549</u>	<u>12,239,497</u>
Capital grants	7	(3,929,788)	(4,068,671)
Net Assets		<u>8,179,761</u>	<u>8,170,826</u>
Financed By			
Previous balance		8,170,826	8,171,634
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		8,935	(808)
Capital Employed		<u>8,179,761</u>	<u>8,170,826</u>

Approval of Account

On behalf of the council of Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association, we approve the above Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2018. We confirm we have made available all relevant records and information.


Maitiu Mac Giolla Rúa
Treasurer


Seán Ó Pronntaigh
Secretary

Date: 18th January 2019





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association ACCOUNTING POLICIES

for the year ended 31 October 2018

Principal Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards. A summary of the more important accounting policies adopted by the council are set out below.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

The cost of tangible fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental cost of acquisition. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are

Land & Building	-	2%/4% Straight Line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	10% Straight Line
Motor vehicles	-	20% Straight Line

Investment properties

Revalued investment properties are not depreciated or amortised. Where the valuation indicates a permanent diminution in the value of the property, the permanent diminution is charged to the profit and loss account. All other fluctuations in value are transferred to a revaluation reserve.

Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost less provision for permanent diminution in value.

Capital Grants

Capital grants received and receivable are treated as deferred income and amortised to the Income and Expenditure Account annually over the useful economic life of the asset to which it relates. Revenue grants are credited to the Income and Expenditure Account when received.





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 October 2018

1. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Land & Building	Investment properties	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	€	€	€	€	€
Cost					
At 1 November 2017	10,194,168	539,371	8,129	25,000	10,766,668
Additions	-	-	1,144	-	1,144
Revaluation	-	(160,736)	-	-	(160,736)
At 31 October 2018	<u>10,194,168</u>	<u>378,635</u>	<u>9,273</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>10,607,076</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 November 2017	1,352,334		2,764	-	1,355,098
Charge for the year	301,956		729	5,000	307,685
At 31 October 2018	<u>1,654,290</u>		<u>3,493</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>1,662,783</u>
Net book value					
At 31 October 2018	<u>8,539,878</u>	<u>378,635</u>	<u>5,780</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>8,944,293</u>
At 31 October 2017	<u>8,841,834</u>	<u>539,371</u>	<u>5,365</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>9,411,570</u>

2. INVESTMENTS

	Other unlisted investments
	€
Cost	
At 31 October 2018	<u>2,651</u>
Net book value	
At 31 October 2018	<u>2,651</u>
At 31 October 2017	<u>2,651</u>

In the opinion of the Council Members the value to the Council of the above investments is not less than the book amounts shown above.

3. DEBTORS

	2018	2017
	€	€
County Board Loans	360,508	386,508
Other debtors	1,422,331	1,971,731
	<u>1,782,839</u>	<u>2,358,239</u>

4 CASH ON HAND AND BANK BALANCE

	2018	2017
	€	€
Cash at Bank		
Bank balances	<u>1,851,699</u>	<u>652,502</u>





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 October 2018

5. OTHER CREDITORS AND ACCRUED EXPENSES	2018	2017
	€	€
Other creditors	<u>444,633</u>	<u>185,465</u>
6. ACCRUALS	2018	2017
	€	€
Accruals	<u>27,300</u>	<u>-</u>
7. CAPITAL GRANTS DEFERRED	2018	2017
	€	€
Capital grants received and receivable		
At 1 November 2017	<u>4,690,333</u>	4,643,020
Increase in year	-	47,313
At 31 October 2018	<u>4,690,333</u>	<u>4,690,333</u>
Amortisation		
At 1 November 2017	<u>(621,662)</u>	(482,779)
Amortised in year	<u>(138,883)</u>	<u>(138,883)</u>
At 31 October 2018	<u>(760,545)</u>	<u>(621,662)</u>
Net book value		
At 31 October 2018	<u>3,929,788</u>	<u>4,068,671</u>
At 1 November 2017	<u>4,068,671</u>	<u>4,160,241</u>
8. SPONSORSHIP	2018	2017
	€	€
Central Council Sponsorship	<u>250,000</u>	250,000
FBD Connacht League	-	15,000
Television Rights	<u>230,000</u>	155,000
Other Sponsorship	-	700
	<u>480,000</u>	<u>420,700</u>
9. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS		

As at the balance sheet date the Council had decided to proceed with the construction of a 150m X 100m Air Dome to house an astroturf pitch on property currently owned by the Council. The expected cost of this is €3m. Grant aid of €2.1m towards this project has been approved by the Department of Rural Affairs & Community Development. In addition to this it is expected that the Council will get a grant of €98,500 from the Sports Capital Programme. This project is expected to go out to tender shortly.





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 October 2018

10. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

The prior period adjustment relates to a retrospective calculation of depreciation on Pitches and Buildings on the Centre of Excellence at Cloonacurry, Knock, Co. Mayo and the amortisation of capital grants in respect of those assets. It also includes a write off of the amount previously capitalised as Grounds Investments which should have been, more correctly, written off as incurred as the related grant aid was credited to general reserves. The total net prior year adjustment required as at 31 October 2016 was €6,467,148 and this has been deducted from the reserves carried forward as at that date. The financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2017 have been restated to reflect the correct fixed asset depreciation and grants amortisation for that year and also to write off grounds investments expenditure previously capitalised in the year ended 31 October 2017.

11. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association on 18 January 2019.





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association
Schedules to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 October 2018
(Not subject to Audit)





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association
SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 October 2018

Income Schedules

Schedule 1 - Gate Receipts

	2018	2017
Senior Football Championship (See Below)	958,430	953,071
Other Championships	203,009	154,918
FBD League	71,262	54,532
Total	1,232,701	1,162,521

Gate Receipts

Mayo V Galway	498,731
Leitrim V Roscommon	83,959
Galway V Sligo	105,138
Roscommon V Galway	270,602
Total	958,430

Schedule 2 - Commercial Income

	2018	2017
Sponsorship (Note 8)	480,000	420,700
Programs	14,097	26,654
Total	494,097	447,354

Schedule 3 - Fundraising

	2018	2017
	-	-
Total	-	-





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association
SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 October 2018

Income Schedules

Schedule 4 - Financial Income

	2018	2017
Bank Interest Received	-	-
Rent Received	119,982	122,978
Total	119,982	122,978

Schedule 5 - Other Income

	2018	2017
Affiliation Fees	236	236
Appeal Fees	200	100
Fines	5,700	400
Total	6,136	736

Schedule 6 - Transfer Income

	2018	2017
Coaches Levy from Counties	130,520	130,000
Other Grants from Croke Park	1,827,214	1,623,404
Total	1,957,734	1,753,404





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association
SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 October 2018

Expenditure Schedules

Schedule 7 - Cost of Staging Games

	2018	2017
Expenses of County Teams	140,707	132,173
Medal & Trophies	37,668	37,651
Gardai & Security	10,000	31,593
Rent of Pitches	103,052	113,465
Referees	42,623	43,031
Railway Cup Expenses	8,307	7,314
Photography & Video	4,222	19,848
Sundry Match Expenses	44,858	12,560
Total	391,437	397,635

Schedule 8 - Grounds Upkeep and Investment

	2018	2017
Maintenance of Pitches & Grounds	60,863	59,243
Grounds Investments	256,000	228,000
Total	316,863	287,243

	2018	2017
Schedule 9 - Financial Expenses		
Bank Interest & Charges	21,593	22,073
Total	21,593	22,073





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association
SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 October 2018

Expenditure Schedules

Schedule 10 - Administration Expenses

	2018	2017
Wages & Salaries	207,522	216,085
Printing & Advertising	165,606	109,670
Telephone & Postage	78,876	63,595
Honoraria	12,000	5,000
Convention Expenses	7,350	7,250
Travel & Catering Delegates	256,245	234,438
Member Tickets	25,631	25,111
Presentations	7,244	2,758
Sundry Expenses	12,967	1,500
Leasing Charges	10,404	10,404
Light & Heat	65,412	61,153
Office Repairs & Maintenance	62,606	39,432
Website Maintenance	4,920	7,995
Motor Van Expenses	2,059	3,495
Total	918,842	787,886

Schedule 11 - Grants & Promotional

		2018	2017
Annual Grants	(See Below)	58,510	29,750
Club Championship Grants		19,200	19,200
FBD Final Prizes		7,500	7,500
Bursaries		24,750	27,375
Total		109,960	83,825

Annual Grants Schedule

Cumann na mBunscoil			
GMIT Galway		16,510	-
GMIT Castlebar		4,000	4,000
Sligo IT		2,500	5,000
NUIG		4,000	-
Gaeltacht Scholarships (€500 per county)		4,000	4,000
Fenagh Handball		2,500	2,500
Connacht Handball		-	1,000
Connacht Scor		5,200	-
2nd Level Schools		2,000	3,250
		17,800	10,000
Total		58,510	29,750





Connacht Council Gaelic Athletic Association
SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 October 2018

Expenditure Schedules

Schedule 12 - Coaching & Development

	2018	2017
Wages & Expenses Coaching	839,898	1,024,934
Coaching Expenses	727,716	634,167
Total	1,567,614	1,659,101

Schedule 13 - Injury Grants & Medical

	2018	2017
	-	-
Total	-	-

Schedule 14 - Transfer Payments

	2018	2017
Public Liability & Property Insurance to Croke Park	18,000	15,000
Affiliation Fees	576	576
% Share of gate to Croke Park	109,992	40,464
Total	128,568	56,040





APPENDIX 2

Connacht Scor

Income & Expenditure Account for year ended 31st October 2018

	€	€
Income		
Connacht Council Grant		2,000
Connacht Final	Scor Sinsir	1,260
	Scor na nOg	2,551
Advertising		450

		6,261
All Ireland Scor Sligo		
Sponsorship	8,390	
Programme sales	3,975	
Door takings	3,170	

		15,535

		21,796
Expenditure		
Scor na nOg Claremorris costs	3,296	
Scor Sinsir Roscommon costs	2,152	
Advertising & Promotion	476	
Presentations	970	
Hall expenses	450	
Draw costs	448	
Printing & Stationery	376	
Bank Charges	72	
Sundry Expenses	396	
Scor na nOg Printfix	2,645	
Scor Sinsir Printfix	2,883	

		14,164

Surplus for year		7,632
		=====
Bank Balance		
Opening balance credit		109
Surplus for year		7,632
Closing Balance Credit		7,741

Sean S. Proctor
M. Mac Fíotha Ried





NOTES:

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HIGH: Galway captain Damien Comer makes a huge leap to get to the ball ahead of Kerry's Jason Foley in their GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship quarter-final Group 1 Phase 1 clash at Croke Park.
Photo: David Fitzgerald / SPORTSFILE.



Laura Fleming of Roscommon gets past referee Gus Chapman during the TG4 All-Ireland Ladies Football Intermediate Championship semi-final between Meath and Roscommon.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

