



Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Comhairle Connacht

An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2019



An Deardaoin 30 Eanáir 2020,
ar 6.30 a chlog

Ionad Chonnacht CLG,
Cluain an Churraigh,
Béacán,
Clar Chlainne Mhuiris,
Co Maigh Éo.



WINNING: The Mayo players celebrate their brilliant win over Kerry in the NFL Division 1 final.
Photo: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE.





Comhdháil Connacht CLG

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

3 Eanáir, 2020

A chara,

Tionólfar an Chomhdáil Bhliantúil don Chomhairle Connachta Cumann Lúthchleas Gael ar an Deardaoin 30 Eanáir 2020 ar a 6.30 a chlog san Ionad Chonnacht CLG, Cluain an Churraigh, Béacán, Clár Chlainne Mhuiris. Co Maigh Eo.

An Clár

	<i>Time</i>
1. Lón	6:30 pm
2. Seoladh Fáilte	8:00 pm
3. Miontuairiscí Comhdáil 2018	8:05 pm
4. Óraid an Uachtarán	8:10 pm
5. Tuarascáil an Rúnaí	8:25 pm
6. Tuarascáil an Cisteoir	8:45 pm
7. Tuarascáil ó na gCoistí Éagsúla	8:55 pm
8. Tógadh an Uachtarán, Leas-Uachtarán Cisteoir, Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí	9:00 pm
10. Aoichainteoir	9:10 pm
11. Aon ghnó eile.	9.:30 pm
12. Críoch (Cupán Tae)	9:40 pm

Ainmniúcháin

Uachtarán:	Gearoid Mac Samhrain (Liatroim)
Leas-Uachtarán:	Seán Ó Murchu (Sligeach)
Cisteoir:	Mairtin Mac Cartain (Liatroim)
Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí:	S. S. Ó hAllmhurain (Gaillimh)

Bun Órdaithe (Standing Orders)

In order that the proceedings of the Convention are carried out without delay, the following Standing Orders will be observed.

1. The Proposer of a resolution or an Amendment thereto may speak for 5 minutes, but not more than 5 minutes.
2. A Delegate speaking to a Resolution or an Amendment thereto may speak for 5 minutes but not more than 5 minutes.
3. The Proposer of a resolution or an Amendment may speak a second time for 3 minutes before a vote is taken, but no other Delegate may speak a second time to the same Resolution or Amendment.
4. The Chairman may at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed call on the Proposer for a reply, and when that has been given a vote must be taken.
5. A Delegate may, with the consent of the Chairman, move "that the question be now put" after which, when the Proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken
6. Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on the Agenda, except by the consent of the majority equal to two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote.

Connacht GAA Council Publication





GALWAY RETAIN MINOR CROWN

THREE: Galway continued their dominance of the All-Ireland minor hurling championship at Croke Park against Kilkenny. Photo: Seb Daly / SPORTSFILE.





Comhairle Cuige Chonnacht CLG

Minutes of

An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2018

Connacht GAA Centre, Thursday, 24th January, 2019

Gearoid Mac Samhrain, Uachtarán, presided at An Comhdail Bliantúil held in the Connacht GAA Centre, Cloonacurry, Bekan, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, on Thursday, 24th January, 2019.

The following members were present: Leas-Uachtarán, **Seán Ó Murchu**; Iar Uachtarán, **Micheal Mac Concarraighe**; **Matias Mac Giolla Rua** (Cisteoir); **Seán Ó hOibicin** (Oifigeach Caidreamh Poibli); **S. Ó Muilbhigh**, **P. Ó Fitchellaigh** (Liatroim); **G Ó Concubhair**, **S. Ó Niolain** (Sligeach); **P. Mac Niochlais**, **G. De Burca** (Maigh Eo); **Antaine Ó Flathertaigh**, **S. Ó Maoileannaigh** (Ros Comáin), **S. S. Ó hAllmhurain**, **N. Ó Treasaigh** (Gaillimh); **Mairtin Ó Dubhthaigh** (Reiteoiri); **Aodh Ó Rodain** (Scoilanna Dara Leibheil); **Pádraig Mac Dorcaidh**, **Leithsceil** (Triú Leibheil); **Gearoid Ó Gara** (Cumann na mBunscol); **Cathal De Creig**, PGDM; **Adrian Hasaid**, Operations Manager, agus an Rúnaí, **Seán Ó Pronntaigh**. Also present were: Iar Uachtarán, **Tomás Ó Morain**, **Pádraig Ó Gormain**, **Lorcan Ó Cuinn**, **Pronnsias Ó Cionnaith** agus Auditor, **Michael McHugh**.

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



Gaillimh: P. Ó Cearnaigh, S. Ó Grada, C. Mac Lanncaidh, C. Mac an tSionnigh, S. Ó Finneachta.



Liatroim: A. Ni Raghallaigh, T. Ó Baoil, M. MacArtain, Seán Ó Muilbhigh, P. S. Ó Miochain.



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



MaighEo: Micheál S. Ó Conghaile



Ros Comáin: Séamus Mac Suibhne, 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

Uachtarán Comhairle Chonnacht welcomed delegates to Convention. He paid tribute to **M. Mac Concarraighe** for his help and advice during his term of office. He wished delegates well in their delibera-

tions. The Uachtarán thanked **T. Ó Baoil** for his kind words.

Standing Orders

Standing orders were adopted on proposition of Ros Comáin; seconded by Liatroim.

Minutes

The Minutes of the 2017 Convention were adopted on the proposition of **N. Ó Treasaigh** (Gaillimh); seconded by **S. Ó Maoileannaigh** (Ros Comáin).

Oráid an Uachtaráin

A Iar-Uachtarán, Oifigigh an Chomhairle, oifigighí eile agus a dhaoine uaisle.

Ba mhaith liom fáilte a fhéarradh romhaibh go Comhdháil Bhliantúil Comhairle Chonnacht anocht.

Following my first year as Uachtarán Comhairle Chonnacht it is a great honour for me to address our Annual Convention. Convention is a time to review the year gone bye, and to plan for the challenges that lie ahead in 2019.

2018 will be remembered as the year that hurling outlasted football in the popularity stakes, and the decreasing numbers attending our football games is testimony to that. The reason for the falling numbers is that the standard and quality of our football games has lost favour with the general GAA supporters. However, I'm glad to state that Connacht has bucked the trend with more people attending our games and an increase in gate receipts. That's a tribute to the quality of the game in the province.

New Rules

The GAA have moved to halt the slide in attendances, by introducing five new rules that they hoped would improve the entertainment value and retain spectator numbers.

I'm very disappointed that Central Council last Saturday voted to lift the restriction on the hand pass. This, I believe, was poor judgement and no doubt it was influenced by the GPA and the number of team managers voicing their criticism. It goes to show the influence that the GPA and the county team managers have on our association. This influence is a serious source of concern and something that demands our attention. Just because the rule inhibited the managers well-rehearsed game plans, they decided the rule must be discarded rather than change their plans, the very same plans that have ruined our game. We





also had the Super Eights, of which I'm not convinced, and the 'Newbridge or nowhere saga' that did little for the image of the GAA.

Connacht highlights

In Connacht we had many highlights the foremost among which was the performance of Corofin in the AIB All-Ireland Club Championship and in particular their performance in the All-Ireland final in Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day. They are still on course for back-to-back final appearances and I wish them well. I also include the minor hurlers of Galway winning the All-Ireland Minor Hurling championship. The teams from the province continue to perform well on the national platform, with Galway hurlers within a whisker of winning their second All-Ireland; Galway footballers at senior and minor who fell short in the final stages of the Alliance National Football League and the All-Ireland Minor Football Championship. To the history-making Carrick hurlers I say *heartiest congratulation* on your historic Connacht success. Kilkenny hurlers playing in the Leinster championship at a Connacht venue was also a history making event. The performances of all our County teams is something we are all very proud.

Féile

However, the highlight of Connacht activities was the hosting of Féile na nGael here in the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence. The volume of work that went into organising the event was enormous, but there is no doubt the end product certainly made it all worthwhile. I pay tribute to the hard-working committee under the Chairmanship of **John Hopkins**; Secretary, **Michael O'Connor**, the work of the various sub-committees, and, indeed, the staff at the Centre of Excellence, for their diligence and hard graft to ensure that the event would be a success. The spectacle of the event in full swing on the final day was something to behold. This year we look forward to hosting Feile Peil na nÓg and no doubt we can look forward to an even bigger event and another outstanding success.

Initiatives and reports

I welcome the setting up by the Uachtaran CLCG John Horan of the National Club Committee under the Chairmanship of our own former Uachtarán Comhairle Chonnacht, **Mick Rock**. We have been accused of paying lip service to the grassroots of the Association, the clubs, but I believe that this initiative in a very positive step in the right direction. We cannot fix the problem until we know what it is, and the first piece of work by this committee give us a detailed insight to the problems as seen by the clubs themselves.

National Club Survey

The first piece of work by this committee, the *National Club Survey Report* outlines clearly the problems facing our clubs. If we are serious about the future of our GAA clubs we must act on the findings of this report. I look forward to the committee's recommendations.

Demographics

Contrary to public opinion, fixtures are not seen by our clubs as one of the greatest challenges facing them. According to the survey the greatest challenge facing GAA clubs in Connacht is the actual demographics and the decrease in playing numbers. Present planning restriction which forbids our young people from building on their family farm is forcing our young people to move to the nearby towns and depriving our rural clubs of having young families growing up in their communities and potential footballers are lost to their native parishes. This is a serious matter and one that should be taken up with the respective local authorities. In Connacht 31% of respondents stated that demographics are the greatest challenge while 6% said fixtures.

Fixtures

While fixtures have been quoted as the greatest problem, and numerous calls have been made to Croke Park to sort the fixture problem. Croke Park cannot sort out the fixture problems that exist in every county, as there is no template that suits all. While some tweaking to the national fixture plan which would help counties with their fixture problems, it is up to each county to put a proper and workable plan in place in each county. I appeal to each county to evaluate their fixture schedule and put a calendar of fixtures that is suitable to the needs of the county and one that can be implemented in the time available. The motions on the Clár tonight relate to fixtures and fixture planning and hopefully this will assist counties in solving the fixture problems. There seems to be a huge appetite for more games but I'm not convinced that the inclusion of more games has done anything to improve the standard of the games in our counties.

Finance

Finance is in the top three of the greatest challenges facing our clubs and while it has always been a challenge, the future financing of our clubs will only increase as rural Ireland is brought to a halt, and the weekly income gathered on the Club Lotto on the Saturday night in the local pub is fast diminishing. As finances get harder to generate there is greater onus on clubs to use the finances more wisely, and, no doubt, clubs will have to look at and possibly abandon the costly practice of spending lavish expenditure on team management.

Team managers

I believe it is time that team management at both club and county is subject to regulation. To become a team manager, I believe it should be compulsory to be on a national or provincial register. There should be a minimum coaching qualification required, an agreed expenses rate, and a code of discipline, with the penalty for any breaches to be removal from the register.

The present situation at county level, as was clearly pointed out in the E.S.R.I report on Playing Senior Inter County Gaelic Games which indicated that 46% senior inter-county footballers agreed that too much effort was being demanded of them as players, while 36%





somewhat agreed, which in total 82% of our senior inter-county players clearly stating that they were being pushed too hard. This is the reason top quality players are walking away from our games in counties that can ill afford to lose players. The club managers appointment 'Merry-Go-Round' is now in full swing, but starts earlier in recent times, and once appointments are made the till starts clicking. Is anybody doing anything about it?

Club information Seminars

Realising the need to assist and provide information and support for the clubs of the province, personnel from Connacht GAA Council visited each county and held Information Seminars, providing information on a host of relevant topics. This proved very successful and is an initiative that will continue in 2019. There is, I believe, a great need for continuous officer training to assist our club officers in the many different tasks they encounter doing their jobs.

Governance

Governance will always be an issue for the GAA at both club and county level, and I urge club and county officers to apply *due diligence* to the running of their affairs. With the huge increase in the annual budgets required to administer the activities of both clubs and county committees, finance is always the main area of concern. However, there are many other areas of concern in relation to policies and procedures, in the running of GAA Committees that require constant attention.

Two-tier competitions

The format for the future All-Ireland Football competition came up for discussion in 2018 and it would appear that there is an appetite to consider a two-tier competition. While I'm not convinced that a two-tier competition is sufficient, it would certainly be a starting point. If we were to introduce a two-tier competition it must be introduced as a second option, immediately following a team's elimination from the provincial championship. An introduction following the qualifier would be a disaster and would bring us back to the doomed Tommy Murphy Cup.

Future development at Centre of Excellence

The announcement by Minister Michael Ring, T.D., of €2.1 million from the *Rural Regeneration & Development Fund Scheme* for the future development of an indoor football pitch was a huge boost for the development of facilities here at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence. This funding will now make it possible to proceed with this development and when completed we will have the finest GAA facility in Ireland and something all of Connacht should be proud of. Further developments are also on the way. The development of the Connacht facilities in the last few years has been phenomenal.

From an address at Knock Rd., Ballyhaunis, to the office on Claremorris Rd., Ballyhaunis, to the present facilities here at Began with an enclosed pitch, all of

this progression and development has been led by one man. The man in question is Provincial Council Secretary, **John Prenty**, who with the support of various Provincial Council Management teams, and Council delegates have provided the present and future generation of Connacht footballers with the best GAA training and playing campus in this country. Another first for Connacht. To John for his vision, leadership, his hard work and dedication we owe a serious debt of gratitude.

Retirement

In 2018 **John Tobin** retired after many years of dedicated service to development of Connacht coaching and to the provision of facilities here at the Centre of Excellence. I thank John for his dedication and hard work and wish him well in retirement. We are very fortunate to have a very able replacement in **Cathal Cregg** to I wish the best in his new role.

Committee

To all the committees of the council who have worked very hard throughout the year, I want to say a very special word of gratitude. To our dedicated delegates who have been extremely supportive of all our initiative throughout the year I say a sincere 'thank you'. To the dedicated staff here at the centre I say 'thank you' for your hard graft and you dedication the various projects I sincerely 'thank you'.

Operations manager

To **Adrian Hassett** our Operations Manager who works so hard not only during the week but also on weekends and match days, I say a very special word of thanks for your commitment, and dedication to promoting the work of Connacht GAA.

Report

I want to draw your attention to the very elaborate report from our provincial secretary contained in tonight's booklet. I ask you to give this report the respect that it deserves and I ask you for some debate on matters raised in the report. An enormous amount of work has gone into it, so it merits debate. To **leas Uachtarán, John Murphy**, who eloquently deputised for me quite a bit towards the end of 2018 I say a sincere 'thank you', to our efficient PRO, **John Hopkins**, also I say a sincere thanks.

Sympathy

I would like to mark the passing of former council treasurer and council delegate, **Jim Meehan**, and to express the sympathy of the council to his family. I express sympathy also to the families of the other people who have contributed to the workings of the council but have recently passed to their eternal reward.





Retirements

NOEL TRACY

Tonight three members of the council are attending their last Connacht Council meeting. Galway delegate, **Noel Tracy**, is leaving us, and I want to thank Noel for his dedicated service to the Connacht Council and his commitment to the committees on which he served. We valued your experience, and your advice and everything you done was for the betterment of the GAA.

MICK ROCK

Tonight **Mick Rock** takes his leave of absence having served Connacht Council in many different positions, as delegate, PRO, Leas Uachtarán, and Uachtarán. Mick you have given outstanding service to Connacht Council and you excelled in every role you played. As an orator you were outstanding, and your sense of humour was always a very valuable commodity, as we worked our through the many challenges that faced us. I wish you the best in your future endeavours.

MATTIE KILROY

Mattie retires following three years as Council Treasurer. I have known Mattie for the last nine years as both of us joined the council at the same time. Mattie has been a most dedicated treasurer, a man of honesty and integrity, who always carried out his duties with a smile on his face. We are fortunate to have a man of his calibre in charge of our finances and tonight's accounts are proof of that. Mattie has been a great friend of all us and we look forward to his company as he continues to work on various committees of the council.

I welcome our new Treasurer, **Martin McCartin**, from the Drumreilly club in Co. Leitrim. Martin became treasurer of Leitrim Co. GAA Board in 2018 and has done a remarkable job. He has introduced many new initiatives and has kept the finances of Leitrim Co. GAA Board in top shape. I look forward to working with Martin into the future.

I also want to welcome our new delegate **Christy Brown** to the council and I look forward to working with Christ in the future.

To the people who keep us in the lime light, photographer **James Molloy**, our Twitter and Facebook specialist **Brían Mangan**, I say a sincere 'thank you'.

Our publication '*Into the West*' continues to serve us well and hopefully in 2019 we may be able to add some new features to this popular magazine.

Finally, I want to launch a campaign to ensure that every club in the province has adequate facilities for people with disabilities at their grounds. I intend to make this a one of my priorities during 2019. Having being incapacitated for some time recently I now more than ever realise the need for such facilities.

It has been a great honour for me to serve as your Uachtarán for the last year and to everybody that I worked with I thank you for your patience, and support during the year and I look forward to working with you in 2019.

Go raibh míle mhaith agat.

Gearóid MacSamhráin

Uachtarán Comhairle Chonnacht.

Tuarascail an Rúnaí

The Secretary's Report was adopted on the proposition of **S. S. Ó hAllmhurain** (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. Mac Giolla Rua, gave a comprehensive explanation of the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet. He returned thanks to the Council Auditor, **Michael McHugh**, 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 Uachtarán 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 Níochlas.

Togadh an Uachtarán, Leas-Uachtarán, Cisteoir, Rúnaí

The following officers were elected:

Uachtarán: *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.

Cisteoir: *Mairtin Mac Cartain* (Liatroim)
Proposed, P. Ó Cearnaigh; seconded, B. Ni Samhrain

Oifigeach Caidreamh Poibli: *Seán Ó hOibicin* (Maigheo) Proposed, M. Ó Conghaile; seconded, P. Mac Níochlas

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

1: 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).

Aon Gno Eile

This concluded Convention.

Cathaoirleach.



HEROES: Sligo celebrate after their win over Armagh in the Nicky Rackard Cup final on a scoreline of 2-14 to 2-13.

Photo: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILÉ.





Tuarisc an Rúnaí 2019

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 craoibh na hEireann i 2019

2019 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

Oranmore Maree: All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Champions

Sligeach: Nicky Rackard Hurling Champions

Liatroim: Lory Meagher Hurling Champions

Maigheo: Allianz League Div. I Football Champions

Gaillimh: Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Champions

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

Roscommon CBS: All-Ireland Senior 'B' Football Champions

St Raphaels, Loughrea: All-Ireland Senior 'B' Hurling Champions

Unsuccessful in national finals were:

Gaillimh: All-Ireland Minor Football Final

Gaillimh: All-Ireland Junior Football Final

Liatroim: Div. IV Football League Final

St. Thomas: All-Ireland Senior Club Hurling Final

Easkey: All-Ireland Junior Football Final

Gaillimh: Intermediate Camogie Final

Presentation, Athenry: All-Ireland Senior 'A' Hurling Final

St Paul's, Oughterard: All-Ireland Senior 'C' Football Final



17 March 2019 – Joint-captains Ciarán McGrath, left, and Micheál Lundy of Corofin lift the Andy Merrigan Cup following the AIB GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Club Championship Final match between Corofin and Dr Crokes at Croke Park in Dublin. Photo by Harry Murphy/Sportsfile

“Off the Field” football All-Stars were won by **Patrick Durcan** (Mayo).

Champion 15 Awards went to Leitrim's **Enda Moreton** and **James Glancy**.

With Sligo's **James Weir**, **Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch** and **Keith Raymond** also being honoured. **Keith Raymond** received the Nicky Rackard Cup “Player of the Year”.

Camogie All-Stars were won by Galway's **Sarah Healy**, **Shauna Healy**, **Sarah Dervan**, **Heather Cooney**, **Aoife Donoghue**, **Niamh Kilkenny** and **Ailish**

O'Reilly; with **Niamh Kilkenny** taking the “Player of the Year” honour.

Ladies' Football All-Stars came to Galway's **Sinéad Burke**, **Nicola** and **Louise Ward**, **Tracey Leonard** and Mayo's **Rachel Kearns**.

Our Scór committee had a very successful year. For the second year in-a-row the All-Ireland finals were in Connacht at the TF Royal in Castlebar.

Four All-Ireland titles came to the province. Scór na nÓg titles came to **Naomh Muire, Co. Liatroma** (sa chomórtas Bailéad-Ghrúpa) and **Mainistir Chnoc Muaidhe, Co. na Gaillimhe** (sa chomórtas Rince Seit). In Scór Sinsir, **Micheál de Búrca** as Baile an Doirín, Co. na Gaillimhe won the Amhránaíocht Aonair; while **C.L.G. Achadh Mór, Co. Mhaigh Eo** took the Rince Seit title on the day. I wish to complement the Scór committee for their tremendous work during the year.

Handball, ladies' football and Camogie continue to flourish in the province and I compliment the provincial committees for their hard work and dedication in each area.

Congratulations to Roscommon PRO, **Hugh Lynn**, McNamee award winner; **Declan Bohan**, Leitrim PRO who received the “Gaeilc Writers Association PRO of the Year Award”. Congratulations also to Presidents Award winners the **Smyth Family**, Boyle, and **Noreen Corcoran**, Kilglass Gaels.



The Connacht GAA Centre was very busy during the year with the highlight being the organisation of the John West Féile Peil which brought over 50,000 people into Connacht and also the commencement of work on the erection of an Indoor Playing Dome.

Overall 2019 was a good year for our Association in the province.

Senior football championship

The Connacht Senior Football Championship commenced on Sunday, 5th May, in Ruislip, London, in which Galway had an easy 1-16 to 1-9 victory over London.

Meanwhile, later that evening, Mayo people travelled in their droves to Gaelic Park, New York, to see New York play the recently-crowned League





Champions, Mayo. I hope that they brought home fond memories of their visit to the Big Apple because the game was forgettable and did nothing for the integrity of the championship with Mayo winning by 1-22 to 0-4, in dire conditions.

In the other quarter-final, Leitrim travelled to Dr Hyde Park with high hopes following promotion from Div. IV of the Allianz League. However, a well-organised Roscommon outfit emerged victorious on a 3-17 to 0-12 scoreline.

The semi-finals pitted Galway and Sligo at Markievicz Park; while Roscommon travelled to Elvery's MacHale Park to meet the home side.

Galway emerged with an easy 3-11 to 0-7 victory over Sligo; while Roscommon were victorious over Mayo, following an enthralling game, by the narrowest of margins 2-12 to 0-17.

The Connacht final again saw Roscommon travel to Pearse Stadium to play the reigning champions, Galway. After a ding-dong struggle the 'Rossies' took the Nestor Cup amid scenes of great joy on a 1-13 to 0-12 scoreline and thereby qualified for the All-Ireland quarter-finals for the second year-in-a-row.

In the qualifiers Leitrim had a memorable 0-15 to 0-13 over Wicklow at Avantcard Páirc Seán MacDiarmada in Round 1. London were defeated by Offaly in this round also on a 1-21 to 1-11 scoreline.

In Round 2 Mayo began their 'travels of the countryside' with an away game against Down in Páirc Esler in Newry. After a ding-dong struggle Mayo eventually emerged victorious by 1-16 to 1-11.

Leitrim had another home game with Clare in Carrick-on-Shannon before eventually losing by 3-17 to 0-17. Offaly overcame Sligo in the same round by 3-17 to 0-15.

In Round 4 Mayo welcomed Armagh to Elvery's MacHale Park and were somewhat fortunate to hold on for a one point victory by 2-13 to 1-15.

This win set up an all-Connacht Round 4 decider which had to be played at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick, due to concerns over the expected attendance. Mayo were first out of the blocks and set up a commanding lead before Galway roared back into the game; but the final whistle came too soon with Mayo winning by 2-13 to 0-13 to qualify for the All-Ireland quarter final series.

Mayo, Kerry, Meath and Donegal were on one side of the draw with Roscommon, Tyrone, Dublin and Cork on the otherside. Mayo travelled to Killarney for a repeat of the Allianz League final but Kerry easily reversed the result when winning by 1-22 to 0-15. Mayo recovered in the next round by defeating Meath 2-17 to 0-14 in Croke Park which set up a 'winner take all game' with Donegal at Elverys MacHale Park.

This was a wonderful occasion, full of colour, passion and expectation before a capacity crowd. The game was a full-blown contest with Mayo coming out on top on a 1-14 to 1-10 scoreline to qualify for the All-Ireland semi-final.

In the other half of the draw Roscommon, again, welcomed Tyrone to Dr Hyde Park but were defeated by 0-17 to 0-13.

They then travelled to Croke Park where Dublin defeated them by 2-26 to 0-14. Roscommon completed their campaign travelling away to Cork to play an emerging home side in Páirc Uí Rinn. After a very encouraging display Roscommon had a well-deserved 4-9 to 3-9 victory over the Leesiders.

In the All-Ireland semi-final Mayo led Dublin at half-time amid expectations that a shock might be on the cards. However, in a typical third-quarter display Dublin completely dominated to qualify for the All-Ireland Final by 3-14 to 1-10.

In the other semi-final Kerry overcame Tyrone by 1-18 to 0-18 to qualify for an intriguing final with Dublin.



CHAMPIONS: Roscommon celebrate their thrilling Connacht SFC victory over Galway at Pearse Stadium in Salthill.





The final took two days to settle the argument with Kerry dominating much of the first day's action before neither side could be separated by a scoreline of 1-16 each.

The replay saw Kerry, again, have an outstanding first-half but again a third-quarter masterclass from Dublin saw them emerge with an historic five-in-a-row titles by 1-18 to 0-15.

At the end of the Connacht Championship Kevin Walshe stepped down as Galway manager and has been replaced by Pádraig Joyce for the 2020 series. All other managers remain in place for what is expected to be a great championship. Roscommon travel to London for a Saturday game with Galway playing New York in Gaelic Park, on the following day. Mayo travel to Carrick-on-Shannon for what undoubtedly will be a full house. The winners of that game play the winners of Roscommon/London in the semi-final with Sligo awaiting the winners of Galway/New York in the other semi.

Hopefully we will have an exciting, hard-fought championship with all teams showcasing the skills which makes Gaelic football such an exciting and great game.

U-20 Championship

The U-20 competition was given a window from April 1st until the All-Ireland final on August 3rd for collective training and games. Challenge games were not permitted during 2019. In all a ten-week window was granted for the preparation of teams up to the All-Ireland Final.

This is a more than adequate period for managements to get their act together. Why then did county chairpersons, in particular, advocate for the competition to be brought forward to February/March citing the costs of preparation of the teams as the main reason?

The scheduling of the 2020 competition brings players at second and third level into direct conflict with the County U-20 teams. The decision to restrict

college players to their college teams has not gone down too well but it is the inevitable result of trying to fit a 'quart into a pint bottle'. Again it highlights the folly of those with no responsibility for scheduling games making very flawed decisions based on cost of team preparation in the main.

I have no doubt if the same county officers had ensured that the start date for preparations had been adhered to then the cost factor would have been alleviated! Most counties had six months preparation done by April 1st and some commenced training for the 2020 competition last August.

The Connacht championship was well-contested with an excellent first round game which went to extra-time before Roscommon defeated Leitrim by 3-17 to 4-13.

In the semi-final Mayo defeated Sligo by 1-25 to 1-6; while Galway had a 0-17 to 1-7 victory over Roscommon.

In the final a far superior Galway side took the title by defeating Mayo by 0-16 to 0-10.

In the All-Ireland semi-final Galway were defeated by a Dublin side 2-14 to 0-10; while Cork won the All-Ireland Final.

The upcoming U-20 Championship promises to be very interesting. The preliminary round sees a repeat of last year's final with champions, Galway, travelling to MacHale Park to play Mayo. The winners of this game will play Leitrim in the semi-final with Roscommon travelling to Markievicz Park to meet the Yeatsmen.

Minor Football Championship (U-17)

The Minor Football Championship was played again on the 'Round Robin' format in year two of the series.

This year's competition was fascinating with the eventual semi-finalist not being known until all Round Robin games had been completed.

The first round saw Roscommon come from behind when Aaron Oyiki scored the goal of the year with a late strike to defeat Galway by 1-17 to 1-15 at Dr Hyde



The Oranmore-Maree players celebrate with the cup after the final whistle at Croke Park.





Park. Mayo defeated Leitrim in the same round by 1-20 to 0-6.

In Round 2 Mayo defeated Roscommon 4-14 to 0-6; while Galway had a 0-15 to 0-10 victory at Tuam following an excellent game.

Round 3 proved to be an important round with victories by Roscommon 5-15, Leitrim 0-8 and Sligo 0-16, Mayo 0-12.

Galway defeated Mayo 2-12 to 0-11 in Round 4 while Sligo had a 1-20 to 1-9 victory over Leitrim. The crunch round was round 5 with everything to play for. Galway qualified for the Connacht final by virtue of a 5-24 to 1-4 victory over Leitrim while Sligo defeated Roscommon 2-15 to 4-7.

This put Sligo, Mayo and Roscommon on equal points on the table which set up a Mayo v Sligo semi-final date. This was played at MacHale Park which caused some confusion but - followed the rota of the round robin series. Mayo emerged victorious by 5-7 to 1-10.

The Connacht final, played at Tuam Stadium was, in my opinion, the game of the year. It was an enthralling contest which ebbed and flowed in both directions before Mayo eventually took the title by 1-18 to Galway 1-17 after extra-time.

In the All-Ireland quarter finals both Mayo and Galway had well-deserved victories.

In a high-scoring game Mayo 5-12 defeated Dublin 2-19; while Galway had a 1-17 to 0-15 victory over Kildare.

In the All Ireland semi finals late Cork goals saw Mayo defeated by 4-12 to 1-13 while Galway had a marvellous 0-14 to 0-13 victory over Kerry in a thriller.

The All Ireland Minor Final was a brilliant game with a patrons on the edge of their seats all through the second half. In the dying minutes Cork seemed to have the title in their grasp before a stunning Galway goal sent the initiative back in favour of the Tribesmen. From the kick out Cork went the length of the field to score a great equalising goal to send the game into extra time. Eventually Cork took the All Ireland title by 3-20 to 3-14.

Junior Football Championship

Four teams competed after Leitrim received a walk-over from Roscommon. Again the championship drew little interest from spectators and with teams struggling for players. In the semi-finals Galway defeated Sligo 2-15 to 0-8; while Mayo were lucky to defeat Leitrim by 2-15 to 1-14.

In the final, played at Pearse Stadium as a curtain raiser to the Connacht senior final, Galway retained the title by defeating Mayo 1-7 to 0-9.

The All-Ireland semi-final was played at Dr Hyde Park where a high-scoring affair saw Galway defeat Meath by 7-17 to 5-22. In the final Kerry again prevailed over Galway on a 3-14 to 0-13 scoreline.

This championship has lost its lustre and importance in recent times and consequently the council have decided that the Connacht Junior Championship will not be played in future.

FBD Insurance Competition

At the beginning of January, 2019, the FBD Insurance Competition grabbed all of the sporting headlines when the Leitrim v Mayo game at Carrick-on-Shannon had to be completed by means of a penalty shoot out, after the sides could not be separated on a scoreline of 2-13 each. Mayo progressed to the semi-final by virtue of a 5-4 win on penalties. One of the highlights of the day was to see the hordes of children congregate behind the goals to see the shoot out.

History was repeated the following week when, again, a shootout was required to separate Galway and Mayo who drew 1-9 all before Galway progressed to the final again on a 5-4 scoreline before a large crowd.

In the other semi-final Roscommon defeated Sligo 2-18 to 1-16.

The final at Tuam Stadium saw Roscommon retain the title by defeating Galway on a 0-13 to 1-5 scoreline.

On behalf of the council I wish to thank the counties and teams for their support of the 'finish on the day' format and the decision to finish the games



Leitrim celebrate on the field at Croke Park after their stunning Lory Meagher Cup final triumph.





by a penalty shootout. The format has been adopted now in other competitions and has proven to be a novel and successful way of putting certainty into our fixtures schedules.

I wish to thank FBD for their continued valued support for the council and the competition and look forward to continued support into the future.

Ted Webb Cup

The Ted Webb Cup continues to provide competition for Development Squads at U-16 level. Galway fielded three teams this year with Mayo fielding two and Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim each fielded one team.

Sligo took the Plate by defeating Roscommon by 0-15 to 1-5.

The Shield was won by Galway CW who defeated Mayo EW by 2-13 to 2-10.

The Ted Webb Cup was regained by Mayo NS with a 1-11 to 0-8 victory over Galway North.

The 2020 format sees the competition commence on Saturday, 22nd August, with semi-finals on the 1st September and the final on the 4th September.

This in no way should interfere with club competitions and counties will have to take a serious look at the amount of preparation time being taken up for what is after all a development competition.

Club Championship

Our clubs have again been to the forefront of the All-Ireland club title race where the excellent Corofin put together back-to-back All-Ireland senior titles; while Oranmore Maree took the All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling title.

At senior hurling level St Thomas' were defeated in the All-Ireland Final by Ballyhale Shamrocks; while Sligo champions, Easkey, were denied an All-Ireland title when losing to Beaufort in the All-Ireland Junior Football Final.

The county championships were, again, well-contested this year with Corofin (Galway), Ballintubber (Mayo) and Tourlestrane (Sligo) retaining their county

senior football titles with new champions in Leitrim, Glencar Manorhamilton, and Pádraig Pearses in Roscommon taking their county championships. In London, champions, Tir Chonaill Gaels, retained the London Championship.

Pádraig Pearses, fresh from their first Roscommon Senior Championship win, travelled to Markievicz Park where they defeated Tourlestrane by 3-7 to 0-6. In the other quarter-final Ballintubber defeated Glencar Manorhamilton at MacHale Park on a 1-11 to 0-9 scoreline.

Pádraig Pearses brought a huge crowd to Ruislip and qualified for the Connacht Final with a 2-10 to 0-8 victory over Tir Chonaill Gaels.

The other semi-final saw a repeat of the 2018 final when Corofin again defeated Ballintubber at Tuam Stadium by 1-10 to 0-11.

The final at Tuam Stadium was a hard-fought affair but the experience of Corofin told in the end when they won on a scoreline of Corofin 1-10 Pádraig Pearses 0-7.

The All-Ireland semi-final saw a renewal of the rivalry between Corofin and Nemo Rangers with the Galway men again prevailing by 1-10 to 0-7.

Kilcoole (Down) defeated Ballyboden St Enda's in the other semi-final and will attempt to stop Corofin winning an historic three-in-row of All-Ireland titles. Hopefully Corofin will be crowned All-Ireland Champions by the time of Convention.

At Intermediate level The Neale (Mayo), Leitrim Gaels (Leitrim), Tulsk Lord Edwards (Roscommon), Oughterard (Galway) and Geevagh (Sligo) won their respective county championships.

In the Connacht series, Tulsk Lord Edwards had a narrow 1-13 to 1-12 victory over Leitrim Gaels in the quarter-final.

In the semi-finals Tulsk were defeated by Oughterard at Dr Hyde Park by 2-16 to 1-8; while at Markievicz Park, The Neale proved too strong for Geevagh on a 4-13 to 1-11 scoreline.

The final, at MacHale Park, was a great occasion when neighbours across the county divide, Oughterard and The Neale, met in the provincial final. The



Padraig Pearses players and supporters celebrate with the cup following their victory over Roscommon Gaels at Dr Hyde Park.





Galway men had the upper hand on the day when taking the title by 1-16 to 0-11.

Oughterard progressed to the All-Ireland semi-final where they defeated Templenoe (Kerry). We wish them well in the All-Ireland Final against Magheracloone of Monaghan.

At junior level Glenamaddy (Galway), Ballinameen (Roscommon), Kilmaine (Mayo), and St Michael's (Sligo) won their county Junior titles.

The first round produced a brilliant game with Kilmaine getting the upper hand over Galway champions, Glenamaddy, on a 4-8 to 2-11 scoreline.

St Michael's received a 'walk over' to the final and in the semi-final Ballinameen travelled to MacHale Park where they were defeated by Kilmaine 3-20 to 0-6.

The final was a one-sided affair with Kilmaine taking the title on a 5-17 to 0-3 scoreline.

Kilmaine progressed to the All-Ireland semi-final where they were unlucky to lose after extra-time by the narrowest of margins to Kerry and Munster Champions, Na Gaeil.

Leo Kenny Cup

The Leo Kenny Cup was won by Charlestown who defeated Knockmore in the final.

Minor Club Competitions

The minor club competitions again proved to be an outstanding success. In the 'A' competition St Brigid's defeated Knockmore by 1-16 to 2-12 in a thrilling quarter-final; then St Mary's, Kiltogher, by 2-14 to 1-19 in the semi-final.

In the other semi-final Salthill-Knocknacarra, defeated Sligo champions, St Farnan's, by 3-15 to 0-5. The final was a brilliant game whereby Salthill-Knocknacarra held out to defeat St Brigid's by 1-12 to 2-8.

In the 'B' Championship, Strokestown (Roscommon), The Neale (Mayo) Melvin Gaels (Leitrim), St Mary's (Sligo), and Oughterard (Galway) competed.

St Mary's defeated Oughterard by 2-14 to 1-11 in the semi-final; while Strokestown took the long route

by defeating The Neale 3;11 to 2;10 in the quarter-final and Melvin Gaels 3-17 to 0-7 before having a 1-15 to 1-9 victory over St Mary's in the final.

These competitions are a marvellous way of ending the year for our club minor sides. 2020 will see a change in format with the competition being organised as an U-17 competition in accordance with the age grade policy recently adopted at national level.

Hurling competitions

Pride of place in club Hurling goes to Connacht 1918 champions, Oranmore Maree, who went all the way to All-Ireland honours by winning the All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship in February. I wish to congratulate the club on their marvellous and historic achievement.

In the county championships, St Thomas (Galway), Tooreen (Mayo), and Carrick Hurling Club (Leitrim) retained their county titles with new champions in London, Robert Emmets. Kinvara, Galway; Naomh Eoin, Sligo, and Four Roads, Roscommon. At junior hurling Michael Breathnach's took the Galway title.

In the Intermediate Hurling Championship, Tooreen defeated Four Roads by 0-29 to 0-19 in the quarter-final, played at Athleague. In the semi-final Tooreen came with a very late surge to bring Robert Emmets to extra time and were lucky to prevail in the end by 0-30 to 1-23.

In the final Tooreen had a well-merited victory over Galway champions, Kinvara, by 0-21 to 2-10. This was a huge achievement by Tooreen who were winning their second Connacht Intermediate Hurling title in three years. Unfortunately, they were defeated in the All-Ireland semi-final by Munster and Cork champions, Fr O'Neill's by 0-19 to 1-12.

At junior level Naomh Eoin defeated Carrick HC by 0-17 to 1-11 in the semi-final before losing the final by 1-12 to 0-8 to Michael Breathnach's (Galway). Unfortunately Breathnach's were defeated in the All-Ireland semi-final by Cork side, Russell Rovers 1-26 to 1-15 following what has been described as a classic game.

At inter-county level it was a marvellous year for



19 October 2019 - Ballintubber players celebrate with the trophy following the Mayo County Senior Club Football Championship Final match between Ballaghaderreen and Ballintubber at Elverys MacHale Park in Castlebar.





the Sligo and Leitrim hurlers. Sligo took the Nicky Rackard Cup; while Leitrim won the Lory Meagher Cup and received a marvellous reception at Avantcard Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada when introduced to the crowd at half-time in the football qualifier game between Leitrim and Clare.

Galway senior hurlers had a disappointing year and failed to reach the knockout stages of the Leinster and All-Ireland championships.

Congratulations are due to the Galway Minor Hurling team who, again, took the All-Ireland title.

In the Celtic Challenge national titles came to Connacht with half of the available titles being won by teams from the province. Congratulations are due to Div. I winners, Galway Maroons; Div. IV champions, Roscommon, and to Leitrim who won the Div. VI title.

In an effort to provide more hurling to under age clubs Táin Óg Leagues were organised with over 30 teams participating.

In 2020 Táin óg Leagues will be run in at child (U-11), youth (U-13) + (U-15) regionally and expanding into the national An Táin Óg Leagues. These leagues will be played on Saturday mornings in April, 11-a-side with unlimited substitution. Hopefully this move to April will encourage more participation.

In the Connacht U-16 Hurling Championship the title went to Ballinderreen.

The past decade/new opportunities

At the beginning of the decade, 2010, the country was in the midst of a deep recession following a number of years of excessive spending by the people of Ireland. Most of us had been living above our means following years of *keeping up with the Jones'*. Have we, as an Association and our county committees, in particular, learned anything from the excesses of the past? It appears from the evidence of the past ten years that we have learned very little. Our counties have slowly increased their expenditure, year-on-year, due in the main to copycat tactics and the mistaken

notion that we must keep up with the perceived expenditure of so called successful counties.

An examination of the total expenditure of our five county committees in the past decade clearly has the warning signs flashing again

Year	2010	2014	2019
Expenditure	€6,095,063	€7,575,420	€11,920,150

This runaway train shows a 100% increase between 2010 and 2019. A further analysis of the expenditure shows that, after direct and indirect costs are taken into account, almost 60% of the expenditure has been on the inter-county game which caters for just over 1% of the total playing population who are involved at the elite inter-county level. The copycat tactics of the county committees is driving the Association into the realm of elitism, commercialism and "investment in the few over the general good of the Association".

The demands of inter-county team managers and players is increasing exponentially to the point that they must train more, have more professional staff involved and consequently we must spend more.

Recent reports of the ESRI highlights the demands being placed by the inter-county game on the players to the point that they claim that it is a burden on them to play the game and that the demands of their team managers is becoming too much. This is a game, a pastime that players and officials should enjoy.

Surely the GPA, as the voice of the players, must have a role in addressing the welfare of their members by engaging with the team managers to ensure that players are not being burnt out and that the demands being placed on them is balanced. The elite inter-county player is a valuable role model for our young players in their local communities. They should and are being looked after as is highlighted in our expenditure analysis, which does not take into account the infrastructural spend on providing the necessary facilities for the playing of our games.



St Raphael's College, Loughrea, senior hurling squad which overcame Castlecomer Community School in the All-Ireland Post Primary Schools final at O'Connor Park, Tullamore. Back row, from left: Tiernan Killeen, John Cooney, Conor Keane, Cathal Byran, Eoin Callagy, Naoise O'Malley, Cathal O'Hehir, Dara Unlacke, Shane Coyle, Cian Warde, Conor Slattery, Ryan Kelehan, Adrian Prendergast, Adam Nolan, Josh de Swart, Jordan McMahon, Euan Walsh, Iain Griffin, Robert Connaire, Evan Cox. Front row, from left: Oisín Connaughton, Alex Connaire, Dean Moran, Kieran Hanrahan, Shane Morgan, Ben Keane, Ciarán Connaughton, Joe Jackson, Darren Shaughnessy, Aidan Fahy, Seán Connaughton, Louw Botes, Keith Dervan, Stephan O'Halloran, Mark O'Regan, Pierce Mannion.





We must also remember that the expenditure has to be balanced, on the income side, by the efforts of our voluntary county officials. There has not been an ESRI Report on the demands placed on our voluntary county officials who in the main:

- Do not claim or receive expenses
- Do not get a nutrition allowance
- Who spend an average of 40 hours per week administering the affairs of the Association in their counties
- Who must try and balance the club and inter-county affairs in their counties
- Who have to meet the demands of sponsors, benefactors and supporters
- Who are the butt of “keyboard warriors” who see the county board officials as fair game for any and all type of comment.

Below the county committee level we have the ‘real GAA’. The people who work tirelessly and voluntarily, day and night, in our clubs and who have:

- Nurtured our players from nursery to adult level
- Who take great pride in seeing one of their players make a county development squad, county minor or U-20 team or ultimately a county senior team
- Who do not complain when they rarely see their protégés play regularly for their club
- Who wash the jerseys, line the pitch, fund-raise tirelessly, all for the pride of the club

No matter what expectations our players, officials and supporters have there is one thing that we should not forget ... the future success of our counties cannot be dependent on spending more! ‘Liam’ or ‘Sam’ are not for sale. The best players always win out in the end!

If we do not stall the runaway train then many of our counties will not be financially viable, some will no longer compete at inter-county level and we will march blindfolded into a competitive structure whereby the All-Ireland Final will be played between franchised teams. Could you imagine the Connacht Warriors playing the Munster Rebels.



31 March 2019 – Galway players, including Lorraine Ryan, centre, celebrate with the cup after the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 Final match between Kilkenny and Galway at Croke Park.

It is time to rebalance our actions, confirm our amateur status and ensure that our culture and ethos is diverted away from elitism which is leading us on a dangerous path.

Help may be at hand in the guise of the Report of Talent Academy & Player Development Review Committee, under the chairmanship of **Michael Dempsey**.

The report aims to provide a clear vision for all of our members for player development in our clubs, schools and colleges and our counties.

In the Player Pathway Framework the club is firmly placed as the key stakeholder in player development and this is aligned to the progression at school and county level. The report issues recommendations for Education, Governance and a Games Programme. All of the recommendations of the report are structured in a linear way which allows players to move up and down through the phases from foundation to elite and back down again.

In my opinion there are three elements to the report that are vital to the success of our operation into the future.

1. The club is the central component of the player development pathway
2. At the talent stage it is vital that we adopt the recommendation that U-13 and U-14 are broad-based regional squads where players are allowed to show potential which can be developed as they progress along the pathway. The current Development Squad Model is fostering elitism at this young age. We must be vigilant that this new model is rigidly adhered to.
3. The Establishment of Uniform Age Grades across club and county.

This report and previous reports have pointed out that there should be a clear unambiguous divide between the underage and adult competitions. It is accepted that at inter-county level that a U-17 player should not play at adult competition and the recommendations propose that at all levels of the Association that all grades from U-17 down are developmental. This is now association policy. Policy also states that within the developmental range the minimum requirement for counties is that they should operate U-13, U-15 and U-17 age grades as a minimum requirement. In addition counties who wish to operate additional age grades at U-12, U-14 and U-16 may do so in consultation with Games Development Committee.

We need a clear policy, rather than rule, for the development stage of our young players. In tying into the various stages of the Player Pathway Framework the age grades policy is sensible and also fits into the recommendations of the Fixtures Review Committee who have clearly identified the almost impossible task of county fixture makers in marrying a programme that attempts to accommodate an underage and adult schedule with youths and adults playing together.

As we move into the new decade our future depends on tough decisions being made that will see the culture, values and ethos of the Association take prime position.





Fixture Calendar Review Task Force Report

In my report last year I asked our counties to embrace the new changes and enhance the fixtures scheduling for the benefit of our clubs. I recognised the difficulties encountered with county team managers in balancing the schedule of club fixtures, involving county panellists v. the inter-county schedule. We as a Council, have been tasked in Rule to Monitor, supervise and advise a county committee within its jurisdiction on its performance in the area of fixtures administration. In order to achieve this Rial 3.31 T.O. directs that a Council Fixtures Monitoring Committee shall be established to monitor the progress of each counties fixtures programme.

Most of the fixture problems being encountered by clubs have solutions in each of our counties. The question is where do we start?

Uachtarán John Horan established the Fixture Calendar Review Task Force under the Chairmanship of Eddie O'Sullivan and its report was issued in November.

There was wide consultation with c50 written submissions and almost 1,300 responses to the survey, extensive examination of previous reports in this area and initiatives implemented in recent times. In particular the Task Force was aware of the imbalance that exists between the inter-county and club games.

The report highlights three main areas:

1. It highlights suggestions and recommendations regarding the oversight and governance arrangements relating to games and competitions which if implemented would go a long way, in the view of the Task Force, to resolve many issues raised, particularly in relation to the playing of club fixtures.

2. Secondly, the report sets out a series of recommendations on the various inter-county competitions in the national calendar regarding specific aspects referenced in our terms of reference.
3. A number of options for the senior football championship around which new structures for the National Fixtures Calendar could be considered.

The report highlights 32 recommendations that take into account the differing needs of the player from an inter-county point of view and a club point of view. It tries to balance the sometimes incompatible effects of scheduling v format and the options given for the football championship gives a choice to retain an enhanced status quo or a radical new format.

In my opinion the Report will hinge on the acceptance of :

RECOMMENDATION 1, TO ESTABLISH:

- > A new oversight unit consisting of full-time provincial personnel and feeding into a national grouping to be established. Club fixtures to be the remit (or part remit) of at least one employee in each province
- This person to be a member of the new oversight unit at national level, of the Provincial C.C.C. and of the Central Fixtures Analysis Committee
- Its remit will be to ensure counties use all available dates to play games with county players (while respecting provisions of the 10-day rule).
- Their responsibilities to include reviewing – and approving – club fixture programmes at start of season on county by county basis and monitoring adherence throughout.
- Monitor adherence to closed season.
- Unit to be given authority in Rule to establish appropriate sanctions for breaches.



Oughterard – Connacht Intermediate champions 2019





This is a vital recommendation which should be seen as a major support for county CCC in implementing a fair, certain, consistent and sustainable fixture programme in their county. The unit will not be prescriptive but will ensure that once a Fixture Calendar is approved by the clubs in a county then each club can be confident that the dates schedule and the rules of the Association will be adhered to.

Other recommendations in this area outline that:

2. The new oversight unit should be set the immediate task of reviewing the effectiveness, sanctions, practicality of what is already in place and to bring recommendations as necessary to Central Council for change.
3. '10 Day Rule' to cover all club games (not just club championship).
4. No inter-county challenge games to be permitted in the month of April – sanction to be proposed by new oversight unit.
5. Fixture programmes in a prescribed format, to be submitted to Provincial Councils by end of December (not February as currently) – sanction to be proposed by new oversight unit.

SCHEDULING MODELS

6. U-17 season to be scheduled on a pilot basis as a multiple windows model Closed Season/Pre-Season:
7. The pre-season provincial competitions should be retained but not commence until post January 1st (unless football championship Option 2 is adopted in which case only the Hurling competitions should be retained). They should be restricted to five designated dates annually. These would be determined by the national C.C.C.C. (the 1 st three weeks/weekends of the year) and the competitions restructured by each province and tailored to fit the time available
8. There should be no senior inter-county activity (on-field training, trials or challenge games)

between a team's exit from the championship and December 1st each year – penalty (relevant to team rather than county officers) to be included in Rule for breaches Third Level Competitions. This recommendation will in effect bring a much needed closed season into operation for our county players and teams.

Recommendations in the Second Level Schools and Third Level Colleges area include.

9. General Rule to state that the Sigerson Cup must be completed on or before the 5th Sunday of the year; Fitzgibbon Cup to be completed on or before the 7th Sunday of the year.

SECOND LEVEL SCHOOLS

10. Rule should state that Post-Primary 'A' and 'B' finals in football should be completed by the last weekend in January and in hurling by the weekend after St Patrick's Day annually.
11. All-Ireland Finals should only be played at 'A' and 'B' levels – all other levels should be played on a provincial basis (i.e. to provincial finals) only.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The other recommendations mainly dealing with eligibility and formats are highlighted below:

12. Central Council to approve, in principle, that Galway club champions participate in one of the other three provincial Senior Club Hurling Championships.
13. Rule to be introduced that county club senior and intermediate championships to consist of a maximum of 16 teams with a two-year lead-in period for counties to adjust their competition structure.

ALLIANZ LEAGUES

14. Current structures and format to be maintained (if options 1 or 3 for the football championship are adopted).



Roscommon CBS defeated Scoil Phobail Sliabh Luachra in the Masita All-Ireland Post Primary Schools' Senior B Football Championship Final.





15. Introduce semi-finals in all groups of Div. II and III of the National Hurling Leagues.

U-20 Football

16. Rule to state that U-20 football championship be played in February/March
17. Eligibility to be restricted to players who have not played in the National Football League in that year
18. C.C.C.C. to draw up for discussion a Round-Robin style national championship proposal to replace the existing provincial championships and that will guarantee all U-20 county teams a minimum of three games.
19. No collective training or games at U-20 level pre-December 1st - appropriate sanction to be proposed by new oversight unit U-20 Hurling
20. U-20 Hurling championship to be restricted to players who have not played in the Liam MacCarthy Cup in that year (until that county is eliminated from the senior championship)
21. Leinster and Munster Provincial Champions to advance directly to the All-Ireland Final
22. All-Ireland Finals to be completed no later than the 31st Sunday of the year for both U-20 and U-20 'B' Hurling competitions
23. C.C.C.C. to be asked to draw up a new competition structure for U-20 Hurling for the consideration of Central Council based on a knock-out Open Draw national competition
24. No collective training or games at U-20 Hurling level pre-April 1st - appropriate sanction to be proposed by new oversight unit

MINOR FOOTBALL AND HURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

25. Minor (U-17) inter-county championships should become tiered developmental competitions and be decoupled from senior All-Ireland semi-finals and finals
26. Separate C.C.C. linked to national C.C.C.C. to be put in place for inter-county activity up to and including U-17. This group to identify appropriate windows during which the developmental competitions should be played.

27. U-20 grade to be retained as the only inter-county grade between U-17 and senior for the moment and until other recommendations are given time to bed in.

All-Ireland Junior Football Championship

28. All-Ireland Junior Football Championship to be discontinued.

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

29. Hurling Development Committee to consider whether Liam MacCarthy group(s) should expand to 6 teams - any recommendation must not expand current calendar footprint for provincial hurling championship and should take account of knock-on effects for lower tiers All-Ireland Senior Football Championships.
30. Align the start of the Connacht Football Championship with the start dates for the rest of the provincial championships (relevant only if current football championship structures are retained).
31. Play the Senior All-Ireland Hurling and Football Finals on consecutive weekends.
32. Three potential options for consideration in Football Championship:
 - Provincial restructure based on 8 teams in each province.
 - National League format for championship played in summer months/ provincial championships in Spring.
 - Retention of current trial structures with extended Spring club window.

In the coming months it is planned to meet with county officers and to hold seminars at which all stakeholders, clubs, players, schools will be invited. Some of the recommendations will be on the Clár at Congress in February with the major proposals brought to a Special Congress later in the year. People will have their own views on the proposals and especially on the formats but it is important that the matter is regarded as of the upmost importance to the future of all aspects of the Association.

Finally, I repeat what I said for the last two years: "this is our last chance to get the balance right and if we fail the alternative may be to remove club fixture



Kilmaine - Connacht Junior champions 2019





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**, has overseen and supported a games-based approach in all of our activities.

Under the stewardship of our 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, Sceimiliuna have brought coaching to every corner of the province in 2019.

All of our coaching activities are underpinned by the National and Provincial Coaching & Games Development Plan and are based around six key areas and all of our counties tailor their Coaching & Games Development Plan to meet the individual needs pertaining to their county.

6 Key Areas:

- > Child Games Opportunities (0-12 year)
- > Youth Games Opportunities (12-18years)
- > School Initiatives
- > Camps
- > Talent Academies
- > Learning & Development

In each of our six areas significant progress has been made during 2019:

1. **Cúl Camps:** 182 Camps have taken place with a total of 23,848 boys and girls participating. This marks an overall increase of 4% across the province on the 2018 numbers. 472 coaches have been employed in the camps and this has had a major effect on the clubs areas they are members of. I would like to thank our games managers, full time personnel, coaching officers, coaches and clubs for the huge effort that has been put in to organising the camps. I particularly wish to thank National Cúl Camp Co-Ordinator, Charles Harrison; the County Games Managers; overall the camps ticked the targets that led to their establishment on day one, i.e., a fun and enjoyable experience for our children.
2. **Games Opportunities (0-12 Years).**
Go Games has been firmly embedded into our psyche and calendar now and all games for children u-11 ensures that every child gets to play in every game. Our Go Games Days in Croke Park were very successful with 48 teams in hurling and football competing and where we had 882 participants. In addition 10 Gaeltacht clubs and 300 children participated in our Gaeilge Day in Croke Park in September. Another successful initiative has been the U-12 Skills Challenge which saw two of our smaller clubs Eastern Gaels (football) and Four Roads (hurling) take Connacht titles.
3. **Youth Opportunities (12-18)**
In this area huge work has been progressed in the

province. Friday Night Lights saw over 700 players from 48 clubs participate in a hugely-positive atmosphere over four nights. This was repeated with similar success in February and March. This is an initiative that must be continued into the future. The Future Leaders Initiative has been a huge success with 58 schools taking part in the 2019/ 2020 school year.

The 5 Star centres had 5,595 participants in 70 national schools who participated in the Have a Ball, Fun & Run Programmes.

4. **Schools:** A comprehensive schools programme at primary and second level is being provided throughout the province.
5. **Talent Academies**
Among the Connacht initiatives in addition to the national days were the Ted Webb Cup, Dermot Earley and Seán Purcell Academy Days in football; and the Niall McInerney and Connolly Cunniffe Hurling Tournaments. All of the initiatives contributed to a structured games programme for our academies and development squads.
6. **Coach Education**

Our Coach Education Committee oversaw the delivery of a total of 129 GAA Football and Hurling Courses with 2,892 participants involved. In December 50 coaches participated our Provincial Award 2 Coaching Course that was delivered by our coaching tutors. It will be run over five full days with and one day in each of January, February, March and April of 2020.

Our Club Support Programme had 34 clubs complete the programme. The programme assesses the club's current status of coaching and games through a forum facilitated by a Connacht GAA tutor.

In order to improve coaching and games 3-5 goals are set down by the club to best meet their own needs. The final night of the process is a review of the programme by the county games manager and the tutor that facilitated the first night. It is intended that all clubs will be facilitated by this initiative over time.

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).

For 2020 all of our coaching officers have come to the end of their term of office. I welcome the new Coaching Officers, **John Tobin**, Galway; **Declan O'Reilly**, Mayo; **Peadar Niland**, Sligo; **Paul Murphy**, Leitrim, and **David McDonnell**, Roscommon.

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**. Special thanks is also due to **Padraic Ó Conaire** for his work under Sceimiliuna.

Also to our Third Level Officers, **Michael Harte** (S.I.T.), **Damien Curley** (G.M.I.T.) **Michael O'Connor** (N.U.I.G.) 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. Their student trainees, **Aine Lenighan** (Mayo), **Elizabeth McNicholas** (Galway Hurling), **Jack Hynes** (Galway Football), **Martin Feeney** (Leitrim), **Oisín McDonnell** (Sligo), **Shane Carrington** (Roscommon); 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.

2020 will see the retirement of **Pat Daly** as Coaching Director. Pat has had an immeasurable impact over the Association in Coaching and Games Development in all his aspects. His final achievement has been to again organise another Coaching Conference at which over 900 people attended. Pat now moves on to the area of research and development. Already his initiative of “Going Well” is being hailed across the sporting and educational spheres. This programme is designed for the modern, fast-paced world full of technological innovations that teenagers today are growing up in. It is a basic learning resource that nurtures personal growth and infuses a sense of “Belonging” - belonging to one’s class, one’s school, one’s team, one’s local club and community, the broader Association and ultimately to the Irish nation. The programme will have far reaching effects for the association for a long time.

I wish to pay tribute to 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 **Caomhe Ni Neill**. I congratulate **Shane Flanagan** on his promotion to Coaching Director and we in Connacht will offer him our fullest support.

Games For All/Health & Wellbeing

In 2019 we amalgamated our Games for All Committees and our Health & Wellbeing Committee into one committee under the chairmanship of **Mattie Kilroy**, which reflects the inclusion of Games for All Programme within the remit of the Community & Health Department in Croke Park. The amalgamation has been a resounding success and facilitates greater collaboration between the two former separate committees in areas of mutual interest.

The committee is responsible for the following areas:

1. Review status of county Health & Wellbeing actions plans and targets.
2. Review status of county’s Games for All action plans and targets.
3. Manage all relevant Provincial Games for All and Health & Wellbeing activities.
4. Provide direction and support to the provincial structures, including Coaching/ Games and external partnerships, on related areas of work and activities.
5. Ensure promotion of Health & Wellbeing and Games for All Programmes and activities at provincial level.
6. Provide feedback and reporting on activities and

meeting to the respective national committees and provincial council.

The committee has formulated an action plan for all of our clubs under the following criteria:

- Action 1** - Continued development of your County Health & Wellbeing Committee and structures.
- Action 2** - Recruit Tutor(s) and facilitate training for Club Health & Wellbeing Officers.
- Action 3** - Adopt County Critical Incident Response Plan and support clubs to adopt theirs.
- Action 4** - Support Phase II of Healthy Club Project.
- Action 5** - Grow the number of people trained in safeTALK in your county.
- Action 6** - Re-energise and promote the Social Initiative in your county.
- Action 7** - Identify any additional actions your committee would like to focus on.

The committee worked tirelessly in promoting the various activities under their remit in what was a very successful year.

I wish to pay tribute to all involved with the various initiatives:

Chairperson: **Mattie Kilroy**;
 Secretary: **Denis O’Boyle**;
 Connacht: GAA President: **Gerry McGovern**;
 Connacht Secretary, **John Prenty**, and
 Connacht Games Manager, **Cathal Cregg**;
 Galway: **Christy Tyrrell**, **Iggy Clarke**, **Ruth Mulkerins** and **Justin Campbell**.
 Leitrim: **Terence Boyle**, **Barbara Loughlin-Byrne**, **Pat Feeley** and **Michelle Fanning**.
 Mayo: **Séamus Tuohy**, **Seán Mac Éil** and **Mary Prenty**.
 Sligo: **Tim Hynes** and **Trevor Coen**.
 Roscommon: **Oliver Donagher**, **Noel Collins**, **Barry Lowe**, **Sharon McManus** and **Frank Egan**.
 Rounders: **Peter Lyons**.

Schools & Colleges

2019 was a successful year for schools and colleges competing at second and third level.

It was a very busy year for our colleges and vocational schools where the standard of our games continues to grow; three All-Ireland schools titles came to the province with victories for Roscommon CBS in Senior ‘B’ Football; St Raphael’s, Loughrea, in Senior ‘B’ Hurling and Presentation, Athenry, in Junior ‘A’ Hurling.

On the playing fields St Colman’s, Claremorris, took the Senior ‘A’ football title, after beating St Gerald’s in the Final. Colmans were beaten in All-Ireland semi-final by eventual champions St Michael’s, Enniskillen.

Roscommon CBS took the ‘B’ football title and the Richie Bell Cup when defeating Summerhill College in the Connacht final. In the All-Ireland Series CBS made it to the All-Ireland final where they had a thrilling last gasp victory over Scoil Phobail Sliabh Luachra by the narrowest of margins.

At ‘C’ level St Paul’s, Oughterard, defeated Balla Secondary School to take the Connacht title before being defeated narrowly in the All-Ireland Final by Patrician Academy, Mallow.

Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin took the ‘D’ title defeating Dunmore CS in the final, but lost the All-





Ireland semi-final by two points to eventual champions Ballybay.

St Gerald's, Castlebar, won the Junior 'A' title when defeating St Jarlath's in the final. They were defeated by eventual winners, St Colman's, Newry, in the All-Ireland semi-final.

In Senior 'A' Hurling Presentation, Athenry, defeated Gort CS.

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

Presentation College, Athenry, were crowned All-Ireland Junior 'A' Hurling champions when taking the 2018/19 All-Ireland title.

Overall 2019 was a very successful year for our Post-Primary Schools. Over 2,000 games were organised including our leagues and championships and 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.

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. I wish to congratulate Hugh on his recent selection to receive a President's Award for his services to the education sector. It is richly deserved.

At Third Level 2019 was a very busy year with an increase in participation on the previous year 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 Championship.

NUIG captured the Freshers Div. II Football League title. NUIG also qualified for the Freshers Div. I Football League Final but were narrowly beaten by

Ulster University. GMIT also captured the Freshers Div. II Hurling League title. Sligo IT won the Junior Football Championship.

At Freshers level NUIG captured the Freshers 'A' Football Championship.

In the hurling championship GMIT had a brilliant victory in the Ryan Cup and also won the Freshers Div. II Hurling Championship to complete a league and championship double at this level while GMIT Letterfrack won the Pádraig MacDiarmada competition.

The future of Gaelic Games at third level faces many challenges into the future including:

- Pressure on smaller colleges to qualify and compete in Sigerson Cup.
- Exam and inter-county U-20 team participation in January.
- Player eligibility due to the multiplicity of courses being offered in the sector.
- Number of students leaving the province to go East and South in particular.
- Scholarship rat race.

Despite the challenges being faced Gaelic Games continue to prosper in our Connacht Third Level institutions and the increased cost of accommodation for students attending courses outside Connacht may, in the future, see an increase in numbers in our Connacht Colleges in the coming years.

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. 44 Bursaries have been awarded in the current year.

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** (GMIT), **Michael Harte** (Sligo IT) and **Michael O'Connor** (NUIG) for their co-



Kilmaine – Connacht Junior champions 2019





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

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 160 boys and girls participating.

Cumann na mBunscol also brought new initiatives for handball and Rounders and are to be complimented for their work.

In 2019 the Primary Teachers In-Service Course continued to grow in popularity and were attended by a record number of teachers.

Finally I wish to pay tribute to the representatives of the Educational Sector on the Council, Padraig McGourty (Third Level), Hugh Rudden (Secondary 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/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:

- Corporate Trustees
- Coaching initiatives
- Club Planning
- Strategic Planning
- Steward Training
- Officer Training

Last year the Council produced a Club Manual which is available to all clubs clubs and is an invaluable reference point for club officers/coaches, etc., on a wide range of topics and issues

Among the topics included are such issues as:

- > Coaching
- > Services at Connacht GAA Centre
- > Club Information on
 - Membership
 - Fundraising
 - Tax Relief for Donations
 - Property transactions
 - Trustees
 - Borrowings
 - Injury & Insurance Funds etc.

I encourage all units to secure a copy of the Manual which is available through the Connacht Offices.

The Council attempted to get a picture of the club facilities in the province in early 2019. Unfortunately there was a very poor response with just over a 50% response. At a time when clubs complain over increas-

es in Insurance Premia and also a claims loading it is extremely disappointing that the response was so poor. Maybe it is something that we discuss this issue with the county development officers after Convention.

Over the past number of years the Council and Ard Chomhairle has provided grant aid towards club development. Annually €370,000 has been awarded to clubs in the province to supplement the great works they are undertaking in very difficult times.

Major work has been undertaken or at the planning stage of development in our county properties

Roscommon County Committee are at the planning stage for the development of Dr Hyde Park and are exploring all avenues to fund the cost of this. They also are exploring the possibility of relocation their County Training Centre to the environs of Roscommon Town which is a very sensible development. The county committee are to be congratulated on their major success in their Win a House in Dublin draw which amassed over €1m. We wish them well in their new initiative of Win a Home in London that has the potential to be a huge success. This funding will go a long way towards the costs of their planned developments.

Sligo opened the revamped Markievicz Park for the Connacht senior game v Galway. The new pitch returns the park to its former glory of being one of the best pitch surfaces in Connacht.

Leitrim had a proud day when they opened their County Training Centre at Annaduff. They embarked on a hugely successful funding initiative "Buy a brick for the wall" which has enhanced the development and is a credit to the county officers and county committee.

Tuam Stadium has developed new dressing-rooms and a seated terrace which has enhanced all aspects of the stadium.

In Mayo different options are currently being examined to provide additional training facilities in the county.

Overall we must continue to ensure that our county grounds have a capacity and an infrastructure which appreciates the current needs of our stakeholders and patrons. The National Infrastructure Committee are at an advanced stage in their preparation of a report of the infrastructural needs of the Association. I assume that the Report will highlight the significant infrastructural funding challenges which the Association will face going into the future.

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

- Sarsfields, Galway
- Aughavasy, Leitrim
- Charlestown Sarsfields, Mayo
- Kilmore, Roscommon
- Eastern Harps, Sligo

Hugh Rudden in his report on Pitch Maintenance, highlights the work of the committee. This is a very important resource for our clubs to have who continually strive to have their facilities in excellent playing condition.





An important initiative under consideration is the performance testing for GAA pitches. This will be rolled out in 2020 and will be a valuable asset for our units to measure the quality of their playing surfaces.

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.

I also wish to pay tribute to the National Infrastructure Committee, under the chairmanship of **John Murphy**, for their support and advice during the year.

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

Connacht GAA Centre

2019 has been a very busy year at the centre with an estimated 80,000 passing through the centre and participating in various activities. This is a phenomenal amount of activity.

Among the highlights during the year were:

- Féile Peil
- Integration Seminar hosted by Minister Michael Ring, TD, Minister for Department for Rural & Community Affairs, and David Stanton, Minister for Equality, Immigration & Integration.
- “Friday Night Lights”
- Hosting of various county teams
- Performance Analysis Workshops
- Club championship games
- Hosting of Celtic Challenge
- Over 1,500 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 1,000 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 is an initiative that continues to be a huge success. 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, Rounder’s 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.
- The centre has also been extensively used by the wider community. The Blood Transfusion Board has set up regular quarterly clinics.

Our Strength & Conditioning Officer, **Séamus Burns**, is responsible for all aspects of the training and development of teams at the centre. Below he highlights the activities and services delivered in 2019.

“2019 was again a very hectic and enjoyable year for the strength and conditioning department of Connacht GAA. Projects such as coach education, fitness testing, team programming, video analysis and our student intern programme, made for a full schedule.

“Our highly-regarded Physical Fitness Course has entered its sixth year and has proved both popular and very useful for academy and club coaches. In 2020 we had 70 coaches take part from across five counties. This course provides coaches with up-to-date information from a sports science base and combines this data with useable practical aspects that can be implemented with team and clubs of all standards. Subjects such as fitness testing, warm-ups and supervision of body weight strengthening programmes gives participants the tools to implement a safe and productive physical fitness programme with their players. We have completed assessment days in all five counties and have a very high successful pass rate. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the tutors in each county who administer the course on a day-to-day basis and this vital work is very important to the smooth running of the programme”.

Connacht GAA continue to provide strength and conditioning services and advice to all teams across the province. This past year alone has seen close to 700 fitness tests take place at the Connacht GAA Centre. Academy, clubs (both adult and underage) and individual players of all GAA codes have made use of this service. These fitness assessments provide managers, coaches and players with important data on the physical conditioning of their players and can help identify strengths and weaknesses in both the team and individuals. A lot of teams have also availed of our programming service which offers teams conditioning programmes to allow their players to develop all the physical components necessary to develop and improve as players. With the impending development of our new Dome this service will further develop in 2021 with new testing protocols being implemented which in turn will increase the knowledge and awareness of physical conditioning for all players in the province.

“Connacht GAA are to the forefront of developments in performance analysis, what is increasingly becoming a more important aspect of team and player development and preparation. Adding to the already outstanding individual player analysis facilities contained in the gym area of the centre which has been hugely popular with both clubs and counties throughout the province since the centre opened in 2012, we are now offer world class in game video analysis to all teams who are interested in availing of it.

The introduction of 5 HD cameras which simultaneously record the action on our main pitch as well as 3 HD cameras on another pitch provides a variety of excellent vantage points to management teams and players alike. This is an invaluable learning tool for all teams that wish to make use of the facility. We are now seen as one of the market leaders in the country in relation to video analysis capabilities. The system allows teams to have a multi-angle overview of their overall team set up and will also enable them to focus





on individual player movements which will be useful in pointing out to players exactly what they are doing well or what they could be doing differently to help their team. This state-of-the-art development also gives the opportunity for in game coding for teams, offering up to the minute statistics and information available to them. Management teams have the option of viewing this footage live as the game is progressing if they should so wish, but they will also get a copy of the game recorded from all five angles to take away with them allowing for more in-depth post-game analysis, creating the opportunity for more evidence-based education for players.

“Another benefit of the new equipment we have installed is that it will allow us to be more active in streaming games that take place at the Connacht GAA Centre live on our YouTube Channel. This is something which has proved to be popular over the recent seasons. This streaming service has been utilised for games at a variety of levels such as schools, academy and club adult and underage. By using this equipment and technology that we have installed here at the centre we are able to offer a much better viewing experience to the fan who is unable to attend the game but is eager to watch it, be they at home or part of our overseas diaspora.

“Our third level student placement programme was again seen as a massive success for both the participants and their assigned counties. In its fifth year this programme involves the placement of six students, nearing the end of their studies in the sports science field, within each of our counties. These students provide support at academy and club level within the counties while also offering support to our staff on a variety of projects. The placement lasts around nine months and is mutually beneficial to both parties as the participants get real life experience of their chosen field and we get to deliver more services across the province to both club and county players and coaches. For all their efforts while with us, I would like to take this opportunity to thank this past year’s interns, Aine Lenighan (Mayo), Elizabeth McNicholas (Galway Hurling), Jack Hynes (Galway Football), Martin Feeney (Leitrim), Oisín McDonnell (Sligo), Shane Carrington (Roscommon); and wish them every success in their future careers”.

All of the work at the centre is designed with one goal in mind i.e., 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 2020.

In October the Contract was awarded for the construction of the new 150 x 100m **Air Dome** (height of 26metres), the new facility will contain a full-size GAA field, a gym with testing area. The dome will provide year round indoor facilities to ensure the continued focus on sports as a cornerstone of rural communities. Prunty Contracts have been awarded the contract and the works will be supervised by Tobin Consulting Engineers.

The completion date is late April, 2020, and this heralds a new and exciting chapter for the future of Connacht GAA.

On behalf of the Council I wish to thank **Minister**

Ring and also CEO of Sligo Leader Partnership, **Chris Gonley**, for their cooperation in progressing this project

2020 promises to be an exciting time and I look forward to a further increase in activity at the centre.

Twining

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 to facilitate at all times. As part of our Twining with Asia **Aaron Costello** took up a seven month Development Officer role in Singapore. Due to the rapport that Aaron built up while there the position has been continued for a further 12 months where he has been coaching over 2,000 children and coordinated the Asian Youth Games with 150 children from Singapore taking part. I wish to compliment Aaron for his dedication and commitment to the job.

Our Twining with New York continues with the highlight of their year was hoisting almost 7,000 patrons at the Connacht Senior Football Championship game v Mayo. New York also had boys and girls team participating at the Féile Peil in 2019 in Connacht and they have plans for two teams to travel again in 2020.

In December **Cathal Cregg** and **Damien Coleman** delivered Club Support Programme over two days. During the year **Simon Gillespie**, Games Manager, resigned from his position and was replaced by former Hurling Development Officer, **Micky Quigg**, has now taken up the role of Games Manager while Wexford-native, **Jonathan Rochford**, is the new Hurling Development Officer.

London is our closest Twining partner and is an integral part of the Connacht Senior Football Championship and now the Connacht Club Senior Football and Intermediate Hurling Championships. The partnership with the club championships is most important and the crowds that travelled to Ruislip last year with Tooreen Hurling team and this year to the football semi-final with Pádraig Pearses coupled with the hospitality they received from the London Board was much appreciated.

I wish to compliment former London Secretary/Treasurer **Mark Gottsche** for his cooperation during his term in London and to thank him for his cooperation at all times. I wish Mark well in his new role as Operations Finance Manager with Galway County Committee and look forward to working with him in his new role.

Mark has been replaced by fellow Galwegian and London County hurler, **Stephen Lohan** as Operations/Finance Manager with London GAA. Again we offer Stephen our fullest support and currently are working him in the preparation of a Strategic Plan for London GAA.

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 **Brían 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. Brian has highlighted the areas of work which he has been involved in the following report.

PR & Communications Report

- Brían Mangan 2019

This was my second year working at the Connacht GAA Centre as Communications Manager. As part of this role, I am Responsible for the development and implementation of all Public Relations (PR) and Media related strategies for Connacht GAA and to cover all major events, as well as raising the profile of the Provincial Council.

It was a most enjoyable and particularly busy year, considering that on top of the full games programmes and numerous coaching and games initiatives taking place around the province, we also hosted the largest Féile ever held in Ireland and broke ground on our state of the art **Air Dome** on site at the Connacht GAA Centre!

Website

From the outset in my role, a big challenge was to get connachtgaa.ie up to scratch as it is the first port of call for the public to find out about fixtures, results and day-to-day news concerning Connacht GAA. In 2019 we partnered with Laird Design who revamped our site and ensured that the correct fixtures and results are displayed in an easy to read format. I would like to thank Kristina at Laird for all her help and patience in helping me with this project. We also updated the coaching and games section of the site to add new resources and drills for use by anyone interested. It is now a fantastic resource for all coaches as the content on it is in line with all current GAA best practices for each age group and I would encourage everyone to check it out when they get an opportunity (Connachtgaa.ie/coaching/).

All other major events, like for example the Connacht Bursary Awards or Club Ground of the Year Award, are also publicised with a news item on the website and accompanying videos and photographs.

Social Media

Social Media is the most useful tool at our disposal to highlight the excellent work going on in the GAA across Connacht. I am delighted with the growth of our Twitter and Facebook pages (@ConnachtGAA) and this is due to the consistency of the content being

added to it and the help from various contributors who send content for publication. We currently have 32.3k Twitter followers and 8.5k Facebook followers. Photos, match reports and general information on the day to day happenings in Connacht GAA are all reported on Twitter and Facebook. We also introduced a Coaching and Games Twitter Page in each county this year and they have been hugely successful, each highlighting the fantastic day to day work going on in each individual county. I'd like to thank all contributors to these pages as they have had a massive impact already. This is extremely important as as an association we are sometimes too focussed on the negatives and don't give ourselves enough credit for the huge benefits the GAA brings to Irish society.

Through our Connacht GAA YouTube Channel we streamed a number of games at the Connacht GAA Centre live with the state of the art equipment available here and these drew huge viewership's in the 10s of thousands overall. This is an area we hope to develop further on in 2020.

Match Day Promotions

I am responsible for the collection of information for all match programmes at Connacht GAA for games at all levels and I would like to thank all Club PRO's and secretaries I have dealt with as well as the five County PRO's for their co-operation in getting everything together on very tight deadlines. Coming up to the big Club and Inter-county Championship games we have promotion schedules that we stick to where we release the teams on a certain day as well as videos and interviews collected from the championship launch which help to create a buzz in the week leading into the games. All championship games at all levels club and county are live tweeted to give those who are unable to attend score updates with a report provided at the final whistle on our website. This is an area we are also going to develop in 2020 with the launch of an Instagram page and increased video content and infographs to help promote our games further. Man of the match awards are also presented at each Connacht Championship match with the recipients being congratulated on Social Media with an accompanying photograph.

Coaching and Games

2019 was the year which we launched our Coaching and Games Quarterly Report, an online newsletter which gives all the information, facts and figures on Coaching and Games in Connacht over three month periods. The initiative has been extremely popular so far with several thousand downloads per month and in 2020 we will look to advance it by adding a video and podcast version to reach a wider audience in line with modern audience media consumption habits.

As stated earlier a large emphasis was put on the promotion of the work in coaching and games in 2019. The success of our County Coaching and Games pages was highlighted above. There are also several coaching based tweets a week which are posted on the Connacht page and have proven to be extremely popular and which we have received great feedback





Ground work for the Air Dome.





on. This is something we will expand on in 2020 as we look to add more drills and content to the coaching section of connachtgaa.ie.

Events

We also hosted many events and workshops at the centre this year including performance analysis, diversity and the various coaching Awards and Courses run through Connacht GAA.

The Feile on the last weekend of June was a fantastic occasion and took a massive co-ordinated effort, including getting and posting the scores out as quickly as possible so that teams knew where they were playing next and against who. It was also a perfect opportunity to promote the centre as we had massive crowds and beautiful weather so we took as many photos and videos as possible and posted them to social media.

The development of the new **Air Dome** at the Connacht GAA Centre received lots of positive media coverage throughout the country as it is such a unique and innovative project. The updates we have been providing on social media on the progress at the site have been very well received as everyone is looking forward to seeing the finished project. This will be another challenge in 2020 as we will look to promote the facilities provided here at the Connacht GAA Centre with the addition of the new indoor playing pitch at the Dome and all the opportunities that will come with that. It will be a fantastic addition to the GAA community in Connacht and further afield so we must be careful to maximise our use out of it.

Brian has been a tremendous asset to the workings of the Council.

Tickets.ie our ticketing provider has streamlined 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.

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 RTE most weeks throughout the year sees some type of game shown on television.

TG4 and RTE Radio has 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 Roscommon, and the Connacht Final. Both games reflected positively on the standard of the games in the province. I wish to thank all of the TV 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 2019. The local radios, newspapers, Radio na Gaeltachta, RTE 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.

I also wish to thank **Padraic Corcoran** and **Seán Lynch** for the production of programmes for all other games.

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 **Siobhan Brady** from the Communications Department in Croke Park for their help.

Changes to the Council

2020 will be a time of change and this Convention sees a number of changes to the Council. Current PRO and former Treasurer, John Hopkins, comes to the end of his term of office on Connacht Council. John has been a tremendous asset to all of the Councils affairs. He is being replaced as PRO by Galway Delegate John Joe Holleran. John Joe brings a wealth of GAA experience to the role.

Mayo delegates, Paddy McNicholas and Gerry Burke complete their term of office on Connacht Council. Both have made a telling contribution to the council and they are wished well in their future roles in the Association. Paddy moves to Ard Chomhairle and Coisde Bainisti and we wish him well there. At the time of writing the new Mayo delegates have not been decided upon.

Galway Delegate, **John Joe Holleran**, in moving to PRO is being replaced by Tommy Kelly. Tommy is no stranger to the workings of the council and has worked closely with Connacht in his former role of Development Officer of Coisde Chondae na Gaillimhe.

John Niland, Sligo delegate, also has come to the end of his term on the Council. John has worked very hard on behalf of the Council during his term and we wish him well for the future. He is being replaced by Tubbercurry clubman, Dermot Gannon.

I wish to thank all of the officers and members of the council for their guidance and support during the year. Also to all our sub-committees who have done Trojan work on behalf of the council. Míle buíochas.

Sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to the many GAA families who suffered bereavements in 2019.

Leitrim mourned the passing of former player, **Frank Mulvey**.

Galway lost former players, **P. J. Qualter**, **Tom (Pook) Dillon**, **Peter Cooney** and also former hurling board officer, **Miko Donoghue**, and club stalwart, **J. P. Kelly** (Caltra).

Mayo was particularly hard hit with the passing of former footballers, **Séamus John McCallion** and **Pádraig Carney**.

Sligo lost noted supporter, **Seán Sweeney**; while Roscommon lost All-Ireland winner, **Liam Gilmartin**,





and **Ann Grogan**, wife of former player Kieran, due to a tragic accident

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.

Buiochas

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 subcommittees, CCC, Coisde Iomana, Development, Coaching and 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 who have had a busy year. In addition to their normal work in recruitment, development and training they were tasked with organising officials for over 850 Feile games over one week end. Míle buíochas the Marty and **Seán Martin** for this invaluable task. I also wish to pay tribute to retiring referee **Eamon O'Grady** for his unstinting service over the years.
- 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. Leitrim County Secretary, **Attracta O'Reilly**, has come to the end of her term of office as county secretary and I thank her for her help and advice, Attracta is replaced by the **Declan Bohan**, who brings a wealth of experience to the role. Leitrim Chairman, **Terence Boyle**, and Mayo Chairman, **Michael Connolly**, have come to the end of their terms as county chairmen. I wish to thank them for their cooperation during their terms of office. Terence has been replaced by **Enda Stenson**; while **Liam Moffatt** takes over as Mayo Chairman. We wish them well during their term of office. Mayo Treasurer, **Kevin O'Toole**, has also stepped down and I wish him well and thank him for his help over the years.
- 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, John West, McKeever Sports** 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 Accountant, **Michael McHugh**, and Auditor, **Gerry O'Mara**, for their 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, **Tomas Ó Riain**, and all of the staff at Páirc an Chrocaigh for their continued valued advice, courtesy and assistance.
- To Uachtaran, **Seán Ó hOrain**, I say míle buíochas for his advice, support and help during the past year.
- I wish to thank Coaching and 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 cooperation.
- I pay tribute to **Séamus Burns**, Strength & Conditioning Officer, for his trojan work in the Connacht GAA Centre. Séamus has coordinated 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 undertook a mammoth task in organising the largest ever 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, Martin McCartin** and **John Hopkins** for their major and unselfish contribution to the workings of Chomhairle Connacht in 2019

In conclusion I look forward to 2020 and, hopefully, it will be a successful one for the province.

Rath De oraibh go leir.

Seán Ó Pronntaigh,
Rúnaí.





Planning & Physical Development Committee 2019

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 funding made available to the various units within Connacht is most welcome and ensures that they 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 wellbeing of our state.

Club Trustees and Vesting

There were five ‘Club Trustee Update’ workshops 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 Company. 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.

The members of the Committee are; **Gerry McGovern, John Murphy, John Prenty, Martin McCartin, John Hopkins, Christy Browne, Pat Feeley, Gerry Burke, Anthony Flaherty, Gerry O’Connor, Adrian Hassett.**

Club Grants

Annually the Council has grant aided Connacht GAA Clubs to the tune of €370,000 towards club Infrastructure development. In the past year 70 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 which greatly enhance local communities and facilities for club members. 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 2019 were as follows;

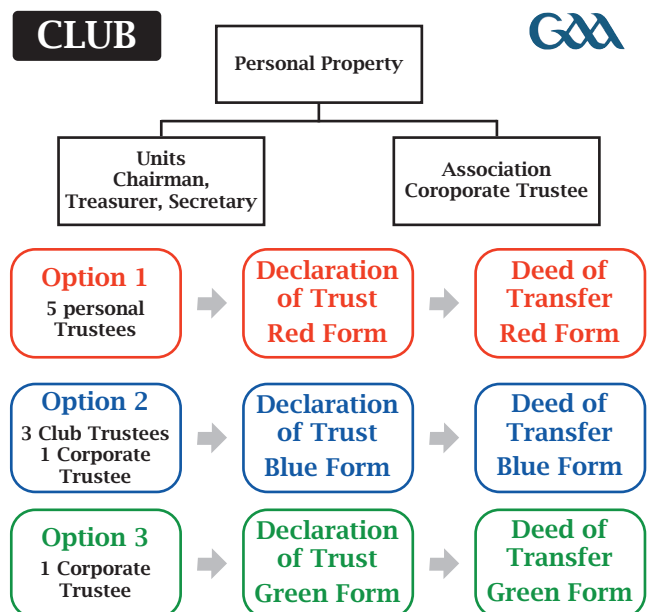
- Galway- Sarsfields GAA
- Leitrim- Aughavas GAA
- Mayo- Charlestown Sarsfields GAA
- Roscommon- Kilmore GAA
- Sligo- Eastern Harps

Eastern Harps GAA Club emerged as the overall winner of the Connacht GAA Club Ground of the year 2019 .

Sports Capital

In 2019 Sports Capital funding was made available to sporting units throughout the country, 57 clubs in Connacht benefited to tune of € 2,173,217. Projects range from Clubhouse developments, Pitch development to purchasing equipment, (Defibrillators, Mowers etc).

See pag 34 for full list of recipients





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 cooperation 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 U20 Football & U21 Hurling Championships, U20 Development Football League and Galway's home games in the Leinster Hurling Championship as well as the National Feile Peil Competition. The various Grounds Committees and County boards had their facilities prepared and ready with a full quota of voluntary stewards, gatemen and staff to assist in the smooth running of each event.

Steward Training.

The National Health & Safety Committee revised and updated the content of the Steward Training Course and were joined by Europlan as the accrediting body on the delivery of these courses. To date Sligo (32 participants) and Galway (92 participants) have had Steward Training delivered in their counties with further courses scheduled for Leitrim, Mayo and Roscommon in February. I would like to thank the respective County Development Officers who have coordinated the delivery of these courses. Within the province we have trained up 3 Tutors to assist in the delivery of these courses. This is a significant boost to us in that we have Connacht Tutors who can be available to deliver these courses to the counties.

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.

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 colleges matches, I would like to thank them for this.

National Infrastructure Committee

The National Infrastructure Committee under the Chairmanship of John Murphy are finalising 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 in 2018, and the IT Audit. The plan is divided into three areas;

- i) Infrastructure
- ii) Health & Safety and
- 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 is tasked:

1. To draft Health & Safety policy proposals:
2. Develop and make available H&S documentation:
3. Provide Health & Safety support, advice and guidance:
4. Conduct site visits & audits -
5. Calculate the safe capacity in grounds:
6. Provide Training Courses:

The committee has finalised their Strategic Plan, (National Health & Safety), with the main aim of the plan "to make health and safety an integral consideration for all activities and events undertaken under the auspices of the GAA and to ensure that the GAA is an exemplar organisation in the delivery of health and safety".

The central element of the NHSC strategic plan is Prevention and this is given effect across all the activities of the NHSC from the development of safety statements, ground audits through to policy development, technical support, training, information, essential health and safety checklists and guidance protocols (a directory). However none of this can be achieved without the assistance of our most valuable resource, our volunteers. This plan will support Club and County officers in terms of guidance and advice.

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 & County grounds. There is a need for a central online data base 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 March 2020 with workshops to be delivered in each County to assist clubs in these areas.

Club Audits

Connacht GAA sent on a Club Audit for all Clubs in Connacht to complete in March 2019. The number of clubs that responded were as follows;

- Galway- 35
- Leitrim- 9
- Mayo- 28
- Roscommon- 22
- Sligo- 24

This is indicative of the importance that H&S is viewed on within Clubs. There is a need to complete a full audit of all Club Facilities within the province and provide clubs with the necessary policies and advice in maintaining their grounds. Maybe we need to repeat the process carried out in 2012 when the province conducted it's last Club Audit. In Monaghan a 'Safe Club Initiative' was piloted in 2019. This has proved to be a success within the county and it is something that could be rolled out within our own province.





Pitch Maintenance Committee

This committee, chaired by **Kieran McGann**, has been tasked by an Ard Stiúrthóir, **Tom Ryan**, 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. 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 2020 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. There is a major focus in 2020 on an alignment with LGFA, Camogie Association and the GAA in the delivery of Club Officer Training. To date there has been a focus on the role of the Club Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and PRO, however from 2020 there will be a focus on the roles of Club Registrar, Cultural Officer and Coaching Officer. Club Officer Training will also offer workshops on specific topics that will help guide all Club officers on their role and the assistance that is available to them.

An initiative that NODC are developing for Club Officers from next year will be a Certified Officer Pathway. A pilot programme will be delivered with selected counties on the training of Club Officers and on completion these Officers will receive a Club Officer Foundation Certificate.

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 2020 and I trust that they are of benefit to all officers when they carry out their duties throughout the year.

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.

The National Club & County Planning Committee is responsible for the rollout of the GAA Club Planning Programme. The Committee aims to engage at least three clubs per county each year, 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 this 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.

Continued next page





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

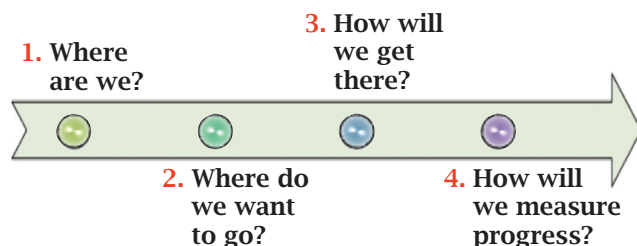
Club planning is best achieved by thorough review and honest assessment by the club officers and members.

It was highlighted that one of the hindrances to the club planning process was the lack of facilitators to assist clubs in developing their plan. In an effort to assist the Club Planning Programme within the province, a further 8 facilitators were trained up to add to 12 existing facilitators. These facilitators have all been allocated clubs to help roll out the Club Planning programme.

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:

- January- Appoint County Planning Coordinator
- February- Appoint Steering Group
Agree on Roles within Groups
Gather information
- March- Determine Strategic Position
Review documentation to date
Design consultation process
- April- Drafting Plan
- May- Launch Plan

In Connacht, Leitrim launched their three year plan at the its Convention in 2018 with Roscommon currently in Draft stage. Galway, Mayo and Sligo are to undergo this process. The need for a plan by Counties is of increasing importance, this has been highlighted within our province over the past 2 years. The creation of a County plan will not only guide County officers on their roles but serve the County and its clubs for the better in how it goes about it's business. Assistance is available, just ask.

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.

It will be a matter for each County Committee to select a person to fulfil the functions of Physical Development and Safety, advise on Club Grants and advise towards Club Infrastructure development, functions previously carried out by the County Development Officer. The change in the role and responsibilities of the County Development officer has not impacted on the work carried out by our County Development officers who have continued to carry out the duties as they had prior to the role being defined. This is to the credit of each County Development officer as they are the person most Clubs will contact when seeking advice. A Motion to Congress 2020 on whose responsibility it is to Physical Development and Safety, advise on Club Grants and advise towards Club Infrastructure development is being proposed. We sit and wait.

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. Tommy, Sean and Willie have all departed their roles and will be sadly missed, may I thank you for your efforts and advice these past five years. I wish to thank our Council Planning & Physical Development committee for their help and co-operation during the year.

Adrian Hassett





2019 Sports Capital Funding

County	Organisation	Project Title	Sport Type	Allocation
Galway	Abbeyknockmoy Hurling Club	Abbeyknockmoy Hurling Club Pitch Development	Gaelic Games	€58,350
Galway	Ballinderreen GAA Club	Gymnasium and Changing Room Building	Gaelic Games	€72,208
Galway	Beagh Hurling & GAA Club	285.3 sqm Extension Beagh GAA Sports Hall	Gaelic Games	€62,726
Galway	Claregalway GAA Club	Improvements to Training Grounds at Knockdoemore	Gaelic Games	€58,350
Galway	Coiste Pairc na Forbacha	Coiste Pairc na Forbacha Ball-stop Netting	Gaelic Games	€10,377
Galway	Corofin GAA Club [Galway]	Multi-purpose indoor Sports complex (Phase 1)	Gaelic Games	€81,690
Galway	Cortoon Shamrocks GAA Club	Training Standard Floodlighting	Gaelic Games	€19,465
Galway	Cumann Liathróid Láimhe Inis Oírr	Handball and basketball court upgrades	Handball	€8,947
Galway	Cumann Liathróid Láimhe Mhaigh Cuilinn	2018 Sports Capital Grant Programme	Handball	€11,655
Galway	Glenamaddy Community School	Glenamaddy Community School Astro-Turf Pitch	Gaelic Games	€48,025
Galway	Gort GAA Club	Floodlighting and associated Pitch Improvement Works	Gaelic Games	€64,185
Galway	Kilbeacanty GAA	Development of Artificial Playing Surface	Gaelic Games	€40,359
Galway	Killimor GAA Club	Pitch drainage and enhancement	Gaelic Games	€40,490
Galway	Kilnadeema Leitrim GAA Club	To develop new dressing rooms showers and toilets	Gaelic Games	€65,973
Galway	Kinvara GAA	Security Fencing	Gaelic Games	€2,757
Galway	Liam Mellows' GAA Club	Liam Mellows GAA Club, Galway City - Floodlighting	Gaelic Games	€27,570
Galway	Mullagh GAA Club	2018 Mullagh GAA Club Development	Gaelic Games	€38,939
Galway	Naomh Feichin GAA Club Clifden	Install Artificial Pitch	Gaelic Games	€35,328
Galway	Oranmore Maree GAA	Renville Sports Ground Phase I Development	Gaelic Games	€66,373
Galway	Pádraig Pearses GAA Club	Padraig Pearses GAA Club Pitch Development	Gaelic Games	€69,759
Galway	Seán Mac Diarmada GAA Club (Craughwell)	Artificial Sport Playing Pitch at Training Grounds	Gaelic Games	€36,753
Galway	St Brendan's GAA Football Club [Ballygar]	St Brendan's GAA Football Club (Ballygar)	Gaelic Games	€36,826
Galway	Tuam Stars GAA Club	Main Football Pitch Upgrade works	Gaelic Games	€25,780
Galway	Turloughmore Hurling Club	Astroturf pitch and ball-wall with flood lights	Gaelic Games	€72,966
Leitrim	Aughavas GAA Club	New Astro Turf Pitch at Aughavas GAA Grounds	Gaelic Games	€41,947
Leitrim	Aughawillan GAA Club	Gym building improvement and equipment upgrade	Gaelic Games	€18,603
Leitrim	Drumkeerin Handball Sport and Leisure Ltd.	4G Artificial Playing Pitch	Handball	€73,324
Leitrim	Mohill GAA	Refurbishment of club facilities	Gaelic Games	€49,942
Leitrim	Seán O'Heslin's GAA	Floodlighting to Ballinamore GAA	Gaelic Games	€47,206
Mayo	Ardnaree Sarsfields GAA Club	Replacement of Crucial Resources	Gaelic Games	€21,550
Mayo	Ballinrobe GAA Club	Ballinrobe GAA- Pella, Training pitch and Mower	Gaelic Games	€59,856
Mayo	Ballycastle GAA Club	Fit out of Ballycastle GAA new Gym and Clubhouse	Gaelic Games	€59,809
Mayo	Bohola Moy Davitts GAA	Pitch mower	Gaelic Games	€16,059
Mayo	Breaffy GAA Club	Breaffy GAA facilities development	Gaelic Games	€35,563
Mayo	Charlestown Sarsfields GAA Club	New 56M2 GAA Sports Storage Shed Shared with CBD	Gaelic Games	€4,595
Mayo	Cumann Liathróid Láimhe Thuar Mhic Éadaigh	Development of courts and purchase of equipment	Handball	€4,016
Mayo	Eastern Gaels GAA Club	Security and Fencing	Gaelic Games	€19,022
Mayo	Garrymore GAA	Development of playing pitches at Garrymore GAA	Gaelic Games	€54,304
Mayo	Kilmaine Community Recreational Trust Comp	Drainage of Playing Pitch and Surface Remediation	Gaelic Games	€20,254
Mayo	Lahardane MacHales GAA Club	Lahardane MacHales Grounds Refurbishment	Gaelic Games	€20,199
Mayo	Mayo Gaels GAA	Upgrade floodlights, pitch drainage and mower	Gaelic Games	€26,662
Mayo	Neale GAA Club	The Neale GAA New Pitch and Walkway Development	Gaelic Games	€62,006
Roscommon	Elphin GAA Club	Drainage Netting Gym/Toilets Ball Alley Goalposts	Gaelic Games	€73,377
Roscommon	Elphin Ladies Gaelic Football Club	Provision of non personal training equipment	Gaelic Games	€1,950
Roscommon	St Aidan's GAA Football Club	St Aidan's GAA Community Sports Facility	Gaelic Games	€55,832
Roscommon	St Croan's GAA club	Lighting facilities and grass mowing equipment	Gaelic Games	€16,134
Roscommon	St Dominic's Parks Committee	St Dominic's GAA Main Pitch Upgrade	Gaelic Games	€52,779
Roscommon	St Ronans GAA Club	Fencing for new pitch	Gaelic Games	€10,270
Roscommon	Strokestown GAA Club	Erection of security fencing	Gaelic Games	€14,764
Roscommon	Western Gaels GAA Club	Western Gaels GAA Training Pitch Upgrade	Gaelic Games	€32,587
Sligo	Ballinalack Community Park Ltd.	Ballinalack Community Park - Facility Upgrade 2018	Gaelic Games	€52,382
Sligo	Calry/StJoseph's GAA Club	Pitch Drainage Works	Gaelic Games	€21,230
Sligo	Castleconnor GAA Club	Upgrading Our Facilities At Castleconnor GAA Club	Gaelic Games	€29,818
Sligo	Cumann Naomh Mhuire T/A St Mary's GAA	St Mary's Floodlights and Fencing	Gaelic Games	€28,666
Sligo	Curry GAA	Floodlighting on Main Playing Field	Gaelic Games	€30,346
Sligo	Eastern Harps GAA Club	Lift, Sports equipment, fencing	Gaelic Games	€24,433
Sligo	Enniscrone Kilglass GAA Club	Pitch development works	Gaelic Games	€37,881
				€2,173,217





Fixture Analyst Report 2019

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 to:

- Identify and Train Fixture Analysts at both County & Provincial Level
- Analyse the Fixture Programs 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 Program against a set of Quality Statements
- Hold a Fixtures Forum with Players/Club Officials/County Officials
- Make recommendations to CCC on the Fixture Program for the following year

In the three most recent National GAA Congresses 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
 - Ensuring 24 club Weekends and 26 county weekends were created, (last two weekends in December are neither)
 - April becomes designated for club only
- 2019 was Year 2 of this changed Schedule with

County CC's now taking their learnings from the year gone and now planning their Club Fixture schedule for 2020. The two major questions to be asked of each county would be

- How can your County get full benefit out of the 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 provide details of the respective County's Division 1 County League.

	Round 1 of Lge	Final/ Finish date	No of Rounds & Knockout	Starred games Games	No of weeks to complete
Galway	9/10th March	17th Nov	9 & Final	Not specified	34
Leitrim	31st March	26th Oct	11 & Final	Not specified	30
Mayo	30/31st March	13th Oct	11	7	28
Roscommon	30/31st March	3rd Nov	9 & ½ Final & Final	Not Specified	31
Sligo	30/31st March	20th July	9 & Final	2	16

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	Starred games Games	No of weeks to complete
Galway	23rd Feb	27th July	6 x Rds + ½ Final + Final	Not specified	22
Leitrim	See above			Not specified	
Mayo	6th April	24th May	A cup competition with a Back door element	Not specified	8
Roscommon	24th March	23rd June	3 x Rds + ½ Final + Final	Not specified	13
Sligo	17th March	30th June	3 x Rds + ½ Final + Final	Not specified	15

County Championships- Football (Senior)

	Format	Start Date	Final
Galway	3 Groups x 6 progressing to Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	25/26th May	20th Oct & 3rd Nov (Replay)
Leitrim	2 x Groups x 6 progressing to Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	27th July	13th Oct
Mayo	4 x Groups x 4 progressing to Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	13th April	19th Oct
Roscommon	3 x Groups x 4 progressing to Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	17th August	13th Oct
Sligo	2 x Groups x 5 progressing to Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	28th July	20th Oct

County Championships- Hurling (Senior)

	Format	Start Date	Final
Galway	4 Groups x 6 progressing to Prelim Quarter-Finals, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	6/7th April	10th Nov
Leitrim	Final only		19th Oct
Mayo	Groups of 4 progressing to Semi-Final & Final	20th July	13th Oct
Roscommon	Groups of 7 progressing to Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final	30th June	6th Oct
Sligo	Groups of 7 progressing to Semi-Final & Final	20th July	13th 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.
- Availability of County players to Clubs for Leagues games continues to be an issue.
- 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.

- 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 a Round and in hiatus until August, a gap of 17/18 weeks. This has improved however on 2018 with some counties not starting championships until July/August and playing them without interruption. Galway Club Football Championship was the only championship to be played throughout the summer months.
- A significant amount of activity for all Clubs in late Aug and September.
- County U20/21 Competitions are significant issue with no obvious window and competition being squeezed in throughout the season. This has been addressed by most counties with the competition being scheduled for October/November.
- County Minor being at U18 at club level poses difficulties with scheduling and County team being at U17.

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.



Cillian Gallagher (Derrinabroc NS) receives the Mayo Cuman na mBunscoil Mini 7s Development Hurling Shield from Maria Coyne (Mayo Cuman na mBunscoil).





Connacht GAA Fixture schedule for 2019

Connacht GAA have responsibility for Competitions at both Adult & Juvenile in Hurling and Football for all units across the province, this includes Academy & Development squad tournaments and the Post Primary Schools Programme.

Excluding the Post Primary Schools Competitions and the Academy & Development Squad tournaments and the Tain Leagues, the province organise and schedule nineteen competitions in both Football & Hurling, this involves 80 fixtures. The table below details how our Fixture schedule played out during the year.

INTER-COUNTY

Competition	Code	Scheduled	Played on Scheduled date	Date Changed	Game not played
Senior Championship	Football	6	6	0	
Senior League	Football	4	4	0	0
Junior	Football	4	3	0	1
U20	Football	4	4	0	
Minor Cship	Football	13	12	0	1
Total		31	29	0	2

CLUB

Competition	Code	Scheduled	Played on Scheduled date	Date Changed	Game not played
Minor	Football	8	8	0	
Senior Cship	Football	5	5	0	0
Leo Kenny Cup	Football	19	13	1	5
Intermediate	Football	4	4	0	0
Junior	Football	4	3	0	1
U16	Hurling	4	4	0	0
Junior Cship	Hurling	2	2	0	0
Intermediate	Hurling	3	3	0	0
Total		49	42	1	6

Additional Competitions

Connacht GAA were also tasked with delivering or administering additional competitions throughout the Year. These included the Tain Leagues, the U20 Development Football Competitions, Celtic Challenge games, and National Academy days. All these competitions were scheduled throughout the summer months however we do need to be mindful of the effect these additional competitions maybe having on local county club programmes.

National Reports

In the past year 2 significant reports were published which may affect fixture scheduling within the Association both Nationally and at County Level. These Reports, 'Fixtures Calendar Review Taskforce' and the 'Talent Academy & Player Development Review', drew on feedback from an extensive consultation process, previous reports that were written and the expertise of those members on the workgroups. Both Groups are to be complimented for the reports and the time spent on drafting same. Both reports have plenty to reflect upon and throw up some

thought-provoking ideas on how the Association moves forward, especially in the area of Fixture scheduling.

Fixtures Calendar Review Taskforce

This group presented 32 recommendations for discussion, at the heart of the recommendations is the objective of striking a better balance and degree of certainty to the playing of club fixtures alongside the inter-county fixture programme.

Some of the recommendations are

- Creation of a new Oversight Unit that would see four full-time Fixtures Analysts appointed (one in each province) who would assist Counties in planning Club Fixture programmes.
- Fixtures programmes in a prescribed format, to be submitted to Provincial Councils by end of December (not February as currently) – sanction to be proposed by new oversight unit
- "10 Day Rule" to cover all club games (not just club championship)
- Proposals on National Fixtures Calendar – Scheduling Models
- That 16 teams be the maximum number of teams allowed in senior and intermediate club championships
- In terms of the inter-county calendar, the report suggests it can be condensed further by playing the All-Ireland senior hurling and football finals on consecutive weekends.
- Hurling Development Committee to consider whether Liam McCarthy group(s) should expand to 6 teams – any recommendation must not expand current calendar footprint for Provincial Hurling Championship and should take account of knock-on effects for lower tiers
- The Pre-season Provincial Competitions should be retained but should not commence until post January 1st (unless Football Championship Option 2 is adopted in which case only the Hurling competitions should be retained). They should be restricted to five designated dates annually. These would be determined by the national C.C.C.C (the 1st three weeks/weekends of the year) and the competitions restructured by each province and tailored to fit the time available
- There should be no Senior inter-county activity (on-field training, trials or challenge games) between a team's exit from the Championship and Dec 1st each year – appropriate sanction (relevant to team rather than County Officers) to be proposed by new oversight unit.
- including the Galway senior hurling club champions in the Munster or Leinster club hurling championship;
- Rule to state that U20 football championship be played in February/March
- Eligibility to be restricted to players who have not played in the National Football league in that year
- C.C.C.C to draw up for discussion a round-robin style national championship proposal to replace the existing Provincial Championships and that will guarantee all U20 county teams a minimum of three games.





- No collective training or games at U20 level pre-Dec 1st - appropriate sanction to be proposed by new oversight unit
- U20 Hurling championship to be restricted to players who have not played in the Liam MacCarthy Cup in that year (until that county is eliminated from the Senior Championship)
- Leinster and Munster Provincial Champions to advance directly to the All-Ireland Final
- All-Ireland Finals to be completed no later than the 31st Sunday of the year for both U20 and U20 B Hurling competitions
- CCCC to be asked to draw up a new competition structure for U20 Hurling for the consideration of Central Council based on a knock-out Open Draw national competition.
- No collective training or games at U20 Hurling level pre-April 1st - appropriate sanction to be proposed by new oversight unit
- Minor (U17) intercounty championships should become tiered developmental competitions and be decoupled from Senior All-Ireland Semi Finals and Finals
- Separate CCC linked to national CCCC to be put in place for inter-county activity up to and including U17. This group to identify appropriate windows during which the developmental competitions should be played.
- U20 grade to be retained as the only inter-county grade between U17 and Senior for the moment and until other recommendations are given time to bed in.
- designating U17 inter-county level a developmental grade;
- finishing the Sigerson and Fitzgibbon Cups earlier;
- finishing All-Ireland Post Primary A and B schools finals earlier and abolishing All-Ireland finals at C and D grades,
- abolishing the All-Ireland junior football championship.

Talent Academy & Player Development Review

The main focus of the committee was identified as establishing a policy for youth development which aligns club, school, third level and inter-county games programmes to address the current concerns with county talent academy squads and inter-county teams.

In Terms of Fixture scheduling it recommended the following in terms of Games Programmes;

- A Coordinated and coherent games programme aligned to the pathway framework, inclusive of meaningful and appropriate development-based competitions for our underage players
- Aligning the Games Programme at Club, School and Inter-County to the Pathway
- Ensuring the Games Programme up to U-17 is developmentally focussed
- Coordinated windows for related games programmes within a coherent fixtures calendar
- In order to bring synergy between club and inter-county competitions, it is recommended that all counties prioritise competitions at the following age grades: U13, U15 and U17 levels.
- It is recommended that all competitions at Post-Primary and Third level would be immediately reviewed and aligned to the Ftem player development framework.

As previously stated, both reports have plenty of thought-provoking ideas and need to be reviewed and analysed by all units of the Association. The ESRI Report on 'Playing Senior Inter-County Gaelic Games' also made for some interesting reading and I would urge all delegates to read through all reports and engage with their Clubs and members on how these reports and recommendations can be progressed for the betterment of the Association, knee jerk reactions will not serve us well. It is time that we as an Association sought to bring forward meaningful change for all our players and members especially in the area of Competitions and fixture scheduling.



Gaelscoil na Cruaiche (Westport) 3rd/4th class hurling side who were one of the four schools present on the day. The school is at the forefront of Cuman na mBunscoil Hurling activity within Mayo and are also undertaking the GAA 5-Star Coaching Program within their school in 2019.





Coaching and Games Development Report 2019

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 Óg Gormley** (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.

Coaching and Games is based around 6 key areas (Child Games Opportunities (0-12 year), Youth Games Opportunities (12-18years), School Initiatives, Camps, Talent Academies & Learning & Development) which feed into the National & Provincial Coaching and Games plan. Each county then has a county coaching plan which is tailored to suit the individual counties needs and delivered to club personnel. This is implemented by the County Games Manager, County Coaching Officer, and Games Development staff in each of the counties on a day to day basis. Governance for the plan is over seen by the County Steering Committee which consists of the County Chairperson, Secretary, Coaching Officer, Games Manager, Treasurer and PRO who meet 6-8 times per year to review how the plan is going.

Cúl Camps

Across the summer months 182 **Cúl Camps** have taken place around Connacht with a total of 23,848 boys and girls participating. This marks an overall increase of 4% across the province on the 2018 numbers. Each of the counties numbers also increased with individual percentage increases as follows: Mayo

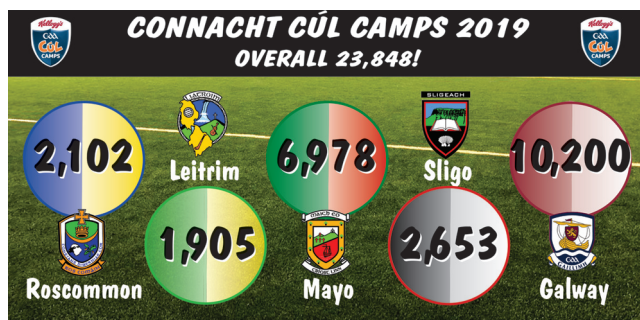
2%, Roscommon 8%, Galway 5%, Leitrim 9% and Sligo 1%. The full tallies are in the graphic below. In addition to the participation element these camps have provided employment for many young people across the summer months with 472 coaches employed across Connacht for the duration of the camps. These coaches have also received coach education, garda vetting clearance and child safeguarding upskilling to participate in the camp. I would encourage clubs to engage with these young coaches and get them involved in coaching in their clubs. To deliver a project of this size requires a huge amount of work and I would like to thank National Cúl Camp Co-Ordinator **Charles Harrison**, the County Games Managers, all the full-time personnel in the counties, the clubs and all the coaches who worked on our camps for helping to deliver such an enjoyable experience for all the children in attendance.

Child Games Opportunities (0-12 Years)

All of the counties continue to deliver a valuable GAA 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 & football played up to and including 11 years of age is played under the ethos that every child gets to play in every game.

Our Connacht **GAA 2019 Go Games Days** in Croke Park took place on April 16th and 17th. This year 882 children across 48 teams in hurling and football participated from Connacht. These days provide the selected clubs from all over Connacht the incredible experience of Croke Park. The players involved got to play a number of games in Croke Park and a trip to the Croke Park Museum. This initiative was spearheaded by former Connacht GAA Games Manager John Tobin twelve years ago and has been an outstanding success and so far as since its inception all the clubs in the province have had the opportunity of experiencing Croke Park. Clubs are selected on a rota basis and clubs get to participate every 4/5 years.

In addition to above on the 16th of September the **GAA Gaeilge Go Games Day** took place in Croke Park, with over 300 kids from 10 clubs hailing from Irish speaking regions in Connacht taking part on the day. The clubs were CLG Leitirmoir, CLG An Cheathrú Rúa, CLG Micheal Breathnach, CLG Bhearna, CLG Mhaigh Cuilinn, CLG An Fhairche, CLG Charna, CLG Na Piersaigh, CLG An Spideal & CLG Túar Mhic Eadaigh. I would like to thank all the coaches, parents and





players as well as the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht who all contributed hugely to the success of the day.

The **Connacht GAA U-12 skills challenge** competition took place on October 4th for football and October 11th for hurling at the Connacht GAA Centre. Congratulations to Four Roads who won the hurling skills challenge and Eastern Gaels who won the football skills challenge. This is a great event which encourages clubs to focus on developing the skills of both codes. I would strongly encourage counties and clubs to promote this initiative as improving the skills must be central to developing our games going forward.

Youth Games Opportunities (12-18 years)

Super Games Centres are where small-sided games are provided for youth participants aged 12-18 years on an age-related and developmental needs basis. The initiative was originally developed to try and counteract the 49% drop off rate seen across the GAA in this age group. We as an association have to provide formal and informal games for our players that are based around development and enjoyment of the game and not all based around winning. 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. A GAA Super Games Centre should provide the below, 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 Coordinator
- Suitable facilities - Indoor and/or Outdoor

The Super Games concept has worked 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 for 1st and 2nd year students. Originally the concept was slow to take off nationally at club level, but Connacht GAA trialled a Super Games initiative called "Friday Night Lights" over four nights in December 2018 and January 2019. Over 700 players from 48 clubs across all 5 Connacht Counties participated over the 4 nights. The reaction to the event was overwhelmingly positive, particularly from parents and the children participating. Due to the demand Connacht GAA in association with the 5 counties expanded the initiative to 8 football and 5 Hurling locations in February and March. In November again across the 5 counties there were 24 football and 6 hurling events across 11 locations with over 700 players taking part. These particular events were for U-13-15 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. There is still some negativity towards the concept from adults due to it not fitting in with the traditional formal game's fixtures programme. However, through massively

positive feedback received from players, I feel this will be a very important concept in the future that will help decrease the player dropout percentages mentioned above. We have to ensure our games are based around fun and enjoyment and not all about winning. There will be more events taking place in 2020 across both codes.

Following on from Sligo's successful **Youth forum** in 2018, Galway and Mayo in the past few months have run their own Youth Forums with Leitrim and Roscommon's taking place in January. This is an extremely important initiative as these kids are the future of the association so their opinions on the key issues must be taken into consideration as we look to shape the future of the GAA. Areas that were covered on the day included:

1. Coaching & Games (6 Key areas)
2. Referees (Rules/punishments/recruitment etc.)
3. Promotion of GAA (Newspapers, social media, advertising etc.)
4. Academy/Development Squads (U14-17)
5. Fixtures (length of season/no. of games etc.)

I feel its very important that we take on board what our younger member are saying/feeling and develop our games opportunities around what they want. Ultimately it is them that are playing not the adults.

Connacht GAA hosted this year's **National Féile Peile na nÓg** on June 28th, 29th & 30th. 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). Throughout the course of the weekend, 8,500 children from 358 teams (179 of which were from Connacht) played 851 games in over 200 venues in what was a magnificent festival of football. This was the biggest Féile ever staged in the competitions history and has been a huge undertaking by the province so I want to commend everyone who helped in anyway make it such a success. The **National Féile na nGael** took place in Cork on June 7th- 9th where 13 Connacht competed in what was another extremely successful well organised and enjoyable occasion. Well done to all that participated!

The national hurling **Táin óg** U-13 and U15 Finals took place in Cavan in July with 12 Finals taking place across the two age grades in total. It was a brilliant day of underage hurling and one that will live long in the memory as 8 of our Connacht teams were victorious out of the 12 teams that competed. At U13, Four Roads, Tooreen and Claremorris all won their Divisions while Easkey were narrowly defeated. In the U15 competition Four Roads, Carrick, Westport and Castlebar were all victorious. Again, massive congratulations to all involved! This new initiative allows for current internal club activity to stay the same for participating clubs and the entry into the above national leagues will significantly increase the opportunity to play a meaningful games programme during the spring and summer months. The new Cuchulainn adult leagues which will begin in 2020 will operate with a similar structure to the Táin óg Leagues and is also a hugely positive development that will have a large impact on the development of hurling in the province.

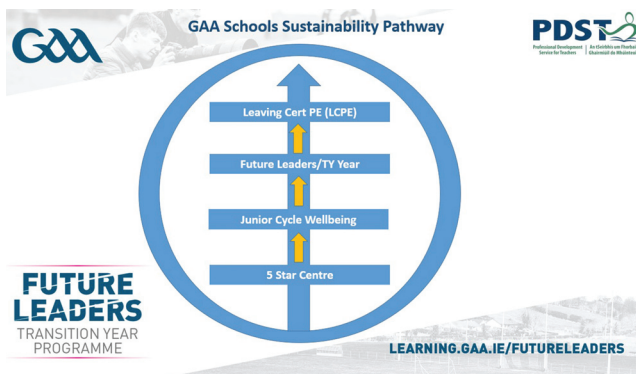




Schools

The second levels schools competition for the most part has gone very well throughout the year. I would like to thank all the clubs who facilitated games in 2019 and also acknowledge the grounds staff at the Connacht GAA Centre, which continues to host a huge amount of the fixtures during the year, reducing a lot of the burden on venues elsewhere. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Provincial Schools Co-Ordinator Hugh Rudden and all the teachers involved for their outstanding work in promoting our Games.

Below is an image of the new framework for developing Gaelic Games in our national and second level schools. Two of the programmes - namely the 5 Star centres and Future Leaders - were piloted over the past two years and are now being delivered fully in schools. The next two years will see the piloting of the Junior Cycle Wellbeing and Leaving Cert PE programmes which will then hopefully be rolled out in full once the pilot phase has been fully completed.



September 2018 saw the launch of the GAA's 5-star centres in our primary schools around the country. Across Connacht there were:

- 70 national schools that started this initiative with 44 schools meeting the criteria to receive their 5 Star Centre flag
- In these schools there were 5,595 pupils involved
- These pupils throughout the year accumulated a total of 141,746 hours of physical activity through the Have a Ball Programme, Fun and Run, Hurl It/Catch and Kick, Go Games & Go Games Skill Challenges programmes

Those who completed the programme were awarded 5 Star Centre Flags and these flags were raised at the end of the 2018/2019 school year. Interested schools had until September 30th to sign up for this year's programme. In total Connacht GAA have 134 schools signed up for the 2019/2020 academic year, almost double last year's total which represents a huge increase and highlights the positive outlook teachers and students have towards the programme. Schools that participate in 5 GAA coaching and games initiatives for a minimum of 1 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. For the most part the schools have really embraced the initiative and it is working well. I see this as being a huge project for the Association going forward and I would encourage clubs to harness

the potential of project with their local national schools and help them where possible. 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 will offer assistance, upskill and train the teachers as needed.

Junior Cycle Wellbeing - National NCCA Guidelines for Wellbeing published in 2017 has stated; "the Junior Cycle Wellbeing programme will begin with 300 hours of timetabled engagement in 2017 and build up to 400 hours by 2020 as the new Junior Cycle is implemented fully in schools". The GAA are currently piloting a new initiative for second level schools for teachers to deliver in the coming academic year called "Going-Well". This programme is designed for the modern, fast-paced world full of technological innovations that teenagers today are growing up in. It is a basic learning resource that nurtures personal growth and infuses a sense of "Belonging" - belonging to one's class, one's school, one's team, one's local club and community, the broader Association and ultimately to the Irish nation. It is not just about being physically fit but also focussing on good mind function and how team based-activities can create enjoyment. It also explores how analysis and evaluation of information can give expression to a meaningful set of values. A small number of schools across the province are currently taking part in the programme pilot and I look forward to seeing how this new area develops.

The introduction of the **Future Leaders Programme** has been a very positive development in the secondary school sector for the association. This initiative was well in our 2018 report. Last year 47 secondary schools across the province took part in the initiative with 58 schools taking part in the 2019/2020 school year. The modules covered by students on the programme included Coaching of Hurling/Football, Refereeing, Administration, Sports Journalism, Analysis, Nutrition, Wellbeing and Event Management. Through the 47 schools last year in Connacht there were approximately 2,300 transition year students involved. These students ran Super Games Events that had 3,100 youth participants taking part, Go Games Blitzes with 1,880 children involved & Fun and Run events with 60 participants. I would expect to see a marked increase in these already impressive numbers this year with the increase in schools taking part in the programme. I would encourage clubs who have students already taking part in this initiative to link in with the students and ensure they are included in the local club at some capacity given the skills they are after developing.

I look forward to all of the above initiatives gaining traction in our schools and becoming even more connected. The introduction of the continuous assessment type structure in the Junior Cert curriculum from its existing format is presenting a big challenge to our current fixture programme, particularly for competitions at junior and juvenile level. The change in the Junior Cert curriculum is having a huge impact on availability of schools to play games. This is only





going to get worse as more subjects convert to this format. This is also on top of a large number of schools adopting to move to a four-and-a-half-day week, meaning there are no games played on a Friday. Development of our games in secondary school may move away from traditional schools' competition to a more holistic approach as in the programmes mentioned above.

Talent Academies

It has been a successful year for all our academy squads in terms of development and adequate game-time for the players. There were 5 dates set nationally for both football and hurling at U14, 15 & 16 level.

The **National Academy Hurling dates** were May 11th, June 22nd, July 20th, August 10th, and August 31st. The Connacht Academy Féile, Niall McInerney, Connolly/Cunniffe (U 13) and National U15 Hibernia Cup took place within these national dates.

The **National Academy Football dates** were April 24th, May 25th, June 6th, July 27th, and August 17th. Sean Purcell U-14 blitz days were on May 25th & August 17th. The Dermot Earley U15 blitz days took place on May 18th and August 10th while the Ted Webb Cup U16 took place on August 15th, 24th and 30th. The Ted Webb tournament culminated in the following finals: Cup Final - Mayo NS 1-11 Galway North 0-8, Shield Final- Galway CW 2-13 Mayo EW 2-10 and Plate Final - Sligo 0-15 Roscommon 0-5.

All academy days were competitive and played in great spirit by all the counties.

Nationally, 2019 saw a **Talent Academy & Player Development Workgroup Review** published a Group headed by Micheal Dempsey which 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). "**The Talent Academy and Player Development Review**" has now been passed by Coiste Bainistí. The aim of this review is to provide all GAA members with a clear vision for player development within Gaelic Games and its individual units; clubs, schools, 3rd level and counties. There are four key recommended pillars within the review: governance, stakeholder education, games programme and a player pathway framework. For more details the full document can be downloaded on the following link <https://www.gaa.ie/news/talent-academy-and-player-development-review-committee-report-released/>

I would encourage everybody to have a full read of the document which is openly available. It highlights a lot of the good work going on across the country but also highlights issues that we as an association need to address in the 4 areas mentioned above. We must not lose sight of the fact that these are our elite youth players and must be developed appropriately. The philosophy of the squads was always to develop a player to firstly become a better club player. We must ensure that we do not isolate these players from their school and club teams by the ever-increasing training programmes they are being asked to take part in.

Coach Education

Our coach education system through our full-time staff and body of Connacht GAA tutors have delivered a total of 129 GAA Football and Hurling Coaching Courses throughout Connacht with 2,892 participants involved. Saturday the 14th of December saw the start of our Provincial Award 2 coaching course for 2019/2020. It will be run over 5 full days with and one day in each of January, February, March and April of



Pictured are the St Colman's, Claremorris, 1st and 2nd year teams who were in action at the Connacht GAA Centre for the Post Primary Super Games program.





2020. There are 50 participants in total from Football and Hurling and from each of the counties. All modules will be delivered by our Connacht GAA tutors.

Connacht GAA's Club Support Programme had 36 clubs start the initiative with 34 completing it. 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 & Games through a forum facilitated by a Connacht GAA tutor. The club then sets out 3-5 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 1. Over a 5-year period, I would hope to get all clubs in the province that are willing to participate through the programme.

The Club Support Programme allows us to get into the clubs and gain access to coaches who are working on the ground and to help identify the needs of both the clubs and coaches. I would like to see us getting away from the model of everyone doing coach education courses for the sake of doing courses. I feel we should be concentrating on upskilling the people who are on the ground working in the clubs and counties. This would be a far 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 and also using valuable resources within clubs that could be used much more wisely on coach, player and facility development. I would reiterate again this year that the Association needs to look at the rule of only having coaches that are members of their own club over their teams.

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

Connacht Centre

Seamus 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 & 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 being tested and screened at the centre in Bekan.

Seamus 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 4th 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 county's volunteer coaches. The students play a key role in overseeing the national monitoring system Smartabase which has now become more of an educational platform for players. The placement also involves fitness testing, movement screening, and supervising resistance training programmes, helping with field sessions and performing video analysis. This programme will continue in 2020.

Seamus has also rolled out 5 Strength and Conditioning courses across the 5 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 Seamus. 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 2020.

Overseas

ASIA

Following last year's trip to Singapore and the previous trip of 5 Singaporean PE teachers to the Connacht GAA centre, Gaelic football is now an elective subject on the PE curriculum in Singapore. An addition to this programme has been, Claremorris native **Aaron Costello** taking up a role as development officer in Singapore for 7 months. Following the success of Aarons work it will be continued for an additional 12 months where he will be based in Singapore but will also work with other clubs in Asia. Through the programme 2,000 kids were coached in 6 different schools in Singapore. Aaron also coordinated a very successful Asian Youth Championships with 150 children taking part from the Singapore GAA club, local Singapore schools, Shanghai and Seoul.

NEW YORK

This year has seen a change in personnel as **Simon Gillespie** who had worked as Games Manager in New York for 10 years moved on to become the Academy Manager at Rugby United NY, a professional Rugby franchise in New York. I wish Simon every success in his new role and thank him for all his hard work during his 10 years with NY GAA. He can be hugely proud of the strides New York GAA Coaching and Games have made under his guidance. Former Hurling Development Officer **Micky Quigg** has now taken up the role of Games Manager while Wexford native **Jonathan Rochford** is the new Hurling Development Officer. In December **Damien Coleman** and I made a trip to New York as Connacht Provincial Games





Manager and Connacht Hurling Director. It was a busy few days, as soon as we arrived, we had meetings with the full-time staff and board members in reviewing 2019 and planning ahead for 2020. The highlight of the trip for me was the Club Support Programme we delivered to 30 coaches from 10 different clubs. The energy these coaches and clubs have to keep our games going in the Big Apple is fantastic to see. We also took coaching sessions for U13 and 16 girls and boys teams in Gaelic Park. It is always great to see such a high skill level on display in Gaelic Park and it is a testament to all the work their coaches have done over the years. New York also had boys and girls teams participating at the football Féile in 2019 and the plan is for two teams to travel again in 2020. More evidence of the great work happening in New York was the great showing at the World Games during the summer. New York also had a boys U-16 academy team travel to Ireland in July where they played in the Mary McPartland Memorial Tournament in Sligo. The format for the tournament was short-games with a league format followed by the cup and shield competitions. Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo and New York took part. The visit also included a training camp with games in Kerry's new training Centre. They then visited the Connacht GAA Centre where their players underwent fitness testing under the guidance of our Strength and Conditioning Officer **Seamus Burns**. It was a very worthwhile exercise for New York as they wish to bridge the gap from U14 Feile to Senior level. Great credit must go to the New York board for endorsing the trip, along with all players, parents and sponsors involved. I would also like to thank **Sean Price** (New York) and **Darragh Fallon** (Sligo) who were instrumental in organising the tournament.

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** (GMT), **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 recreational time available to students in recent years due to the ever-increasing pressure on them to achieve high grades, continuous based assessment and work placements off campus.

Social Media & Newsletters

Since May 2018 Connacht GAA through the 5 counties have started an initiative to further promote coaching and games activities around the province. This was initially done by each county setting up their own County and 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 .

These pages have gathered 5,764 followers thanks to the work of the full-time coaches who load activities onto the pages for their counties. This year Connacht GAA have launched a quarterly coaching

and games newsletter again promoting all activities that happen across the province. This is an online addition that is emailed to all clubs and promoted on social media.

I would like to thank **Brian Mangan** from Connacht GAA for overseeing and co-ordinating these projects. He also links this work onto the Connacht GAA Facebook page and Connacht GAA website. The link between Brian, the county PROs, newsletters and the coaching and games social media 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>

Acknowledgements

- Our Coach Education Committee under the chairmanship of **Denis O'Boyle**.
- Our Hurling Director **Damien Coleman** who works tirelessly with Coiste Iomaná to develop hurling in the province.
- Our Games Managers **Tom McManus, Thomas Keenan, Willie Hegarty, Billy Mc Nicholas** and **Liam Óg Gormley** who along with the GPO's and GDA's working in the counties delivering our projects on the ground.
- Our Provincial Coaching Officer **Padraig McGourty**, our County Coaching Officers; **Hughie Clinton** (Leitrim), **Seán Kilbride** (Roscommon), **John McPartland** (Sligo), **Michael Geraghty** (Galway) and **Liam Moffatt** (Mayo) who in conjunction with the Games Managers are responsible for the design & implementation of project in the 6 key areas.
- Our third level officers **Michael Harte** (SIT), **Damien Curley** (GMT) **Michael O'Connor** (NUIG) for all of their efforts throughout the year.
- Our six 3rd level students **Martin Feeney** (Leitrim), **Aine Lenighan**, (Mayo), **Shane Carrington** (Roscommon), **Oisín McDonnell** (Sligo), **Elizabeth McNicholas** (Galway Hurling) and **Jack Hynes** (Galway Football) who worked for six months from March to August in their assigned county. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and I wish them well in the future.
- I would like to thank our secretaries, **Amanda Diskin** and **Attracta Hunt**, **Adrian Hassett** (Operations Manager), **Seamus Burns** (Strength and Conditioning Officer), **Brian Mangan** (Communications), and our Secretary, **John Prenty** for all their assistance with coaching and games throughout the year.
- I wish **Pat Daly** all the best in his recent promotion within the association, to head up a new department for the GAA. Coaching and Games has developed hugely under Pat's guidance and he has left the department in a great place.

Cathal Cregg
(Provincial Games Manager)





GAA Risk & Insurance Committee

By Adrian Hassett

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 2019- Team Subscriptions table (*bottom page*) 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 2020 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 DWF (Injury Fund Administrators) via a feed from GAA Management System. Records are not submitted to DWF 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 (*top next page*) of the number of clubs registered and unregistered as at the deadline date of the 7th of March.

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

2019- Team Subscriptions

Band	A - 10% discount	B - 10% Loading	C - 50% Loading	D - 100% Loading	Overall position	
Galway	74	9	6	10	Excess - Claims greater than subs	County Panel - D
Leitrim	15	5	5	4	Excess - Claims greater than subs	County Panel - D
Mayo	39	10	3	7	Subs greater than claims	County Panel - D
Roscommon	19	8	1	6	Subs greater than claims	County Panel - D
Sligo	27	3	1	2	- Subs greater than claims	County Panel - D
Overall	174	35	16	2	Subs greater than claims	





County	Registered	Registered & Paid	Registered & Unpaid	Unregistered
Galway	86	86	3	0
Leitrim	23	23	3	0
Mayo	56	56	0	0
Roscommon	37	36	0	1
Sligo	34	34	0	0

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 2019.

A significant change in the handling of claims was introduced in November with the appointment of DWF as claims administrators. The change is intended to alleviate the burden of work on our volunteers that the Injury Fund can create. The change in claims administrators was made due to the following reasons

- Full IT end to end solution for claims from notification until settlement.

Scanned receipts, wage slips etc. will be acceptable.

All documentation can be uploaded on the portal and no requirement for originals to be posted in.

Spot checks will be conducted and originals requested as part of annual fund audit.

- County Board will no longer be required to sign off on the County Board declaration.
- Direct payment of Injury Fund benefits to the affiliated unit.
- Faster turnaround on payments as County Board will no longer be receiving same.
- At a glance details of payments issued on claims and documents outstanding for cases to be paid.
- Enhanced reporting capabilities for the use of affiliated units and GAA HQ to make decisions on the future of the Fund and the benefits it provides.
- Claims reporting App will be available in early 2020 to complement the claims reporting portal.

This change is significant in that it is a change that is happening for the first time with the Fund. The changes are being made for the good of the Fund going forward and to try and alleviate the work that it is currently causing at both a County Board and club level as set out below.

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 2019. 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.

Members will be aware of the extensive media coverage in relation to Insurers who are withdrawing from providing cover in Ireland and to Sports, Community & Leisure

activities. Many businesses have ceased operating and community festivals and events have been cancelled due to the unavailability of insurance cover for such events/activities.

Affiliated units have so far been largely protected due to the arrangement of the central cover. However, the number of insurers who are in a position to offer cover to the Association continues to decrease annually and as the cost of claims continues to increase the challenge to secure continuation of this cover will continue.

In order to enable GAA Insurance department and our Brokers Marsh to present the Association to insurers in the best possible light a survey will be issued to all units in April 2020. All affiliated units will be required to complete this survey. Without the information in the survey being available for all affiliated units we will be in a very difficult position when seeking renewal of cover.

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 indemnity or face a significantly increased claim excess.

The Broker declarations issued to all units have been updated and policy documents for Liability and Property Insurance have been issued. Clubs should read the policy and familiarise themselves with the T&Cs of the cover and for all activities seek best practice guidance and advise from Marsh Ireland or GAA Insurance Department. Clubs who run 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. 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 2019 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.

The major weather events which affected Ireland did not result in large losses under GAA property programme and cover was secured on expiring terms.

Weather models all indicate an expected increase in severe weather 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 risk management advises and notifications in advance of adverse weather will continue to be issued during the year.

Risk Management Programme

Phase 1 of a pilot project "Safe Club" was successfully completed in Monaghan over the past 2 years via the National Health & Safety Committee in conjunction with the Risk and Insurance Committee and department. This project is supported by Insurers. Risk & Insurance Committee will work with National Health and Safety Committee to extend the roll out of this project with the eventual aim of it being adopted as national Policy.

Phase 2 will continue in 2020 with a further number of counties adopting the Safe Club Programme. The current GAA H&S Statement and other templates will be updated as part of Phase 2. Existing templates can still be utilized and in particular the annual inspection checklist should form part of club activities to create a proactive incident prevention approach rather than a

reactive approach after an incident has occurred. 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 2019 Insurance Information presentations were delivered in two of our 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 Injury Fund including an updated 2020 Summary document was issued to all units on the 10/12/2019 and likewise a copy of the liability policy document, broker declarations and advices on the Insurance program were issued to all units.

A new Module "creating a safe club" has been developed for delivery via National Officer Training Programme in 2020.

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. To improve insurance knowledge and communication of key messages at county and club level.
3. 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.
4. Completion of the Insurance survey which will issue in April 2020 to enable Insurance department and Marsh Ireland secure continuation of cover via the central placement at the most competitive price. If all clubs do not complete the survey we will struggle to attract best terms from Insurers.
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 especially **Mike O'Donoghue** (Chairperson), **Sinead Leavy**, **Ciara Clarke** and **Amy Coll**. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the Connacht representative on the workgroup, Mr **PJ Meehan**.





Connacht PRO Report 2019

"Building for our future"



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 activities throughout the year. I would like to extend a sincere 'thank you' to all the members of the council and all who assisted with the activities organised by the council.

Once again, the Centre of Excellence was the focal point for the hosting of the national John West Féile na nÓg football competition in June, 2019. The competition included twenty-two divisions of football comprising of three-hundred and fifty-two boys and girls teams, who travelled from not only across the country but internationally. We were very fortunate to have an exceptional committee who ensured the overall success of this prestigious competition. I was to extend a special thanks to the members of the committee for their sterling work in running the very successful Féile competition.

This year we launched our 2019 Connacht Championship at the Connacht Centre of Excellence with a further launch of it overseas in London. I would also like to extend a thanks to our county PRO's who took responsibility to have senior team management of team captains present at the event. The AIB ended on Sunday, 24th November. I would like to thank the members of the council who worked tirelessly together to promote, present and manage the running of the junior, intermediate and senior club championship games. To all the winners, I would like to offer my congratulations and wish them every success at the All-Ireland stages.

The Annual Provincial Awards night took place on Friday, 6th December, in the Connacht GAA Centre. On the night presentations were made to members of the current council who are due to retire. In conjunction with this, presentations were also made to the members of the Féile committee to acknowledge the hard work and dedication during the successful Féile competitions. The 'Club Grounds of the Year' awards were also presented on the night. These clubs selected from across the province included: Sarsfield GAA Club from Galway; Aughavas GAA Club from Leitrim; Charlestown Sarsfield's GAA Club from Mayo; Kilmore GAA Club from Roscommon, and Eastern Hearts GAA club from Sligo. In addition to this, the overall Connacht GAA Club of the Year 2019 went to Eastern Hearts GAA Club from Sligo.

I would like to extend a thank you to Brian Mangan and Eamon McMunn who recorded footage of each club grounds. A big 'thank you' must also be extended to John, Adrian and all the office staff who assisted in

organise the smooth running of the club grounds event.

In January the council presented bursary awards to third level students to assist them pursuing their studies. This kind gesture from the council is one that is much appreciated by both the students and their families.

The future of our games relies heavily on the promotion and marketing carried out by the IT department of the council. I would like to extend a special thanks to the IT department staff and especially our operations manager, Adrian Hassett, who work

hard to promote and publicise our games throughout the year. A 'special thanks' also extended to the media platforms, both national and local who do a wonderful job in the coverage that they give to the GAA activities in Connacht.

The most significant announcement that took place during the past year was the signing of the contract for the building of the Dome. This facility, when completed, will make the Connacht Centre of Excellence one of the leading sports facilities in the country. A big 'thank you' must go to our Rúnaí, John Prenty, for bringing this project to the building stage. I also want to acknowledge the support of Minister Michael Ring and his department for their financial support for the project. We look forward to the completion of this major project in 2020.

I would like to extend a special word of thanks to all members of the council who have assisted me in any way throughout my three years as PRO of the Connacht Council. 'Thank you' to the Connacht public relations committee who assisted me in ensuring that the day-to-day running of our games were well organised and coordinated throughout the province. 'Thanks also' to all the park committees throughout the province whom I have regular contact with and who are always very accommodation to the council. I wish to extend a special thanks to Adrian Hassett for all his assistance during my time as PRO, for this I am extremely grateful. To our Rúnaí, John Prenty, I would like to thank him for all his support and advice always. To our Uachtarán, Gerry McGovern, for all the assistance and help he has given me during my time spent on the council. Finally, I extend best wishes to all retiring members of the council with which I had the privilege to work with. We look forward to 2020 with the completion of the Dome project.

Seán O h-Oibicín
(PRO)





Connacht GAA Coach Education Convention Report 2019

By Denis O'Boyle

THE Connacht Coach Education Committee's role is to oversee the training and development of GAA coaches and GAA Tutors/Coach Developers in Connacht and to ensure the smooth delivery of the GAA Coach Education Programme to our GAA Coaches throughout Connacht under the stewardship of Cathal Cregg, Connacht GAA Games Manger.

The members of the Connacht Coach Education Committee, representing all five counties in Connacht, are as follows:

Chairperson: **Denis O'Boyle**, Mayo;

Secretary: **Adrian Hassett**, Galway;

Committee: **Damien Coleman**, Galway; **Damian Curley**, Galway; **Liam Óg Gormley**, Sligo; **Martin Connolly**, Mayo; **Matt Gaffey**, Leitrim, **Seán Silke**, Galway; **Willie Hegarty**, Roscommon; **Cathal Cregg**, Connacht GAA Games Manger, and **John Tobin**, former Connacht Games Manager.

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 a number of intensive training courses facilitated by the GAA in association with Sport Ireland. Each year members of this committee have attended the National GAA Games Development Conferences in Croke



Park and take part regularly in GAA Tutor/Coach Development Training.

Football and Hurling Courses delivered in Connacht during 2019

During 2019, a total of 129 GAA Football and Hurling Coaching Courses were delivered throughout Connacht with 2,892 Coaches taking part, as can be seen

from the table below collated by Attract Hunt in Connacht GAA. (See Table top next page).

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/ Coach Developers throughout Connacht who facilitated the provision of these courses, in association with their respective games' mangers and to 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.

Connacht GAA Representatives on National Coach Education Committees and Work Groups

The following are the Connacht GAA Representa-



Meeting of the Connacht Coach Education Committee 2019, left to right: Damien Coleman, Galway, Matt Gaffey, Leitrim, Seán Silke, Galway; Martin Connolly, Mayo; Denis O'Boyle, Chairperson, Mayo; Adrian Hassett, Secretary, Galway; John Tobin, former Connacht Games Manager and Galway; Willie Hegarty, Roscommon; Cathal Cregg, Connacht GAA Games Manager, and Dr Peter Horgan, GAA Education Officer, Croke Park, who also attended this meeting on the 10/04/2019. (Missing from photograph are Liam Óg Gormley, Sligo, and Damian Curley, Galway.





		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	7	138	8	141	9	107	5	167	16	309	45	862
Award 1 Youth	Football	2	33	1	10	3	40	0	0	5	90	11	173
Award 1 Adult	Football	2	33	0	0	3	38	0	0	1	55	6	126
Award 1 Child	Football	1	8	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	19
Transition Year	Lifeskills	6	168	7	196	7	143	0	0	17	523	37	1030
Transition Year	Lifeskills (Hurling)	5	238									5	238
Foundation	Hurling	4	138	1	5	3	30	1	10	0	0	9	183
Award 1 Youth	Hurling	2	49							1	11	3	60
Award 1 Adult	Hurling	2	50							0	0	2	50
Award 1 Child	Hurling	2	22							0	0	2	22
Foundation	Dual	1	44					1	15	1	24	3	83
Award 2 Adult	Football											1	17
Award 2 Youth	Football											1	17
Award 2 Adult	Hurling											1	6
Award 2 Youth	Hurling											1	6
Totals		34	921	18	363	25	358	7	192	41	1012	129	2892

tives on National Coach Education Committees & Work Groups who commenced 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 that produces and supports the development of coaches and players. The model takes into account 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.

Introduction to Gaelic Games Coaching Award – A new Coaching Award

Over the last eight months of 2019, the GAA, LGFA and Camogie Associations have been working on developing a new Introductory Coaching Programme. The programme will be common across each of the Associations and will for the first time ensure that beginner coaches of any of our codes will come together and engage in a common programme within our separate coach education frameworks. It is intended that this new Introduction to Gaelic Games Programme will replace the existing Foundation Award (GAA), Fundamentals Course (LGFA) and the Caman Get a Grip Foundation Course (Camogie).

The programme will be rolled out as:

1. Hurling/Camogie courses,
2. Gaelic Football/Ladies Gaelic Football courses, or
3. Dual Courses (covering Hurling/Camogie and Gaelic Football/Ladies Gaelic Football).

Participants will be certified coaches in whichever of the codes they attend. This will also mean that beginner coaches can now achieve all the requirements to coach any of our teams on a common basis – Coaching Qualification, Garda/Access NI Vetting, and Child Safeguarding. It is also more appropriate for coaches operating in clubs that have several different codes that they are not required to undertake separate coaching qualifications depending on the code that they are coaching. Having a common introductory programme does not change the broader Coach



Dr Peter Horgan, GAA Education Officer, addresses the Connacht GAA Tutors/ Coach Developers on the new Introduction to Gaelic Games Coaching Award in the Connacht Centre of Excellence on 16th December, 2019.

Education framework in any of the Associations' involved.

The National Coach Education Workgroup have developed a syllabus document for this programme, as there are changes to each of the GAA Foundation Award, Camogie 'Camán Get a Grip' or the LGFA Fundamentals Award. Furthermore, the National Coach Education Workgroup are currently at the stage of developing resources to support the programme, and of training tutors in the roll out of the new programme. A small group of GAA Tutor Trainers took responsibility for this training and included Connacht's Provincial nominee, **Damian Curley**.

GAA Tutor Trainers throughout Ireland were invited to attend an *information and training session* on the new Introduction to Gaelic Games Tutor/Coach Developer Training, on the 7th December in the National Games Development Centre, Abbotstown, Dublin. The Connacht Tutor Information Session took place on the 16th December in the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence and was facilitated by Dr Peter Horgan, GAA Education Officer; Brendan Harpur and Damian Curley, Connacht GAA.



Discussion taking place on the new Introduction to Gaelic Games Coaching Award at the Tutors/Coach Developers information session in the Connacht Centre of Excellence on 16th December, 2019.

At the Connacht training evening held on the 16th December each of the Connacht GAA Tutors/Coach Developers worked through the syllabus for the programme, and resources available for each module, and were given an opportunity to outline how to deliver elements of the programme in their respective counties.

In developing this new Introduction to Gaelic Games Coaching Award, it is intended that the existing programmes, i.e. GAA Foundation Award, Camogie 'Camán Get a Grip' or the LGFA Fundamentals Award, will cease to be delivered from February, 2020.

A New Award 2 Youth and Adult Course commenced on 14th December 2019

The first day of the Award 2 Youth & Adult Course took place on Saturday, 14th December, 2019, in the Connacht GAA Centre, Began. The County Coaching &





Games Committees in Connacht nominated a total of 50 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.

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
- 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 the 4th April, 2020.

Information on the 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 Garda checks within the jurisdiction(s) in which they operate
- Attend relevant Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding training



Tutors, Damien Colman, and Damian Curley with participants on day one of the Award 2 Course on 14th December, 2019.

- 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.

New GAA Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher Course

A New GAA Child Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher Course was launched in September, 2019, and allows coaches and other volunteers who have already attended a full face-to-face Safeguarding 1 session in the past three years to refresh the course online.

It is an interactive e-learning course split into 6 separate modules and can be accessed at <https://learning.gaa.ie/Safeguarding>

Maintaining Appropriate Levels of Behaviour in our Work with Children and Young People

Last year 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 seven 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 58 schools participating in the programme at present, with many more on a waiting list to start the programme in 2020/21. We look forward to working with these schools over the years to come, helping them with the delivery of the





Future Leaders Performance Analysis Module Competition Winners, Tara Corbett, and Joanne Daly from St. Brigid's College, Loughrea, with Michael Duignan at the All-Ireland Hurling semi-final

There are eight PDST Future Leaders Associates based in Connacht, and they visit the schools and provide training to the schools' Future Leaders Coordinators 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** and **David O'Brien**, Gort Community School; **Pádraig Brennan**, St. Brigid's, Loughrea; **Joe McCabe** and **Daniel Forde**, St. Gerald's College, Castlebar, and **Martina Finneran**, Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown.

What is the GAA/ PDST Future Leaders Programme?

The Future Leaders is a cross-curricular programme for Transition Year Students comprising of seven modules, each designed to encourage maturity, initiative, responsibility and leadership skills in students. The programme also gives pupils the knowledge and skills to support all roles required in the effective staging of events where students are challenged to organise and run both on-field and off-field events for younger students.

Course Structure

The programme is comprised of the following seven modules as well as an Overview/Introduction to Leadership Module:

- Future Leaders FMS & Coaching Module
- Future Leaders Refereeing Module
- Future Leaders Event Management & Sports Administration Module
- Future Leaders Sports Journalism Module
- Future Leaders Performance Analysis Module
- Future Leaders Wellbeing Module
- Future Leaders Nutrition Module

All modules are stand-alone, are between 6 - 10 hours long and individually certifiable. When registered, each pupil is set up with an e-Portfolio to store and share documentation before submitting as part of the assessment process. Pupils receive certification for each module when the module task is completed. A school can choose to deliver one or more modules. Delivering four modules, the organisa-

tion of at least one Future Leaders event by the students, and documenting their experience in their e-Portfolio, results in the student being awarded the "GAA/PDST Future Leaders Award".

Ongoing review and improvement

Since featuring in the Leader Winter 2018 edition, the programme has continued to go from strength to strength. It has been an extremely busy year but very interesting one at the same time says **Eoghan Hanley**, now National Coordinator of the programme:

"While we piloted the programme in two phases, last year was the first year we released it nationally and over two-hundred schools were involved. There was huge learning to be taken from last year not only for the teachers and students involved, but for us also. We needed to know what was working well, what students were enjoying and what was not working so well and where we needed to make changes to ensure that both students and teachers had an enjoyable experience with the programme. With any programme of this size feedback is hugely important and we actively sought it from all areas. From teachers, students and from our team of PDST associates. We had a fantastic feedback day in Croke Park last May where we had over eighty students and teachers at a workshop to dissect the whole programme and provide us feedback on every aspect of it. This, along with our other sources of feedback, was invaluable and helped us make the necessary changes and updates to the programme. The response from schools has been amazing and I feel that teachers and students really appreciated that their voices were heard and that they had a part to play in moulding it into an even better programme than it already was."

The main area that was updated was the IT and online aspect of the programme and **David Sweeney**, GAA eLearning Manager, did fantastic work updating the system based on the needs of the programme. The ePortfolio is an integral part of the Future Leaders programme and to secure the overall GAA/PDST Future Leaders Award the students must document their learning and experiences throughout the year in their "My Future Leaders Journey" page. The site is fully mobile compatible and they can upload their reflections using text, audio recordings, photos and video. It also allows for extending learning which will be of huge benefit to the transition years in their studies for their Leaving Certificate and on to third level.

Each module was also updated, allowing more scope for both teachers and students to apply what they learn in a practical way by organising and running a huge variety of both on and off-field events. This has proven to be a very positive change with over 10,000 pupils taking part in Future Leaders events already this year.

Practical Application of Skills Acquired

During our review process and as we collated the vast amount of feedback received, it became very obvious to us that the students really enjoyed organising Future Leaders events and practically applying what they had learned in the various modules. The intention is to provide each student to contribute

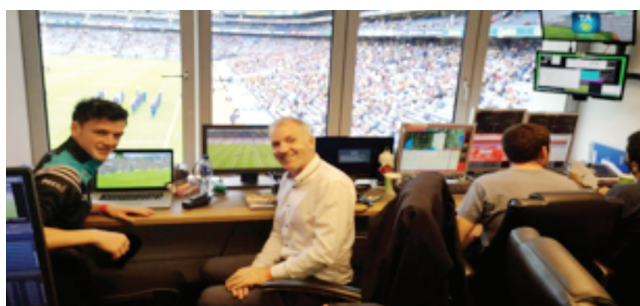




personally but also to support them in establishing and leading groups to coordinate the event and the various functions. In order to be as inclusive as possible of all students' interests and skill sets, students can organise both on and off-field events.

On-Field Events	Off- Field Events
GAA Super Games	5 km Runs
GAA Go Games	Colour Runs
GAA Fun & Run	Organised Walks / Cycles
Handball Event	Wellbeing Initiatives
Rounders Event	Healthy Eating Initiatives
7-a-sides	Whole School / Club Fun Days
Wall Ball Events	

The programme is also officially linked to Gaisce the President's Award, and pupils can do their Bronze Award through the Future Leaders Programme, once they are registered for both.



Competition Winner of the Future Leaders Refereeing Module Competition, Joseph Touhey, St. Gerald's College, Castlebar, with Dickie Murphy in the Hawkeye Studio in Croke Park at the Leinster Hurling Final.

Benefits of the Programme

Through the various modules the students develop in many ways:

Responsibility, Sense of Belonging, Wellbeing Initiative, Inclusivity, Maturity

These students are developing skills and capacities that are vital to fulfil all of the necessary roles in the running of a club or organisation. There are wider benefits to the student, the school, to local clubs and communities, and the country as a whole.

Further Developments and Updates



Cúl Camps Link

We are delighted that the GAA Future Leaders Programme and Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps have formed a partnership for the 2020 Cúl Camp season.

For Future Leaders students to be considered as assistant* coaches they must follow the below guidelines.

*An assistant coach allows 16 -18-year-olds work on Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps once they are accompanied by 18+ qualified GAA coach.

What do Future Leaders students need to do?

1. Present GAA/PDST Future Leaders Coaching module certificate to their county games manager.
2. Complete Garda Vetting process.

3. Complete Cúl Camp safeguarding module provided by county games manager.

Future Leaders students will get priority over 16-18-year-olds that have not completed the Future Leaders programme. The application process will open on the Cúl Camp website early in the new year.

Club – school link

According to National Co-ordinator, Eoghan Hanley:

"We are currently working with four clubs and schools, one in each province on a pilot to develop a **club-school link**. The plan is to work closely with these clubs and schools, the students, teachers, club members and parents to see develop a template to present to all clubs in 2021. We will make a presentation on this at the GAA Games Development Conference in 2021. We have over 300 schools participating in the programme this year with approximately 25,000 students developing skills and capacities which are vital to fulfil all of the necessary roles in the running of a club. We want to develop a pathway for these students to become involved in their local clubs and communities. The aim is 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 2019/20 academic year:

Galway: (22 schools)

Ardcoil Mhuire Ballinasloe
Colaiste Cholmcille
Colaiste Iognaid SJ
Dominican College
Gort Community School
Holy Rosary Mountbellew
Portumna Community School
Presentation Headford
Presentation Tuam
St Brigid's College Loughrea
St Pauls Secondary School
Coláiste Ghobnait
Coláiste Chroí Mhuire
St. Jarlath's College
Colaiste an Chreagain
Claregalway College
St Killian's
St Cuan's College
Youthreach Tuam
Scoil Bhríde, Mercy Secondary School
Merlin College
Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin

Leitrim: (5 Schools)

Carrick-on-Shannon Community School
Carrigallen Vocational School
Ballinamore CS
Lough Allen College
St Clare's Comprehensive School

Mayo: (18 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
 St. Joseph's Secondary School Castlebar
 Davitt College
 Our Lady's Secondary School
 St Brendan's College
 Gaelcholáiste Chomáin

Roscommon (7 Schools)

Scoil Mhuire Strokestown
 Abbey Community College
 Castlerea CS
 CBS Roscommon
 Roscommon Community College
 Convent Of Mercy
 St Nathy's College

Sligo (6 Schools)

Colaiste Mhuire Ballymote
 Coola Post Primary
 Mercy College
 St Mary's College
 Summerhill College
 Grange Post Primary

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

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

Coach Education Personnel, Courses and Resources

Connacht has a GAA Games Manager in each the five counties who is 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.

Cathal Cregg is the Connacht Provincial Games Manager and 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 and Development Portal Site, which has been 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 2020, should contact their local County Games Managers as outlined below (*bottom of page*):

Acknowledgement

In conclusion, it is most important to acknowledge the tremendous work undertaken in Croke Park by **Pat Daly**, Director of Games Development & Research; **Jimmy D'Arcy**, GAA Technical Development and Support Manager; **Dr 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 Hasset**; Connacht Games Manager, **Cathal Cregg** and Connacht GAA Secretary, **John Prenty**. We are most fortunate to have their calibre, experience, ongoing support and encouragement.

A special 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 Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Sligo and Roscommon 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 each of the members of the Connacht Coach Education Committee for the giving of their time, commitment and expertise throughout 2019.

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





Tuarascáil Coiste Éisteachta Connacht CLG 2019

COISTE Éisteachta Connacht CLG has, as its brief, in accordance with Rule 3.32 TO 2019, 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 2019 Coiste Éisteachta met on eleven 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 gComórtais 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. A number of committee members acted once as a temporary Coiste Éisteachta Chontae on one occasion as result of a recommendation of a DRA decision. One decision of the Coiste resulted in an appeal to the Central Appeals Committee which was successful on that occasion and one other case in which the Coiste Éisteachta was named as a Respondent ended up as matter for the DRA. This matter was settled by mutual agreement immediately in advance of any DRA Hearing proceeding.

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

HEARINGS

Contae	Submitted	Penalty Imposed	Penalty set aside	Penalty Imposed but less serious than alleged
GAILLIMH	2	0	1	1
LIATROIM	1	0	1	0
MAIGH EO	0	0	0	0
ROSCOMÁIN	1	0	1	0
SLIGEACH	0	0	0	0
Total Hearings	4	0	3	1

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.

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. The gratitude of the committee is also extended to John Prenty, Rúnaí Comhairle Connacht CLG, for all his help and assistance over 2019. 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 2020.

Baill Coiste Éisteachta Connacht 2019

The following assisted with the various cases in 2018: **Seán Ó Fiannaí**, Cathaoirleach (Maigh Eo), **Tod Ó Mathúna** (Maigh Eo), **Breandán Ó Broin** (Maigh Eo), **Micheál Ó hUigín** (Maigh Eo), **Aodh Ó Rudáin** (Maigh Eo), **Eamon Ó Campion** (Roscomáin), **Micheál Ó Holláin** (Roscomáin), **Eamonn Ó Maoláin** (Sligeach), **Tomás Ó Cuinneagáin** (Gaillimh), **Tomás Ó Dochartaigh** (Gaillimh), **Seán Mac Samhráin** (Liatroim), **Déaglán Ó Buacháin**, Rúnaí (Liatroim).

Mise le meas

Déaglán Ó Buacháin

Rúnaí Coiste Éisteachta Connacht

APPEALS

Contae	Submitted	Appeal Upheld	Appeal Lost	Appeal Ruled out of Order or Not Allowed
GAILLIMH	7	4	1	2
Liatroim	1	0	1	0
Maigh Eo	0	0	0	0
Roscomáin	2	2	0	0
Sligeach	3	3	0	0
Total Appeals	13	7	2	2





Connacht Post-Primary Schools Report 2019

WE had many fine games of hurling and football in 2018/2019 and the following are the senior and junior results that went to All-Ireland level.

Senior Football

'A' - St Colman's 0-15 St Gerald's 1-11. Colmans beaten in All-Ireland semi-final by St Michael's, Enniskillen, 2-13, St Colman's 1-10.

'B' - Roscommon CBS 5-22, Summerhill 2-12. Roscommon CBS did Roscommon and Connacht proud by winning the All-Ireland title. They beat a strong Kerry side on a scoreline of Roscommon CBS 1-12, Scoil Phobail Shraith Luachra 1-11.

'C' - St Paul's, Oughterard 5-16, Balla Secondary School 2-08. St Paul's made it to the All-Ireland Final only to lose out narrowly to a Cork side, Patrician Academy, Mallow, 2-14, St Paul's 3-8.

'D' - School Chumsitheach Chiaran 2-11, Dunmore Community School 2-9.

All-Ireland semi-final - Ballybay 1-8, Scoil Chumsitheach Chiaran 1-6, Scoil Chumsitheach Chiaran losing out by two points to Ballybay who went on to win the All-Ireland.

Junior 'A' Football - St Gerald's 4-21, St Jarlath's 0-13; St Gerald's played St Colman's, Newry, in the All-Ireland semi-final losing by the narrowest of margins, St Colman's 2-07 St Gerald's 2-6. St Colman's went on to claim the All-Ireland title by just one point.

Senior 'C' - Colaiste na Coiribe 3-15, Mercy, Woodford 2-8; Colaiste na Coiribe reached All-Ireland, meeting a strong Tipperary team from Borrisakane and losing out on a score of Borrisakane 1-22, Colaiste na Coiribe 1-12.

Junior 'A' Hurling - Presentation Athenry 1-13, St Bridget's Loughrea 0-11, Presentation Athenry went on to claim the All-Ireland title by beating Thurles CBS in a stylish fashion on a score of Presentation Athenry 3-19, Thurles CBS 0-9. A great win for Presentation, Athenry, as Thurles CBS had already beaten St Kieran's, Kilkenny, in the semi-final.

Connacht 'A' Hurling Final - Presentation College, Athenry, 1-14, Gort Community School 0-10. Gort Community School beaten in All-Ireland series at quarter-final stage by Christian Brothers College, Cork. Presentation College, Athenry, crowned Connacht champions 2018/2019. They went on to represent Connacht in the All-Ireland series reaching the final. St. Kieran's proved to be a little stronger on the day, winning by just 3 points. Final score St. Kieran's 1-15, Presentation Athenry 1-12.

Connacht 'B' Hurling Final - St. Raphael's College, Loughrea, 1-21, Claregalway College 1-13.

St. Raphael's captured the Connacht 'B' Hurling title in fine style. A semi-final win over St. Patrick's, Maghera, gave them an appearance in an All-Ireland final. They met a fine Castlecomer team but proved their worth with a fine win. Congratulations to them

on a very successful year. Final score St. Raphael's, Loughrea 1-18, Castlecomer 1-14.

CONNACHT COLLEGES 2018/2019

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

SENIOR	Winners	Runners-Up
A	St Colman's 0-15	St Gerald's 1-11
B	Roscommon CBS 5-22	Summerhill 2-12
C	St Paul's 5-16	Balla 2-8

JUVENILE

A	Claregalway 3-18	St Jarlath's 1-7
B	Roscommon CBS 3-14	Holy Rosary 3-1
C League & Champ	Strokestown 1-19	Enniscrone 3-7
D League & Champ		

JUNIOR

A	St Gerald's 4-21	St Jarlath's 0-13
B	Ballinrobe 3-7	St Nathy's 3-5
C & League	Abbey Boyle 1-12	Strokestown 1-10
D & League	St Mary's, Ballygar 2-8	Swinford 0-7

FIRST YEAR

A	Claregalway 4-11	Rice College 3-5
B	Roscommon CBS 4-16	St Attractas 2-9

LEAGUES

SENIOR

A	St Gerald's 2-9	St Colman's 1-8
B	St Muredach's 4-7	Claregalway 1-13
C	Foxford 0-19	Oranmore 2-10
D	Ceathru Rua 2-11	Dunmore 2-9

JUNIOR

A	St Gerald's 210	Summerhill 1-11
B	Garbally 314	Balla 3-10
C	Abbey, Boyle 1-12	Strokestown 1-10

JUVENILE

A	St Jarlath's 4-8	Pres Athenry 2-4
B	Roscommon CBS 4-80	Claregalway 3-8

FIRST YEAR

A	St Colman's 6-8	St Gerald's 1-10
B	Claregalway 4-10	Roscommon CBS 2-7
C	Foxford 7-18	Dunmore 7-10

HURLING

JUVENILE A

1st & 2nd Yr Combined	St Killian's 3-14	Clarín College 5-7
JUNIOR A	Pres Athenry 1-13	St Brigid's 0-11

JUNIOR A SHIELD

JUNIOR C	Gort v Calasactius	
JUNIOR C	St Cuan's 2-18	St. Killian's 1-7
SENIOR A	Pres Athenry 1-14	Gort CS 0-10
SENIOR B	St Raphaels 1-21	Claregalway 1-13
SENIOR C	Colaiste na Coiribe 3-15	Woodford 2-8





CHAMPIONS: St Raphael's College, Loughrea, senior hurling squad which overcame Castlecomer Community School in the All-Ireland Post Primary Schools final at O'Connor Park, Tullamore. Back row, from left: Tiernan Killeen, John Cooney, Conor Keane, Cathal Byran, Eoin Callagy, Naoise O'Malley, Cathal O'Hehir, Dara Unlacke, Shane Coyle, Cian Warde, Conor Slattery, Ryan Kelehan, Adrian Prendergast, Adam Nolan, Josh de Swart, Jordan McMahon, Euan Walsh, Iain Griffin, Robert Connaire, Evan Cox. Front row, from left: Oisin Connaughton, Alex Connaire, Dean Moran, Kieran Hanrahan, Shane Morgan, Ben Keane, Ciarán Connaughton, Joe Jackson, Darren Shaughnessy, Aidan Fahy, Seán Connaughton, Louw Botes, Keith Dervan, Stephan O'Halloran, Mark O'Regan, Pierce Mannion.

General

2018-2019 was a very successful year on the field of play. While we had some difficulty filling the programme of fixtures all competition are almost complete. Weather conditions proved favourable for the playing of games with little disruption. However, we were called upon to make use of the Connacht Centre of Excellence for the playing of a large number of games. A special 'thank you' all clubs who make their pitches available on a regular basis.

Referees

Thanks to all referees who make themselves available to officiate at our games.

Connacht Coaching & Games

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

Sponsorship

We thank Bank of Ireland for their sponsorship of the Senior 'A' Final.

Discipline

A number of incidents of indiscipline happened at some of our games during the year. It is regrettable that these incidents occur. Hopefully 2019/2020 will be free from similar happenings. Valuable time is wasted dealing with disciplinary matters. It is the responsibility of all involved to see that our games are enjoyable exercises.

Special Mention

A special word of congratulations to our three All-Ireland winning teams, Junior Hurling, *Presentation, Athenry*; Senior 'B' Hurling, *St Raphael's, Loughrea*; Senior 'B' Football, Roscommon CBS.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all our schools for their co-operation in participating and in our competitions. We thank Connacht Council and their office staff for their help and assistance during the year. Thanks also to Connacht Council for their distribution of €40,000 of equipment each year to our schools. Best wishes to all schools for 2020.

Mise le meas

Aodh Ó Rodáin, Rúnaí.



The historic St Colman's College junior hurling side who claimed the Mayo Post Primary Junior A hurling title, bridging a 38-year gap to their last title. Pictured back-row (from L to R): Michael Foody, Mark Bermingham, Pdraig McHugh, Enda Jennings, Luke Colleran, Adam Byrne, James Heaney, Nathan Moran, Ned Burke, Oisín Duffy, Rytis Venslolaitis, Brian Bermingham, Cian Costello, Milo Petrovic, Peter Gallagher. Front-row (L to R): Niall Hurley, Danny Noone, Pearse Donlon, Dara Hurley, James Wooley, Brian King, Aiden McGing, Ronan Fallon, Oran McNulty, Dara Judge, Ger Murphy and John Dillon.





Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Chonnacht

Tuairisc an Rúnaí Eanáir 2020

Officers

Chairperson, **Gerry O’Gara** (Ros Comáin)
 Vice-Chair., **Micheál Mac Thiarnáin** (Liatroim)
 Secretary, **Aodán Ó Caoimh** (Maigh Eo)
 Treasurer, **David Dillon** (Sligeach)
 P.R.O.: **Michael Maye** (Sligeach)
 Development Officer, **Cyril Mannion** (Gaillimh)
 Handball Officer, **Fearghas Mac Lochlainn** (Gaillimh)
 Committee, **Declan Kirrane** (Maigh Eo), **Ciarán Kennedy** (Liatroim), **Gerry Hussey** (Gaillimh).

Coaching & Games Development

Coaches in all five counties are doing a wonderful job of coaching in schools. Guided by **Cathal Cregg** (Provincial Games Manager), **Damien Coleman** (Connacht Hurling Director) 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 2019 these games were a huge success and, in many ways, the highlight of the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Chonnacht year in terms of involvement and positive participation in Gaelic Games. We co-ordinated exhibition games at the Connacht SFC Roscommon v Leitrim quarter-final fixture in Dr. Hyde Park on May 12th, at the Sligo v Galway semi-final at Markievicz Park on May 19th and at the Mayo v Roscommon semi-final on May 26th at Elverys MacHale Park. Our Connacht Final Exhibition Games



Pictured is Serena Henry of Tooreen NS as she receives the Mayo Cumann na mBunscoil Mini 7s Camogie Shield from Maria Coyne, Mayo Cumann na mBunscoil Camogie Officer.

involved players from all five Connacht counties and was played at the Galway v Roscommon SFC Final on June 16th.

All-in-all, 160 boys and girls participated with Young Whistlers from Roscommon, Sligo and Mayo as referees. The Connacht final exhibition games in Salthill 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 ALLIANZ CUMANN NA mBUNSCOL EXHIBITION GAMES

ROSCOMMON JERSEYS - GIRLS:

No.	Name	School
1.	Caitlin Gavin	Cornafulla N.S., Co. Roscommon
2.	Niamh McHugh	Scoil Mhuire Naofa, Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim
3.	Meabh McGoldrick	Cornafulla N.S., Co. Roscommon
4.	Riona O’Farrell	St Lassara’s N.S., Ballinacarrow, Co. Sligo
5.	Freya Finnerty	Abbeycartron N.S., Co. Roscommon
6.	Christine Earley	Annaduff N.S., Co. Leitrim
7.	Ali Hughes	Cong N.S., Co. Mayo
8.	Lauren Hynes	St Teresa’s N.S., Ballintogher, Co. Sligo
9.	Alannah Kelly	Ballyheane N.S., Co. Mayo
10.	Alanna Campbell	Tisrara N.S., Co. Roscommon

GALWAY JERSEYS - GIRLS:

No.	Name	School
1.	Amy Malone	Cloghogue N.S., Co. Sligo
2.	Riona Nic Thiarnáin	Drumcong N.S., Co. Leitrim
3.	Kayla Doherty	Ardagh N.S., Co. Mayo
4.	Niamh Meehan	Scoil Ursula, Co. Sligo
5.	Alannah O’Donoghue	Letterfrack N.S., Co. Galway
6.	Aisling Murray	Castlefranch N.S., Co. Galway
7.	Aimée Harkin	Gaeilscoil Chluainín, Co. Liatroma
8.	Saeva Rowan	Cogaula N.S., Co. Mayo
9.	Clodagh Lee	Monivea N.S., Co. Galway
10.	Caoimhe Graham	Leenane N.S., Co. Galway

Girls’ Match Young Whistler:

Maebh Noone - Cloonakilla N.S., Co. Roscommon

ROSCOMMON JERSEYS - BOYS:

No.	Name	School
1.	James Hawkshaw	St. Paul’s N.S., Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon
2.	Aaron Scanlon	St Brendan’s N.S., Co. Sligo
3.	Thomas Mc Keon	Drumshanbo N.S., Co. Leitrim
4.	Christian Donlon	Cloontuskert N.S., Co. Roscommon
5.	Eoin O’Dea	Cross N.S., Co. Mayo
6.	Shane Dooney	Derrinabroc N.S., Co. Mayo
7.	Seamus Hussey	Lisaniskey N.S., Co. Roscommon
8.	Seán Keaney	Kilmactranny N.S., Co. Sligo
9.	Sam Hannon	St. Coman’s Wood Primary School, Co. Roscommon
10.	Luke Quinn	Drumlea N.S., Co. Leitrim





GALWAY JERSEYS - BOYS:

No.	Name	School
1.	Tadhg Fallon	Drumkeerin N.S., Co. Leitrim
2.	Tommy Flaherty	Tully N.S., Co. Galway
3.	Thomas Maughan	Claremorris B.N.S., Co. Mayo
4.	Darragh Mastin	Geevagh N.S., Co. Sligo
5.	Pádraig Ó Gairbhí	Scoil Raifteirí, Co. Mhaigh Eo
6.	Patrick Flynn	Menlough N.S., Co. Galway
7.	James O' Connor	Sooney N.S., Co. Sligo
8.	Evan Mannion	Milltown N.S., Co. Galway
9.	Brian Ó Cianaigh	Gaelscoil Liatroma, Co. Liatroma
10.	Owen McDonnell	Kingstown N.S., Co. Galway

Boys' Match Young Whistler

Fionn O'Brien, Cloonakilla N.S., Co. Roscommon.

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 GAA

We are very fortunate in having an excellent working relationship with Comhairle Chonnacht CLG. This is due mainly to the great support of **Gerry McGovern, John Prenty, Adrian Hassett, Cathal Cregg, Damien Coleman** and the Games Managers in each county. Our delegate to Connacht Council, our own Cathaoirleach **Gerry O'Gara**, keeps us informed of all issues pertaining to our organisation and relays back to Connacht Council.

Handball

This year's Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Connacht Handball Finals were held on February 16th in Salthill, Galway. A special word of thanks to Salthill Handball Club for use of their fine facilities. Many thanks also to **Pierce Lalor, Morgan Darcy** and **Oisín Ó Cúláin** who gave freely of their time and refereed all games. Mention must also go to the Connacht Handball Council who sponsored T-shirts for all the young players. Forty-five children from 21 schools across the province took part with all five counties being represented. A fun day was had by all and the standard of handball was very high. The winners went on to represent their school, county and province at the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol National Handball Day which was held again this year in Kingscourt, Co. Cavan in March:

Buaiteoiri: Girls' U-11 Singles, Stephanie Bhreathnach (SN Tuairíní, Gaillimh).

Girls' U-11 Doubles, Caoimhe Ní Ghloinn & Sadhb Ní Ghibne (Scoil Sailearna, Gaillimh).

Boys' U-11 Singles, Bertie Ó Donnchadha (Scoil Rónáin, Gaillimh).

Boys' U-11 Doubles, Cian Ó Duilleáin & Diarmuid Ó Díoráin (Scoil Rónáin, Gaillimh).

Girls' U-13 Singles, Shauna Corrigan (Lisacul NS, Ros Comáin).

Girls' U-13 Doubles, Ailbhe Ní Ghionnáin & Amy Ní Thuathail (Scoil Sailearna, Gaillimh).

Boys' U-13 Singles, Gavin Kelly (Athenry BNS, Gaillimh).

Boys' U-13 Doubles, Marc Ó Coiligh & Charlie Mac Giolla Easpaig (SN Tuairíní, Gaillimh).

Tráth na gCeist

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Chonnacht coordinated a very successful quiz for primary school children on April 9th. The schools that took part had all qualified from the respective county Allianz Cumann na mBunscol quizzes. There was a very high standard of answering - well done to all participants on the day. The winners and runners-up were as follows: 1st place: Breaffy N.S., Béal an Átha, Maigh Eo; 2nd place: Claremorris B.N.S. (Maigh Eo); 3rd place: Calry N.S. (Sligeach).

Rounders

It was decided a number of years ago that we would endeavour to better 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), was instrumental in organising three Rounders days in the Connacht Centre of Excellence with the help of **Joe O'Donoghue** from the National Rounders Federation. All the good coaching work currently being done in Connacht counties will hopefully again culminate in a Rounders Participation Day for primary schools from all Connacht counties at the end of the school year in the COE in Began. In the near future we will aim for a Rounders exhibition game between Mayo and Galway children during their Allianz NFL match.

Child Protection

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.

Ár seacht míle buíochas do Chomhairle Chonnacht CLG for all their help and support throughout the last year. Many thanks also to my fellow officers for their dedication and ongoing commitment to the cause. Special thanks to the teachers and others who helped out at our exhibition games and parents who brought their children to the different venues.

Ba mhian linn buíochas ar leith a ghabháil le **Cyril Mannion** (Gaillimh) a chaith seal fada de bhlianta i mbun rúnaíochta le Cumann na mBunscol Chonnacht sular éirigh sé as a chuid dualgaisí rúnaíochta i mbliana. Gaisce oibre a rinne sé thar tréimhse fhada agus tá muid uilig go léir faoi chomaoin go mór aige. Nár laga Dia thú a Cyril!

Aodán Ó Caoimh,

Rúnaí Chumann na mBunscol Chonnacht
Eanáir 2020





Comhairle Ardoideachais Connacht Annual Report

Introduction

The 2018/2019 academic year saw the continued extensive promotion of Gaelic Games throughout all higher education institutions in Connacht. Teams from NUI Galway, GMT, IT Sligo, GMT Castlebar, GMT Letterfrack and a number of colleges of Further Education and ETBs across the province competed in all grades within the Comhairle Ardoideachais Electric Ireland Leagues and Championships. The institutions continue to receive extensive support from the provincial council and county executive committees in their promotion of Gaelic Games.

Participation

As stated earlier all higher education institutions in the province actively participated in Comhairle Ardoideachais competitions in both Gaelic Football and Hurling in the 2018/2019 academic year. Prior to Christmas the higher education leagues take place and during this period NUIG captured the Freshers Division III Football League title. NUIG also qualified for the Freshers Division I Football League Final but were narrowly beaten by Ulster University. GMT also captured the Freshers Division II Hurling league title.

In the Football Championships NUIG had another impressive year progressing all the way to the semi-final stage where they were narrowly beaten by eventual winners, UCC. IT Sligo were narrowly beaten in Round I by the Garda College and had to travel to IT Tralee in the qualifier round where a weakened team were comprehensively beaten by the home side. GMT took part in the Trench Cup and progressed through the group stage to make the championship weekend where they were narrowly beaten in the semi-final by Letterkenny Institute of Technology. GMT Letterfrack and GMT Mayo competed in the Corn na Mac Leinn but failed to progress past the group stages.

GMT defeated IT Sligo in the opening round of the Intermediate Football Championship that was organised on a regional basis for the early rounds. GMT were then subsequently defeated by NUIG in the next round of the competition NUIG progressed to the final of the Intermediate Football championship but were narrowly defeated by DCU.

IT Sligo captured the Junior Football Championship having progressed to the finals day by winning the Connacht Junior Football Championship defeating NUIG in the Connacht final. In the final itself they defeated a highly-fancied DCU team to capture IT Sligo's first football title in a number of years.

NUIG, IT Sligo and GMT also competed in the Freshers football championship with NUIG capturing Freshers 'A' football championship.

In the hurling championship NUIG had an impressive run to the Fitzgibbon Cup semi-final where they lost out by a goal to Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. The standout championship performance of

the year was GMT's victory in the Ryan Cup final where they defeated Ulster University to regain their Fitzgibbon Cup status for the 2019/2020 academic year.

GMT also won the Freshers Div. II hurling championship to complete a league and championship double at this level while GMT Letterfrack won the Pádraig MacDiarmada Shield title. IT Sligo also competed in the Ryan Cup but exited the competition at the group stage. NUIG and GMT also had teams competing in the Intermediate Hurling championship but exited in the early rounds of this competition. NUIG also had teams competing in the Freshers hurling championships where they exited the Fresher 'A' championship at quarter final stage and the Fresher 'B' Hurling Championship at semi-final stage.

The list of teams and competitions entered by higher education clubs from the province is a long one and shows the high level of participation in Gaelic Games in all third level institutions. All clubs, their officers and coaches are to be commended for their work in the promotion of our games in the institutions.

College Bursaries

The bursary scheme has been in place for 12 years and awards members of the association who are active members in their higher education club. In all 45 promising young Connacht GAA players and administrators have been included in the province's annual bursary scheme for 2019. All five Connacht counties are represented in the initiative that 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 ongoing efforts of the three GPO's working in the higher education institutions in the province must be acknowledged. **Damien Curley** (GMT), **Michael Harte** (IT Sligo) and **Michael O'Connor** (NUI, Galway) provide crucial support and guidance to the GAA clubs in each of their institutions. Credit should also go to **Nigel Jennings**, Sports Officer in GMT 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

There are still significant challenges facing our constituent institutions. The continued linking of championship status to league positions in the





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

Sigersson 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. The move to play the relegation fixtures as part of the Sigersson fixtures in January has alleviated this somewhat and is to be welcomed.

The condensing of the Sigersson Cup fixtures to the month of January is also a challenge as the competition is now starting prior to the return of students to colleges following Semester 1 exams and this makes preparation of teams difficult for some units. The move of the u-20 intercounty football competitions back to the January/February window at the same time as Fresher competitions are taking place means that a number of players will be required to play two games per week and will leave minimum time for the preparation of Fresher teams.

With regards to eligibility to play in higher education competitions, debate continues to take place. The changing landscape around the types of courses been 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 and prospering 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 2019/2020.

Padraig Mac Dhorcai
Comhairle Ardoideachais Connacht





Pitch Maintenance Work Group Report 2019

By Hugh Rudden

THE work of the National Pitch Maintenance Committee continued throughout the year and regular meetings are held in an effort to get the message of the need for the care and maintenance of our playing fields.

Pitch maintenance information days are held in each province. It is planned to hold a pitch maintenance information day in Connacht in early Spring. The launch of new Guidelines for the Construction and Maintenance of 3G pitches is to be held in early 2020. Quite a lot of work has gone into this project and it will replace the 2009 guidelines.

The “Pitch of the Year” project will continue in 2020, and it is hoped to get the co-operation of referees, managers, etc, in carrying out this project.

Here in Connacht we have pitches comparable with the best in the country. Even the smallest attention to detail could make a big difference. The following points might be worth noting in relation to presentation of grounds:

1. Recent training sessions and games are not helpful
2. Mowing should be looked after a few days before a big game
3. Line marking and pitch size, e.g. (same width at each end) straight lines
4. Proper flags
5. Warm-up areas off main pitch. Remember players at inter county level deserve the best.

Another initiative under consideration at the moment is the Performance testing for GAA pitches.

It is expected that this project will be initially piloted on a small number of pitches.

Everything in sport is measured now, so too is the quality of the playing surface. There is equipment now to test turf density, moisture content, root depth, hardness, surface deformation, shock absorption, traction, infiltration etc, etc. All leading to a better playing surfact where players can perform at their best.

A successful course for county groundsmen was held in Abbotstown in March and November, 2019. All Connacht counties have a groundsman with a level 1 certificate in groundsmanship. These courses are given and certified by the Institute of Groundsmanship. It is hoped to follow up with a level 2 course in 2020.

The Pitch Maintenance Workgroup will continue to organise information days on pitch maintenance in 2020. If I could offer advice to counties and clubs it would be to get somebody with a genuine interest to look after their grounds. Daily, weekly, monthly and yearly care is required to keep pitches in reasonable condition.

Good advice is freely available from the Grounds Maintenance Committee.

Members of the Committee are:

Kieran McGann, Chairman
Damien McLaverty, Secretary
Stuart Wilson, Croke Park
Padraic Greene, S.T.R.
Eddie Hughes, Ulster Rep
John Coogan, Leinster Rep
Stephen Forest, Munster Rep
Hugh Rudden, Connacht Rep





Tuairisc Choiste Scór Chonnacht 2019

IS cúis mhór áthais domsa an tuairisc seo ar imeachtaí Scór sa chúige a chur faoi bhráid na comhdhála. Gabhann Coiste Scór Chonnacht buíochas leis na hOifigigh Cultúir & Teanga, le Coistí Scór na gContaetha agus go háirithe le hOifigigh na gContaetha agus an Chúige a chabhraigh linn i rith na bliana.

2019 saw four All-Ireland titles come to the province with two wins at Scór na nÓg level by Naomh Muire, Co. Liatroma (sa chomórtas Bailéad-Ghrúpa) and Mainistir Chnoc Muaidhe, Co. na Gaillimhe (sa chomórtas Rince Seit). In Scór Sinsir, Micheál de Búrca as Baile an Doirín, Co. na Gaillimhe won the Amhránaíocht Aonair while C.L.G. Achadh Mór, Co. Mhaigh Eo took the Rince Seit title on the day. Great credit is due to all our representatives at All -Ireland level who performed with distinction in the T.F. Royal, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. This concluded two consecutive years of Coiste Scór Chonnacht hosting the All-Ireland Finals. On that note, Coiste Scór Chonnacht extend a “mile buíochas” to everyone who made the finals such a success.



Naomh Mhuire, Cora Droma Ruisc, Co Liaroma (buaiteoir san Bailéad-Ghrúpa).



Micheál de Búrca ó Bhaile an Doirín, Gaillimh (Buaiteoir san Amhránaíocht Aonair)

The Connacht finals of Scór na nÓg were held in a packed Town Hall, Claremorris. The standard in all competitions was extremely high.

The Connacht Finals of Scór Sinsir were held in Balla, Co. Mayo. The day started with the Tráth na gCeisteanna Boird. Thankfully, the numbers participating in county competitions improved slightly and having two entries in the Rince Foirne this year, compared to no entries the previous year, was very welcomed. However, the calibre of all our performers was excellent. Roscommon 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.

Kathleen Moffatt (Liatroim) was Connacht’s nominee for the National Scór Long service award in 2019. Kathleen gave huge service to Scór and continues to be a strong supporter at all our competitions. In addition to the Long Service Award, Uachtarán C.L.G., Seán Ó hÓráin made a special presentation to Phonsie Tully (Ros Comáin) for “christening” our competition with the name “Scór” fifty years ago.

On October 23rd 2019, Scór Chonnacht 2020 was launched by Uachtarán Chomhairle Chonnacht, Gearóid Mag Samhráin, in the Centre of Excellence, Began, Co. Mayo. This launch night included a presentation of the new rulebook following this year’s Scór General Meeting and Youth Forum in Páirc an Chrócaigh.

Buaiteoirí na bliana 2019 ag Scór Chonnacht

Comórtas	Scór na nÓg	Scór Sinsir
Rince Foirne	Naomh Dominic, Co. Ros Comáin.	Naomh Dominic, Co. Ros Comáin.
Amhránaíocht Aonair	Eibhlín Ní Chatháin, Mainistir Chnoc Muaidhe, Co. na Gaillimhe.	Micheál de Búrca, Baile an Doirín, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Aithriseoireacht / Scéalaíocht	Éimhín Mac Giolla Dhuinn, Ail Finn, Co. Ros Comáin.	Micheál Mac Concharraige, Ail Finn, Co. Ros Comáin.
Ceol Uirlise	Cora Finne, Co. na Gaillimhe.	Acaill, Co. Mhaigh Eo.
Léiriú	Naomh Dominic, Co. Ros Comáin.	Ail Finn, Co Ros Comáin.
Bailéad-Ghrúpa	Naomh Mhuire, Cora Droma Ruisc, Co. Liatroma.	Achadh na Síleann, Co. Liatroma.
Rince Seit	Mainistir Chnoc Muaidhe, Co. na Gaillimhe.	Achadh Mór, Co. Mhaigh Eo.

Tá súil agam go rachaidh Scór agus ár dteanga i láidreacht sna blianta amach romhainn.

Tomás Ó Muirí (Rúnaí)





Coiste Iomana Tuarascáil 2019

*Compiled by
Damien Coleman
(Coiste Secretary)*

THE coiste Iomana Committee comprises of: **Anthony Flaherty** (Chairman), **Damien Coleman** (Secretary), **John Hopkins**, **Eugene Connolly**, **Tomás Cawley**, **Kieran Farrell**, **Christy McDermott**, **Hilary Phelan**, **John Prenty** (Provincial Secretary), **Michael O'Connor** (Recording Secretary), **Cathal Cregg** (Provincial Games Manager), **Jimmy Connors**.

It was a challenging year in 2019, 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 become derailed, which frustrates everybody in the end.

The key to any games development programme is essentially, offering of games opportunities to clubs at all age cohorts, and also to our academy squads throughout the province. In 2020 we in Connacht GAA, working closely with our national HDC committee, are offering An Táin óg Leagues to clubs at U-13-15 youth levels, and also Cuchulainn Adult Leagues to

all our provincial clubs in hurling, which allows for current internal activity to stay the same, and entry into above national leagues will significantly increase the opportunities to play at meaningful levels during the spring and summer months.

On the academy front, squads will be afforded five games opportunities, with Celtic Challenge Cup; u-17 squads given a minimum of 5 opportunities.

I would seriously encourage all clubs to be part of these new games opportunities and counties to put there best foot forward at academy level also.

Pride of place in Connacht hurling in 2019 must go to our Lory Meagher winners Leitrim; our Nicky Rackard winners Sligo; our intermediate club winners Tooreen. Hurling development in our province is definitely working when above mentioned are to the fore nationally and provincially.

Academy Dates 2019 – Hurling Development Tournaments

May 16th, June 20th, July 18th, Aug 8th, Aug 29th

In all five national and provincial dates, all counties were afforded games opportunities across age groups at u-14, u-15, u-16 in our talent academy programme. Note: Previous provincial days (Niall McInerney u-16, Stephen Dorrigan u-15, Connolly Cunniffe u-14) are now incorporated into the five national dates above.

Academy events summary

Once again a busy calendar of events were carried out as per fixtures schedule with Connacht GAA Blitz's occurring at Under-14, U-15, U-16. Hundreds of young players of the future from all counties as well as a number of club blitzes were in action. These events are excellent preparation for mentors and players alike for the National talent academy finals day at U-14/15/16 years, that occurs on the last



Tooreen – Connacht Intermediate Champions





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-14/15/16/17 days held throughout the province to develop hurling in 2019, and agreed to fully comply again in 2020 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 in Began, Aug 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/Conditioning education in the province delivered by Seamus Burns. This service is invaluable in developing our players, and the committee wish to thank Connacht GAA for positive inputs here.

Our provincial committee also agreed that academy squads will only run at U-15-17 age groups in developing hurling counties, with an in-house blitz programme at U-13 as a start.

Celtic Challenge Cup U-17 2019

Michael O'Connor (NUI Galway), was the provincial group's co-ordinator 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 130 + game programme 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.

Winners of 2019 Celtic Challenge Titles from Connacht

Galway Maroons won Div I, Roscommon won Div IV, **Leitrim** won Div VI

Note: With only six national trophies up for grabs, Connacht counties won three divisions outright which is a testimony to the hurling development work going on in the province.

A sincere thanks must go to the national operations manager, **Caoimhe Ni 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 to **Pat Daly** our National Games Development & Research Manager, for his facilitation, determination in improving the game nationally, and his support to us provincially.

We wish Pat Daly the very best in his most recent promotion within the Association, to head up a new **governance department in Croke Park**.

My review report, to the Coiste, of the **Celtic Challenge Cup** was positive, with a huge buy-in on behalf of all teams especially Galway x3, Leitrim x1 and Roscommon x1, Mayo x1 + Sligo x1. It allowed a large number of 16-17 years-olds to play at the highest level available to them, in a meaningful games programme. Congratulations to Roscommon on winning the Division IV title. A number of the **Galway players** impressed greatly during the tournament, in winning the **Division I title**, and were rewarded to be included in the successful All-Ireland winning minor panel and extended panel. Next scheduled information night **Celtic Challenge Cup Roadshow** in our Connacht Centre is March 2020.

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



Micheál Breathnach's - Connacht Junior champions.





focal point (age group) going forward in order to focus their efforts in developing hurling. Many thanks again to go to our provincial staff in headquarters for their continued support, **John Prenty**, **Cathal Cregg**, **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 was run over the course of May and June, with more than 1,200 players participating in an 8-week programme of meaningful, pre-scheduled games - with 130+ games in total nationally.

County Poc – Fada Competitions

The venues + dates for competitions at u-16 / adult ages in Connacht 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 combined: Sheemore Mountain, Co. Leitrim, 6.30 p.m. June 21st.

Galway: NUIG Grounds, Dangain, at 7 p.m. June 22nd, Inky Flaherty Cup.

Provincial competition took place in Began July 1st at 7pm, for the Niall McInerney Cup. 2 adults and 1 U16 from each county qualified for the Connacht competition, Galway's **Tadhg Haran** won the competition, with Galway's **Rory Burke** (Oranmore/Maree) taking the U16 title in the province, and Rory going onto win the national title also ..

Special thanks to all county co ordinators, and our chairman **Anthony Flaherty** for the successful running of the provincial show piece

County Hurling GPOs – 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 and provincially with all county boards.

1. School linkages in both primary and post primary
2. Cúl Camps (increased numbers in 2019)
3. Coach Education Tutoring / Learning and Development
4. Academy Development / Celtic Challenge Cup U-17 squad

5. Go Games Club Blitzs / Child Games Opportunities
6. Skills Star Challenge U-12 club (Athleague/Tremane winning 2019)
7. Youth Games Opportunities

In addition to above in 2019, staff will engage with two new projects - the 5-star centres (national school skills and games projects), and Super Games Centres (Post primary TY programme) in 2020.

I wish to thank all staff and project co-ordinators for their assistance throughout 2019.

Provincial Post Primary School Blitzs

Connacht schools “**Super Games Centre Blitzs**” held in eight provincial centres over four 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

Initiative was supported by the national HDC, now operating in Leitrim only on a continued basis, with Michael Carroll and county games manager Thomas Keenan.

Championship winners 2019

Connacht Club and County

Tooreen: Connacht Intermediate Winners.

Micheál Breathnach's: Connacht Junior winners

Ballindeereen: Connacht U-16 Club Title

The Coiste Iomana sincerely congratulate above clubs on winning there perspective Connacht Hurling Championships and wish the adult clubs all the best in the national club championships while representing Connacht in early January, 2020.

A special mention must go to our **Lory Meagher winners, Leitrim**, and our **Nicky Rackard winners, Sligo**. Having two counties winning on the national stage on national finals day is a massive boost to hurling in the province. Congratulations to administrators, managers, coaches, and pride of place to the players in both our counties.

An Táin Óg Leagues 2020 Leagues

Will be run in 2020 at child (U-11), youth (U-13), (U-15) regionally and expanding into the national An Táin Óg Leagues, and a provincial Connacht 9s is proposed again for clubs at adult over two Saturdays in April, which proved to be hugely successful in 2019 with Salthill beating Tooreen in the final. The child leagues will be on Saturday mornings in April, 11-a-side with 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: Adult Connacht Club will be a nine-a-side blitz modelled on the Kilmacud 7s in April. The u-11 child leagues are planned for Saturdays throughout April regionally.

Connacht club representation in the national An Táin óg Leagues in 2019 proved hugely successful





with clubs winning three out of the six national u-13 finals, and repeating the same at u-15 level, which augers well for hurling development in our province at club youth level.

Conclusion

2019 An Táin leagues ran as follows: the Adult Club Connacht 9s League were scheduled outside of national league fixtures for the club month of April. The u-11 ran on Saturday mornings in April in a blitz format, providing multi games for committed clubs; the u-13 and u-15 leagues ran Monday evenings in April/May/June 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 2020 recognising it as the designated club month nationally, 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 Coordinator), as well as **Seán Martin** for arranging referees for all games without question.

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 below – Oct. 8th (Sligo/Leitrim), Oct. 9th (Mayo), Oct. 10th (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

October 12th witnessed hurling workshops for Roscommon, Mayo, Leitrim, Sligo and Galway, totally practical sessions, hosted at the Connacht GAA Centre with **Martin Fogarty** and three inter-county stars with

the Celtic Challenge teams and coaches. **Damien Coleman** outlined the basics on the day with different coaches working with each group at different stations. 155 coaches attended and were up-skilled as a result.

Lead coach at each station . . . one of our high profile guest coaches were supported by a local Games Development Officer, **Eamon O'Shea** (Tipperary), **Eoin Kelly** (Tipperary), **Molly Dunne** (Galway).

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**, **Seámus Burns** and **Brian Mangan**, for their committed backing of Best Practice, and the efforts of Coiste Iomana throughout 2019. Meetings were held from January to December, quarterly, 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 **Seámus Burns** as conditioning coach and educator for the province who access all squads, and puts players at academy level on tailored programmes. Both **Cathal's** and **Seámus Burn's** contributions are invaluable to all underage 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 2019, 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.

Damien Coleman
(Coiste Iomána Secretary)



Pictured from (L to R) are **Paddy McKillian**, **Callum Quirke**, **Darren Geoghegan**, **Gareth Johnson**, **Cathal Kiely**, **Cillian Kiely**, **Ronan Taafe**, **Sean Nugent** and **Tadhg Haran**, the senior competitors at the 2019 Poc Fada in Annaverna Mountain, the Cooley Peninsula, Co Louth.

Photo: David Fitzgerald / SPORTSFILE.





Coiste na Reiteoiri

Chairman: **Marty Duffy**
Director of Refereeing: **Seán Martin**
Secretary: **Adrian Hassett**
Tutor Co-ordinator: **Francis Finan**

County Referee Administrators:
Leitrim: **Seán McCartan**
Sligo: **John Gilmartin**
Roscommon: **Haulie Beirne**
Galway: **Stephen Cahalan**
Mayo: **Seán Mac Éil**



AS I said last year, with all jobs at provincial level, there is no shortage of work to be done or miles to be travelled. Having said that, it is very satisfying and fulfilling when we hit our goals that we set ourselves at the beginning of the year.

2019 Review

From a refereeing point of view at provincial level it was a hectic year on and off the field that at times stretched our resources to breaking point. We had extra responsibility put on us from Croke Park to organise and officiate at new or expanded competitions like Philly McGuinness Cup in football and the Tain League in hurling.

The extra work load on top of an already full programme meant that provincial duties ensured there was very little or no time off for many of our referees. We started our Philly McGuinness games in early January and didn't finish our club championships until the last week of November - a huge commitment from all involved.

Feile 2019

The hosting of the football Féile competition in June was an enormous undertaking by all involved. On the refereeing end Seán Martin took the reins, as he had done with the Hurling Féile in 2018, guided us flawlessly through the whole process. The work load was considerable from the first meetings in 2018 all the way through until finals' day in June - as with everything he does, it was military precision! A big 'thank you' also to **Ita Hannon** for co-ordinating the LGFA referees and the five referee administrators for their time and effort and for the mobilising of all their club referees to ensure we ran what I thought was one of the finest Féile competitions ever run. Again I want to acknowledge our referees who committed to giving their time so readily over that weekend.

Referee Mentoring

We used the Dermot Earley tournament and the Ted Webb competition to mentor our provincial 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.

Connacht Academy Referees

As highlighted earlier, the strain on our refereeing numbers has been great over the past year. Many of the academy referees from 2018 have stepped up and are now a valuable part of our panel. We will be meeting with the members of the Connacht Referees Development Committee in the next few weeks to stress to each county the importance of developing new referees and getting the referees with the most potential into the provincial academy setup. Once they are in our system, they will receive constant monitoring and mentoring to ensure they reach the level to reflect their abilities. We have a brilliant team of mentors that invest huge time in developing these up and coming referees

Our 2019 group of academy referees were invited in to the COE in September for their first seminar. We had twelve referees from across all five counties, football and hurling, with three apologies. They had a one-hour pitch session with Adrian that comprised of a training/ fitness demonstration that they participated in. This included a practical game positioning and signalling segment presented by myself.

Three-time All-Ireland final referee, **David Coldrick**, gave a very enlightening presentation to the group on his own time in refereeing and the different aspects that are important in order to make it to the top as an inter-county referee. It was well received by the group.

We finished off with a video clip segment that was designed to show the referees the kind of education and analyses that the national championship referees go through on a regular basis. We also laid out what we expected of the group as they move forward and outlined the backup we will give them.

We invited all of new referees to participate in our fitness testing in October to give them an idea of the standards required and give them exposure to the more senior referees.

Referee Development Committees

The main initiative I implemented at the beginning of my tenure 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 to 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.

This model has worked well to date, it does require some fine-tuning within each county and the possibility of some changes in personal, but the overall structure is good and will stand us well into the next decade.

The members now are:

Chairman: **Marty Duffy**

Secretary: **Adrian Hassett**

Recruitment & Academy: **Seán Martin** and **Martin Murphy**

Referee Education & Training: **Francie Finan** and **Michael Nee**

Advisor & Tutor: **Pat Conway**

Each County Referee Development Committee consists of four members. The County Referee Administrator is chair of his county committee and he has three members under the headings of Recruitment Officer, Advisor & Mentoring Officer and Education & Training Officer.

A lot of work has been done on the education and advisor side. Each county has had three education nights during the year and we have had training nights with advisors from across the province.

Referee In-Service and Recruitment

In January and February Referee In-service Courses were held in all five counties and also with the London referees.

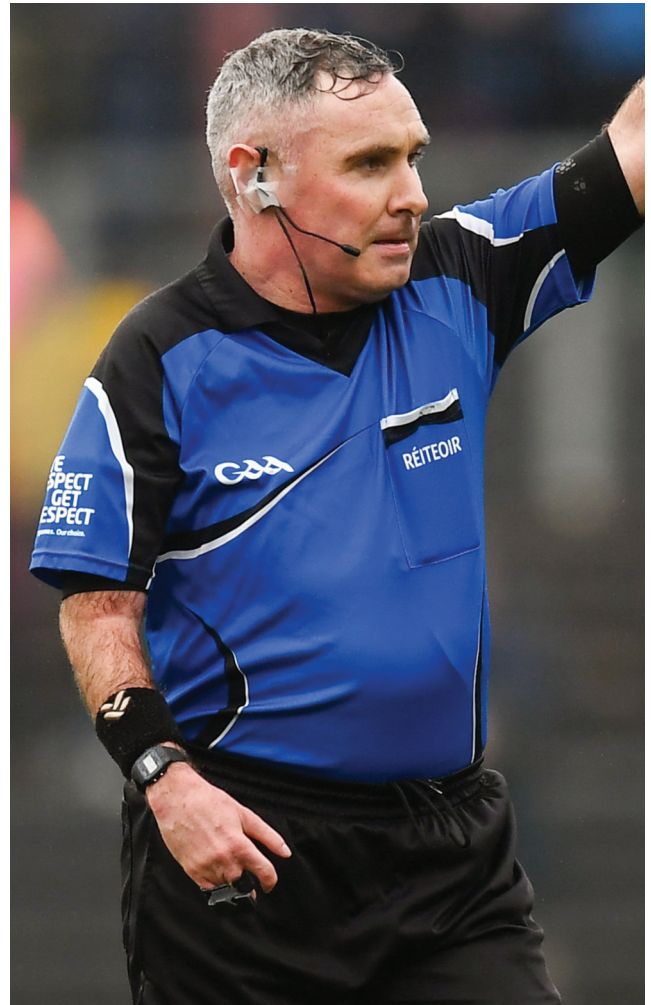
Courses for new referee took place in February and March. In total 72 new referees were trained in the Province. The breakdown of New Referees are as follows:

Mayo	16
Roscommon	10
Leitrim	5
Galway	20
Sligo	9
London	12

All new referees were presented with their certificates by **John Horan** in a special ceremony in Croke Park on April 6th.

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.

The issue in all counties is that clubs put forward people to be trained as referees that have no interest or intention to be an active referee. It ticks the boxes, but in real terms is an insult to all involved. Very soon it will come home to roost, to all involved, that games will have to be cancelled because there is no trained



James Molloy- promoted to the football championship.

referee to officiate. Paying lip service to the efforts of others will not put boots on the ground.

Hurling Referees numbers

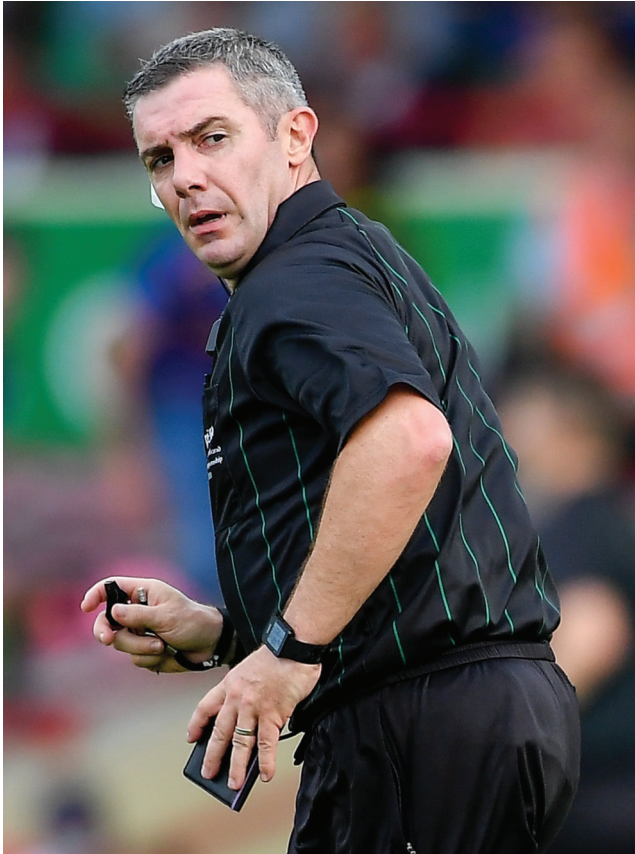
The active number of Hurling referees has dropped considerable in the last few years. With the exception of Galway we are not getting sufficient numbers of new referees coming into the system.

It is a big problem for the counties and by extension, a big problem for us at provincial level. Some counties had to bring in referees from outside their own group to fulfil their championship programme.

We are starting a conversation at present with representatives from within each county to see how we can address the problem, with a view to having a meeting with all the stakeholders in each county board as the recruitment process begins. We are to meet with **Damien Coleman** and his team of coaching officers in the hope of identifying real active candidates from within the hurling fraternity in an effort to begin to solve the problem and hopefully build our numbers of competent club referees.

National Referees





Liam Gordon- promoted to the hurling panel.

A number of our referees were in action in the championship in various roles and all carried out their duties to the highest standard.

We have three referees on the National Football Championship Panel with one on the National Linesman Panel. In hurling we had two on the top panel and one on the second tier panel.

Connacht is in the good position of having a number of referees, in both codes, pushing for inclusion on the national panels or indeed onto the highest-level championship panels. We will continue to support them within the province and provide them with the backup, support and appointments to give them the best chance of achieving their goals.

Pride of place this year should go to **James Molloy** for his promotion to the Football Championship Panel and **Liam Gordon** for his similar feat to the Hurling Panel. Liam also acquitted himself very well in the U-20 All-Ireland Final.

National Referee Development Plan

The Chairman of the National Development Committee, **Willie Barrett**, and referees manager, **Donal Smyth**, travelled to all the provinces to launch the Referee Development Plan before Christmas. This plan is the template for the future of refereeing over the next five years.

They were met by the Connacht Chairman, secretary, operations manager and referees administrator to discuss the roll out. It was a very open and frank meeting where many key issues were debated.

The feedback I have received since the meeting is that both Willie and Donal were very impressed by the meeting and the enthusiasm of all the Connacht delegation on the overall refereeing issues discussed. They were also impressed by the Referee Development Committee model that is something that they feel could be rolled out in some form across other provinces.

Acknowledgement

I would like to say a special ‘thank you’ to **Seán Martin**, Director of Refereeing. We have worked extremely well together over the past two years and for me it is great to have someone of his experience to discuss and plan the roll out of our three-year programme.

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 his 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.

On behalf of our committee, all our provincial referees, and myself I would like to thank our Provincial Secretary, **John Prenty**. He has been most supportive in everything I have done throughout the year and because of that support our overall refereeing setup is as good as any in the organisation. He is a great sounding board for ideas and his insight is invaluable.

My particular thanks also to **Adrian Hassett**, the Provincial Operations Manager who is a very efficient secretary of our various committees and undertakes a huge amount of work on our behalf.

Big thanks also to **Seámas Burns** who is a valuable asset to all the referees in the province. He has done huge work around fitness, training programs 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. His first-hand experience of refereeing has made him a valuable asset in the overall process and his knowledge and experience is appreciated. My aim remains to build on, and develop the portfolio I have been given.

I am going to finish with the exact same paragraph as last year's report, because it needs to be said again - my final acknowledgement is 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 2020.

Marty Duffy
Connacht Referees Chairman





2019 Convention Report for Connacht Health and Wellbeing and Games for All Committee

THE Connacht GAA Health & Wellbeing and Games for All Committee is a newly-formed Committee arising from the amalgamation of the Connacht Games for All Committee and the Connacht Health & Wellbeing Committee during 2019. This new committee met on three occasions during 2019 on the following dates: 30th April, 2019; 16th July, 2019, and 8th October, 2019. The membership of the Connacht GAA Health & Wellbeing and Games for All Committee are as follows:

Chairperson, **Mattie Kilroy.**

Secretary, **Denis O'Boyle.**

Connacht: GAA President: **Gerry McGovern.**

Connacht Secretary, **John Prenty.**

Connacht Games Manager, **Cathal Cregg.**

Galway: **Christy Tyrrell, Iggy Clarke, Ruth Mulkerins and Justin Campbell.**

Leitrim: **Terence Boyle, Barbara Loughlin Byrne, Pat Feeley and Michelle Fanning.**

Mayo: **Seamus Tuohy, Seán MacÉil and Mary Prenty.**

Sligo: **Tim Hynes and Trevor Coen.**

Roscommon: **Oliver Donagher, Noel Collins, Barry Lowe, Sharon McManus and Frank Egan.**

Rounders: **Peter Lyons.**

Representatives from Croke Park attended our meetings in 2019, including **Stacey Cahill**, former National Games for All Secretary, Croke Park; **Collette Coady**, GAA Health & Wellbeing Administrator, and **Ger McTavish**. Ger was appointed GAA Diversity and Inclusion Officer since the 12th August, 2019, and her appointment was welcomed by the Connacht GAA Health & Wellbeing and Games for All Committee and she is wished well in her new role.

Rationale for the establishment of new committee

The Provincial Health & Wellbeing and Games for All Committee in Connacht and Munster only, have been formed to reflect the inclusion of Games for All programme within the remit of the Community & Health Department in Croke Park.

The move is intended to facilitate greater collaboration between two growing and closely-related fields of work in the Association. The amalgamated committee incorporates the membership of the previously stand-alone Provincial Health & Wellbeing Committee and Provincial Games for All Committee. It will operate until the end of the national presidency of An Uachtarán, **John Horan**. Ulster and Leinster will continue with stand-alone committees for the same period, with a report then made to Coiste Bainistíochta with a recommendation as to the preferred future model.

The responsibilities of the Connacht Health & Wellbeing and Games for All Committee

The responsibilities of the Connacht Health & Wellbeing and Games for All Committee are listed as follows:

1. Review status of County Health & Wellbeing Actions Plans and Targets.
2. Review status of County's Games for All Action Plans and Targets.
3. Manage all relevant Provincial Games for All and Health & Wellbeing activities.
4. Provide direction and support to the provincial structures, including Coaching/Games and external partnerships, on related areas of work and activities.
5. Ensure promotion of Health & Wellbeing and Games for All Programmes and activities at provincial level.
6. Provide feedback and reporting on activities and meeting to the respective national committees and provincial council.

The Connacht GAA Health & Wellbeing and Games for All Committee endorsed a seven point action plan for GAA clubs in Connacht as follows:

- Action 1** - Continued development of your County Health & Wellbeing Committee and structures
- Action 2** - Recruit Tutor(s) and facilitate training for Club Health & Wellbeing Officers
- Action 3** - Adopt County Critical Incident Response Plan and support clubs to adopt theirs
- Action 4** - Support Phase II of Healthy Club Project
- Action 5** - Grow the number of people trained in safeTALK in your county
- Action 6** - Re-energise and promote the Social Initiative in your county
- Action 7** - Identify any additional actions your committee would like to focus on.

The following report contains some of the actions and events which took place in association with the Connacht Health & Wellbeing and Games for All Committee during 2019.

TILDA - How to Age Well Seminar hosted by Co. Mayo Health and Wellbeing Committee

On Monday, 23rd September, 2019, **Professor Rose-Anne Kenny**, a world-renowned authority in ageing research and Principal Investigator of TILDA, was the keynote speaker in a How to Age Well Seminar hosted by **Seamus Tuohy**, Chairperson and his Co. Mayo Health & Wellbeing Committee in Breaffy, Co. Mayo.





Seamus Tuohy, Chairperson of the Co. Mayo Health & Wellbeing Committee addresses the How to Age Well Seminar in Breaffy, Co. Mayo

Professor Kenny indicated that: "TILDA is one of the most important research studies in Ireland which helps to better understand why bodies and brains age and how we can best ensure long and prosperous lives, for today's adults and for future generations. TILDA represents one in every 156 people aged 50 and over in Ireland. This unique partnership with the GAA and Irish Life ensures that research from TILDA and other international studies is quickly communicated to all age groups.

In an era where we are all expected to live longer, the GAA and Trinity College Dublin have come together to highlight the secrets to successful ageing. For example, did you know that people living by the sea are less likely to be depressed? That optimists live longer? That friendship and good social life is as important as low cholesterol for heart disease? That quality of life continues to get better after 50 for almost another 30 years? These nuggets of knowledge, and much more, were explored on the night by Professor Kenny.

TILDA is the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing, led by Trinity College Dublin. It is the most comprehensive adult study ever conducted in Ireland. Over 8,500 people aged 50 and older were randomly selected and continue to be repeatedly interviewed and examined regarding many aspects of their lives including happiness, physical and mental health, financial circumstances, quality of life, and perceptions of ageing. The data forms a rich tapestry of what it is like to be an older adult in Ireland.

Also addressing the Seminar was **Andy Moran**, former All-Star and "Footballer of the Year" who had recently announced his retirement from inter-county football. Both the National League Cup and the Sam Maguire were on display on the night along with local musicians.

A special word of appreciation goes to Seamus Hogan, GAA Healthy Club Project Regional Coordinator for his assistance in organising this most successful event.

Galway GAA win National GAA Health & Wellbeing County Award for 2019

Congratulations to Co. Galway GAA Health & Wellbeing Committee on winning the National GAA Health & Wellbeing County Award for 2019. Well done to all involved.

On behalf of Co. Galway GAA Health & Wellbeing Committee, Justin Campbell receives the National GAA Health and Wellbeing County Award for 2019 from the GAA Community and Health Manager, Colin Regan at the National Health and Wellbeing Forum 2019, held in Croke Park on 23rd November 2019.



A large crowd attending the How to Age Well Seminar in Breaffy, Co. Mayo





Mattie Kilroy, John Hopkins (Mayo Event Co-ordinator), Seamus Tuohy, Tony Watene, GAA Project Co-ordinator and Denis O'Boyle

Preparation for the Connacht Wheelchair Hurling event 2019

In preparation for the third round of the M. Donnelly Wheelchair Hurling Interprovincial Event to be hosted by Connacht GAA, a meeting was held in Breaffy on Tuesday, 16th July, to view and co-ordinate the planning required for the event, to be held on Saturday, 24th August. This planning meeting was attended by Tony Watene, GAA Project Co-ordinator, Croke Park; John Hopkins (Mayo Event Co-ordinator), Adrian Hassett, Seamus Tuohy (Vice-Chairman, Co. Mayo GAA Board), Mattie Kilroy and Denis O'Boyle. Having inspected the suitability of the Davitt College, Castlebar, venue on 29th July, 2019, GAA Project Co-ordinator, Tony Watene, Croke Park approved it for the upcoming event.

Round 3 of the Michael Donnelly Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling League 2019, held in Castlebar, Co. Mayo was a tremendous success

Round 3 of Michael Donnelly Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling League was hosted in 2019 by Co. Mayo GAA Board. The Connacht Wheelchair Hurling Team won all their three games in Round 3 which took place in front of a very large local support at the Joe Langan Sports Hall, Davitt College, Castlebar, on Saturday, 24th August, 2019. The Connacht Wheelchair Hurling Team defeated Ulster 5-1, won 3-2 against Munster and defeated Leinster 2-1. Michael Donnelly Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling League took place on Saturday, 14th September, in St Mary's Secondary School, Newport, Co. Tipperary.



Pictured above, front left to right: Tom Fleming (Mayo), Pat Carty (Sligo), Peter Egan (Mayo), Aidan Hynes (Sligo), Liam O'Boyle (Mayo), Shane Curran (Galway) and Sarah Cregg (Roscommon). Missing from photograph is Steven Melvin (Sligo). Back row, left to right: Billy McNicholas (Mayo GAA Games Manager), Christy Tyrell (Galway GAA Representative), Denis O'Boyle (Secretary, Connacht GAA Health & Wellbeing and Games for All Committee), Seamus Tuohy (Vice-Chairman, Mayo GAA Co. Board), Bernie Rowland (Principal of Davitt College, Castlebar), Tim Hynes (Connacht Team Coach), Gerry Mc Govern (President of the Connacht Council), Tadhg Morley (Connacht Team Coach) Geraldine McTavish (National GAA Diversity and Inclusion Officer), Mattie Kilroy (Chairman, Connacht GAA Health and Wellbeing and Games for All Committee), John Hopkins (Connacht P.R.O.) Gerry Bourke (Mayo GAA Connacht Council Representative).





Throw in - Connacht v Ulster.

Leinster were crowned League Champions for 2019 while Munster won the All-Ireland Championship Final held in the National Indoor Centre, Abbottstown, on the 27th October, 2019.

All-Star Awards for Connacht Wheelchair Hurling Players in 2019

Congratulated to **Pat Carty** and **Aidan Hynes** on receiving All Star Awards in 2019 and to **Sarah Cregg** who received the Camogie Player of the Year Award.

Pat Carty, Irish and Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurler, featured on Ear to the Ground on RTÉ



Pat Carty, Irish Floorball Captain and Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurler, featured on the 'Ear to the Ground' programme on RTÉ 1 on 14th November, 2019. Pat was interviewed by Darragh McCullough who took part in a Connacht Wheelchair Hurling training session held in Barnacarroll Sports Complex, Co. Mayo

Wheelchair Hurling/Floorball International launch and event

On the 11th June, 2019, Uachtarán CLG, John Horan, formally launched the Wheelchair Hurling/Floorball International event and announced the players who made up the first ever international wheelchair hurling squad. The 12-man panel was made up of three wheelchair All-Star hurlers from each of the four provinces, and they took part in the 2019 European Para Games Floorball International event which took place in Breda, The Netherlands, from June, 27-29.

Connacht GAA player, Pat Carty, was named as captain of the first ever International Wheelchair Hurling team. Connacht GAA was represented by Captain of the team, Pat Carty, (team captain), Stephen Melvin, Aidan Hynes all from Co. Sligo.



Front, left to right: Connacht GAA are represented on the first Irish Wheelchair Hurling/Floorball team by Stephen Melvin (Owenmore Gaels), Captain of the team; Pat Carty (Tourlestarne) and Aidan Hynes (Calry St Joseph's) all from Co. Sligo. Back, left to right: Denis O'Boyle, Edel Carty and coach, Thaigh Morley.

The GAA team represented Ireland in competition against Floorball teams from Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America and did the GAA and their country proud. The team defeated the United States of America three goals to two, drew nil all with Bronze winners Switzerland, were defeated one nil by Germany and were well-beaten by The Netherlands and the eventual Tournament winners, Sweden. The team was sponsored by MyClubShop.ie, owned by long-standing wheelchair hurling sponsor Martin Donnelly.

Floorball is a game that is being considered for addition to the list of sports in the Paralympics and differs chiefly from wheelchair hurling in that players cannot raise the ball. As well as representing Ireland in the Floorball international, the GAA team also hosted a wheelchair hurling demonstration during their stay in Breda, The Netherlands.

It is important to acknowledge and thank to the GAA for supporting this first-ever international event, especially Stacey Cahill on her wonderful organisation of the entire trip; Colin Regan for his ongoing support and encouragement; Brian Armitage for his leadership; Tony Watene as Team Manager for all the contacts he made in the Netherlands to enhance the development of this game into the future. A special thanks goes to all the coaches involved including Connacht's Thaigh Morley and everyone that helped make this trip possible. The team panel consisted of: Pat Carty (Captain), Stephen Melvin, Aidan Hynes (all Sligo), James McCarthy (Vice-Capt.), Maurice Noonan, Gary O'Halloran (all Limerick), Lorcan Molloy, Seán Bennett, Patrick Tobin (all Laois), Conn Nagle, Pat Lewis, Peadar Heffron (all Antrim). Photograph of the entire travelling party below.





Launch of the first ever International Wheelchair Hurling squad in Croke Park on 11th June 2019. Front (L-R): Munster's James McCarthy Vice-Captain and Connacht's Pat Carty who was appointed Captain. Back, left to right: Denis O'Boyle, Connacht GAA Representative; Thaigh Morley, Assistant Team Coach; John Horan, GAA President; Martin Donnelly, Sponsor; Mattie Kilroy, Chairman Connacht GAA Health & Wellbeing and Games for All Committee; Edel Carty, Colin Regan, GAA Community & Health Manager.

Coaching for the Connacht teams commenced in St Joseph's School, Ballytivnan, Sligo, on Wednesday, 1st May, and concluded on the 11th June, 2019, with ongoing assistance from Pat Stenson, Gerry Tuohy and Tim Hynes as coaches. The coaching was held each Wednesday from 1.45 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. On Wednesday, 29th May, there was a combined coaching and games session in the Sligo GAA Centre of Excellence in Scarden, Sligo, with schools from Letterkenny, Castlebar and Sligo taking part, with 30 players in total attending. Special thanks goes to coaches Liam Og Gormley, Denise Mc Garth, Tim Hynes and Martin Costello, who conducted the coaching.

The final coaching session was held in Elvery's MacHale Park, Castlebar, on the 11th June and 26 players from schools in Castlebar, Sligo, Galway attended and were presented with Cúl Camp sports

bags and tops by Mayo GAA Games Manager, Billy McNicholas. The players were delighted with the whole experience of playing in Elvery's MacHale Park. Special thanks goes to Martin Costello and Billy McNicholas for organising the Elvery's MacHale Park tour and presenting the players with Cúl Camp sports bags and tops and to the school principals and teachers who are very supportive of the Football for All Coaching Initiative.

GAA Football for All Michael Donnelly Interprovincial Finals in Croke Park

The Football for All Boys' and Girls' Competition took place on the 17th September in Croke Park. It is a joint initiative between the Irish Special Schools Sports Council (ISSSC) and the GAA. The following report is from Tim Hynes:



Coaching the Connacht teams for the M. Donnelly Football for All Finals 2019





“The sun shone brightly in Croke Park on Tuesday, 17th September, when players from St Joseph’s School, Ballytivnan, Sligo, were part of the Connacht teams (boys and girls) who played in the Martin Donnelly GAA Football for All Interprovincial Finals with players (boys and girls) from St Anthony’s School, Castlebar; St Dympna’s, Ballina; St Bernadette’s, Letterkenny; Lakeview, Galway. It is a great honour for any sports person to wear the colours of their province and for each of them and their families, this is a proud occasion.

“The Connacht boys team played North Leinster in their first game and put in a tremendous performance before losing to their superior forward play. Next game was against Ulster where they competed bravely and passionately and were narrowly beaten. They qualified for the Shield final where they competed against South Leinster. This was a nail-biting contest where both teams competed bravely and scored some marvellous long-range points, and the teams were level on a number of occasions. However, the overall strength and team work of South Leinster ensured they were ahead at the final whistle.

“The Connacht girls’ team played South Leinster in a titanic struggle before having to yield to the overall strength and skill of the opposition forwards and lost narrowly. Next game was against North Leinster and they tried valiantly with great defensive work, and some superb scores but came up a little short on the scoreboard at the final whistle. The third game was against Munster and the Connacht team played with grit and determination and could not get ahead and lost out narrowly. The Connacht girls qualified for the Shield final against South Leinster and this game went down to the wire before South Leinster went ahead and won the Shield.

“The girls and boys savoured their time in the sun-drenched Croke Park and made new friends with players from other provinces. The GAA President,

John Horan, was present to meet and greet all the players, mentors and supporters, and complimented all who helped out, for their time, enthusiasm and passion. This is truly an inclusive and a ‘reaching out’ to people of any ability to play Gaelic football, share the same thrill, and play the same game. The joy, excitement of all players and helpers was very evident and an acknowledgement that this event will only grow from strength to strength, and having the finals in one of the finest stadiums in Europe enhances the overall experience.

“Special thanks 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: **Róisín O’Flaherty**, St Anthony’s, Castlebar; **Declan Brady**, St Dympna’s, Ballina; **Terry Shiels**, St Bernadette’s, Letterkenny; **Dave Audley**, Lakeview, Galway, and **Carmel Wynne**, St Joseph’s Sligo. Thanks to the coaches who helped out on the two coaching preparation days and also in Croke Park: **Liam Og Gormley**, **Padraig Clancy**, **Gerry Tuohy**, **Tim Hynes**, and **Pat Stenson** 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, **Mattie Kilroy**, and Secretary, **Denis O’Boyle**, who spared no effort in ensuring the Connacht team were looked after in every way possible. Also thanks to the Connacht Council for supporting these games and **Gerry McGovern**, President, and **John Prenty**, Secretary”.

Denis O’Boyle
Chairman



List of Connacht players (boys and girls), St Joseph’s, Ballytivnan, Sligo: Taidg Henry, Jason Wimsey, Edel Weston, Sarah Casey, Kiera O’Grady, Gabrielle Mc Ginley, St Bernadette’s, Letterkenny; Ryan Kildea, Kylan Deane, Dean Whoriskey Coyle, Holly McDaid, Melissa Matthews, Chantelle Quigley, St Anthony’s, Castlebar; David Gallagher, Charlie Golden, Lee O’Rourke, Emma O’Brien, Rachel Davitt, St Dympna’s, Ballina; Liam Barrett, Ruairi McNamara, Lakeview, Galway; Cian Smyth, D.J. McDonagh, Michelle Ward.





GAA Rounders in Connacht

By Peter Lyons

2019 was a year of progress for GAA Rounders in Connacht and nationally with competitions organised for u-13 girls and boys; u-14 mixed, u-15 girls and boys; u-16 mixed, minor boys, girls and mixed and adult ladies, men's and mixed. Entries to all competitions have increased.



Aoibhe Brannelly (Athenry) in action at the U-13 Connacht Rounders Finals in Ballinasloe.

There are currently five registered Rounders clubs in Connacht: Athenry (Galway), Breaffy (Mayo), Easkey (Sligo), Michael Glaveys and St. Croan's (Roscommon).

The season kicked off in late March in the Regional Sports Complex in Athlone with the Interprovincial

competition. This was a mixed competition and Leinster were crowned champions after winning their semi-final against Connacht and going on to beat Munster in the final.

The senior ladies, men and mixed competitions started the following weekend and continued throughout the summer culminating in the senior All-Ireland finals taking place at Mountmellick GAA Grounds, Co. Laois, on the 7th September. Glynn/Barntown (Wexford) became senior ladies' champions for the fourth year in-a-row; Erne Eagles from Mullahoran in Cavan reclaimed the senior men's title and Glynn/Barntown (Wexford) made it a double on the day winning the senior mixed All-Ireland title.

The minor and junior finals were played in Tymon Park in Dublin in early August. Athenry from Galway took on Cuchulainn (Carlow) in the Minor Ladies All-Ireland Final, unfortunately on the day Athenry just didn't get going and Cuchulainn ran out worthy winners; Seán Connollys from Longford won the minor men and Sporting Limerick won the minor mixed final.

The junior All-Ireland ladies' title went to Skryne (Meath) who were made to work for the title by Athenry; Cuchulainn (Carlow) took the junior men's title and Michael Glavey's (Roscommon) winning the junior mixed title.

Amongst the 2019 underage title winners were: The Heath, Emo, The Harps, Clonbroney, Easkey, Fenagh and St. Anne's. The season concluded with the All-Star awards which took place in the Green Isle Hotel in Dublin on 27th September, 2019.



Michael Glavey's (Roscommon) winning the Junior Mixed Rounders All-Ireland.





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.

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.

John Prenty and Mattie Kilroy with an example of the “Give Respect - Get Respect” sign at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence.

Connacht Club and County facilities and disability access survey



AdvantCard Pairc Seán Mac Diarmada

THE President of Connacht Council, Gerry McGovern, undertook a survey into disability access in April, 2019. He said that the response was around 50% and that overall it highlighted the fact that GAA clubs did not have appropriate facilities for those attending with disabilities. Carrick-on-Shannon is the only ground in Connacht where adequate shelter is provided for wheelchair users. Gerry is of the opinion that this issue of disability access is now to be dealt with at national level and he expressed his satisfaction with the great work that is currently taking place in all five counties in Connacht.





Embracing Diversity – A Future Together Seminar

A SEMINAR titled Embracing Diversity – A Future Together took place on Friday, 18th October, 2019 in the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence, Bekan, Ballyhaunis. Tremendous credit goes to Gerard McGarry, was one of the main organisers responsible for this Ballyhaunis seminar on diversity taking place. This seminar attracted over 300 people from all parts of Ireland.

Ballyhaunis, a rural town in County Mayo has a unique demographic and socio-cultural composition. It has been a destination for migrants from a variety of countries for over 45 years and has enjoyed a successful history of intercultural engagement. The population has doubled to 2,300 over the past twelve years and residents of migrant origin of at least 20 ethnic origins make up 60% of the population of the town.

Studies of intercultural engagement in Ballyhaunis have highlighted the importance of mutual respect in creating an environment where migrants can uphold their ethnic and cultural identities while fully participating in the local community. The Ballyhaunis community objective is to sustain the advantages of culture and diversity. This requires the support of coordinated policies by a range of agencies and departments.

The seminar *Embracing Diversity – A Future Together*, informed by academic experts and experienced practitioners and involved local community participation. It attempted to chart what Ballyhaunis has achieved in the area of Intercultural Integration and develop recommendations for mapping an integrated future for the town and towns of similar composition.

The opening address was given by Minister David Stanton, T.D., Department of Justice and Equality. This was followed by a presentation on Our Ballyhaunis by Ann, Celesta and Mark, voices from Ballyhaunis Community. Locally-born Dr Orla McGarry, a Lecturer and Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Political Science and Sociology, NUI Galway, gave a presentation entitled: *Punjabi on the Hurling Pitch: Negotiations of Intercultural Engagement and Diversity*.

Session 2 included a presentation by Dr Tony Barrett, Anthropologist on the topic of *Diverse Global Culture*.

Session 3 included a presentation on **Inter-cultural community development: potential and advantages** by Anastasia Crickley, Former Chair of UN CERD and HoD Applied Social Studies, co-founder Pavee Point. This was followed by **Accommodating Diversity: Challenges & Benefits** by Dr Veronica Crosbie, Assistant Professor in Migration and Intercultural Studies in SALIS, Dublin City University. Chair of MA in Refugee Integration and Chair of the University of Sanctuary Ireland Network. Lunch followed with a flavour of multi-ethnic foods for all attendees.

Session 4 looked at **Economic and Social Development – Potential of Diversity** by Tom Forde, Chamber of Commerce: Economic advantages of Diversity, Imram Sher Rafique: First major industry was founded by a migrant and David Minton, Director, North West Regional Assembly. This was followed by Seán Óg Ó hAilpín relating his personal experiences in the topic **Sport – a universal language**. Seán is a Fijian-Irish hurler and Gaelic footballer. In an inter-county playing career that spanned three decades, Seán played for the Cork senior hurling and football teams, winning major honours with both. This was followed by a **Panel discussion** including Departments of Justice and Equality and Rural and Community Development together with other speakers of the day.

Finally, the closing address to a very successful seminar was given by Minister Michael Ring, T.D., Minister for Rural and Community Development and Peter Hynes, Mayo County Council.

Acknowledgement

In conclusion, while it has been another busy year in Connacht, it is important to thank **Brian Armitage**, Chairperson of the National GAA Games for All Committee; **Tony Watene**, National GAA Project Co-ordinator; **Stacey Cahill** and **Collette Coady**, GAA Health & Wellbeing Administrator, and **Ger McTavish**, GAA Diversity and Inclusion Officer and to the GAA Community and Health Manager; **Colin Regan**, for their tremendous co-operation and encouragement given throughout the year.

It is important to acknowledge the ongoing 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 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.

Finally, I take this opportunity to especially acknowledge the wonderful leadership of our Chairperson, **Mattie Kilroy**, and the dedication, enthusiasm, commitment, collaboration, and time given by each member of the Connacht Health and Wellbeing GAA and Games for All Committee throughout 2019.

Is mise le meas,

Denis O'Boyle
(Rúnaí).





Féile Peil 2019

8,500 players. 1500 mentors. 851 games. 50,000 people

By Michael O'Connor

THE 2019 renewal of the John West Feile Peil sees us review the largest ever Feile held in either code. 851 games with 358 teams and over 11000 players and mentors. That figure does not include the thousands of underage club officers and club workers in the host and visiting clubs.

It can often pass over the conscious of a community a sporting weekend when looking at larger global events. However, I feel that in 2019 that Feile Peil na nOg was the dominant sporting event for one weekend without doubt in Connacht and was viewed upon with positivity throughout the GAA family. One can only estimate at the volume of work carried out in the weeks in the run up to Feile in terms of infrastructural improvement. The volume of preparation in terms of hosting thousands of players and mentors outside of the block booking of hotels and other accommodation units ensured an economic boom for all communities hosting.

The planning and preparation to ensure the successful hosting of a province wide event commences 11 months previous. Review's from the hosting of the previous Feile is taken on board and adjustments to suit the local Feile are made. Expressions of interest go out to all clubs eligible within the hosting area and by November meetings are held to kickstart the process. In Connacht we have been fortunate that Feile Peil nan Og 2019 was our third feile since 2014 allowing experience to play a large part in the plan.

In one week in January there were meetings in Galway, Roscommon, Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim and over 250 club personnel attended these regional meetings which were of great benefit for all involved in terms of information gathering and discussing relevant topics of concern.

Many thanks to the Feile committee led by **John Hopkins** (Chairperson). Well done to County representatives **Marion Kelly** (Roscommon), **Padraic Clancy** (Sligo), **Ita Hannon** (LGFA), **Larry Lohan** (Galway), **Sean McGoldrick** (Leitrim) and **Ronan Kirrane** (Mayo).

It would be remiss of me not to highlight the commitment over the season of Connacht GAA Secretary **John Prenty**, **Brian Mangan**, **Seamus Burns**, **Amanda Diskin**, **Adrian Hassett**, **Cathal Cregg**, **John Clancy** and all staff in the Connacht GAA centre over the weekend. Special mention to the referee's body led by **Sean Martin** and **Martin Duffy** who coordinated all referee's on the GAA side. Connacht LGFA administra-



tor **Ita Hannon** was in charge of all referee appointments at LGFA and worked well with **Sean Martin** to ensure maximum use of all personnel available.

It must be acknowledged the great support received from **Kilkerrin Clonberne LGFA** and **Pairc Seán Mac Diarmada** for hosting regional visits from **John West** and also the Connacht GAA centre for hosting the Connacht launch of Feile Peil 2019 attended by **Uachtaran Cumman Luthcleas Gael John Horan** as well as a number of other VIP's. Many thanks as well to **Padraic McKeever** of **McKeever sport** for his support in relation

to gear and other initiatives.

The jewel in the crown in terms of hosting games leading up and including finals since hosting Feile Peil in 2014 and Feile na nGael 2018 and this past season has been the Connacht GAA centre. Each year improvement following on from learnings has ensured that the Province now owns and operates a facility that can stand tall with any in the country and abroad. One can estimate that close on 20,000 attended the centre over the weekend. Outside of the Connacht GAA centre there were 15 other venues listed below that hosted finals with bumper crowds attending all. Sincere thanks to all field committee's who willingly took on the mammoth task in the knockout games Saturday afternoon and Sunday. The industry of all clubs led to a successful operation throughout the province. The huge volume of work initiated in hosting teams over the weekend by 179 clubs was a mini event management plan for each club. It allows clubs to learn how to host and create new links with clubs all over the country.

Great assistance was derived from **Croke Park** led by National Feile chairperson **Brendie Brien**, as well as national Feile Secretary **Peter Horgan** and **Aislinn Harkin** (LGFA) who offered their experience in the planning and execution of the weekend.

A lot of positives from Féile Peil 2019

Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence is a super venue for hosting multiple finals and can be a focal point for féile. Excellent efforts by all host venues special the final venues on the Sunday. The cration of one logo for Féile as suggested last year by Connacht has been very beneficial. Distribution of all tops and relevant material to all referees, club officials gatherings and in some cases a week before the competitions began.

The gathering and collating of results was a resounding success and **Míle Buíochas** to all involved in the centre with a close to 100% accurate return, which was above excellent and demonstrates the





cooperation from the relevant county staff and the cooperation in Croke Park.

There was great rapport from the visitors to the clubs and also superb media coverage from local press and media as well as GAA.ie. The fixtures book was extremely well received and successful and there was great feedback from Connacht GAA Facebook and Twitter.

The use of interns for result gathering worked brilliantly once again and we cannot forget the valued input of John West our sponsors.

John West Féile Feil na nÓg Finals Results, 2019

The John West Féile hosted by Connacht GAA showed 851 games played culminating in 46 finals across 23 divisions in boys and LGFA. On the Sunday the finals were played in venues throughout Connacht and listed below are the results of all finals played.

- John West Féile Boys Div I Cup Final (Connacht GAA Centre) – South London (London) 3-2 v Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin) 6-2
- John West Féile Boys Div. I Shield Final (Connacht GAA Centre) – New York (USA) 3-8 v Parke/Keellogues/Crimlin (Mayo) 2-0
- John West Féile Boys Div. II Cup Final (Connacht GAA Centre) – Claremorris (Mayo) 0-5 v Four Masters (Donegal) 4-9
- John West Féile Boys Div. II Shield Final (Connacht GAA Centre) – St Paul's GAC (Antrim) 0-4 v Erin's Isle (Dublin) 1-2
- John West Féile Boys Div. III Cup Final (Connacht GAA Centre) – Crosserlough (Cavan) 0-5 v North London (London) 2-7
- John West Féile Boys Div. II Shield Final (Connacht GAA Centre) – St Dominic's GAA Club (Roscommon) 1-0 v St Joseph's, Doorra, Barefield (Clare) 3-6
- John West Féile Boys Div. IV Cup Final (Connacht GAA Centre) – Clonguish Og (Longford) 1-7 v St

- Mary's (Sligo) 0-7
- John West Féile Boys Div. IV Shield Final (Connacht GAA Centre) – CLG Bhearna (Galway) 0-3 vs Kildimo/Pallaskenry (Limerick) 2-7
- John West Féile Boys Div. V Cup Final (Westport GAA Club) – Glenullin (Derry) 1-6 v An Eaglais, Naoimh Pádraig (Tyrone) 1-7
- John West Féile Boys Div. V Shield Final (Westport GAA) – St Ergnat's, Moneyglass (Antrim) 4-3 vs Erris St. Pats/Ballycroy (Mayo) 2-3
- John West Féile Boys Div. VI Cup Final (Corofin GAA Club) – Kilcormac-Killoughey (Offaly) 4-3 vs St Peter's, Dunboyne (Meath) 0-6
- John West Féile Boys Div. VI Shield Final (Corofin GAA Club) – Laragh Utd (Cavan) 3-7 v Baltinglass (Wicklow) 3-3
- John West Féile Boys Div. VII Cup Final (Claremorris GAA Club) – Kilmore/Shannon Gaels (Roscommon) 2-4 v Drumhowan Gaels (Cavan) 2-5
- John West Féile Boys Div. VII Shield Final (Claremorris GAA Club) – Bealach an Dóirín (Mayo) 0-3 vs Hertfordshire (Britain) 1-6
- John West Féile Boys Div. VIII Cup Final (Michael Glavey's GAA Club) – Carrick Sarsfields (Longford) 0-1 vs Delco Gaels (USA) 6-10
- John West Féile Boys Div. VIII Shield Final (Michael Glavey's GAA Club) – Killeagh/ St Ita's (Cork) 3-2 vs Gloucestershire (Britain) 2-3
- John West Féile Boys Div. IX Cup Final (Tubbercurry GAA Club) – Balyna (Kildare) 0-3 vs St Mary's, Faughanvale (Derry) 3-9
- John West Féile Boys Div. IX Shield Final (Tubbercurry GAA Club) – Ballintubber GAA Club (Mayo) 2-4 v Charlestown Sarsfields (Mayo) 0-11
- John West Féile Boys Div. X Cup Final (Markievicz Park) – Butlersbridge GAA (Cavan) 0-0 v St Manchan's Gaels (Offaly) 0-7
- John West Féile Boys Div. X Shield Final (Markievicz Park) – St Joseph's (Wexford) 0-9 v St John's (Antrim) 0-7



There was a big crowd at the Connacht Centre of Excellence for the John West Féile na Peil Regional Launch at Connacht Centre of Excellence.

Photo: Piaras Ó Mídheach / SPORTSFILE.





Adam Killeen, from Hollymount-Carramore, Co Mayo (right) in action during a football blitz at the John West Féile na Peil Regional Launch at Connacht Centre of Excellence.

- John West Féile Boys Div. XI Cup Final (Avantcard Pairc Seán Mac Diarmada) - Annaduff (Leitrim) 3-9 vs Dún Beag (Clare) 3-5
- John West Féile Boys Div. XI Shield Final (Pairc Naomh Mhuire, Carrick) - Aughrim (Wicklow) 0-8 Adare (Limerick) 1-4
- John West Féile Boys Div. XII Cup Final (Avantcard Pairc Seán Mac Diarmada) - Fingal Ravens (Dublin) 3-6 v Ballyholland (Down) 3-5
- John West Féile Boys Div. XII Shield Final (Glencar Manorhamilton GAA Club) - Kilmacow (Kilkenny) 4-5 vs Oran (Roscommon) 1-0
- John West Féile Boys Div. XII Cup Final (Tuam Stadium) - Aylmer Gaels (Kildare) 1-6 vs St Michael's-Foilmore (Kerry) 3-7
- John West Féile Boys Div. XIII Shield Final (Tuam Stadium) - Oilibhéar Pluincéad (Dublin) 3-11vs Westport GAA (Mayo) 1-1
- John West Féile Girls Div. I Cup Final (Connacht GAA Centre) - Claregalway (Galway) 1-2 vs Clontarf GAA Club (Dublin) 0-0
- John West Féile Girls Div. I Shield Final (Connacht GAA Centre) - Sarsfields (Kildare) 0-1 vs Éire Óg (Cork) 5-6
- John West Féile Girls Div. II Cup Final (Connacht GAA Centre) - CLG Ceathrú Aodha Dhuib (Down) 1-3 vs New York (USA) 2-3
- John West Féile Girls Div. II Shield Final (Connacht GAA Centre) - Banner (Clare) 3-9 vs Killeavy GAC (Armagh) 2-2
- John West Féile Girls Div. III Cup Final (Connacht GAA Centre) - An Charraig Mhor (Tyrone) 1-5 vs Cooley Kickhams (Louth) 0-7
- John West Féile Girls Div. II Shield Final (Connacht GAA Centre) - Carnacon (Mayo) 4-4 vs Loughrea (Galway) 1-2
- John West Féile Girls Div. IV Cup Final (Connacht GAA Centre) - Knockainey (Limerick) 0-4 v Kilmovee (Mayo) 2-3

- John West Féile Girls Div. IV Shield Final (Connacht GAA Centre) - St Brigid's Kilmovee (Mayo) 1-5 vs Ballinasloe GAA (Galway) 0-2
- John West Féile Girls Div. V Cup Final (Kilkerrin Clonberne GAA Club) - Gort na Móna CLG (Antrim) 1-1 vs Clann na nGael (Roscommon) 0-2
- John West Féile Girls Div. V Shield Final (Kilkerrin Clonberne GAA Club) - Dunamaggin (Kilkenny) 3-3 v Clonmel Commercials (Tipperary) 1-1
- John West Féile Girls Div. VI Cup Final (Mountbellew GAA Club) - Blessington (Wicklow) 2-9 vs Michael Glavey's (Roscommon) 1-3
- John West Girls Div. VI Shield Final (Mountbellew GAA Club) - Galbally Peareses (Tyrone) 3-5 Kiltimagh (Mayo) 0-4
- John West Féile Girls Div. VII Cup Final (Leitrim GAA Centre, Annaduff) - Rathcoffey (Kildare) 1-2 vs Bray Emmets GAA Club (Wicklow) 1-3
- John West Féile Girls Div. VII Shield Final (Leitrim GAA Centre, Annaduff) - Achadh Lú Uí Néill (Tyrone) 2-6 vs Lamh Dhearg (Antrim) 0-6
- John West Féile Girls Div. VII Cup Final (Connacht GAA Centre) - Ballinascreen (Derry) 1-9 vs Roscommon Gaels (Roscommon) 2-6 (title shared)
- John West Féile Girls Div. VIII Shield Final (Connacht GAA Centre) - Eoghan Rua (Sligo) 5-4 vs St. Ciaran's (Roscommon) 3-0
- John West Féile Girls Div. VIII Cup Final (Kent Park) - Cornafean (Cavan) 4-1 vs C T Gaels (Sligo) 4-6
- John West Féile Girls Div. VIII Shield Final (Kent Park) - St Ultan's (Meath) 2-0 vs Naomh Jude (Dublin) 1-2
- John West Féile Girls Div. X Cup Final (Castlerea, St Kevin's GAA Club) - Delco Gaels 2-5 vs St John's 3-3 (title shared)
- John West Féile Girls Div. X Shield Final (Castlerea, St Kevin's GAA Club) - Drumcliffe/Rosses Point (Sligo) 5-7 v Owenmore Gaels (Sligo) 3-3

Michael O'Connor
Féile Secretary



James Kilroy of Ballaghaderreen, Co Mayo during the blitz at the Connacht Centre of Excellence in Bekan.





COUNTY ANALYSIS 2019

MAYO COUNTY BOARD (52 Clubs)

Income	€3,506,405
Expenditure	€3,589,344
Deficit	(€83,085)



GALWAY COUNTY BOARD

(81 Clubs)

Income	€4,059,671
Expenditure	€4,320,919
Deficit	(€261,248)

ROSCOMMON COUNTY BOARD

(33 Clubs)

Income	€2,814,991
Expenditure	€1,555,862
Surplus	€1,259,129
Depreciation	(€144,411)
Overall Surplus	€1,114,718

SLIGO COUNTY BOARD (26 Clubs)

Income	€1,068,003
Expenditure	€970,256
Surplus	€97,747
Depreciation	(€128,908)
Overall Surplus	€68,839

Depreciation	(€340,131)
Overall Deficit	€601,379

LEITRIM COUNTY BOARD

(33 Clubs)

Income	€1,758,485
Expenditure	€1,483,769
Surplus	€274,716



CLUB TEAM GRANTS

SENIOR FOOTBALL

Team	Opposition	Amount	Total
Corofin	Padraig Pearses	400	
	Ballintubber	400	
			€800
Ballintubber	Corofin	400	
	Glencar Manorhamilton	400	
			€800
Padraig Pearses	Tir Chonaill Gaels	400	
	Corofin	400	
	Tourlestrane	400	
			€1,200
Glencar Manorhamilton	Ballintubber	400	
			€400
Tourlestrane	Padraig Pearses	400	
			€400

INTERMEDIATE

Team	Amount	Total
Oughterard	400	
Neale	400	
Geevagh	400	
Tulsk	400	
Leitrim Gaels	400	

HURLING

Kinvara	400	
Tooreen	400	
Four Roads	400	

JUNIOR

Team	Amount	Total
Kilmaine	400	
Glenamaddy	400	
St Michael's	400	
Ballinameen	400	

HURLING

Naomh Eoin	400	
Micheal Breathnach's	400	
Carrick HC	400	





Annual Club Grants 2019

SMALL GRANTS

County	Club	Amount
Galway	Sarsfields GAA	€ 1,000.00
Galway	Mountbellew/Moylough	€ 2,000.00
Galway	Headford GAA	€ 2,000.00
Galway	Williamstown GAA	€ 6,400.00
Galway	Mullagh	€ 2,500.00
Galway	Gort GAA	€ 1,000.00
Galway	St Thomas'	€ 1,000.00
Galway	Dunmore McHales	€ 3,000.00
Galway	Kinvara GAA	€ 1,000.00
Galway	Caltra GAA	€ 6,400.00
Galway	Beagh	€ 3,000.00
Galway	Milltown GAA	€ 5,000.00
Galway	Ahascragh/Fohenagh	€ 5,000.00
Galway	St Mary's Athenry	€ 6,100.00
Galway	Clonbur GAA	€ 2,500.00
Galway Total		€ 47,900.00 € 47,900.00

Leitrim	Fenagh St Caillin's	€ 1,500.00
Leitrim	Annaduff GAA	€ 6,400.00
Leitrim	Cloone GAA	€ 6,400.00
Leitrim	Ballinaglera GAA	€ 22,300.00
Leitrim	St Mary's Kiltoghert	€ 1,800.00
Leitrim	Bornacoola GAA	€ 1,800.00
Leitrim	Aughawillian	€ 6,400.00
Leitrim	Mohill GAA	€ 1,200.00
Leitrim Total		€ 47,800.00 € 47,800.00

Mayo	Breaffy GAA	€ 2,500.00
Mayo	Balaghaderreen GAA	€ 2,500.00
Mayo	Ballyhaunis GAA	€ 2,500.00 Pd 11/12/19
Mayo	Swinford	€ 1,000.00
Mayo	Ballinrobe GAA	€ 3,900.00
Mayo	Balla GAA	€ 2,000.00
Mayo	The Neale	€ 1,000.00
Mayo	Islandeady	€ 2,500.00
Mayo	Louisburgh	€ 1,000.00
Mayo	Charlestown Sarsfields	€ 1,000.00
Mayo Totals		€ 19,900.00 € 19,900.00

Roscommon	Kilglass Gaels	€ 1,200.00
Roscommon	Eire Og	€ 1,000.00
Roscommon	Strokestown	€ 500.00
Roscommon	Castlereagh St. Kevins	€ 1,100.00
Roscommon	Elphin GAA	€ 1,400.00
Roscommon	Padraig Pearses	€ 6,400.00
Roscommon	Creggs	€ 2,000.00
Roscommon	Kilmore	€ 1,200.00
Roscommon	St. Barry's	€ 1,000.00
Roscommon	MI. Glaveys GAA	€ 1,000.00
Roscommon	Oran GAA	€ 1,000.00
Roscommon	St. Aidans	€ 1,100.00 Pd 13/12/19
Ros	St. Brigids	€ 1,000.00
	Tremane HC	€ 2,500.00
Roscommon Total		€ 22,400.00 € 22,400.00

Sligo	Owenmore Gaels	€ 1,100.00
Sligo	Easkey	€ 1,000.00
Sligo Total		€ 2,100.00 € 2,100.00

Club Grounds Scheme		€ 10,000.00
Sanding	Clarinbridge	€ 1,000.00
	Mountbellew/Moylough	€ 1,000.00
	Craughwell	€ 1,000.00
	Boyle	€ 1,000.00
	tbc	€ 6,000.00
		€ 10,000.00
		€ 160,100.00



LARGE GRANT

County	Club	Amount
Galway	Carnmore GAA	€ 15,000.00
Galway	St. Gabriels	€ 10,000.00
Galway	Padraig Pearses	€ 10,000.00
Galway	Liam Mellows	€ 15,000.00
Galway	Oughterard	€ 10,000.00
Leitrim	Gortletteragh	€ 15,000.00
Leitrim	Ballinaglera GAA	€ 10,000.00
Leitrim	Kiltubrid	€ 10,000.00
Leitrim	Glencar-Manorhamilton	€ 20,000.00
Mayo	Garrymore	€ 10,000.00
Mayo	The Neale	€ 15,000.00
Roscommon	Western Gaels	€ 10,000.00
Roscommon	Clann na nGael	€ 10,000.00
Sligo	St. Molaise Gaels	€ 20,000.00
Sligo	Tubbercurry	€ 10,000.00
Galway	St. Brendans	€ 10,000.00 Top Up
Mayo	Ballycastle	€ 10,000.00 Top Up
		€ 210,000.00

Large Grant	€210,000
Small Grants	€ 160,000.00

TOTAL	€370,000
--------------	-----------------

CLUB AWARDS

	Eastern Harps (S)	€1,500
	Charlestown(M)	€1,500
	Kilmore (R)	€1,500
	Aughavas(L)	€1,500
	Sarsfields(G)	€1,500
Overall	Eastern Harps (S)	€2,500
		€10,000





2019 Connacht GAA Inter-County Results

Connacht GAA Senior Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Final 1	Sunday 5th May	New York 0-4	Mayo 1-22	Gaelic Park, New York
Quarter-Final 2	Sunday 5th May	London 1-9	Galway 0-16	McGovern Park, Ruislip
Quarter-Final 3	Sunday 12th May	Roscommon 3-17	Leitrim 0-12	Dr Hyde Park
Semi-Final 1	Sunday 19th May	Sligo 0-7	Galway 3-11	Markievicz Park
Semi-Final 2	Sunday 26th May	Mayo 0-17	Roscommon 2-12	Elverys MacHale Park
Final	Sunday 16th June	Galway 0-12	Roscommon 1-13	Pearse Stadium

Connacht GAA Junior Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter Finals	Sunday 12th May	Roscommon scr	Leitrim w/o	Dr. Hyde Park
Semi-Final(1)	Sunday 19th May	Sligo 0-8	Galway 2-15	Markievicz Park
Semi-Final(2)	Sunday 26th May	Mayo 2-15	Leitrim 1-14	Elverys MacHale Park
Final	Sunday 16th June	Galway 1-7	Mayo 0-9	Pearse Stadium

Connacht GAA U20 Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter Finals	Wednesday 26th June	Leitrim 4-13	Roscommon 3-17 (aet)	AvantCard Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada
Semi-Final(1)	Wednesday 3rd July	Galway 0-17	Roscommon 1-7	Kiltoom
Semi-Final(2)	Wednesday 3rd July	Mayo 1-25	Sligo 1-6	Elverys MacHale Park, Castlebar
Final	Wednesday 10th July	Galway 0-16	Mayo 0-10	Tuam Stadium

Electric Ireland Connacht GAA Minor Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Round 1	Friday 17th May	Roscommon 1-17	Galway 1-15	Dr Hyde Park
Round 1	Friday 17th May	Leitrim 0-6	Mayo 1-20	Ballinamore
Round 1	Friday 17th May	Sligo	BYE	
Round 2	Friday 24th May	Mayo 4-14	Roscommon 0-5	James Stephen's Park, Ballina
Round 2	Friday 24th May	Galway 0-15	Sligo 1-10	Tuam Stadium
Round 2	Friday 24th May	Leitrim	BYE	
Round 3	Friday 31st May	Roscommon 5-15	Leitrim 0-8	Dr Hyde Park
Round 3	Friday 31st May	Sligo 0-16	Mayo 0-12	Markievicz Park
Round 3	Friday 31st May	Galway	BYE	
Round 4	Friday 14th June	Leitrim 1-9	Sligo 1-21	AvantCard Páirc Seán Mac Diarmuida
Round 4	Friday 14th June	Roscommon	BYE	
Round 4	Friday 14th June	Mayo 0-11	Galway 2-12	Elverys MacHale Park
Round 5	Friday 21st June	Mayo	BYE	
Round 5	Friday 21st June	Sligo 2-15	Roscommon 4-7	Markievicz Park
Round 5	Friday 21st June	Galway 5-24	Leitrim 1-4	Tuam Stadium
Semi-Finals	Wednesday 26th June	Sligo 1-10	Mayo 5-7	Elverys MacHale Park
Final	Friday 5th July	Galway 1-17	Mayo 1-18 (aet)	Tuam Stadium

FBD Insurance Connacht GAA Senior Football Competition 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter Final	Sunday 6th January	Leitrim 2-13 (pens 4)	Mayo 2-13 (pens 5)	AvantCard Páirc Seán MacDiarmuida
Semi-Final 1	Sunday 13th January	Galway 1-9 (pens 5)	Mayo 1-9 (pens 4)	Tuam Stadium
Semi-Final 2	Sunday 13th January	Roscommon 2-18	Sligo 1-16	Dr Hyde Park
Final	Sunday 20th January	Galway 1-5	Roscommon 0-13	Tuam Stadium

Connacht GAA Ted Webb Football Competition 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Round 1- Group 1	Friday 16th August	Sligo 0-10	Galway CW 1-7	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 1- Group 1	Friday 16th August	Galway Blue 1-4	Mayo EW 4-13	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 2- Group 1	Friday 16th August	Galway CW 0-9	Mayo EW 1-5	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 2- Group 1	Friday 16th August	Sligo 3-9	Galway Blue 0-5	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 3- Group 1	Friday 23rd August	Mayo EW 1-8	Sligo 0-6	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 3- Group 1	Friday 23rd August	Galway Blue 0-7	Galway 5-12	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 1- Group 2	Friday 16th August	Mayo NS 4-7	Leitrim 0-5	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 1- Group 2	Friday 16th August	Roscommon 1-3	Galway North 0-10	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 2- Group 2	Friday 16th August	Galway North 2-5	Mayo NS 3-10	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 2- Group 2	Friday 16th August	Leitrim 0-9	Roscommon 2-10	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 3- Group 2	Friday 23rd August	Galway North 2-5	Leitrim 1-5	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 3- Group 2	Friday 23rd August	Mayo NS 1-12	Roscommon 1-8	Connacht GAA Centre
Plate Semi-Final	Friday 23rd August	Sligo 5-7	Leitrim 2-5	Connacht GAA Centre
Plate Semi-Final	Friday 23rd August	Roscommon 6-10	Galway Blue 5-7	Connacht GAA Centre
Plate Final	Friday 30th August	Sligo 0-15	Roscommon 1-5	Connacht GAA Centre
Cup Semi-Final	Friday 23rd August	Galway CW 0-5	Galway North 3-5	Connacht GAA Centre
Cup Semi-Final	Friday 23rd August	Mayo NS 1-9	Mayo EW 1-7	Connacht GAA Centre
Shield Final	Friday 30th August	Galway CW 2-13	Mayo EW 2-10	Connacht GAA Centre
Cup Final	Friday 30th August	Mayo NS 1-11	Galway North 0-8	Connacht GAA Centre





2019 Connacht GAA Club Results

AIB Connacht GAA Club Senior Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Final 1	Sunday 3rd November	Tourlestrane 0-6	Padraig Pearces 3-7	Markievicz Park
Quarter-Final 2	Sunday 3rd November	Glencar-Manor 0-9	Ballintubber 1-11	Elverys MacHale Park
Semi-Final 1	Sunday 10th November	Tir Chonaill Gaels 0-8	Padraig Pearces 2-10	McGovernn Park, Ruislip
Semi-Final 2	Sunday 10th November	Ballintubber 0-11	Corofin 1-10	Tuam Stadium
Final	Sunday 24th November	Corofin 1-10	Padraig Pearces 0-7	Tuam Stadium

AIB Connacht GAA Club Intermediate Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Final	Saturday 2nd November	Leitrim Gaels 1-12	Tulsk Lord Edwards 1-13	Dr Hyde Park
Semi-Final 1	Saturday 9th November	Geevagh 1-11	The Neale 4-13	Markievicz Park
Semi-Final 2	Saturday 9th November	Oughterard 2-16	Tulsk Lord Edwards 1-8	Dr Hyde Park
Final	Sat 16th November	The Neale 0-11	Oughterard 1-16	Elverys MacHale Park

AIB Connacht GAA Club Junior Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Final	Saturday 2nd November	Glenamaddy 2-11	Kilmaine 4-8	Tuam Stadium
Semi-Final 1	Sat 9th November	Leitrim scr	St Michaels w/o	
Semi-Final 2	Sat 9th November	Kilmaine 3-20	Ballinameen 0-6	Elverys MacHale Park
Final	Saturday 16th November	St Michael's 0-3	Kilmaine 5-17	Elverys MacHale Park

Connacht GAA Club Minor 'A' Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Final	Friday 25th October	St Brigid's 1-16	Knockmore 2-12	Connacht GAA Centre
Semi-Final 1	Tuesday 29th November	St Brigid's 2-14	St Mary's Kiltoghert 1-9	Connacht GAA Centre
Semi-Final 2	Tuesday 29th November	Salthill/Knocknacarra 3-15	St Farnan's 0-5	Connacht GAA Centre
Final	Friday 1st November	St Brigid's 2-8	Salthill/Knocknacarra 1-12	Connacht GAA Centre

Connacht GAA Club Minor 'B' Football Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Final	Friday 25th October	Strokestown 3-11	The Neale 2-10	Connacht GAA Centre
Semi-Final 1	Tuesday 29th November	Melvin Gaels 0-7	Strokestown 3-17	Connacht GAA Centre
Semi-Final 2	Tuesday 29th November	Oughterard 1-11	St Mary's 2-14	Connacht GAA Centre
Final	Friday 1st November	Strokestown 1-15	St Mary's 1-9	Connacht GAA Centre

AIB Connacht GAA Club Intermediate Hurling Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter Final	Sun 27th October	Four Roads 0-19	Tooreen HC 0-29	Athleague
Semi-Final	Sat/Sun 2/3rd Nov	Tooreen HC 0-30	Robert Emmets 1-23 (aet)	Athleague
Final	Sat/Sun 16/17th Nov	Tooreen HC 0-21	Kinvara 2-10	Athleague

AIB Connacht GAA Club Junior Hurling Championship 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Semi-Final	Monday 28th October	Naomh Eoin 0-17	Carrick HC 1-11	Markievicz Park
Final	Saturday 9th November	Naomh Eoin 0-8	Micheal Bhreathnach's 1-12	Connacht GAA Centre

Connacht GAA U16 Club Hurling 2019

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
1st Round	Saturday 19th October	Benbulbin Gaels w/o	Leitrim scr	
Quarter Final	Saturday 26th October	Benbulbin Gaels scr	Westport w/o	Connacht GAA Centre
Semi-Final	Saturday 2nd November	Westport 1-8	Four Roads 5-15	Connacht GAA Centre
Final	Saturday 9th November	Ballinderreen 4-6	Four Roads 1-5	Connacht GAA Centre

Connacht GAA Senior Club Football Competition 2019- Leo Kenny Memorial Cup

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Round 1	Tuesday 11th June	Caherlistrane 0-4	Westport 4-12	Caherlistrane
Round 1	Tuesday 11th June	St. Patrick's Dromahair 0-9	Charlestown Sarsfields 1-12	Dromahair
Round 1	Tuesday 11th June	St. Croans 3-8	Davitts GAA Club 3-14	Enfield
Round 1	Tuesday 11th June	Monivea-Abbey w/o	Michael Glavey's scr	Monivea-Abbey
Round 2	Tuesday 25th June	St. Faithleach's 0-8	Charlestown Sarsfields 3-13	Ballyleague
Round 2	Tuesday 25th June	Padraig Pearces w/o	Annaghdown scr	Woodmount
Round 2	Tuesday 25th June	Hollymount-Carramore 2-10	Monivea-Abbey 4-12	Hollymount
Round 2	Tuesday 25th June	Milltown scr	Davitts GAA Club w/o	Milltown
Round 2	Tuesday 25th June	Allen Gaels 1-3	Shamrock Gaels 6-13	Allen Gaels
Round 2	Tuesday 25th June	Garrymore 2-12	Westport 0-13	Garrymore
Round 2	Tuesday 25th June	Mountbellew/Moylough scr	Aghamore w/o	Mountbellew
Round 2	Tuesday 25th June	Knockmore 3-15	Belmullet 0-10	St. Joseph's Park
Quarter Final	Tuesday 2nd July	Padraig Pearces 1-9	Charlestown Sarsfields 2-15	Woodmount
Quarter Final	Friday 5th July	Davitts GAA Club 0-11	Monivea-Abbey 0-10	Davitts GAA Club
Quarter Final	Tuesday 2nd July	Garrymore scr	Shamrock Gaels w/o	Garrymore
Quarter Final	Tuesday 2nd July	Knockmore 4-11	Aghamore 1-7	St. Joseph's Park
Semi-Final	Tuesday 9th July	Knockmore 4-12	Davitts GAA Club 3-7	St. Joseph's Park
Semi-Final	Tuesday 9th July	Shamrock Gaels 0-8	Charlestown Sarsfields 0-14	Shamrock Gaels park
Final	Tuesday 16th July	Knockmore 0-8	Charlestown Sarsfields 2-13	Connacht GAA Centre





2020 Connacht GAA Club Fixtures

AIB Connacht GAA Club Senior Football Championship 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final 1	Sunday 1st November	Sligo	London
Quarter-Final 2	Sunday 1st November	Roscommon	Mayo
Semi-Final 1	Sunday 15th November	Winner of Quarter-Final 1	Leitrim
Semi-Final 2	Sunday 15th November	Galway	Winner of Quarter-Final 2
Final	Sunday 29th November	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2

AIB Connacht GAA Club Intermediate Football Championship 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final	Sunday 1st November	Sligo	Roscommon
Semi-Final 1	Sunday 8th November	Galway	Mayo
Semi-Final 2	Sunday 8th November	Winner of Quarter-Final	Leitrim
Final	Sat 21st/Sun 22nd November	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2

AIB Connacht GAA Club Junior Football Championship 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final	Saturday 31st November	Galway	Leitrim
Semi-Final 1	Saturday 7th November	Winner of Quarter-Final	Mayo
Semi-Final 2	Saturday 7th November	Roscommon	Sligo
Final	Sat 14th/Sun 15th November	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2

Connacht GAA Club Minor 'A' Football Championship 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Final	Friday 23rd October	Leitrim	Mayo	Connacht GAA Centre
Semi-Final 1	Tuesday 27th October	Winner of Quarter-Final	Galway	Connacht GAA Centre
Semi-Final 2	Tuesday 27th October	Sligo	Roscommon	Connacht GAA Centre
Final	Friday 30th October	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2	Connacht GAA Centre

Connacht GAA Club Minor 'B' Football Championship 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Final	Friday 23rd October	Leitrim	Mayo	Connacht GAA Centre
Semi-Final 1	Tuesday 27th October	Winner of Quarter-Final	Galway	Connacht GAA Centre
Semi-Final 2	Tuesday 27th October	Sligo	Roscommon	Connacht GAA Centre
Final	Friday 30th October	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2	Connacht GAA Centre

AIB Connacht GAA Club Intermediate Hurling Championship 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter Final	Sunday 25th October	Roscommon	Mayo	Athleague
Semi-Final	Sunday 8th November	Winner of Quarter Final	London	McGovern Park, Ruislip
Final	Sat 14th/Sun 15th November	Winner of Semi-Final	Galway	Athleague

AIB Connacht GAA Club Junior Hurling Championship 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Semi-Final	Sunday 25th October	Sligo	Leitrim	Leitrim Venue
Final	Saturday 7th November	Semi-Final Winners	Galway	Connacht GAA Centre

Connacht GAA U-16 Club Hurling 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
1st Round	Saturday 17th October	Sligo	Leitrim	tbc
Quarter Final	Saturday 24th October	Winner of 1st Round	Mayo	Connacht GAA Centre
Semi-Final	Saturday 31st October	Winner of Quarter Final	Roscommon	Connacht GAA Centre
Final	Saturday 7th November	Galway	Winners of Semi-Final	Connacht GAA Centre





2020 Connacht GAA Inter-County Fixtures

Connacht GAA Senior Football Championship 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Final 1	Saturday 2nd May	London	Roscommon	McGovern Park, Ruislip
Quarter-Final 2	Sunday 3rd May	New York	Galway	Gaelic Park, New York
Quarter Final 3	Sunday 10th May	Mayo	Leitrim	AvantCard Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada
Semi-Final 1	16/17th May	Winner of Quarter-Final 2	Sligo	Pearse Stadium/Markievicz Park
Semi-Final 2	24th may	Winner of Quarter-Final 3	Winner of Quarter-Final 1	Dr Hyde/Páirc Seán Mac Diramuida
Final	16th June	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2	tbc

Connacht GAA U20 Football Championship 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Finals	Saturday 8th February	Mayo	Galway	Elverys MacHale Park
Semi-Final(1)	Saturday 15th February	Roscommon	Sligo	Markievicz Park
Semi-Final(2)	Saturday 15th February	Leitrim	Winner of Quarter-Final	AvantCard Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada
Final	Saturday 22nd February	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2	tbc

Electric Ireland Connacht GAA Minor Football Championship 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Round 1	Friday 15th May	Galway	Mayo
Round 1	Friday 15th May	Leitrim	Sligo
Round 1	Friday 15th May	Roscommon	Bye
Round 2	Friday 22nd May	Roscommon	Leitrim
Round 2	Friday 22nd May	Sligo	Galway
Round 2	Friday 22nd May	Mayo	Bye
Round 3	Friday 29th May	Mayo	Sligo
Round 3	Friday 29th May	Galway	Roscommon
Round 3	Friday 29th May	Leitrim	Bye
Round 4	Friday 12th June	Leitrim	Galway
Round 4	Friday 12th June	Roscommon	Mayo
Round 4	Friday 12th June	Sligo	Bye
Round 5	Friday 19th June	Sligo	Roscommon
Round 5	Friday 19th June	Mayo	Leitrim
Round 5	Friday 19th June	Galway	Bye
Semi-Finals	Friday 26th June	Runner up in Group	3rd Placed Team in Group
Final	Friday 3rd July	Top Team in Group	Winner of Semi-Final

FBD Insurance Connacht GAA Senior Football League 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
Quarter-Final	Sunday 5th January	Sligo	Roscommon	Markievicz Park
Semi-Final 1	Sunday 12th January	Mayo	Galway	Elvery's MacHale Park
Semi-Final 2	Sunday 12th January	Leitrim	Winner of Quarter-Final	Avantcard Pairc Sean MacDiarmuida
Final	Sunday 19th January	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2	tbc

Connacht GAA Ted Webb Football Competition 2020

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Venue
QRound 1	Saturday 22nd August	Tbc	Tbc	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 2	Saturday 22nd August	Tbc	Tbc	Connacht GAA Centre
Round 3	Tuesday 1st September	Tbc	Tbc	Connacht GAA Centre
Finals	Friday 4th September	Tbc	Tbc	Connacht GAA Centre





**CONNACHT COUNCIL GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2019**

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS





CONNACHT COUNCIL GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2019

<u>SCHEDULE A</u>	Schedule	2019 €	2018 €
<u>Sources of Income</u>			
Gate Receipts	1	1,122,090	1,232,701
Commercial Income	2	517,407	494,097
Fund-Raising Activities	3	0	0
Financial Income	4	94,833	119,982
Other Income	5	54,250	6,136
Transfer Income	6	1,651,053	1,957,734
TOTAL INCOME		3,439,633	3,810,650
<u>Schedule B</u>			
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Cost of Staging Games	7	360,012	391,437
Upkeep & Maintenance of grounds	8	332,573	316,863
Financial Expenses	9	18,136	21,593
Administration Expenses	10	888,869	936,142
Grants and Promotions	11	134,710	109,960
Coaching and Games Development	12	1,446,787	1,567,614
Injury Grants & Medical	13	0	0
Transfer Payments	14	75,397	128,568
Depreciation & Amortisation	15	168,802	329,538
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		3,425,286	3,801,715
SURPLUS FOR YEAR		14,347	8,935





CONNACHT COUNCIL GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2019

Income Schedules	2019	2018
	€	€
<u>Schedule 1 - Gate receipts</u>		
Senior Football Championship (Note 3)	792,090	958,430
Other Championships	212,857	203,009
FBD League	117,143	71,262
Total	1,122,090	1,232,701
<u>Schedule 2 - Commercial Income</u>		
Sponsorship (Note 1)	488,000	480,000
Programs	29,407	14,097
Total	517,407	494,097
<u>Schedule 4 - Financial Income</u>		
Bank Interest received	0	0
Rent received	94,833	119,982
Total	94,833	119,982
<u>Schedule 5 - Other Income</u>		
Affiliation Fees	50	236
Appeal Fees	600	200
Fines	0	5,700
Sundry Income	519	0
Feile entries	53,081	0
Total	54,250	6,136
<u>Schedule 6 - Transfer Income</u>		
Coaches Levy from Counties	206,146	130,520
Railway Cup Grant from Croke Park	0	0
Other Grants from Croke Park	1,444,907	1,827,214
Total	1,651,053	1,957,734





CONNACHT COUNCIL GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2019

Expenditure Schedules	2019	2018
	€	€
<u>Schedule 7 - Cost of Staging Games</u>		
Expenses of County Teams	101,937	140,707
Medals & Trophies	30,997	37,668
Gardai & Security	53,868	10,000
Rent of Pitches	93,983	103,052
Referees	51,403	42,623
Railway Cup Expenses	6,711	8,307
Photography & Video	5,535	4,222
Sundry Match Expenses	15,578	44,858
Total	360,012	391,437
<u>Schedule 8 - Upkeep of Grounds & Investments</u>		
Maintenance of pitches & grounds	108,273	60,863
Grounds Investments	224,300	256,000
Total	332,573	316,863
<u>Schedule 9 - Financial Expenses</u>		
Bank Interest & Charges	18,136	21,593
Total	18,136	21,593
<u>Schedule 10 - Administration Expenses</u>		
Wages & Salaries	199,371	207,522
Printing & Advertising	122,768	165,606
Telephone & Postage	69,954	78,876
Audit & Accountancy	0	17,300
Honoraria	0	12,000
Convention Expenses	7,600	7,350
Travel & Catering Delegates	303,194	256,245
Members Tickets	39,632	25,631
Presentations	15,590	7,244
Sundry Expenses	37,250	12,967
Leasing Charges	10,050	10,404
Light & Heat	38,853	65,412
Office Repairs & Maintenance	38,119	62,606
Website Maintenance	618	4,920
Motor Van Expenses	2,100	2,059
Rates	3,770	0
Total	888,869	936,142





CONNACHT COUNCIL GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2019

Expenditure Schedules	2019	2018
	€	€
<u>Schedule 11 - Grants & Promotional</u>		
Annual Grants (see schedule)	60,310	58,510
Club Championship Grants	32,400	19,200
FBD Final prizes	7,500	7,500
Bursaries	34,500	24,750
Total	134,710	109,960
<u>Schedule 12 - Coaching & Development</u>		
Wages & Expenses Coaches	1,043,404	839,898
Coaching Expenses	403,383	727,716
Total	1,446,787	1,567,614
<u>Schedule 14 - Transfer Payments</u>		
Public Liability & Property Insurance to Croke Park	18,000	18,000
Affiliation Fees	213	576
% Share of gate to Croke Park	57,184	109,992
Total	75,397	128,568
<u>Schedule 15 - Depreciation & Amortisation</u>		
Depreciation	307,685	307,685
Write down of Fixed Assets	0	160,736
Amortisation of capital Grants	(138,883)	(138,883)
Total	168,802	329,538

ANNUAL GRANTS SCHEDULE

Cumann na mBunscoil	16,510	16,510
GMIT Galway	4,000	4,000
GMIT Castlebar	5,000	2,500
Sligo IT	8,000	4,000
NUIG	4,000	4,000
Gaeltacht Scholarships (€500 per county)	2,500	2,500
Fenagh Handball	2,500	0
Connacht Handball	0	5,200
Connacht Scor	0	2,000
2nd Level Schools	17,800	17,800
Total	60,310	58,510





CONNACHT COUNCIL GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2019

<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>	Note	2019 €	2018 €
Land & Buildings		8,237,922	8,539,878
Investment Properties		378,635	378,635
Fixtures & Fittings		5,051	5,780
Motor Vehicles		15,000	20,000
Investments		2,651	2,651
Total		8,639,259	8,946,944
 <u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Sundry Debtors		1,169,823	1,782,839
Cash at Bank and on hand		2,639,343	1,851,699
Total Current Assets		3,809,166	3,634,538
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Sundry Creditors		453,952	444,633
Accruals		9,460	27,300
Total Current Liabilities		463,412	471,933
NET CURRENT ASSETS		3,345,754	3,162,605
 TOTAL NET ASSETS		 11,985,013 =====	 12,109,549 =====
 <u>CAPITAL EMPLOYED:</u>			
Accumulated Fund:			
Opening Balance		8,179,761	8,170,826
Surplus for year		14,347	8,935
		-----	-----
		8,194,108	8,179,761
Capital Grants		3,790,905	3,929,788
		-----	-----
Closing Balance		11,985,013 =====	12,109,549 =====





CONNACHT COUNCIL GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2019

<u>Note 1 Sponsorship</u>	2019	2018
	€	€
Central Council Sponsorship	250,000	250,000
FBD Connacht League	15,000	0
Television Rights	218,500	230,000
Other Sponsorship	4,500	0
Total	488,000	480,000

Note 2 Fixed Assets

	Land & Buildings	Fixtures & Fittings	Motor Vehicle	Total
	€	€	€	€
Cost				
At 1st November 2018	10,194,168	9,273	25,000	10,228,441
Additions	0	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 31st October 2019	10,194,168	9,273	25,000	10,228,441
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Depreciation				
At 1st November 2018	1,654,290	3,493	5,000	1,662,783
Charge for year	301,956	729	5,000	307,685
	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 31st October 2019	1,956,246	4,222	10,000	1,970,468
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net Book Value				
At 31st October 2019	8,237,922	5,051	15,000	8,257,973
At 31st October 2018	8,539,878	5,780	20,000	8,565,658





CONNACHT COUNCIL GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2019

<u>Note 3 Senior Championship Gates</u>			€
Roscommon	v	Leitrim	112,071
Sligo	v	Galway	30,727
Mayo	v	Roscommon	333,866
Galway	v	Roscommon	315,426
Total			792,090

Capital Grants Deferred

	2,019	2,018
	€	€
Capital Grants received		
At 1st November 2018	4,690,333	4,690,333
Increase in year	0	0
	-----	-----
At 31st October 2019	4,690,333	4,690,333
	-----	-----
Amortisation		
At 1st November 2018	(760,545)	(621,662)
Amortised in year	(138,883)	(138,883)
	-----	-----
At 31st October 2019	(899,428)	(760,545)
	-----	-----
Net book value		
At 31st October 2019	3,790,905	3,929,788





NOTES:

A large area for notes, consisting of two columns of horizontal blue lines.





10 July 2019 – Conor Campbell of Galway, and team-mates celebrate with the cup following the EirGrid Connacht GAA Football U-20 Championship final match between Galway and Mayo at Tuam.



5 July 2019 - Mayo captain Aidan Cosgrove and team-mates celebrate with the cup following the Electric Ireland Connacht GAA Football Minor Championship Final match between Galway and Mayo at Tuam Stadium, Galway.

