



An Chomdhail Bhliantuil  
Ar Luan 7 Nollaig 2020  
Ag tosú ag 7.00pm

Via Video link

**WE NEED TEAM PLAYERS!**

Covid-19 will only be beaten if we all take it seriously and all do the right thing.

Social distancing **WILL** save the lives of our parents, grand parents and relatives with health issues.

Be responsible, don't go out in groups risking lives.



**STAY HOME  
SAVE LIVES**

Proinsias O Coinne, Runaí  
Nollaig 2020

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## Aimniuchain for 2021 (Nominations)

Cathaoirleach	<b>Ciarán Mc Cavana</b> (Naomh Éanna)	
Leas-Cathaoirleach	<b>Brendan Toland</b> (Lamh Dhearg)	
Leas-Rúnaí	<b>Sinead Mullan</b> (Naomh Gall)	
Cisteoir	<b>Donal Murphy</b> (Ruairi Mhic Asmáint)	
Leas-Cisteoir	<b>Tyrone Eastwood</b> (Naomh Seosamh)	
Oifigeach Caidrim Poiblí	<b>Dan McConnell</b> (Naomh Una)	
Oifigeach Oiling		
Oifigeach Teanga agus Cultúr		
Ionadaí ar an Ard Comhairle	<b>Gerry McClory</b> (Naomh Tresa) <b>Terry Reilly</b> (Gortnamona)	
Teachta Comhairle Uladh (2)	<b>Tyrone Eastwood</b> (Naomh Seosamh) <b>Joe Edwards</b> (Naomh Pol) <b>Sean Kelly</b> (Naomh Maoileachlainn) <b>Danny McLernon</b> (Naomh Muire, Ros Earcain) <b>Seamus McMullan</b> (Con Mag Aoidh)	

## Orduithe Seasaimh Don Comhdhail

In order that the business of Convention is carried out without delay, the following standing orders will be observed:

- ✓ The proposer of a resolution or an amendment thereto, may speak for five (5) minutes but no longer than five (5) minutes.
- ✓ A delegate speaking to a resolution or an amendment must not exceed three (3) minutes.
- ✓ The proposer of a resolution or an amendment may speak a second time for three (3) minutes before a vote is taken, but no other delegate can speak a second time to the same resolution or amendment.
- ✓ The chairman, at any time he considers that a matter has been sufficiently discussed, can call on the proposer for a reply and, when that has been given, a vote must be taken
- ✓ A delegate may, with the consent of the chairman, move "that the question now be put", after which, when the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.

Standing orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on the clar, except by consent of the majority equal to two-thirds of those present and voting.

### Appointment of Tellers- Convention 2020

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## Miontuairiscí Chomdhail 2019

Coiste Chontae Aontroim CLG  
County Convention  
11<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**Date of Meeting** 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019      **Venue – Dunsilly Hotel**

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### Apologies:

B. Lennon		
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### Condolences:

Pat Mullaney	Tommy Campbell	Michael Herron
Danny McQuillan	Alistair Magee	Sean McHugh
John McGuigan	Mary McGarry	

A minute's silence was observed for all deceased members.

**Adoption of Standing Orders.** – The standing orders, as outlined on page 2 of the Convention Booklet, were adopted by Convention.

**Proposed by-** J. O'Boyle

**Seconded by-** G. McGarry

**Appointment of Tellers-** No positions to be contested

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**Proposed –** J. O'Boyle

**Seconded –** G. McClory

**Minutes of Convention 2018 –** (3rd Dec 2018)

Read and passed

**Matters arising;** - No Matters arising

**Proposed –** J. O'Boyle

**Seconded –** G. McClory

## **Chairman's Address**

An Cathaoirleach, Ciaran Mac Mhonaigh, delivered his Chairman's address to Convention 2019

During an Cathaoirleach speech he referred to the following.

- **Casement:** Sense of frustration at the lack of progress with Casement now 1000 days closed.
- **Hurling:** Disappointment in final game but many signs of encouragement during league especially with games against Offaly.
- **Director of Hurling appointed.** Neil Peden has agreed to take up this post. The players have been responding well to training with D. Gleeson who will be in charge in the coming season.
- **Football:** Lost by a single point on two occasions in the league and that scuppered promotion hopes. The management have been re-jigged and are positive and eager for the new season.
- **Finance:** Turned around the debt that we have had. Look forward to paying off most if not all our debt to the bank in the coming year. Many thanks to all who have contributed in any way to the much-improved financial position that we are now in.
- **Strategic Planning:** A plan that when implemented will leave us in a much better position in a wide range of areas. Thanks to those involved in putting this together – Frankie Quinn, Seamus McMullan, Ciaran Kearney and Paul O'Brien
- **Corrigan Park:** Essential in the absence of Casement that we have somewhere to play our home games. It will take £800,000 approx. to construct.
- **Facilities:** Congratulations to the many clubs who in the past year have added to or developed their facilities and to those who have hosted games for the County teams.

- **Community:** We should not underestimate the role the G.A.A. has in our community and the positive impact our clubs have throughout the country. Something to be rightly proud of.
- **Volunteers:** Yet again we deeply indebted to our volunteers and in particular our gatemen whose commitment brings in a huge sum of much needed income every year.
- **Sympathy:** Expressed in particular to the family of our Vice Chairman Tommy Campbell and Michael Herron, brother of Barney and to the family and community on the tragic death of Deirdre McShane at Ballycastle.

Antrim are advancing, advancing in many areas both on and off the pitch. The future of Antrim is indeed very, very bright.

**Secretary's Report –**  
Read and adopted.

**Matters arising:** - No matters arising

**Proposed by-** J. O'Boyle  
**Seconded by-** G. McGarry

### **Financial Report**

Teresa Nugent from Accountants DNT joined the meeting.

An Cisteoir Eamon Grieve, presented the accounts for 2019.

- Income and expenditure had increased
- Template used is as directed by Croke Park.
- VAT inspection taken place during the year.
- Many thanks to the gatemen who have brought in £131,000.(net) during the past year.
- Saffron Business Forum again contributed greatly to the income - many thanks to team.
- Thanks to Davitt's G.A.C. for a contribution of £5000.
- Supporters should support firms that financially back Antrim.
- "Bad debts" were from some clubs going back several years

- County Teams financing is still substantial.
- Thanked all who assisted him during his time in office.

**Proposed by-** J. O'Boyle  
**Seconded by-** G. McClory

**Presentation of 2019 Championship awards.**

Minor Football	Erin's Own Cargin
U21 Football	St Brigids
Junior Football	St Patrick's, Lisburn
Intermediate Football	St James, Aldergrove
Senior Football	Erin's Own Cargin
Minor Hurling	Shamrocks Loughgiel
U21 Hurling	Cuchullian's Dunloy
Junior Hurling	Gortnamona
Intermediate Hurling	Naomh Eanna
Senior Hurling	Cuchullian's Dunloy

**Antrim Strategic Plan 2020 – 2022- Presentation - from Ciaran Kearney**



**Amateur Status   Player Welfare   Respect   Inclusiveness   Community Identity   Teamwork**

- Rational of the Strategic Plan was outlined.
- How the main strategic themes were arrived at.
- Consultation process that engaged key stakeholders at the start of the process.
- 5 Themes, 27 Actions.
- All are time bound and have clear outcomes.
- Implementation of the plan is key over the next three yea



## Gaelfast Presentation - from Dr. Pól O Donnghaile

- Three pillars, Education, Engagement and Excellence.
- Strategic Partnership with St Mary's University College.
- More than 170 qualified teachers and student teachers upskilled.
- Five Star Centre – First county to wholly embrace.
- Great buy in from schools and principals 78 P. Schools wanting to be involved
- Supported by Business Saffron Forum.
- Stakeholder's views taken on board (3000 people approx.)
- Looking to build on what has been achieved in this inaugural year.



## Player Injury Scheme – Co. Secretary F. Quinn

- Outlined the considerable changes to the scheme.
- Willis no longer handling any claims.
- County Board no longer signs any forms.
- Cheques will now be sent direct to clubs.
- Registration and payment open from Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 2020.
- County Players especially must be signed up early

### Moltai 1

That Antrim Bye-Law 19.2 (e) be amended to read

#### **From**

Any player returning to their parent club after having had a playing permission the previous year cannot seek a transfer for the incoming year provided their parent club is fielding a team at the respective age group/code in which the payer is eligible to play.

#### **To**

Any player returning to their parent club after having had a playing permission or **being part of an independent team**, the previous year cannot seek a transfer for **a period of 2 years** provided their parent club is fielding a team at the respective age group/code in which the player is eligible to play.

**C. O Donail**  
**Failed**

### Moltai 2

That underage competitions in all codes be organised on the basis of 1<sup>st</sup> July birthdays and align competitions to the following academic year groupings commencing 2021:

U12.5 (P7& Yr8);  
U14.5 (Yr 9 &Yr10);  
U16.5 (Yr11& Yr12)  
U18.5 (Yr13 & Yr14).

**Naomh Phadraig, Lios na gCearrbhach**  
**Withdrawn**

### **Moltai 3**

Dunloy propose that the Volunteer cup be retired and that a suitable replica cup be presented to the winners on the day.

The original cup can still be used on the day for photographs etc. but shall be returned to county on the day.

The replica cup to be returned as per League Regulation 1.03

**Cuchulainn, Dun Laithí**  
**Amended and carried – with second paragraph omitted**



### **Ruin 1**

That Antrim avail of the dispensation from Croke Park to allow eligibility for the under 21 grades be for the 5-year span, i.e. 17-year old's (first year minor) be eligible to play.

**Mac Uilin, Baile An Chaisleain**  
**Accepted**

### **Ruin 2**

All Under age Football and Hurling leagues, currently played on an All County basis, shall have no divisional separation (specifically U16 football Division 2).

**C. O Donail**  
**CCC to consider**

### **Ruin 3**

That CCC considers playing the Div 1 reserve hurling league on a divisional board catchment area, with home and away games

Section 1 - North Antrim teams,

Section 2 - South Antrim and Down teams.

Top two in each section play-off in semi finals, i.e. 1v2 & 2v1.

**Mac Uilin, Baile An Chaisleain**

[CCC to consider](#)

### **Ruin 4**

When fixing championship games during the year, CCC co-ordinate with Antrim Camogie CCC to ensure that there are no fixture clashes where a club could be playing championship games on the same date or time.

**Naomh Mhuire, Ros Earcáin**

[CCC to Consider](#)

### **Antrim Committee Reports**

The following committee reports were proposed and seconded:

**South West Antrim Divisional Report**

**North Antrim Divisional Report**

**South Antrim Divisional Report**

**Coaching & Games Development Report**

**Development Report**

**Scor & Cultural Report**

**Healthy Club Report**

**Children's Officer Report**

**CCC Report**

**Pro Report**

Proposed:- G. McGarry

Seconded:- T. Cormican

### **AOB**

Congratulations to St. Enda's on their achievements in football and hurling.

The new format of the convention booklet was praised for its clarity and presentation.

## Tuarascail an Rúnaí 2020

It is my honour and privilege to present this secretary's report to convention 2020, the 135<sup>th</sup> convention of Coiste Chontae Aontroima CLG.

In what has been an unprecedented year throughout the world, the Gaels of Antrim can hold their heads high, delivering not only in terms of games but its contributions into the to the overall wellbeing of our members, their families and the wider society within County Antrim.

2020 has certainly been a strange year for Gaelic games throughout Ireland. The new phraseology altered our normal language  
Referees became Covid Officers-  
Points & Goals became Positive / Negative tests-  
Injuries became periods of self-isolation and so it went on.

When the Association when into lockdown at midnight on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 It would be 132 days before a ball would be kicked/ struck at club level in Antrim and another 45 days before County teams could resume training. At stages during the lockdown the prospect of playing any games looked bleak so when we got the green light it was all hands to the pump to make the best of the situation, we found ourselves in. Great credit has to go to the members of Antrim CCC who in a very short space of time compiled a fixture list that covered all age groups across both codes, Every day from the 22<sup>nd</sup> July until the 20<sup>th</sup> September saw a programme of games scheduled in county Antrim. Having to adopt to the circumstances required new thinking on how we scheduled our games. Some of the new innovations were:

- Specific slots allocated to reserve Football and Hurling Competitions i.e. Friday and Monday evenings
- Uniformity of throw in times for adult games i.e. Mid-week 7.30pm -Sat 4pm Sun -2pm
- Scheduling of U16 & Minor codes in the same week i.e. Football and Hurling on alternate weeks
- Round Robin Football Championships
- Winner on the day for Knock out Games

The revamped Antrim Football championships certainly proved to be a huge success and I hope the football clubs embrace this form of championship going forward, although I believe it can be enhanced to include relegation and promotion in the various championships, and I look forward to exploring this with the clubs in the very near future.

CCC had approximately 8 weeks to schedule our 2020 championships and for dual clubs that was a tall ask but its worth noting the following.

In Hurling (Senior Intermediate Junior and Minor) every final was contested by a dual club(s) with a dual club winning the respective Senior, Intermediate, and Junior Hurling titles.

Whilst in Football (Senior Intermediate Junior and Minor) the Senior, Intermediate and Junior finals were contested by dual clubs with the Junior winners being the only dual club to annex a title.

- Of the 16 teams that contested the 8 finals - 9 were dual clubs (57%)
- Of the 8 Championship winners - 4 were dual clubs (50%)
- 3 of the 4 Hurling championships were won by Dual clubs (75%)
- 3 of the 4 Football championships were won by Football only clubs (75%)

Our County Hurling Final was again carried live by TG4, and along with the Championship games streamed via the internet, the Antrim brand has been view across the globe in 2020.

Our Senior football team was riding high up to the introduction of the lockdown and promotion was within our grasp... but a thumping defeat away to Wicklow meant we were relying on the results of others to secure that sought after promotion, A win on the final day against Waterford was secured but the results elsewhere didn't go our way and we again finished 3<sup>rd</sup> position for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row.



Next up was an Ulster Championship game away to Cavan but after a spirited performance we narrowly lost out to the eventual 2020 Ulster Champions. Following this game Lenny Harbinson informed the County Chair that he was stepping down as the Senior manager after 3 years in post. I want to thank Lenny for all his efforts on behalf of the Antrim senior football team over the past 3 years. It was a pleasure to work alongside him and I wish him well in his future coaching career wherever that may take him. Its always easy to blame the manager for

poor results but the players also must accept responsibility. Being a county player in the modern game requires a huge commitment. I wonder do some of them have that commitment in the level required.

After reaching the final of the Kehoe cup for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year in a row we were defeated by Offaly in an extremely competitive game played in Navan. The Senior Hurling team went on to complete their league campaign undefeated and captured the Div 2a title with a victory over Kerry in the League Final. They have now reached the final of the Mc Donagh Cup (v Kerry again) following another undefeated campaign and we wish Darren Glesson and this panel all the best in the final scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020.



### **Div 2A Allianz National Hurling League Winners 2020**

Our U20 Teams were managed by Hugh McGettigan (Football) and Karl Mc Keegan (Hurling)

After a win v Derry in the 1<sup>st</sup>rd of the football Championship we lost out to Tyrone by 4pts. Tyrone went on to win the Ulster Title. The Hurlers defeated Down in the Leinster qualifier but were soundly beaten by Dublin this the Leister Championship.

The minor hurlers also completed in the Leinster championship bur were defeated by Kildare. The team was managed by Declan Mc Fadden and I wish to thank Declan for his time and efforts with the team now that he has decided to step away from the roll. To date our Ulster Minor Football championship has not commenced due to Covid 19. It is hoped that our game v Monaghan can be played later this month and I wish Paddy Kelly and his team all the best.

At the start of 2020 we welcomed fonaCAB on board as our main jersey sponsor. The business world has not escaped the impact of Covid 19 and I wish to place on record my thanks to all our sponsors who have fulfilled their commitments to Antrim GAA in these challenging times.



Thanks, must also go to Club Aontroima and the Saffron Business forum lead by Nial Murphy and Tony Shivers, respectively. Both groups deserve huge credit as they work tirelessly to support a range of projects across all aspects of Antrim GAA.

Following the submission of a planning application in February 2017, Casement Park received its 2<sup>nd</sup> Planning approval on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020. This decision will act as a major catalyst for Antrim GAA and the wider GAA community and will see the completion of the last remaining project within the NI Executive's Regional Sports Stadia Programme. More than 5,000 people engaged in the project's unprecedented 32-week community consultation with 95% stating that they were in favour of the new design. We look forward to having a world class venue in West Belfast to showcase all that is good in Gaelic games in Antrim and beyond.

Since July 2013 Antrim GAA has been playing its home games at numerous venues across the county. After securing funding from Central Council, Ulster GAA, Antrim GAA, St Johns GAC and Club Aontroima the work to provide a covered stand and terrace at Corrigan Park commenced in early 2020. It is hoped this projected will be completed early in 2021.





At convention 2019 we launched a 3-year strategic plan (2020 – 2023). Whilst I'm confident we are on track no formal review was conducted due to the Covid restrictions.

On a positive note the impacts of Covid 19 have created many new ways in which we conduct our business. Online meetings, ticketing of games, specific allocated playing times etc will all improve the governance of our games in the future.

2021 will see the introduction of the new age grades (u13 u15 u17 and u20) across both codes. Finally, we can plan a fixture program / schedule that can benefit all our clubs at whatever standard they play. We need quality meaningful games not a quantity of meaningless games.



As 2019 ends so does the tenure of 4 of the current Antrim Coiste Banisti due to the implementation of the 5-year rule.

Bronagh Lennon  
Sean Kelly  
Alec McQuillan  
Phillip Christie

All 4 have given great service to Antrim GAA over the passed 5 years and I wish them well in their future GAA rolls whether that be at county or club level.

To all those Gaels who passed to their eternal rest in 2020 I offer my sincere condolences to their families and friends. I particularly want to remember Paddy Mc Ilvenny, former assistant County Secretary, and long-term employee in Casement Social, who died earlier this year. The current restrictions prevented many Gaels from showing their condolences in the normal way. Paddy will be sorely missed.

***Go ndeanfaidh Dia trocaire ar a anaim dhil***

**Is Mise**

**Proinsias O Coinne**

Rúnaí an Chontae



## Championship Plaques 2020

Minor Football	Erin's Own Cargin
U21 Football	Not Played
Junior Football	Ardoyne
Intermediate Football	St Ergnats Moneyglass
Senior Football	Erin's Own Cargin
Minor Hurling	Shamrocks Loughgiel
U21 Hurling	Not Played
Junior Hurling	St Paul's
Intermediate Hurling	Tir Na nOg
Senior Hurling	Cuchullian's s Dunloy



### Ruin agus Moltai

#### Ruin 1

An exact replica of the Volunteer Cup to be the trophy received for winning the Antrim Senior Hurling Championship.

#### **Cuchullainn's Dunloy**

# Antrim Committee Reports 2020

## C.C.C. Report 2020

I was pleased to accept the role of CCC chair when the County Chairman offered it to me I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of my Club and in particular Club Chairman Frank Caldwell for his help and guidance and club member Martin Murphy for agreeing to take on the Club treasurer role, thus enabling me to take on my current role.

The attrition rate as CCC Chairman is high and there is no queue of interested parties, after one year in the role, I can appreciate why. The remit is broad, and the responsibilities are wide ranging. In the medium term we need to consider how the role can become more manageable.

I would like to place on record my gratitude to all the members of CCC and CDC who worked extensively throughout 2020 to deliver the competitions. Their expertise, experience and dedication were crucial and we, the Gaels of County Antrim, should acknowledge their contributions.

I would also like to mention the positive contribution from our County chairman when we were deciding on how best to run our competitions as “lockdown” was easing.

### **County Antrim CCC for 2020 was**

An Cathaoirleach	Raymond Compston
An Leas Cathaoirleach	Brendan Toland
An Rúnaí -Minutes	Sinead Mullan
An Rúnaí - Discipline	Gerry Mc Clory
An Rúnaí -Fixtures	Frankie Quinn
Referee Liaison	Mark O Neill
Hearing's Rep	Danny Mc Leron
Additional Committee Member	Dessie Donnelly

Planning for the 2020 season followed a well-trodden path, there were draft plans, plans, revised plans, changes to plans, arguments, debates, representations, fall outs and fall in's but eventually consensus was established and a final fixture plan was put in place.

The new season was thrown in on the Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and the final whistle on the 2020 fixture plan was blown on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 as Covid-19 impacted and all the long hours contributed by many individuals resulted in only a handful of games being played.

We are all aware of the restrictions imposed and how we all had to lead quite different lives. The playing of Gaelic Games in County Antrim would not restart for over four months.

## Administration

Competitions resumed on the 17/07/20 and games were played on almost every day from then until the 04/10/20 when Covid-19 intervened again bringing the playing of games to a halt for a second time.

A number of meetings preceded the restart, and the restart plans placed an emphasis on playing our Championships. Of necessity many changes to normal fixture programme were made and the CCC met on numerous occasions prior to the start of our season in March and then again in advance of the 17<sup>th</sup> of July re-start.

After the re-start in mid-July the CCC met weekly through to the end of September dealing with any issues that presented and planning for the forthcoming fixtures and managing all the necessary arrangements to facilitate the playing of games and the progression of all our competitions.

Between July 17<sup>th</sup> and October, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 454 games were fixed, 20 games were deemed as failures to field and appropriate fines were applied. Fines were not issued for games that were not played due to incidents of Covid-19; many of these games were played after the initial postponement.

The details of the competition winners are contained within the secretary's report and are not required to be repeated here.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate not only the winners and the runners up but all the participants in our competitions. Each competition ultimately has one winner but it is the participation of so many Clubs all preparing to the best of their ability, all putting their best foot forward in difficult circumstances, that makes the competitions worth winning.



Specific 2020 competition changes included:

- Only Antrim Clubs played in our competitions
- Fixed night for reserve Football
- Fixed night for reserve Hurling
- Fixed Nights for U16 and Minor Hurling and Football
- Fixed starting times across all competitions
- Round Robin formats for most championships
- League Championship formats in U16 and Minor Hurling and Football
- Games played to a finish
- No U21 Championships
- All Ticket Games
- Using Antrim Centre of Excellence at Dunsilly as a venue for many games
- Referees reports moved online

### **Referees**

The commitment of our referees must be recognised.

I am aware of one game where the referee was not in attendance, this failure to attend was the consequence of an administrative error and not the fault of the referee. Well done to our referees and everyone involved in appointing training and supporting them.

Can I mention the work of Brendan Toland and Mark O'Neill who in addition to refereeing many games also work tirelessly in recruiting, training appointing and assisting referees. I am confident that Mark and Brendan are assisted by others and can I place on records my gratitude to every volunteer.

### **Discipline**

Whilst many disciplinary issues are efficiently dealt with to the satisfaction of all parties it remains the case that contested disciplinary issues demand significant input from members of CCC, CDC & CHC. I wish to place on record my gratitude to Gerry McClory CDC secretary, Danny McLernon CCC representative to CHC and County Secretary Frankie Quinn for their immense commitment in dealing with matters of discipline and also to thank Breda Coleman who provides excellent administrative support to the CDC.

### **Looking Forward**

The 2021 season will see the change in age groupings and 2022 will see major change in the timing and structure of inter county competitions. Whatever programme of activity is in place in 2021 it will be subject to change in 2022. It is important that we all recognise that these changes are coming, and we try to address them with a positive attitude.

Reamann P Compston

An Cathaoirleach CCC

## PRO Report 2020



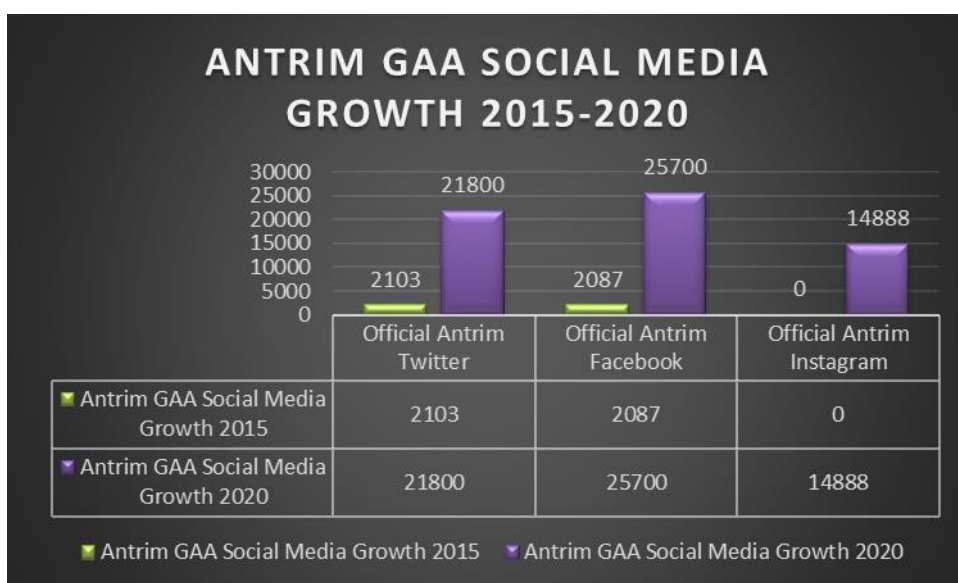
As we turned the page on 2019 and began planning for 2020, nobody could have imagined what lay in wait for us. To say 2020 was a challenge for us all would be an understatement. Yet, as we individually and collectively tried to navigate our way through the Covid-19 storm, organisations and individuals stood up to the challenge and delivered for their communities. These invaluable contributions had an untold impact in mitigating against the heart-breaking impact that Covid-19 was having throughout the country. I am proud to say the GAA was part of that response as we sought to promote the social and health benefits of sports participation in a safe and responsible manner.

In Antrim we close the year having been able to successfully complete all our county championships, with the memories created for those successful clubs offering some long lasting respite, with names now being etched into the Antrim GAA record books.

Before the March lockdown our Senior Footballers sat impressively in second position of Division 4, with the Hurler's scheduled to play their 2A league final on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. The Covid-19 crisis changed much and from March 2020 took on a very different and challenging appearance.

I have been privileged to occupy position of PRO of Antrim GAA for the last 5 years. My time as PRO has been incredibly enjoyable with no shortage eventfulness to keep me busy. In taking on the role I made raising the County's profile using social media and associated content as being a priority objective. One such strategy within that overall objective has been our county team announcement videos. This innovative approach has enabled Antrim to stand out in what is often a crowded and competitive intercounty market. On that note I must offer a special thank you to Marco McKay for his fantastic design work in 2020, where he has continued to raise the bar of excellence in this area.

I am delighted to report that our various social media platforms continue to grow at pace. The expansion of our reach in this area during my tenure is illustrated below:



**Twitter** provides a platform for live scores, videos and updates from our website. Antrim GAA twitter has grown from 2,1013 to over 21,800 in my time as Antrim PRO. There has been a total of 39,800 tweets! Our twitter account is recognised as one of the best in Ireland! I believe we have created an informative and professional platform.

**Facebook** - we use our Facebook presence to share information on club activities, live games and to promote the amazing work your club is doing. The Saffron Gael also shares all their material from this platform. Again, another amazing growth from over 2000 followers to now 25700 followers.

The Official Antrim GAA Facebook page is a continually active social media channel, and currently sits third in Ulster behind Tyrone and Donegal. This highlights the excellent work going in behind the scenes at the public relations level, as well as the success of this year's club and county games.

The success of our live streams caught the attention of the national media, which resulted in Antrim GAA social media channels seeing an explosion in traffic, while



also significantly increasing the number of page “likes”, which currently sits at 25.7k followers.

Page	Total Page Likes	From last week	Posts This Week	Engagement This Week
1  Tyrone GAA	38.6K 	0%	9	9.9K 
2  Official Donegal GAA	30K 	▲0.1%	6	1.7K 
YOU 3  Official Antrim GAA	25.7K 	▲0.5%	75	55.8K 
Keep up with the Pages you watch.		<a href="#">Get More Likes</a>		
4  Armagh GAA	25.4K 	0%	3	3.7K 
5  Official Down GAA	21.5K 	▲0.3%	27	38K 
6  Derry GAA	20.3K 	▲0.1%	6	9.9K 

**Instagram** - caters for our younger members. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in Ulster County Instagram account. It creates stories, photos and crucially offers tangible insights into our county & club teams. Our younger generation now have a much greater awareness of who our club and county players are, which offers our youth local role models to look up to.

This is unashamedly a fun, fun, fun platform; even Rossa's Stephen Beatty embraces it!

Antrim GAA's Instagram was created with 0 followers. Since then we have grown the following to 14,8k.

### **Fundraisers and Zoomcasts during lockdown**

While the above achievements give me an immense amount of pride, nothing compares to the pride and privilege I feel when I look at our County's community response to the pandemic. Our senior county teams led the way in this regard by donating £6,000 to food shelters across the county. This kickstarted a united effort throughout county Antrim. Every club player their part in a variety of well supported fundraisers, which included 5k runs, walks and other similar events. This engagement not only helped raise community spirits, but also raised much

needed financial support for many different charities, who have done sterling work in such demanding times.

In May Clann Mhic Corraidh held a Facebook Live fundraiser through a live lockdown concert. This event was a particularly positive focal point for Gaels form throughout the county. It delivered some much-needed positivity, while at the same time, raised in excessive of £17,000 for the Northern Ireland Hospice.



**Official Antrim GAA** was live.



Posted by Seán Óg Mac Corraidh  
2 May · 🌐

[https://www.facebook.com/donate/1061220050928559/?fundraiser\\_source=external\\_url](https://www.facebook.com/donate/1061220050928559/?fundraiser_source=external_url)



Total raised so far

**£6,880.90**

Total plus Gift Aid: £8,157.38

👍❤️ 834      3.5k comments   130 shares   🇮🇪

❤️ Love

💬 Comment

➦ Share

The event was so successful that Antrim GAA decided to hold another fundraiser in November, which would raise funds for St Vincent De Paul and which would contribute to the annual Christmas Saffron Aid appeal.

Another excellent performance by the Mhic Corraidh family raised over £6,000 on the night and that figure is continuing to grow with donations flooding. As of the time of writing the current figure sits at £8,157.38.

On behalf of Antrim GAA I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all who contributed in any way for their generosity, commitment and selflessness. The charity and fundraising response from Saffron Gaels copper fastened Antrim GAA's standing and an organisation for all of the community, and not just a sporting organisation.

Antrim was the first county to create Zoomcast interviews with Antrim GAA personalities during lockdown; giving supporters an unparalleled insight into the work that takes place behind the scenes. Zoomcast also gave a platform for fans

to hear the many stories and tales of our Antrim GAA stars. Life-long Saffron photographer and owner of The Saffron Gael, John 'Curly' McIlwaine, was the first guest. We also had former Rossa All-Ireland winner Jane Adams and current Naomh Eoin and Antrim Hurler, Domnhall Nugent. Domnhall spoke openly, in quite inspirational terms, about his battle with mental health and playing for his county.

Also featured were former Antrim football captain, Anto Finnegan, Brian White, former Antrim football captain Kevin O'Boyle and standout defender James Loughrey, who now plays and lives in Cork. Finally, Shane Elliott and Geradine McCann also gave up their time to feature on the Saffron Zoomcast.

### **Return of club action**

When the GAA finally gave the green light to return to action, guidelines, and information regarding how our games could be safely played were implemented and circulated. Notwithstanding the obvious challenges we were still witnessed some thoroughly entertaining club and county encounters across the county and indeed across the country.

In September Antrim got its club championship underway. Antrim's performance and excellence centre in Dunsilly took centre stage and provided some memorable moments that will last long in the memory. Championship fever was well underway despite the limitations around crowd attendances.

Since I have been PRO I have always tried to seek out opportunities out of problems. The Covid restrictions on crowd attendances was no different. The said restrictions were the perfect opportunity to reach fans through the live streaming of games on the Official Antrim GAA Facebook page. Supporters who were not lucky enough to possess one of the small number of match day tickets, were able to watch the thrills and spills of the club championship, with all the added drama and suspense associated with the knockout format.

Who can forget those two epic Antrim Senior Hurling semi-finals? In the first contest, Rossa took on Dunloy, in what proved to be a nip and tuck contest with nothing between the teams for most of the game. Rossa were the underdogs coming into the game, having defeated former champions Ruairi Og Cushendall in the quarterfinals. In the end only a single point in favour of Cuchullains separated the teams at the final whistle, in what was an epic battle.

In the other semi-final, played later that day in Dunsilly, Loughgiel overcame a dogged Naomh Eoin side to book their place in the final.

**Official Antrim GAA was live.** ⋮  
 Posted by Mark Quinn  
 6 Sep · 🌐

Watch **Dunloy Cuchullains v O'Donovan Rossa**  
**Belfast Clg LIVE from Dunsilly!** 📺  
 ... See more



887 587 comments 75 shares 🏆

Like Comment Share

123,957 people reached > [Boost post](#)

**Domhnall Nugent** ⋮  
 7 Sep · 🌐

Another heartbreaking result. We will come back and keep knocking on the door. Thanks for the messages. Dislocated elbow, bounce back and go again 🙏🙏




925 87 comments 9 shares

Both games each saw an audience viewership of 6,000. There had been a total of 158,000 views via the live stream throughout the championship. Dunloy would go on to lift the trophy by beating rivals Loughgiel. The final got national coverage by being the subject of a live broadcast on TG4.

For many the standout image of the championship was Antrim and Naomh Eoin hurler, Domhnall Nugent, defiance in the face of adversity. In attempting a block Domhnall dislocated his elbow. Like the true warrior that he is, having overcome so much in his own personal life, he remained on the pitch that day despite the severity of his injury. There are not many players who could continue to play with a dislocated elbow.

Also, who could forget the amazing commentary provided by young Johnny McIntosh?

The Antrim Senior Football Final pitted defending champions Cargin, against local rivals Creggan. And what a spectacle these rivals played out in Roger Casements that day! The Senior Final was also live streamed on the Official Antrim GAA Facebook page, and had an incredible total of 105,000 views.

Marty Morrissey attended to cover the game for RTE Radio and online. Again, the national coverage was welcomed, which added to the sparkle of the showpiece event.

In what has been a unique year for the GAA; Antrim delivered a club championship for the ages in both codes and one will certainly be remembered for years to come.



A special mention must go to Jerome Quinn, who we have been collaborating with for the last number of weeks. Jerome's expertise in broadcasting has provided a fantastic addition, as he has put his skills to producing championship interviews, match highlights and live streams, which has showcased our great games with an air of professionalism.

This coverage has been of the highest quality, which has resulted in Antrim GAA being spoke about positively across the country. Conor McCann has provided remarkable assistance with anything I have asked of him in the past year and deserves special mentioned of that. Martin McCarry as Antrim IT Officer has been invaluable to me throughout the 5-year term.

BEO Sport also contributed to our delivery of match content by providing streams for our club championship and county games, which were shown through the official GAA's streaming service, GAA GO.

List of live streamed club championship games:

- Live Stream – Ruairi Og v Loughgiel
- Live Stream - Lamh Dhearg v Naomh Eoin
- Live Stream – Naomh Gall v Naomh Eanna
- Live Stream - Rossa v Naomh Eoin
- Live Stream - Naomh Eanna v Naomh Gall
- Live Stream - Lamh Dhearg v Aghagallon
- Live Stream - Portglenone v St Galls
- Live Stream - Lamh Dhearg v Cargin
- Junior football & hurling finals in Dunsilly
- Live Stream – Senior Hurling semi-finals
- Live Stream - Intermediate & Minor Finals
- Live Stream - SFC Final Cargin v Creggan

## County Action Commences

With the club championship successfully concluded, it was time to focus our attention of the county action with the Antrim Hurlers and Footballers focusing their sights on league promotion.

Darren Gleeson and the Antrim Hurlers would finally get to play their Allianz Division 2A promotion playoff with Kerry. The Saffron's were unbeaten all year heading into this huge contest, recording an impressive draw in February over current All-Ireland champions Tipperary in a friendly game.

A massive performance saw the hurlers beat Kerry 2-20 to 2-23 and lift the 2A trophy, paving the way for a return back to Division 1B, where the likes of Kilkenny, Wexford, Dublin and Laois await. James McNaughton was inspirational and was rightly named man of the match, after scoring 1-5. He quite rightly was included in the GAA's team of the week for that round of games.

The Antrim GAA tweet at full time, which confirmed promotion to Division 1A, saw 176 retweets, 926 likes and 36 quoted tweets.

Buoyed by promotion, the Antrim hurlers turned their attention to the Joe McDonagh Cup Championship campaign. They started with a convincing win over Westmeath, in a match which the first game to be played in-front of the new stands at Naomh Eoin's ground in Corrigan Park, Belfast.



Man of the match, Ciaran Clarke scored 2-8, while Gerard Walsh put in a star performance at half back. Both men were included in the GAA's Hurling team of the week and showed why Antrim hurling is firmly back on the map.

The hurlers were out again for round 2 of the Joe McDonagh and took on a familiar opponent team in Carlow, who had become something of a bogey team. Another super performance saw Darren Gleeson's men come back from three points down in the dying moments of the contest. It took an excellently taken goal from Domhnall Nugent to snatch a well derived draw from the jaws of defeat. The social media coverage was again strong with a total of 35.3k views, 90 retweets and 613 likes as confirmation of the draw was tweeted out.



REPORT: Domhnall Nugent struck for a goal deep in injury-time to secure a share of the spoils for @AontroimGAA against @Carlow\_GAA in the Joe McDonagh Cup this afternoon. #GAA #GAABelong



Joe McDonagh Cup: Antrim snatch draw with Carlow

Our senior footballers played Cavan in the quarter-final of the Ulster Championship on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November. A fantastic first half performance saw the footballers not look out of place, playing against their rivals, who had operated in Division 2 this year. A superfluous point from Paddy Cunningham rolled back the years (again) for the Lamh Dhearg man and had 24.1k views on the GAA's official Twitter page. Unfortunately, Cavan pulled away in the second half. However, in their performance, the footballers showed that they belong at that level and in doing so set a standard to work from for next year's league campaign.



Fantastic score by Patrick Cunningham for @AontroimGAA



24.1K views

13:47 · 07/11/2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

**34** Retweets **18** Quote Tweets **399** Likes



Our footballers were unlucky in their league campaign as promotion alluded them again. The target for next year is clear and I have no doubt that the lads will have delivered promotion from Division 4 after the last ball has been kicked in next year's league campaign.

As my term as Antrim PRO comes to an end, I reflect on 5 years of memories and enjoyment. I have met some wonderful people in Antrim and beyond, and I will cherish the many experiences and opportunities that I have been blessed with in my role. Antrim is a special county. Its Gaels are like no other. There are too many to mention individually. However, to all those who have assisted me and shown me kindness and patience, I would wish to say thank you. It is been an absolute privilege to serve my county.

Finally, I could not leave without making a special mention to the clubs of Antrim. From the outset they placed their absolute trust in me to promote them and our county and for that I will be forever grateful. I feel I have performed the role to the best of my ability, and I leave the role with a great sense of pride and satisfaction.

**Sean Kelly**

PRO



## Teanga agus Cultur Report 2020

Over the last 5 years as Cultural Officer in the County, I have thoroughly enjoyed promoting language and Scór. As my five-year term ends, I wish to thank you all very much for your support. Antrim Scór participation was diminishing 5 years ago and thanks to the hard work of the Cultural Officers and clubs in the County, this has greatly improved. Participation has almost tripled at Scór na nÓg level. Antrim has competed at the highest levels in Scór and we have reached new levels of success which I hope can continue. Over the last 5 years the County has won 5 Ulster Scór na nÓg titles, 4 Ulster Scór Sinsir titles and 3 All Ireland Scór na nÓg titles. As well as success in Scór, many of our competitors have performed in Croke park during this time which brought great honour to clubs and communities across the County.

### **Eanair-Nollaig 2020**

Over the last year, I attended and contributed to Scór and language meetings which were held in Comhairle Uladh offices and on Zoom and in various locations, both Provincially and Nationally. In addition, I attended and contributed to two County Scór finals, two County quiz finals, four Scór Ulster semi-finals, one Ulster Final of Scór (the second one didn't go ahead due to Covid restrictions) and the All Ireland Scór na nÓg Final in Killarney.

### **Scór na nÓg 2019 /2020**

The following clubs were County Champions in Scór na nÓg

Rince Foirne – Naomh Muire, Aghagallon

Amhránaíocht Aonair – Méabh McNeill? Lámh Dhearg

Aithriseoireacht – Dunloy Cúchullains

Ceol Uirlise – Naomh Éanna

Bailéad Ghrúpa – Kickhams, Creggan

Nuachleas– Naomh Muire, Aghagallon

Tráth na gCéist - Conn Magees, Glenravel. The team represented Antrim at the Ulster Final.



In this current year's Scór na nÓg the County Final was hosted by Tír na nÓg, Randalstown in the parish centre and Scór Sinsir was hosted by St Comgalls, Antrim: A huge thank you to Tír na nÓg and St Comgall's for their hospitality and assistance. The popularity of Scór continues to rise with a record number of participants in Scór na nÓg this year.

Antrim was represented in the Ulster Scór na nÓg Final by two acts from St Mary's Aghagallon in Rince Foirne and Nuachleas. One Ulster title was won by the Aghagallon dancers who represented the County and Province at the All Ireland Final in Killarney in February.

### **Scór Sinsir 2020 -**

The following clubs were County Champions in Scór Sinsir  
Rince Foirne – Naomh Muire, Aghagallon  
Amhránaíocht Aonair – Bronagh McIlpatrick, Dunloy  
Aithriseoireacht – Malachy Duffin, Tír na nÓg  
Ceol Uirlise – Tír na nÓg  
Nuachleas– Tír na nÓg  
Tráth na gCéist - Conn Magees, Glenravel.

The Aghagallon dancers, Malachy Duffin and Bronagh McIlpatrick were due to represent the County at the Ulster Scór Final which was postponed due to Covid-19.

### **Amhrán na bhFiann**

We continue to provide singers for the National anthem at inter-county games, Comhairle Uladh games and Antrim club championship games in the county. I have taken 3 training sessions this year on Amhrán na bhFiann for Scór competitors to ensure that all singers are singing the correct versions

### **Tráth na gCeist Boird Uladh**

Coiste na Gaeilge, Uladh run an Irish quiz for Comhairle Uladh. This is held during seachtain na gaeilge. This is an all Irish Language Tráth na gCeist competition which is thoroughly enjoyable and informative. Antrim clubs are all invited to take part each year. This year it did not go ahead due to Covid-19

### **Irish Language Signage**

New signage was given to all clubs who requested it over the last year.

Culture and Language - Covid - 19

I have tried to continue to promote language and culture online during the pandemic. The following events have taken place:

**Antrim Scór competitors got together and I produced a version of The Green Glens of Antrim and Belfast.**

**Promoted Virtual Scór which was run by National Scór and had a great response with lots of Antrim competitors taking part.**

**Saffron Singers – Ran a 6-week Scór singing workshop for Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsir with over 60 singers taking part during the 6 weeks.**

**Cultúr ar line- Hosted a virtual week of culture which included Scór activities, historical talks, anthem training and Irish classes for all ages.**

**County Virtual Scór 28th/29th November on the County Facebook page.**



### **Buíochas/Thanks**

I wish to convey my thanks to the members of Coiste Bainistíochta who have been a great support to me over the last year and over my 5-year term as Cultural Officer. Thank you to the clubs and cultural officers who have continued to support and assist me in all aspects of culture. Thank you to Saffron Gael for their support and attendance at all Scór events throughout the year.

**Bronagh Lennon**  
Cultural Officer



## Children's officers Report 2020

This has been an exceptionally difficult and challenging year for all members of our Association in Antrim, on this Island and across the world. The Covid 19 Pandemic has created a wide range of circumstances which has served to make our various roles within The GAA more challenging but this pales into insignificance when we acknowledge the loss of life within our society and across the world. It has been heartening throughout these last months to see how we as an Association have stood up and delivered a wide range of services to our clubs and communities.

There has been much disruption to the normal service that our club children's officers have been able to offer our members but nonetheless they have continued to do so in seeking to offer advice and guidance and ensure that our children and young people are safe. I would like to acknowledge the sterling work that has been completed by these officers across the county

**Referrals relating to safeguarding concerns:** in the period March to November we have dealt with 22 safeguarding concerns most of which only required telephone advice and guidance. It is important however to acknowledge there has been an increase in the number of referrals relating to bullying and misuse of online communications between young people. Contact with GAA children's officers and other sporting codes would indicate similar problems in this area. The lockdown has had an impact on our young people and that their sense of boredom has resulted in the increase of concerning use of social media. In Antrim we are collaborating with a local training agency and a training programme designer to address this issue and hope to roll out a support programme that can be used by club children officer's over the next few months as we head towards another possible lockdown. This programme **P.I.T.C.H. (Positive Initiative to Promote Club/community health)** will be available from January 2021 and funding to bring this to clubs can be obtained via council funding or by contacting me at [childrensofficer.antrim@gaa.ie](mailto:childrensofficer.antrim@gaa.ie)



**Safeguarding Training:** Face to face safeguarding training has been suspended for quite a few months and this has proven to be an issue for clubs who wish to prepare coaches, managers and additional personnel as required by GAA rule and by children's legislation. This has also had a knock-on effect on the training of coaches. In response to this issue the National child safeguarding training committee have developed and released an online version of training which is currently being delivered across the country. To date six clubs in the county have availed of this training and it is now available to everyone. There is a process for booking onto the training and at present I am the direct line of contact for anyone interested in signing up for this. All clubs are being encouraged to sign up for this online training and to ensure that anyone who is working with children and young people (under 18 years) has completed all the following:

- 1. GAA child safeguarding training (Currently only available online)**
- 2. Have had an Access ni check completed and signed off by Ulster Council.**
- 3. GAA coaching qualification (minimum foundation)**

If any club wishes to avail of the online safeguarding training please contact me at [childrensofficer.antrim@gaa.ie](mailto:childrensofficer.antrim@gaa.ie).

In addition to the development of the online safeguarding 1 training outlined above the child National safeguarding training committee have introduced an online refresher course which can be used by anyone who is required to renew their Training ( the current requirement in Ulster is that this is completed every three years ). A list of all people who have completed their training is currently held by the county children's officer and can be made available to club children's officers on request.

**Club children's officer emails:** All club children's officers can now avail of an official GAA email account which is the agreed method of communication between the children's officer and the county children's officer. To access this email please contact me at [childrensofficer.antrim@gaa.ie](mailto:childrensofficer.antrim@gaa.ie)

**Ulster GAA 2020 club audit report:** This audit addresses several topics that include safeguarding, coaching, volunteerism, facilities and much more. It is an interesting document and includes a lot of information relating to safeguarding. The document can be obtained using the following link

<https://ulster.gaa.ie/wpcontent/uploads/2020/09/36790-ulster-GAA-Club-Audit-2020-v10-online-1-1.pdf>

**National GAA issued the following safeguarding updates:**

- Any member previously vetted by us between January 2016 and 1 January 2019 must reapply to be re-vetted by 1st January 2021.
- There will be a three-month period allocated by Ulster Council to complete this task.

- Any person wishing to attend our underage training or games including coaches, parents, players, and spectators shall be subject to the provisions of the code of (behaviour underage). This should be outlined to all within the club possibly at the point of the club AGM
- The code of behaviour (underage) is currently under review with the new code available from January 2021.
- All children's officers current and new following club AGM's **must** register with county children's officer supplying name, address, email, and telephone number. Following this the new club children's officer emails will be issued.
- National Safeguarding committee have released a new adult to child ration for all games coaching and training. These new guidelines are to be used with immediate effect:

### **Safeguarding cases and outcomes:**

Throughout the past year there have been ongoing concerns/complaints which have been referred to the county children's officer and subsequently resolved. These range from simple parent/ coach difficulties to more substantive cases which have required several approaches including the involvement of statutory agencies and the use of resources including restorative practices and face to face interviewing. It is not always possible to resolve issues to the satisfaction of both the complainant and the subject of the complaint. Moreover, it is our role to focus on safeguarding and wellbeing of the children and young people with whom we work and that is what we concentrate on. In all cases we seek to ensure that the voice of the child/young person is heard and that their safety is paramount. Outcomes from the cases we deal with are based on this principle of paramountcy and seek to comply with our code of behaviour (underage).

All serious safeguarding cases) are reported to Ulster Council to ensure that we follow policy and procedures, and, in some circumstances, we also report to the National child Safeguarding committee in Croke Park. Within the county we have our own designated officer (County Chairperson) with whom all Serious safeguarding issues are reported and discussed. We also have our County determining committee which is available to assist with complex cases which are not able to be resolved within clubs and have been referred to the county children's officer. This committee determines whether the complaint, if not resolved via the informal process, is to be dealt with under rule ( GAA disciplinary process) or under code((GAA code of behaviour- underage) and has met on a few occasions during the past year and made recommendations in terms of outcomes. The county has also set up a county safeguarding committee who assist the county children's officer in dealing with the cases which are referred, and which have proven to be an excellent resource.

Since January 2020 there have been 22 cases referred to the county children's officer with outcomes in all but 1 of these which is still ongoing. However, it has been a difficult year for children's officers who have been dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic and the subsequent limited opportunities to observe what is going on in terms of safeguarding. However, these officers have been to the fore in dealing with parental concerns in relation to the welfare of their children and in seeking to maximise this opportunity to ensure that all GAA safeguarding requirements are implemented. In most clubs both the healthy club officer and the children's officers have been the point of contact for worried parents/carers. They have also been busy in making ready for next year getting coaches vetted and trained regarding safeguarding and coach training. They have had to learn to adapt and improvise as the effects of the pandemic has hit home to individuals and clubs. Many coaches have been in contact to express their concerns about the mental health of the young members in their respective clubs and in respect of the high levels of suicides within our clubs and communities.

**Plans for safeguarding in the period January – APRIL 2021, 2021:**

**January 2021**

Meeting of all club children's officers. Via zoom  
Roll out of new code of behaviour document  
Focus on vetting, safeguarding training and coach training  
Completion of Ulster Council safeguarding audit.

**February 2021**

**February 2021**

Roll out of children's officers' emails.  
Series of online safeguarding<sup>1</sup> training courses online.  
Overview of Feile 2021 safeguarding requirements

**March 2021**

Meeting of children's officer's forum to get update on vetting and coach training.  
Review of active cases.

**Barney Herron**

Children's Officer



## South Antrim Divisional Report 2020

The G.A.A. season was not what we expected when Spring began in 2020. We had to bunker down in March and close all activity, not to kick start again until August. Quite unbelievable!

South Antrim's programme of fixtures re commenced then and ended up not being completed. We were two weeks away from the finishing line which was desperately disappointing after the work on fixtures by Conor McCartan and Kevin Herron and the Trojan effort on the referees' front by Joe Sloan, Mark McDonald, all the referees and young whistlers!

We did however salvage something from the season, with great games played at underage and senior and with great discipline I must say.

There were some issues, but discipline was outstanding this year on the field. It is the side-line which causes the biggest problem, and this must be addressed.

**Referees**

There are some clubs who are top class when it comes to supplying referees and others are extremely poor especially in hurling. If we are serious about appointing a referee to every game, something radical must be done to achieve 100% appointment threshold.

**Buiochas**

Thanks to all the committee for their valuable input, especially Conor McCartan and Kevin Herron who I mentioned previously. Joe McVeigh and Terry Parke, Sinead Mullan, Andy McStay, Stephen McCann and Raymond Compston.

Thanks also to the county officials for their advice throughout the year.

To the Gaelfast staff and coaches who were unable to carry on with the great work they were doing but have now re commenced and we wish them every success.

This, the strangest year I can remember has been very traumatic and sometimes tragic for those who have suffered from Covid 19. On behalf of the Clubs of South Antrim I express sympathy to all who have been affected. I know how many Gaels lost their lives, but I want to mention Paddy McIlvenny who was a South Antrim Secretary and also Assistant County Secretary. He is greatly missed.

**Congratulations**

To the winners of the competitions we completed, all very worthy recipients. It is my hope that this upheaval will end very soon, and we can return to participating in the games and culture we love.

Frank Caldwell

Winners of the Competitions completed.

<b>Football</b>		<b>Hurling</b>	
u12 Div 1	St Pauls	u12 Div 1	Not completed
u12 Div 2	Lamh Dhearg	u12 Div 2	Brid Og
u12 Div 3	St Brigid's		
u14 Div 1	St Galls	u14 Div 1	Davitt's
u14 Div 2	St Teresa's	u14 Div 2	St Pauls
Dwyer Cup	Sarsfields		



## South West Antrim Divisional Report 2020

It has been a different and difficult year for our clubs and members due to circumstances beyond our control. Yet all the clubs and Gaels of the South West as well as the rest of Antrim deserve great praise for their work within their local communities in supporting the most vulnerable in our society. The excellent work of club committees, players, and general membership in meeting the challenges we faced, showed the true nature and spirit of the GAA, and the valuable unique role our clubs have within their communities.

We pray to Our Lady Queen of the Gael to look after all the deceased members from our clubs this past year. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

### **Overview of All County successes.**

Despite the challenges of covid, clubs from South West Antrim have had yet another successful year on the playing field. At all county level our clubs have tasted success at several levels. The Senior championship was won by Erin's Own Cargin. The senior reserve cup was won by Creggan Kickhams, while Cuchullains Dunloy won the reserve shield. The Intermediate championship by St Ergnatt's Moneyglass. Tír na nÓg won the All County Intermediate Hurling championship. At underage Erin's Own Cargin won the All County Minor A championship, while Con Magees Glenravel won the minor B championship in Gaelic and St Endas won the Hurling minor B championship.

### **South West Antrim competitions.**

Unfortunately, due to covid and lockdowns we were unable to finish any of our competitions this year. We had got to semi-final and final stages in number of them only for restrictions to be placed stopping underage and non-elite level adult club games.

I would like to thank Columb Walsh and the SWCCC for their hard work in arranging fixtures this year. We had created a new structure for leagues, but only got to trial it in part at U12 and U14 with over 90% of these league games played. We had taken the decision not to host Go Games blitzes, but clubs did organise localised games between teams following the guidelines to minimise risk. The fact that players got any games this year is something we were grateful for and all involved in the safe organisation of these have our gratitude.

### **Referees**

Perhaps more so than ever, given the situation and restrictions we had this year, I would like to thank Gerard Dougan (referee coordinator) and all our referees for their continued hard work this year. Our games would not have happened without them.

On behalf of the executive I would like to thank all our club committees and membership who have ensured not only continued to function in trying times. Indeed, led the way in supporting everyone in their community, demonstrating

everything that is positive about the ethos and spirit of the GAA. My thanks to all those who have been members of our executive and CCC who have spent many hours working behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the South West Antrim divisional board this year.

## **2020 Executive**

Jim McGrath – Chair

Stephen Graham - Vice Chair

James McVeigh - Secretary

Frances O'Neill - Vice Secretary

Columb Walsh - Treasurer

Jerome McAllister - PRO

Shane McStocker - Cultural Officer

Paddy McQuillan - Football Development Officer

Tomas McCann - Hurling Development Officer

## **2020 SW CCC**

Columb Walsh (Chair), Stephen O'Boyle (sec), Gerard Dougan, Stephen Graham, James Mc Veigh, Karol Doherty, Gerard Mc Fall, Gregory Walsh (in advisory capacity).

Seamas Mac An Bheatha

Runai



## North Antrim Divisional Report 2020

No report received

### Gaelfast Report 2020

On a national level, no area of coaching or games development has been unaffected by the extraordinary events of this year. Likewise, Gaelfast, which encompasses the Coaching and Games branch of Antrim GAA.

Our team of staff under our Regeneration Director, Dr Paul Donnelly, have navigated this year with great professionalism and composure, including the challenges to health & safety, and unforeseen disruption to planning and delivery. The success of 2019 led to increased numbers of schools across the county, at primary and post-primary, seeking the expertise of Gaelfast this year. Having had to suspend activities in mid-stream, in compliance with National GAA directives, I was delighted to report to our Gaelfast Management Board in October 2020, which the new National Head of Coaching and Games Shane Flanagan joined, that the request of our Gaelfast staff to come back off the furlough scheme had been approved and that the interest among school leaders in availing of our support remained undiminished by the societal upheaval of this year.

The breadth of work brought forward this year by Gaelfast will show fruit in weeks ahead, with a very ambitious Cumann na mBunscol Aontroma; outcomes from the Club Audit across Antrim GAA which led to a province-wide approach; and the views, needs and ideas of our GAA members across Belfast and throughout county Antrim.

Facing forward, seeds of renewed hope are being sown across Antrim and children experiencing quality coaching are finding pathways strengthened and new ones forged to enable them to progress into club activity, so that they can choose their own way in the GAA. We are not even at the end of the beginning in that work and as this year has proven, it will take us all for the mission and vision of Gaelfast to be achieved.

Please find below an 'Impact Summary' infographic highlighting the key areas in which Gaelfast made a significant difference throughout this challenging year.

**Terry Reilly,**

Gaelfast Chairperson

# GAELFAST

## IMPACT SUMMARY

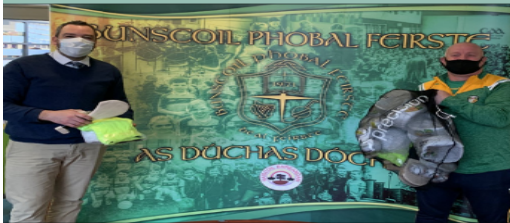
### 2020

The year 2020 was a difficult year for many involved within the GAA. Antrim GAA's Gaelfast team was no different and encountered a period of furlough from April-October.

## 7,950 CHILDREN



received primary school coaching. These sessions introduced children to Gaelic Games in a fun Games-based manner while also educating teachers on delivering Gaelic Games to children while integrating cross-curricular links



## 77 SCHOOLS

received coaching provision, whole-school in-services & equipment packs to complement the delivery of Gaelic Games in schools

## 180 POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL SESSIONS



Post-Primary school sessions took place in a Super Games format, where players received coaching, via modified games, with a view to building smarter players in a fun environment

- 15** Foundation Awards
- 20** Safeguarding Courses
- 2** Award 1

## 555 COACHES

Entering or progressing on the Coach Education Pathway



## £85,000

Additional funding secured to complement programmes via venue hire, casual staff & external resources



**LE CHÉILE**

## Development Report 2020

### **CROKE PARK SEMINAR**

This year has been **different** with the initial trip to Croke Park for the annual Seminar for County Officers took place in January. This included the Development Officers forum which was one of the few events I attended in person. These visits give all County Officers an insight into all the work that goes into at headquarters.

### **CLUB OFFICERS TRAINING**

Club Officers training took place in February in Magherafelt which was attended by ten clubs just before the pandemic.

Well done to all our clubs. Those that attended were:

1. O'Donovan Rossa Belfast
2. St Comgalls
3. Colin Gaels
4. Tir na nOg Randalstown
5. St Brigids Belfast
6. Naomh Eoin, Belfast
7. St Ergnats Moneyglass
8. St Mary's Ahoghill
9. Carey Faughs GAC.
10. Shane O'Neills, Glenarm

### **CLUB PLANNING**

Nine clubs in Antrim are currently being prepared to produce a CLUB PLAN by appointed facilitators.

Appointed facilitators currently engaged are Gerry McClory - Wolfe Tones and James Kelly - Laochra Loch Lao

Other clubs are being facilitated by GAELFAST.

### **OFFICER TRAINING for RUNNING AN AGM**

Croke Park will be running a webinar to train Officers on the "Running of an AGM" in the next few weeks. Look out for news of this soon which will help all our clubs.

### **SPECIFIC TRAINING**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 will be Chairperson/Secretary Training.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 will be Treasurer Training.

Other upcoming training modules are Good Governance, Safe Club, Health and Well Being which will be rolled out at the start of 2021.

### **ULSTER COUNCIL AND COUNTY PLANNING GUIDE**

County Development Officers meet every quarter (remotely now) with fellow Officers in Ulster to discuss a wide range of topics pertinent to the GAA.

### **CLUB LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The Club Leadership Development Programme's Official Calendar for 2021  
<https://learning.gaa.ie/officertrainingcalendar>

### **CLUB MAITH**

Club Maith is a Club accreditation scheme which is unique to the GAA. It allows Clubs to be benchmarked against best practice standards across the full range of GAA Club activity. Surprisingly we have only two clubs fully accredited at this time but we hope to improve this in the coming year.

Club Maith Status.

Sarsfields - Platinum,

Moneyglass - Bronze,

St. Johns are currently progressing to Gold award.

I would encourage all clubs to make their application online at the Ulster GAA Web Site and if they require help please contact me or Fionntan O Dowd at Ulster Council.

### **FUNDING**

The funding micro Site will now be part of the Ulster GAA main web site. There will be Fundraising Application Webinars have taken place lately and all clubs were notified.

### **SITE VISIT CREAGH CONCRETE**

I arranged a Site Visit to Creagh Concrete our sponsors, in January with the Institution of Structural Engineers. This was a great success and brings our name to a much wider audience and increases our sponsors profile.

### **GAELFAST**

I meet with Paul Donnelly of Gaelfast a number of times a year to discuss developments.

### **11.MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM**

The GAA membership system will now be run by Dawson Andrews based in Belfast, Ormeau Ave.

### **12.GRANTS**

Interestingly Antrim Clubs only accessed £3,000 of the Grant Funding available from Ulster Council.

This may be due to a lack of applications from Antrim Clubs this year .

Unfortunately, this cannot be addressed soon as there will be no GRANTS awarded in 2020 or 2021.

### **13.LOANS**

The Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs) is available to businesses through a number of accredited lenders and must be assessed and approved by county committee (by Ulster Council if over £50k).

### **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

I have been involved in the redevelopment of Corrigan Park along with other county officers.

Also part of my remit is to try and help by offering advice and guidance to clubs such as Carey Faughs, Rasharkin and St. Tereasa's about physical infrastructure developments, loans, governance and engagement with the Ulster Council.

### **SEATED STAND ACCOMMODATION**

I sent out details of Club Spectator Stands which are being promoted by All Sport based in Lurgan.

We arranged a seminar about these facilities, but it had to be cancelled.

If anyone would like details please contact me.

### **FUTURE**

Hopefully, we can get all Antrim clubs and club officers to have a continuous professional development plan and club maith status which will tie in with the county's strategic plan.

The GAA is now a very modern professional sports body and in Antrim GAA we are adapting best practice in all aspects of our association.

Each club should also aspire to improve infrastructure and physical development in conjunction with the local community.

### **GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT**

I would like to thank my brother Jim who is on the Ulster Council Parks Committee, Fiontann O Dowd, Ulster Council

Frankie Quinn,

Ciaran Cavana,

Alec McQuillan,

Phillip Christie

Sean Kelly,

Gerry McClory

and Paul Donnelly for any help and assistance that I received.

### **Paul Molloy**

Oifigeach Forbartha Chontae Aontroma



<b>Antrim Football Leagues 2020</b>		
<b>Competition</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner Up</b>
Division 1 Football	Not Completed	
Division 1 Reserve	Not Completed	
Division 2 Football	Not Completed	
Division 2 Reserve	Not Completed	
Division 3 Football	Not Completed	
Minor Football Div1	Not Completed	
Minor Football Div 2	Not Completed	
U16 Football Div1	Not Completed	
U16 Football Div 2a	Not Completed	
U16 Football Div 2b	Not Completed	

<b>2020 Antrim Football Championship Winners</b>		
<b>Competition</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner Up</b>
Senior Football	Clann na hEireann	Ciceaim Creagain
Intermediate Football	Naomh Eargnaid	Cu Chullain, Dun Laithi
Junior Football	Ard Eoin, Ciceaim	Naomh Comhghall
Reserve Cup	Ciceaim Creagain	Naomh Gall
Reserve Shield	Cu Chullain, Dun Laithi	Tir na nÓg
U21 Football "A"	Not Completed	
U21 Football "B"	Not Completed	
Minor Football 'A'	Clann na hEireann	Naomh Brid
Minor Football 'B'	Con Mag Aoidh	Ciceaim Creagain
U 16 "A" Football	Not Completed	
U 16 "B" Football	Not Completed	
Og Sport	Not Completed	
Feile" A" Football	Not Completed	
Feile" B" Football	Not Completed	





Antrim Hurling Leagues 2020		
Competition	Winner	Runner Up
Division 1 Hurling	Not Completed	
Division 1 Reserve	Not Completed	
Division 2 Hurling	Not Completed	
Division 3 Hurling	Not Completed	
Division 4 Hurling	Not Completed	
Minor Hurling Div 1	Not Completed	
Minor Hurling Div 2	Not Completed	
U 16 Hurling Div 1	Not Completed	
U 16 Hurling Div 2	Not Completed	

2020 Antrim Hurling Championship Winners		
Competition	Winner	Runner Up
Senior Hurling	Cu Chullain, Dun Laithi	Seamroga, Loch gCaol
Intermediate Hurling	Tir na nÓg	Gaeil Na Cluanaigh
Junior "A" Hurling	Naomh Pol	Naomh Muire, Ros Earcain
Junior "B" Hurling	Naomh Treasa	Michael Mac Daidheid
Reserve Cup	Cu Chullain, Dun Laithi	Ruairí Óg, Bun An Dalla
U21 Hurling	Not Completed	
Minor Hurling "A"	Seamroga, Loch gCaol	Mac Uilin, Baile An Chaisleain
Minor Hurling 'B'	Naomh Éanna	Con Mag Aidh
U 16 "A" Hurling	Not Completed	
U 16 "B" Hurling	Not Completed	
Feile "A" Hurling	Not Completed	
Feile "B" Hurling	Not Completed	



<b>Antrim Senior Hurling Championship Winners 1901 - 2020</b>	
Shamrocks, Loughgiel	<b>21</b>
Mc Quillans, B, castle	<b>17</b>
O D Rossa	<b>15</b>
Ruairi Og, Cushendall	<b>14</b>
Cúchullains, Dunloy	<b>14</b>
O Connells	<b>8</b>
St Johns	<b>7</b>
Carey Faughs	<b>3</b>
Mitchell's	<b>3</b>
Seagan An Diomais	<b>3</b>
Tir Na nOg, R, stown	<b>3</b>
Brian Oge	<b>2</b>
O Neill Crowley's	<b>2</b>
Osins, Glenariffe	<b>2</b>
Tir Na nOg (Belfast)	<b>2</b>
Emmet's, Cushendun	<b>1</b>
James Stephens	<b>1</b>
Lamh Dearg (Belfast)	<b>1</b>
Sarsfields	<b>1</b>

**bath** **shack.com**

## Antrim Senior Football Championship Winners 1902 - 2020

St Johns	<b>24</b>
St Galls	<b>19</b>
O Donovan Rossa	<b>15</b>
Erin's Own, Cargin	<b>10</b>
James Stephens	<b>7</b>
Cúchullains, Dunloy	<b>6</b>
Seagan An Diomais	<b>5</b>
Sarsfields	<b>4</b>
Gaelhil Uladh	<b>3</b>
Lamh Dhearg	<b>3</b>
O Connells	<b>3</b>
St Pauls	<b>3</b>
Ardoyne	<b>2</b>
Kickhams, Creggan	<b>2</b>
Mitchel's	<b>2</b>
Otlamh Fodhla	<b>2</b>
Con Magees	<b>1</b>
Davitt's	<b>1</b>
Eire Og	<b>1</b>
Lamh Derg, Toome	<b>1</b>
O Neill Crowley's	<b>1</b>
O Donnells	<b>1</b>
Pearses	<b>1</b>
St Teresas	<b>1</b>
Tir Na nÓg (Belfast)	<b>1</b>

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Antrim Kit Suppliers



Antrim Academy Squad Sponsors



Antrim Senior Hurling Championship Sponsors



Antrim Senior Football Championship Sponsors

Intermediate Hurling Championship – Andersonstown Social Club  
Junior Hurling Championship – Casement Social Club

Intermediate Football Championship- Larkin Cassidy Solicitors  
Junior Football Championship – GYMco

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