



An Chomdhail Bhliantuil
Ar Luan 8 Nollaig 2025
Óstlann Dunsilly, Aontroma
Toiseacht Ar a 7.30pm

***Cearúilín Ní Lochlainn, Rúnaí Cúnta
Nollaig 2025***

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Aimniuchain for 2025

(Nominations)

Cathaoirleach	Séamus McMullan (Conn Mag Aoidh)	
Leas-Cathaoirleach	Terry Reilly (Gort na Móna)	
Rúnaí	Caroline Mc Laughlin (Naomh Pól)	
Cisteoir	Angela Callan (Naomh Comhghall)	
Leas-Cisteoir	Colin Loughran (Achadh Gallain)	
Oifigeach Caidrim Poibli	Vacant	
Oifigeach Oiling	Vacant	
Oifigeach Teanga agus Cultur	Paula Fyfe (Conn Mag Aoidh)	
Ionadaí ar an Ard Comhairle	Pól Donnelly (Naomh Pol)	
	Donal Murphy (Ruairi Mhic Asmáint)	
	Frankie Quinn (Ruairí Óg)	
Teachta Comhairle Uladh (2)	Bronagh Lennon (Achadh Gallain)	
	Kieran Megraw (Lamh Dhearg)	
	Frankie Quinn (Ruairí Óg)	

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 motion or an amendment thereto may speak for three minutes but not more than three minutes.
- ✓ A delegate seconding or speaking to a motion or an Amendment may speak once only and must not exceed three minutes. A maximum of two delegates from any one club shall speak on any one motion.
- ✓ The proposer of a motion/resolution or an amendment may speak a second time for two minutes before a vote is taken, but no other delegate may speak a second time to the same motion or amendment
- ✓ The chairperson, at any time he/she 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.
- ✓ A speaker to the Secretary's Report or to any other general discussion shall not exceed three minutes on any one topic

Appointment of Tellers - Convention 2025



Motions and Recommendations Convention 2025

Motion 1:

That Bye-Law 2.2 of CLG Aontroma Bye-Laws 2025 be amended to include a Secretary and a Health and Well-being Officer, in accordance with Riail 3.9 T.O. 2025.

Coiste Aontroma

Motion 2:

That Bye-Law 3.1 of CLG Aontroma Bye-Laws 2025 be amended as follows, in accordance with Riail 3.9 T.O. 2025:

Secretary – elected at County Convention;

Operations Manager (non-voting) – Full Time; and

Health and Well-being Officer – appointed at County Convention.

Coiste Aontroma

Motion 3:

That Bye-Law 4.1 of CLG Aontroma Bye-Laws 2025 be amended as follows:

County Secretary; County Operations Manager (non-voting).

Coiste Aontroma

Motion 4:

That Section 4, CLG Aontroma Bye-Laws 2025 be amended to include a Football Development Sub-committee as follows:

County Football Development Sub-Committee (Coiste Peil):

The County Football Development Sub-Committee shall consist of the following members: - a Chairperson, and at least three other members (one of whom shall act as secretary), all of whom shall be appointed by the County Committee on the nomination of Management Committee, in accordance with Rule 3.18 An Treoraí Oifigiúil 2025. In addition, the County Coaching Officer and County Head of Games Development (or nominee) shall be ex officio members of the committee.

It shall be responsible for the promotion and development of all football activities in the county, subject to the overall jurisdiction of the County Committee.

The County Football Development Sub-Committee shall be entitled to make proposals in relation to the format of all football competitions to the County Committee, and on matters relating to the promotion and improvement of football within the county to the County Coaching & Games Development Committee.

The County Football Development Sub-Committee shall hold an Annual Forum which shall be held before the County Convention.

With the exception of the Chairperson of the committee, no Club shall be entitled to more than one representative on the County Football Development Sub-Committee. The term of the committee shall be three years.

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Coiste Aontroma

Motion 5:

That Section 4, CLG Aontroma Bye-Laws 2025 be amended to include a Hurling Development Sub-committee as follows:

County Hurling Development Sub-Committee (Coiste Iomána):

The County Hurling Development Sub-Committee shall consist of the following members: - a Chairperson, and at least three other members (one of whom shall act as secretary), all of whom shall be appointed by the County Committee on the nomination of Management Committee, in accordance with Rule 3.18 An Treoraí Oifigiúil 2025. In addition, the County Coaching Officer and County Head of Games Development (or nominee) shall be ex officio members of the committee.

It shall be responsible for the promotion and development of all hurling activities in the county, subject to the overall jurisdiction of the County Committee.

The County Hurling Development Sub-Committee shall be entitled to make proposals in relation to the format of all hurling competitions to the County Committee, and on matters relating to the promotion and improvement of hurling within the county to the County Coaching & Games Development Committee.

The County Hurling Development Sub-Committee shall hold an Annual Forum which shall be held before the County Convention.

With the exception of the Chairperson, no Club shall be entitled to more than one representative on the County Hurling Development Sub-Committee. The term of the committee shall be three years.

Coiste Aontroma

Moltai 6

Motion to require the GAA to:

- a) Terminate the relationship with Allianz with immediate effect due to the conduct of Allianz since October 2023, which has resulted in serious adverse human rights impact
- b) Amend Rule 1.17 to introduce human rights provisions into commercial contracts in accordance with United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs)

That the Official Guide be amended by inserting the following new sub clause under Rule 1.17 - Sponsorship:

Rule 1.17 (i) "Before any sponsorship agreement, commercial partnership, or naming-rights contract is entered into by any unit of the Association, a Human Rights due diligence must be conducted. The due diligence exercise shall assess whether the entity's activities—including investments, bonds, or affiliations—are linked to war crimes, violations of international humanitarian law, or human rights abuses. The Association, in consultation with the Ethics and Integrity Commission, shall take steps to identify, avoid and/or mitigate potential adverse impacts on human rights. The Association will terminate the relationship with immediate effect where the conduct of the entity results in serious adverse human rights impact, regardless of any existing contractual or financial obligation, and this decision shall be communicated transparently to members and the public."

Action Statements To support this amendment, the following immediate and enforceable actions are proposed:

1. Establishment of Due Diligence Criteria Develop clear thresholds and criteria, in collaboration with the Ethics and Integrity Commission, to identify ethical impropriety in current and potential sponsors.
2. Public Disclosure Process Implement a mechanism to notify stakeholders and the broader membership when a sponsorship is flagged for ethical review.
3. Audit of Existing Sponsors Conduct an urgent ethical audit of all current sponsorship agreements to ensure alignment with the new standard.
4. Termination of Non Compliant Deals Immediately terminate any existing sponsorships found to breach the ethical criteria—specifically involving war crimes, international humanitarian law violations, or human rights abuses.
5. Non Renewal Clauses Refuse renewal of any sponsorship agreements found in violation of the ethical standards.
6. Ban on Future Sponsorships Prohibit future sponsorship deals with any organization linked to such violations.

We demand the GAA discontinue its sponsorship arrangements with Allianz and seek alternative partners, on the basis that Allianz's global investments and business practices have given rise to significant ethical concern, as raised in the recent report 'From economy of occupation to economy of genocide' by EU Special Rapporteur on Palestine, Francesca Albanese.

The report highlighted Allianz's investments in companies arming Israel, the purchase of Israeli war bonds and provision of insurance for Elbit systems. The legitimate and grave concerns in respect of a title sponsor of our Association have recently been highlighted by over 800 players and members who signed an open letter in August 2025, and by a growing number of members who have signed the same letter since.

A key recommendation in the UN report is that corporate entities must promptly cease all business activities and terminate relationships directly linked with and contributing to and causing human rights violations and international crimes against the Palestinian people. Given the seriousness and urgency of this matter, this Club calls for an exceptional meeting of Congress to be convened at the earliest opportunity in order to debate and decide upon the continuation of Allianz as a sponsor.

As a values-driven organisation rooted in community, inclusion, and respect, the GAA must ensure its commercial partnerships align with its ethos and the trust of its members. Continued association with Allianz risks reputational damage and undermines the integrity of the Association."

Rationale - In August 2025, nearly 800 GAA intercounty players, past and present, signed an open letter calling for the termination of Allianz sponsorship.

Respected civic groups including the Bloody Sunday Trust, Gaels Against Genocide, Dubs for Palestine led by Dr David Hickey and Irish Sport for Palestine have publicly urged the GAA to reconsider the partnership. The Association of Catholic Priests (ACP) has also asked the Catholic Church to terminate the partnership with Allianz. The urgency and gravity of these concerns justify convening an extraordinary Congress rather than waiting until the Annual Congress in 2026. The GAA must demonstrate moral leadership and ensure its partnerships reflect the Association's core values. In light of the famine, scale of death and destruction and the rapidly deteriorating situation in Gaza, the Association must act with the utmost urgency.

Naomh Pol, Padraig Sarseil CLG



Tuascail an Rúnaí 2025

I am pleased to welcome delegates to the 140th convention of Coiste Chontae Aontroma. To all those Gaels who passed to their eternal rest in 2025 I offer my sincere condolences to their families and friends.

Senior Teams

Most convention reports will start with an overview of the playing performances of our Senior Intercounty sides. 2025 was a mixed bag for our flagship teams. Our senior hurlers under the tutelage of Davy Fitzgerald took a number of games to get into their rhythm in the National League. An early win over Westmeath, a battling performance to seal a draw in Carlow coupled with a final day impressive victory against Laois in Corrigan Park ensured that we retained our league status in Division 1.

Unfortunately, our Leinster Championship campaign finished with relegation. As in each of the past three years, the championship hinged on the final game. A defeat in Tullamore resigned Antrim to Joe McDonagh participation in 2026. The Joe McDonagh Cup is tough competition and bouncing back to Liam McCarthy level through Joe McDonagh Cup success must be the ultimate goal for Antrim in 2026, along with progress in the National League.

Division 3 in the National Football League again showed how competitive of a competition it is with counties battling through each round and stripping points off each other. Despite victories against Clare and Leitrim, defeats in the final three games consigned Antrim to Division 4 for 2026.

Focus quickly turned to the first round of the Ulster Championship with visiting All-Ireland champions Armagh coming to Corrigan Park. With much focus on venues and off field matters, the performance of our footballers showcased the potential in the side with the backing of a strong Antrim crowd. As stated by journalist David Mohan, *it was a rip-roaring affair for three-quarters of this Ulster Senior Football Championship quarter-final.....the All-Ireland champions were the hottest of favourites to prevail against a team that suffered relegation to Division Four in the League and they got the job done with a bit to spare, but the Saffrons absolutely rose to this occasion.*

The challenge then was to find a level of consistency but the success of previous Tailteann Cup campaigns could not be repeated as Antrim fell to Wexford in the Preliminary Quarter Final. We thank Andy McEntee and his team for their service to Antrim. We wish our new manager Mark Doran and his management team the best of luck going forward.

U20 Teams

The U20 hurlers started the season by regaining the Ulster Championship having fallen at this stage in 2024. Having beat Derry comfortably, Antrim played Down in Ballycran which Antrim won by 2 points. The two sides met again in the Ulster Final four weeks later with Antrim securing a twelve-point victory in Ballycastle. Antrim topped the Leinster Tier 2 group with victories against Meath and Westmeath. Antrim then faced Dublin who were bottom of their Tier 1 group. This game was played in Dowdalshill on a Wednesday evening at 6.15pm. Unfortunately, Dublin prevailed on a scoreline of 2-19 to 4-10. We will be engaging once again with Leinster GAA in the coming weeks to seek home games within the Leinster competitions for our U20s and Minors.

Our U20 footballers started off the season with a tough defeat to Donegal in the Ulster Championship. Only four days later, Colin Toal's side bounced back to draw with Fermanagh

and a strong performance in Newry despite being defeated by Down before the group stage finished with another heavy defeat to Tyrone. Defeat by Monaghan in the All-Ireland B series followed to finish the season.

One of the tasks for the Football Development Committee will be to put in place necessary plans to improve the fortunes and results of our intercounty sides and some of the aspects of their work included in their own report will be key to an upsurge of results.

Minor Teams

The minor hurlers had a late start to 2025, and a quick run into the Ulster Championship began in mid-February and was viewed as preparation for the Leinster Championship. After convincing wins against Down and Derry, we met Down again in the Ulster Final in Ballycastle on Sunday, 2nd March, where we recorded a strong victory: Antrim 4-27, Down 2-06.

A four-week break before the start of the Leinster Championship resulted in difficulties in securing challenge games which impacted preparation.

Antrim were placed in Tier 2 of the Leinster Championship, where the top two teams would progress to Tier 1 and the bottom three would enter the Peadar O' Lathain competition. We recorded wins over Wicklow and Meath but suffered defeats to both Offaly and Westmeath, leaving us third in the group and placing us into the Peadar O'Lathain.

A strong performance in Navan against Meath secured a final against Wicklow in Dowdalshill, which Antrim won. The group worked extremely hard over the four-month period and plans are already in place to build on this for 2026. Thanks go to manager Gabriel Crawford who has stepped down and his backroom team who will remain in place under the guidance of Alan Rainey.

Our Minor Footballers started in early January, with challenge games against Monaghan, Down, Fermanagh and Donegal following soon after. The league campaign began in March with an away game against Derry and home to Tyrone the following week. Unfortunately, both ended in defeat, but were competitive throughout.

Our Ulster Championship opener was away to Armagh on the 19th of April. After a tight game in tough conditions we came out on the wrong side of the result. A trip to Clones to play Monaghan in the qualifying round followed and after a poor start we competed well against a strong Monaghan side. Defeat knocked us out of the Ulster Championship and into the Tier 3 All Ireland series.

Laois were the opponents in the All-Ireland series and unfortunately proved too strong for Antrim on the day which signalled the end of the 2025 Antrim Minor campaign.

Whilst unfortunately not coming away with a competitive victory over the year, we found ourselves improving with every game and closing the gap to other counties. Thanks to all the players and parents for their efforts throughout 2025. Thanks to John O'Kane who was in charge of the Minor footballers in 2025 and best wishes to Donal Lavery who has stepped up from the backroom to lead the side in 2026.

Club Championships

Two of the highlights of the year were the excitement of our Championship Finals with long waits ended for Dunloy and St John's in our Senior Championships. The emotion from players, supporters and families on ending waits of 89 and 52 years respectively meant the scenes

witnessed in Corrigan Park and Ballycastle will live long in the memory of both clubs. Both squads of players have a strong spine of dual players and players who have been integral to County squads in both codes. Dunloy certainly gave a strong account of themselves in the Ulster Championship against Newbridge and showed flashes of the free flowing attacking football that has been successful for the club in recent years. St Johns played in the first Ulster Senior hurling semi-final, seeing off Setanta. Slaughtneil proved to be a more formidable opponent in the Ulster Final with their experience seeing them through. It has been a memorable journey for the two senior champions in 2025.

After some considerable underage success in recent years, Oisin's Glenariffe also bridged a gap of 20 years to secure the Antrim Intermediate title. While many believe the Intermediate Hurling Championship is the most competitive club competition, Oisin's were tagged with favourites from the outset and the injection of youth and experience carried them home in Loughgiel against Tir nan Óg. They returned to Loughgiel to beat a strong Liatroim Fontenoy's side before being defeated in a tough battle against Eire Og, Carrickmore.

It was certainly an emotional year for the Oisin's having lost Eunan Harvey in August. Eunan was a talented dual player and was part of the Glenariffe/ Glenravel side that won the Antrim and Ulster Minor Championships in 2024. Eunan also featured for Antrim Minor Hurlers this year before his short illness and tributes from across the GAA, school and local communities showed what a positive, determined and talented young man Eunan was. We extend our heartfelt condolences to all of Eunan's family, particularly his parents Sharon and Sean, and his sisters Aoife and Lena.

St Ergnat's Moneyglass had a memorable year with success for the Senior Footballers and Ladies Footballers. Moneyglass were among the front runners in the Intermediate Football Championship and secured the 2025 title with a strong performance against Sarsfields in Dunsilly. Unfortunately, Moneyglass encountered a seasoned Glenuillin side who won their third Intermediate title within four years. We must congratulate their LGFA side who won a historic Ulster Senior Championship, the first ever by an Antrim team.

A cracking atmosphere and crowd at Davitt's for the Junior Final also had an outpouring of emotion as St Agnes won their first ever Antrim Junior title after a deserved victory over Pearses. Many veteran players, soldiering with St Agnes' for many years finally got their hands on championship silverware and captain Conall Turley paid tribute to all involved with St Agnes over the years in a memorable speech.

Calls have been made recently about the structure of our championships the impact of having 16 teams in our Senior Championship means on the Ulster representation at Intermediate and Junior level. An agreed process following significant consultation would be required before any potential changes could come into effect.

Con Magee's secured a second Antrim Junior Hurling title in 5 years and like other competitions, were standout performers from the beginning of the Championship which started at the July. Glen Rovers were seeking to win the title after two consecutive final defeats however the Glenravel men were convincing winners. A tough battle in Ulster followed in Cushendall as Con Magee's defeated Truagh Gaels of Monaghan after extra-time but fell to seasoned outfit Burt from Donegal who have regularly featured up the tiers in club championships over the years.

Income Generation

Generating income is integral to the ongoing development of our activities, and in particular resourcing the implementation of our strategic plan. Renewed gate procedures and the

strong support of gate personnel led by Ronan Heenan resulted in a significant increase in gate income for the full championship season. Ensuring that we continue to grow our gate income ensures we can continue to reinvest in our activities. Following the conclusion of our championships, a review took place with relevant personnel across all elements of championship logistics from gates, CCC, referee's, communications etc meeting in Dunsilly at the end of October. I would like to remind clubs and their members that our personnel are volunteers who like you all give up their time in difficult conditions and should be treated with dignity and respect. We are also looking for additional personnel to join the gates team for 2026 and clubs who have personnel to join the team should contact our Operations Manager Ciaran Kearney. Many hands make light work!

Our streaming income has also seen a significant growth and this is down to the quality of coverage, the range of games provided, working alongside CCC to ensure that our spectators are able to get to as many games as possible and that streamed games do not clash with other games. This year we had the first ever live broadcasted County Football Final as TG4 showed the Northern Switchgear Antrim Senior Football final between Dunloy and Cargin. This was a huge success, and the quality of the game received significant positive feedback.

Over the coming months we will also launch other commercial activities. We look forward to working alongside our clubs to generate income that will drive the aims of our Strategic Plan target to *generate sufficient revenue to sustainably resource Antrim GAA activities and capital projects*. The Saffron Business Forum is obviously our primary source of commercial income and this remains vital to the ongoing development of Antrim GAA. The SBF team, led by Tony Shivers, play a crucial role not only in generating income but to also the brand and reputation of Antrim GAA across the business sector.

Our Sponsors are invaluable to Antrim GAA and we thank them for their financial and personal support. Investing in teams and activities for many sponsors is more often an emotionally driven decision rather than financial. We have a group of sponsors who are passionate about GAA and we thank them all for their support of Antrim GAA.

Go raibh maith agaibh

At Convention a number of our County Officers step down. On behalf of Antrim GAA I would like to thank Tony Shivers, Dan McConnell, Paddy Kelly and Sean Kelly who have sat on Coiste Bainistí and been great servants to Antrim GAA and I've no doubt service will continue in one shape or another in the times ahead. Terry Reilly, too, concludes his term as Central Council delegate. In this time, Terry has also been elected to an Coiste Bainistíochta and has represented Antrim with distinction. He will continue in his role as Chair of the National Hurling Development Committee for the duration of that term. Tony Shivers, too, will continue to represent Antrim, as a member of the National Infrastructure Committee.

Thanks must go to An Coiste Bainistí for their dedication to all activities and their support. The coaching staff go above and beyond their remit and responsibilities due to their dedication and passion for Antrim GAA. During the year, Katie Rose Bell, Seamus McKenna and Jason Quinn joined the team and have settled in well to the team led by our Head of Games Alfie Hannaway. Many thanks to Damien McCallin for his service to the County. Damien has moved on to pastures new but not far away and we wish him all the best with Laochra Loch Lao. Our referees, without whom no games would be played.

I would like to thank Curly McIlwaine for the photographs in this report and the support of all the Saffron Gael time for priceless promotion of games and activities within Antrim. Martin McCarry, too, continues to play a pivotal role in managing all aspects of our IT systems support.

I would also like to pay particular thanks to County Treasurer Angela Callan who has gone above and beyond the role of a volunteer during recent months and provided huge support as administrative changes took place.

We can look towards 2026 with optimism with aspirations for progress on and off the pitch.

Competitions Control Committee Report

2025 has been my 2nd year as chairman of County Antrim CCC. This year brought many challenges; including my own health issues however, I am confident that the officers of the CCC dealt well with the challenges that presented themselves and I would like to place on record my gratitude to all the members of CCC who worked extensively throughout 2025 to deliver the games program. Their expertise, experience and dedication were crucial and we, the Gaels of County Antrim, should acknowledge their contributions. Without their input coupled with their accumulated experience and knowledge CCC could not function as well as it did.

Administration

The first meeting of the CCC for the season took place in early January and the committee met in person on many occasions and regularly online. This year saw the second year of the football working group's proposals being implemented and the CCC would have views on the success of these which we will feed into the review that is scheduled at the end of this season.

Two meetings were held with clubs on the reserve leagues structures in football and hurling these meetings were productive as we had the people involved in these teams in the room. As a result, all reserve hurling teams were placed in the lower leagues to enable players to get more games at this level. In football, reserve teams were entered into the division that best matched their finishing position the previous season rather than just being in the same division as their first team. These structures are again to be reviewed before the January meeting with a recommendation going to county committee on any changes.

Members of the CCC committee took on the role of league invigilators and leagues were assigned to each of the members and reports were fed back to each meeting on the progression of the leagues.

Name	Role (or representing)
Sean O Reilly	Chairperson
Sinead Mullan	Secretary
Sinead Mullan	Disciplinary Secretary
Gerry McClory	Disciplinary Admin
Brendan Toland	Referees Representative
Danny McLernon	CCC Rep to CHC
Eugene Gallagher	Fixtures Analyst
Ali Mc Cambridge	Committee Member
Dessie Donnelly	Committee Member

Fixture Analyst Report

Fixtures for the 2025 Playing Season

This year, 1237 games (770 adult and 467 juvenile) were played as follows.

Adult:

Div 1 Football - 16 teams x 1 round; 121 games played

Div 2 Football - 10 teams x 1 round, then split; 65 games played

Div 3 Football - 8 teams x 2 rounds; 54 games played

Senior Football Championship: 33 games played

Intermediate Football Championship: 22 games played

Junior Football Championship: 15 games played

Division 1 Hurling - 10 teams x 1 round, then split; 63 games played

Division 2 Hurling - 14 teams x 1 round; 87 games played

Division 3 Hurling - 10 teams x 1 round, then split; 57 games played

Division 4 Hurling - 9 teams x 1 round, then split; 47 games played

Senior Hurling Championship: 17 games played

Intermediate Hurling Championship: 27 games played

Junior Hurling Championship: 17 games played

Junior B Championship: 3 games played

Div 1 Reserve Football - 8 teams x 2 rounds; 35 games played

Div 2 Reserve Football - 8 teams x 2 rounds; 36 games played

Div 3 Reserve Football - 5 teams x 2 rounds; 18 games played

Reserve Football Cup; 13 games played

Reserve Football Shield; 9 games played

Reserve Hurling Cup; 5 games played
Reserve Hurling Shield; 4 games played

U21 Football A Championship; 12 games played at 6th Nov
U21 Football B Championship; 7 games played

U21 Hurling A Championship; 6 games played
U21 Hurling B Championship; 3 games played

Juvenile

Minor Football Div 1 - 12 teams x 1 round; 47 games played
Minor Football Div 2 - 14 teams x 1 round; 67 games played

Minor Football A Championship; 9 games played
Minor Football B Championship; 9 games played
Minor Football C Championship; 7 games played

Minor Hurling Div 1 - 7 teams x 1 round then split; 23 games played
Minor Hurling Div 2 - 11 teams x 1 round; 34 games played

Minor Hurling A Championship; 5 games played
Minor Hurling B Championship: 11 games played at 6th Nov, with final to be played.

U16 Football Div 1 - 7 teams x 2 rounds; 38 games played
U16 Football Div 2 - 14 teams x 1 round; 80 games played
U16 Football Div 3 - 9 teams x 1 round; 30 games played

U16 Football A Championship; 7 games played
U16 Football B Championship; 10 games played
U16 Football C Championship; 9 games played

U16 Hurling Div 1 - 10 teams x 1 round; 37 games played
U16 Hurling Div 2 - 7 teams x 2 rounds; 29 games played

U16 Hurling A Championship; 8 games played
U16 Hurling B Championship; 7 games played

Clubs leaving a competition, especially the Championship, after it has been organised has a negative impact on those competitions. The CCC appreciates that Clubs don't take the decision to withdraw lightly but we would encourage all Clubs to consider carefully if they can fulfil the requirement prior to entering. In the Feile Peil we had three sections with thirty clubs taking part. In Feile Na n Gael we had three sections with eighteen teams taking part, I must thank Gaelfast coordinators for their help on the day and the success of the Feile competition.

Most of the scheduled league competitions ran well with games proceeding as per the plan, however there were number of exceptions to this and these need to be noted and reviewed.

Areas for Review

- The Reserve Hurling and football structures put in place for teams this season as agreed are to be reviewed.
- Also, the senior football structures put in place at the start of the 2024 season are due for review.
- Entry dates for competitions.

I want to personally thank those Clubs that hosted knockout games throughout the 2025 season. The number of neutral venues required for the knockout stages has increased due to the increased number of relegation and promotion games in the new football leagues. We have had to go to the well with the same clubs on a regular basis. Some clubs decline giving their pitch these Clubs feel their pitch is already subject to overuse – provision of facilities is a condition of entry to competitions. We have used Dunsilly, and this was a great benefit, but we must remember this is a training facility for our county teams. We continue to expand our clubs, which is great, but this is putting a lot of pressure on the club facilities which are not expand at the same pace as the number of teams that we have playing.

In relation to Dunsilly I must thank John Shannon for his hospitality and help at the venue.

Trophies

I want to thank all those members of the CCC and Coiste Bainisti who presented these trophies during the season. There is a requirement to return trophies by the 31st of March, In 2025 the instances of late returns are still at an unacceptable elevated level. Clubs should respect this deadline not because of the threat of a fine but because it is the correct thing to do. We have had Sinead chasing trophies to have them at a venue on time for winners to receive. Of greater concern, some Clubs have returned trophies in a poor state of repair. I want to thank all those members of the CCC and Coiste Bainisti who presented these trophies during the season.

Deadlines

Late entries, late withdrawals, late applications, late sanction requests, late transfer requests, late return of trophies. Can I appeal to the Clubs to respect deadlines?

Referees

I want to thank Brendan Toland and Mark O'Neill for all their work and for taking calls at all hours of the night and day in relation to games. They have worked tirelessly in recruiting, training, appointing, and assisting referees and clubs must support them in this. Mark and Brendan are assisted by Anthony McCague, Colm McDonald, and several others. I place on record 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. I wish to place on record my gratitude to Sinead Mullan CDC Secretary, Danny McLernon, Gerry McClory, Eugene Gallagher, CHC, and County Secretary, for their immense commitment in dealing with matters of discipline. I would also thank Gerry McClory and Sinead Mullan who provide excellent administrative support on disciplinary matters.

Full details of the disciplinary notices are contained in this report.

In conclusion I wish to thank Frankie Quinn the former county Secretary for all his guidance and help and I wish him all the very best in the future, the members of the CCC; an extremely hard-working group of people; and I wish to single out Sinead Mullan for her tireless work and all the members of the committee who had to step up year as some members of the committee had to step back for a period of time .

I want to wish welcome Ciaran Kearney onboard he will be an excellent addition to the county.

Seán Ó Raghallaigh

Cathaoirleach

Coiste Cheannais na gComórtaisí
(Competitions Control Committee)



Referees' Report 2025

Referee training

On 25 January 2025, Antrim referees had their first face to face meeting of the year in St Enda's Clubhouse, Belfast, focusing on the introduction of the new football rules. Topics covered included in-service courses, referee reports, fitness testing and other training initiatives. On Tuesday 11 March 2025, we held our annual pre-season get together for all Antrim referees in the Dunsilly Hotel at which the priorities for the season ahead were discussed.

A new Referee Foundation Course took place in St Enda's, Belfast on 11 and 13 March 2025, with 11 attendees. From this 11, only three attendees actually refereed any games and only one attendee continued to referee throughout the course of the season. Currently, we have 70 active referees but, unfortunately, there are still a number of clubs who do not provide a referee or whose club referee officiates at a very limited number of games.

As in previous years, all in-service training of referees was carried out online, with mandatory safeguarding and rules tests included. This approach by Croke Park ensures that every referee who is eligible to officiate will have completed their annual mandatory refresher training to include safeguarding and is issued with the appropriate certification. Ulster GAA now also monitors compliance with Access NI and Garda safeguarding requirements. Any referee without the appropriate certification is not permitted to officiate at any game.

A pre-Championship training session for all club referees was held in St Enda's in Belfast on 26 July 2025. Fitness tests also took place as part of this session and 30 referees took part in the tests. Referees who completed the fitness test formed the core of the refereeing panel for both hurling and football championship games for the rest of the season.

2025 season

During the course of this season, 1237 matches were played in Antrim across both football and hurling codes to include under 16, under 18, under 21 and senior games. Only one game in both football and hurling were not covered by an official

referee. However, disappointingly, on 18 occasions, a referee turned up at a venue only to find out that the game had been called off without official notification to CCC.

Recruitment and retention of referees

The recruitment of the new referees over the past three years has been problematic. While 45 attendees took the course in that period, fewer than 30% of those are still actively refereeing. We need to continue to attract additional referees each year in order to ensure coverage at all games. There is currently an over-reliance on a small number of referees, many of whom are over 50. Undoubtedly the main reason why more people are not coming forward is the level of abuse that is currently directed at referees.

In the 2025 season, almost 30% of disciplinary notices issued by CCC involved abusive conduct (verbal or physical). This illustrates the scale of the problem. In addition to the on-the-pitch abuse, the growing online abuse of referees via social media is also a significant deterrent to recruitment. CCC have attempted to address the issue of abusive behaviour towards referees, but this is a wider issue that needs to be addressed at the highest level.

Challenges aside, it is still imperative that we continue with the recruitment drive for new referees. The onus must be on all clubs to provide suitable candidates that are committed to participating fully in the schedule once they have completed their training. With only 30% of those completing their training in the last three years still actively involved in refereeing, it is important that those individuals put forward by their clubs are serious about their commitment to officiate at games.

There are a number of clubs whose referees do not officiate at any all-county games. It is obvious that these referees are being put forward by their clubs in order to satisfy the requirement for each club to have a referee, with no real commitment to undertake the required number of games. This situation must be addressed as this places an additional burden on the referees that do undertake the duties.

In 2025, a process was trialled whereby, if a referee refused five games in a row – for whatever reason – they were deemed to be no longer acceptable to the referees' committee and, in this instance, if this referee is the only referee in the club, the club will lose home venue for its games until such times as their referee officiates at five games. Therefore any club without a referee deemed to be acceptable to the Referees' Committee must now ensure that potential referees complete the foundation course that will take place in February 2026 and commit to officiating at a reasonable number of games per season. Failure to do so will mean that the club loses home advantage.

The practice whereby some clubs “parachute” a referee in from another county must also be addressed. While it keeps these clubs technically compliant with our county bye-laws, these referees' loyalties lies with their home county. Therefore when they are appointed to a game in Antrim but have a game in their home county, they prioritise the game in their own county. This practice, again, places additional pressure on the existing referees.

Clubs need to understand that they are obliged to provide these recruits, in line with county bye-laws (see below). Failure for all clubs to nominate referees that will take full part in the season schedule will result in sanctions and penalties be applied, as below:

5.00 *Each club participating in the league shall provide referee(s) approved by the Referees Committee and available to take charge for the duration of the league programme.*

Penalty:

A £400 fine shall be imposed for failure to supply a referee. This must be paid within one month from receipt of invoice.

The Referees Committee shall draw up a list of acceptable referees which shall be known as the 'Referees Panel' and furnish to club secretaries before the commencement of the league competitions. Such list shall be updated from time to time and amendments duly notified to club secretaries. Where a club fails to provide a referee(s) acceptable to the Referees Committee, that club shall receive no further home games in the relevant league competition (hurling or football as appropriate) until a suitable referee(s) is provided.

The club of any referee failing to attend an arranged fixture without reasonable cause will be fined £50 per failure. If the referee fails, without reasonable cause, on three consecutive occasions then his club will be fined £400.

If any club does not provide an acceptable referee (to the all-county referees committee), the club will forfeit home venue advantage for all county games at all levels. Clubs will be asked to nominate their referees in both codes in early 2026. Any new referees must attend the Foundation course to take place in February 2026.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the referees' committee who helped throughout the 2024/5 season. I would also like to thank all referees who officiated at our games over the course of this year and look forward to working with them again in the 2026 season. A special mention of thanks also to Naomh Eanna club Belfast who accommodated all our requests for the use of facilities for delivering training sessions and conducting fitness assessments.

Breandán O Tuathaláin

Championship Referee Appointments 2025

Competition	Referee	Club
Senior Football	Darren McKeown	St Gall's
Intermediate Football	Paul Burns	St Comgall's
Junior Football	Martin Quinn	St Enda's
U21 Football	Colin Thompson	St John's
Minor Football	Ray Matthews	Rossa
Under 16 Football	Dermot Scullion	St Malachy's

Competition	Referee	Club
Senior Hurling	Colum Cuning	Dunloy
Intermediate Hurling	Declan McGarry	Loughgiel
Junior Hurling	Paul O'Neill	Creggan
U21 Hurling	Piarras McCaffrey	St Gall's
Minor Hurling	Fionntan McCotter	Sarsfields
Under 16 Hurling	Colin Thompson	St John's

County Antrim Planning & Training Officer Report

1) The GAA Club Summit

This exciting event will be taking place on **Saturday 7th February 2026** in Croke Park. The website and ticketing platform are currently being finalised - they will be shared with you and colleagues in your club. The Summit will help to inform Officers in Club, County and Province.

2) Club Compás

Accreditation is now available for clubs from Oct 2025. Part of the process now includes being able to upload evidence for some questions where you have replied yes i.e. Safeguarding of members/ Coaching Plan.

Information on what evidence is required, is on the Club Compas system and Tobar.

This programme was introduced in 2024, providing clubs a digital self-assessment tool to review their performance and receive direction on how to implement operational improvements. Currently 9 clubs in Antrim have completed the self-assessment and will now move onto the accreditation stage.

As we are in the close season, it is an opportunity for other clubs to become involved in the Programme developing Club Planning and in the process:

a) Improve Club Governance standards b) Simplify Volunteer workload c) Support evidence-based decisions.

3) Club Executive Development Programme

On 31/3/25 we had a successful and well attended workshop delivered by Gerard Bradley with 48 people representing 23 Antrim clubs. Thanks to Jim Brady, Chair All Saints GAC for use of the excellent facilities in St Brigid's PS Ballymena.

4) Club Planning Programme

The Club Planning Programme continues to provide GAA, Camogie, Handball and LGFA Clubs with a step-by-step approach to developing a strategic plan. The programme features a Club Planning Guide, practical resources, and trained Club Planning Facilitators to guide Clubs through the process.

There are currently **10 x Antrim clubs at various stages of a Club Development plan.** with some due to be launched in Dec 25 and Jan 26.
Club development plans from clubs in all counties are available to view on Tobar.

Comhgairdeas to all Antrim clubs who have developed and opened new facilities for their players, members and community in 2025.
Thank you for your commitment and hard work to promoting the GAA.

5) Club Officer Planning Programme 2025/26 (open to all club officers)

The **Training Calendar for Club Officers** is up and running. The details of upcoming webinars will be forwarded regularly to all Antrim clubs.
Clubs are encouraged to promote the training webinars in their clubs ensuring the relevant personnel are aware of what is taking place and the dates. It is open to all codes.

6) Help Centre

Work is ongoing on phase one of the Help Centre-A Club FAQ library, starting with FAQ's relating to running the Club AGM
[Club AGM | Tobar](#)

Many thanks to everyone for your support and co-operation throughout the year.

**Go raibh maith agat
Ciaran Mac Craith
(Kieran Megraw)
Planning & Training Officer: Antrim**



Antrim Communications Officer Report 2025

My last year as Antrim Communications Officer was an exciting and eventful one within the county and club scene.

I have been involved for 8 years with all things Saffron, and in my role for 5 years. Almost a decade seeing the various thrills and spills throughout the County and Club seasons

I seen our Hurlers win the Joe McDonagh Cup twice in our national stadium of Croke Park. Produce remarkable results like the Clare victory in Corrigan Park 2020, just as the Covid pandemic was starting to ease. Pull off a last minute draw over a Davy Fitzgerald led Wexford. Welcomed Cork to Corrigan Park and lead by a point at half time in the All-Ireland series.

Our Footballers competed and secured a Division 3 status over a 3-year period. Competed in the newly launched Tailteann Cup making it to two semi-finals at Croke Park. As well as pinning former All-Ireland Champions Armagh to their collar in the Ulster Championship. Our Footballers endorsed the Donate 4 Daithí campaign, Eimear's Wish and as a result were the first county to highlight the need for Organ and Stem Cell Donations.

The Antrim Club Championship was certainly not without its own excitement.

The deadly-Dunloy Hurlers won 4 in a row, as well as winning Ulster in 2022 and made an excellent run into the All-Ireland Club Final. Cushendall wrote their own story only to fall to O'Loughlin Gaels by a single score in the Club Hurling semi-final in 2023. Memorable games against Ulster kingpins Slaughtneil and then Portaferry, with Neil McManus bagging a goal in the last minute to send the tie into extra-time against our Down neighbours.

This year it was very fitting that my own club won the Junior Football Championship for the very first time, after suffering heartbreak in 4 previous Junior Finals. As well as winning Division 3 League, South Antrim Football and the Ulster Junior B Hurling tournament title.

10-year old Dan would be proud of the opportunity to represent and promote his beloved county. A super fan from no age watching every game at Casement Park. Having every single Antrim jersey and totally obsessed with the players.

I would like to take this moment to thank the clubs for giving me this opportunity, and to my own club Naomh Úna. The work, dedication and volunteerism within our club communities is second to none. You all are what makes the GAA and Antrim as a whole.

The people I have met over my 8-years is incredible. I don't want to name names otherwise I'll miss plenty out. But special mentions of praise for The Saffron Gael team, especially John 'Curly' McIlwaine and his brother Paddy. The legend himself Bert Trowlen. And of course former Antrim PRO and Ulster Delegate Sean Kelly for

bringing me onboard in the first place. His advice, knowledge and confidence in me to take over and progress his unbelievable work.

The GAA is the greatest organisation in the world and I wish you all the best for the future and beyond. Aontroim Abú!

Antrim GAA Social Media Analytics January-November 2025

Facebook:

Total page followers 42, 694k

Insights last 28 days: 3.5mill views

Twitter:

Total followers 37.6k

Following 1,443k

Instagram:

Total followers 25.1k

Views in last month 2.0mill



County Coaching Officer Report

1.0 Staffing

Several changes have occurred in 2025 on a staffing front, including the departure of Damien Mc Callin (Talent & Games Development Lead) who was replaced by Participation Officer (PO) Paul Law and Paul's role as PO was filled by Katie Rose Bell. Katie Rose has taken to her role extremely well and will continue to go from strength to strength.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Damien for everything he developed and enhanced during his time with Antrim GAA. He will be sorely missed by staff, clubs, schools and academies.

It has been a strange environment this time of year not meeting with Frankie Quinn to prepare this report. Gaelfast, Antrim's coaching & games team would like to thank Frankie for his time, experience and expertise while assisting our staff to navigate the peaks and troughs of Games Development. We want to wish Frankie all the best in his future endeavours.

Ciaran Kearney has only started his role as Operations Manager but his infectious positive, open and supportive approach has had a very positive impact on our old and new staff members and we look forward to work with Ciaran and others in Antrim over the next weeks, months and years.

In partnership with St Marys CBGS & St Louis Ballymena, Antrim GAA have started 2 Games Development Coordinators. St Marys role is filled by Seamus Mc Kenna and the St Louis role is filled by Jason Quinn. Both appointments have been great additions to our Coaching & Games staff and look forward to seeing how the roles are moulded in each school and how we can support pupils, schools staff and local clubs in the near future.

Our Coaching and Games Department Gaelfast, has been led by Alfie Hannaway with the support of Talent & Games Development lead Paul Law, Games Development Leads Seamus Mc Kenna & Jason Quinn and our Participation Officers Dominic Mc Kinley, Gerard Mc Nulty, Katie Rose Bell, Mark Munce and Marcus Graham. Our Coaching & Games department is efficiently and effectively raising the bar throughout all our programmes with the support of our Clubs, Schools, Academies and Communities.

We had recruited 2 Stranmillis & 4 St Marys University College interns where they shadowed our PO's towards the end of 2024 to develop their skills, confidence and abilities to then develop their own work programme in 2025 to coach in schools and clubs throughout Antrim as part of their student placement.

In cooperation with Belfast City Council's SCBI programme, we had received funding that assisted 10 clubs in Belfast to develop and enhance a club-school links, resulting in 10 additional coaches providing game opportunities for pupils. This programme will run April 2024 to March 2025 providing 60 sessions a week, resulting

in 1500 children receiving GAA sessions during and after school. Clubs/Schools involved in the programme were Ardoyne Kickham's, Colin Gaels, Davitt's, Éire Og. Lámh Dhearg. Laochra Loch Lao, Naomh Gall, O'Donovan Rossa, Patrick Sarsfields and St Agnes's.

2.0 Operations

2.1 Annual Games Development Plan

Clubs should be made aware that the Coaching & Games department, in every County, are furnished with an Annual Games Development Planning template. Croke Park ask that this is the areas we cover in our work to attain funding for personnel.

All areas are:

2025 Priority Games Development Areas
1. Camps
2. Nursery Programme
3. Go Games
4. Super Games
5. Primary & Post Schools Coaching Programme
6. Coach Education Programme
7. Youth Games Programme
8. Talent Academy Games Programme
9. Celtic Challenge
10. Táin Og Hurling League

** Due to current changes to funding requirements and reporting mechanisms some areas may be added or altered i.e. Hurling as specific measurable Pillar

2.1.1 Camps

In Antrim in 2025, we managed to coordinate and support the running of:

- 29 Cúl Camps (2646 participants) and 9 Approved GAA Club summer camps (720 participants)
- 5 Club Easter camps aimed at (870 participants)
- 4 Halloween Camps aimed at 13- to 16-year-olds (230 participants)

The focus for these camps is to ensure participants have fun in a safe and coordinated manner via developmentally focused games.

There has been an increased focus on the health & safety compliance for our clubs and facilities and an increase in paperwork for County staff, Volunteers, clubs and coordinators. Croke Park maintained the requirement of coaches to be 18+ (previously 16+ 2020) and to have completed Access NI, Safeguarding and a coaching qualification. We were under immense pressure to ensure we had enough qualified coaches to deal with the high demands of our camps, specifically during the summer months. We facilitated 6 Coach Education programmes in the lead up to the summer camps and provided mentoring, advice and resources to coaches to ensure activities were fun and varied for children. To put things into perspective, a total of 265 coaches worked at Cul camps & 72 Coaches were involved with our Club Summer Camps this year, and all details had to be submitted via the Coach Education system to cross-check

against safeguarding, Access NI and Coach Ed certifications. This would not have been possible without the great work of club volunteers and club coordinators who we thank dearly for their hard work, dedication and efforts.

2.1.2 Club Support & Nursery Programme (U4 – U6)

Our staff are assigned areas/clubs to work with and support via Coach Education pathway, informal & formal coaching workshops, parent/guardian workshops, player development workshops and nursery support. According to a recent audit by Croke Park we have 48 clubs running nursery programmes and over 1926 participants taking part at this age.



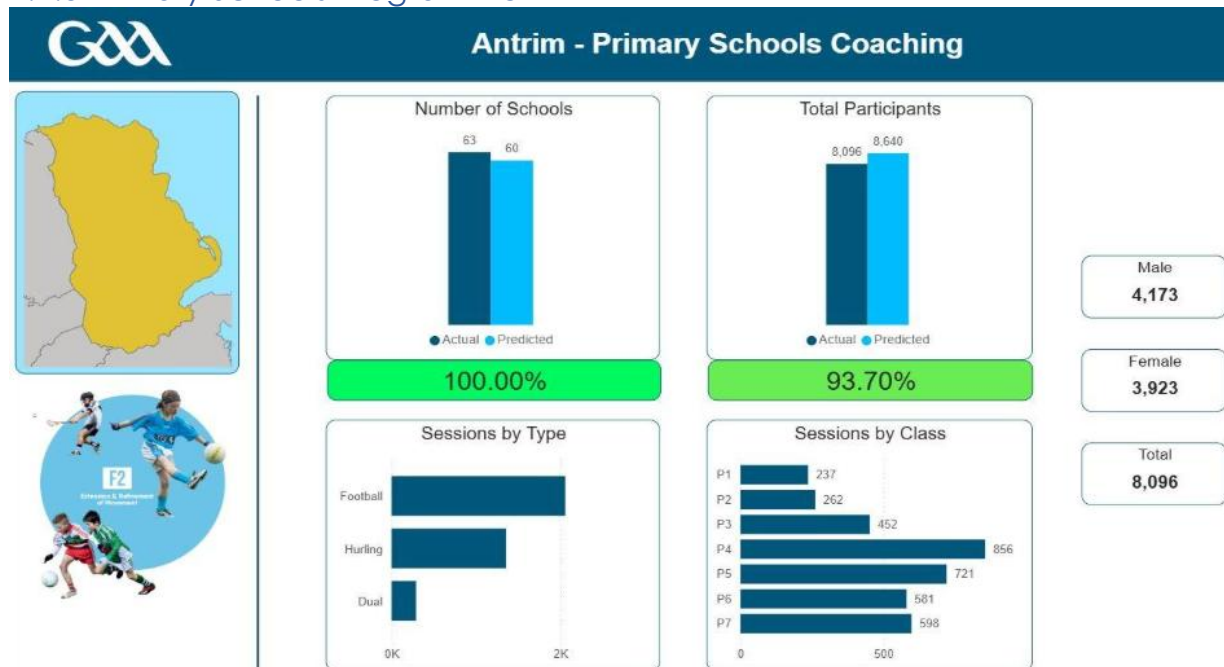
Over the course of 2025 a total of 108 club support sessions took place involved 1296 coaching development opportunities with various clubs covering the following codes Camogie, Football, Handball, Hurling and LGFA. If your club would like some assistance please get in touch with Alfie Hannaway (alfie.hannaway.gm.antrim@gaa.ie).



In addition to our club support programme, our staff developed, enhanced and updated several resources that can be found on the Gaelfast website or contact our Coaching and Games department via email or phone:

<http://www.antrimgaagamesdevelopment.ie/resources>
alfie.hannaway.gm.antrim@gaa.ie

2.1.3 Primary Schools Programme



Go Games and Super Games

Games Development Lead Damien Mc Callin & from May 2025 Paul Law, liaised with divisional boards in 2025 on their level of need for support for Go games in each divisional board area. A games programme for u7, u8, u9 and u10 has been arranged and almost complete for the Belfast clubs in football and hurling over the course of 32 game days. The Southwest and North Antrim divisional boards also hosted their own Go Games blitzes over a few age grades and dates. The Go Games programmes could not take place without the efforts and commitments of our divisional boards and club volunteers, we would like to praise and thank them for their continued support. Currently we have had 646 Football and Hurling Go games opportunities throughout the county.



We have received extremely positive feedback from all clubs, coaches, parents/guardians on our Half Time Go Games during County National league and Championship Football & Hurling games. This provided opportunities for our young Gaels to see our Senior role models up close and has helped develop future aspirations to play for our County. Special thanks to Cumman Na mbunscol, our stewards, young whistlers, coaches and parents for their continued support.

Super Games are non-competitive blitzes for players aged 12-17 in the club, school or community environment. Through this programme we bring Post Primary Schools together to compete in Camogie, Football/Ladies Football and Hurling Super Games blitzes. Numbers competing in these blitzes have been incredible with some schools bringing numerous teams.

Post Primary Schools

The Antrim Schools Cup 2024/25 was a massive success again, sponsored by the Saffron Business Forum and Belfast City Councils SCBI programme. We developed this programme to include LGFA & Camogie competitions and we work closely with LGFA & Camogie Committees to ensure there are no clashes and the competitions are fit for purpose.



Antrim Schools Cup Legacy



- 3rd Year of Programme
- 84 School Teams competing in 2024/25
- 357 Games played
- 2520 Participants
- 1576 All-Star Recommendations

SAFFRON
Business Forum

Connecting Businesses & Supporting Antrim GAA

Competition	Number of Teams	Number of Games Played	Number of pupils involved
Year 8 Football	19	90	570
Year 8 Hurling	10	45	300
Year 9 Camogie	12	48	360
Year 9 LGFA	16	60	480
Year 10 Football	17	64	510
Year 10 Hurling	10	50	300
Total	84	357	2520

This resulted in 25 schools signing up to the Antrim Cup programme, over 357 games played through group stages, quarter finals, semi-finals and finals and over 2520 participants taking part in our games in 2024/25 academic year. Schools includes in the Antrim Schools Cup 2024/25 competitions include:

All Saints College	St Benedicts College
Blessed Trinity College	St Colm's High School Belfast
Coláiste Feirste	St Dominic's
Cross & Passion College	St Genevieve's
De La Salle College	St Joseph's College, Belfast
Dominican College Fortwilliam	St Killian's College, Garron Tower
Edmund Rice College	St Louis Ballymena
Fort Hill Integrated College	St Malachy's College
Lagan College	St Marys CBGS
Mercy College Belfast	St Patrick's Academy, Lisburn
Our lady and St Patrick's College Knock	St. Louise's College
Rathmore Grammar School	Victoria College
Slemish College	

We would like to thank school principals, teachers, classroom assistants school coaches and referees for their participation in blitzes. Special thanks to Paddy Kelly County Coaching Officer, Sean McGourty, Paddy Linden & Carly McClean from Ulster Schools & Ulster GAA for their assistance in helping to plan The Antrim Schools cup competitions to ensure we avoided clashes with Ulster schools competitions and assisting us to prepare our schools for the Ulster Schools competitions.

We would also like to thank our Coaching & Games staff, Casual Coaches and Sponsors, The Saffron Business Forum for all their support, flexibility and drive to develop and enhance The Antrim Cup competitions.

2.1.4 Coach Education Programme

Coach Education has been extremely busy this again year we d like to thank our amazing cohort of Tutor trainers for their time, passion and energies to develop our coaches the length and breadth of the county. To date we have:

- 58 safeguarding courses completed (1069 Coaches)
- 15 Introduction To Coaching and Gaelic Games Courses completed (296 Coaches)
- 4 Level 1 Award Courses completed (78 Coaches)
- One Level 2 Hurling Award completed (7 Coaches)
- One Level 2 Football Award completed (16 Coaches)
- One GAA Introduction in Performance Analysis (17 Coaches)
- 5 First Aid Courses completed (54 Coaches)
- 2 Autism in Sport courses (48 Coaches)
- 2 Young Whistlers Courses (29 Participants)
-

If a club would like to register their interest in hosting a safeguarding 1 and/or a coaching course or any of the courses above please contact:

alfie.hannaway.gm.antrim@gaa.ie



2.1.5 Talent Academy Games Programme

The 2025 season was a very successful one in many ways. We always look to improve standards and at how we can improve our standards of play on the field. Fielding two teams at U14 and U15 in both Hurling and Football provides a great platform for our U16, minor and U20 squads to feed off.

All those who volunteered as coaches were welcomed in and given a role with one of our teams. The volunteers were empowered and had the opportunity to develop themselves in the GAA coach education Pathway. They also benefited from a series of coach education workshops and code specific coaching workshops facilitated by experienced coaches within the county on a variety of topics.

We are also very lucky to have a high quality of Games Promotion Officers (Dominic Mc Kinley, Gerard Mc Nulty, Katierose Bell, Marcus Graham and Mark Munce) who manage our squads, coaches and the logistical support for training and match days. The time and effort these Gaels put into our players and squads is immense and is one of the main reasons we are where we are today, which is in a very good place competing with all counties we face

The area of Athletic development is one where we are making great strides under the direction of Brendan Murphy and his team of coaches. The gym at Dunsilly has been a superb addition to our facilities and used extensively as part of the Athletic Development (AD) programme under the direction and supervision of our AD Participation Officer Marcus Graham, who is doing a fantastic job with all our squads (Over 240 players).

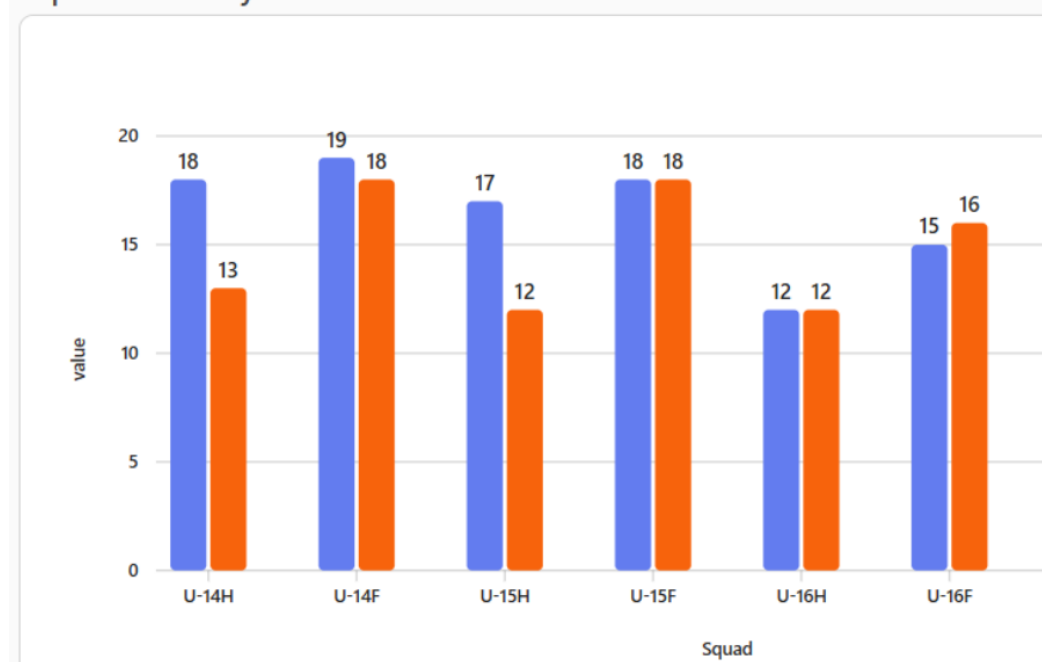
Heading into 2026 season we are attempting to build on last year's success and to capitalise on those areas for improvement. We are currently putting together our squads for the incoming year and will have them finalised and ready to hit the ground running in the season ahead. We are targeting Hurlers and Footballers at age U13, U14 and U15 in both Hurling and Football to represent Antrim GAA in the 2026 season. We are also looking to develop our own coaches U14 – U20 with the hope of providing future Senior County & Club Managers and coaches.

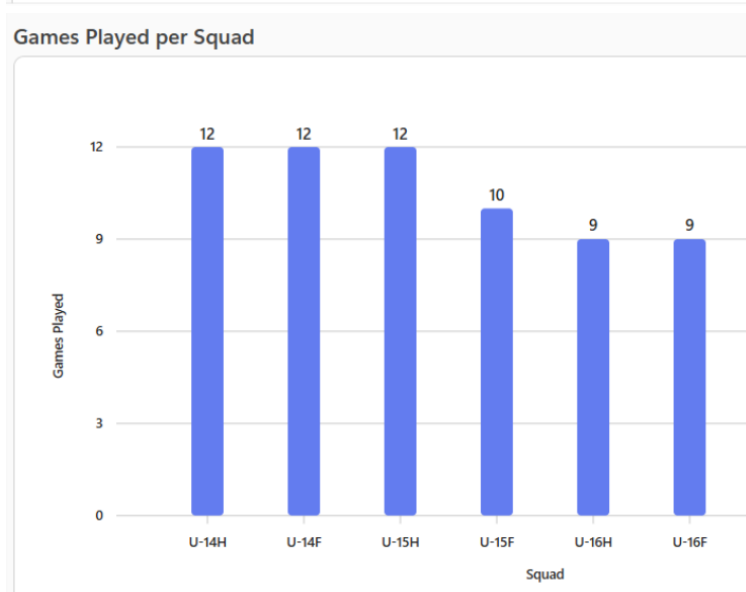
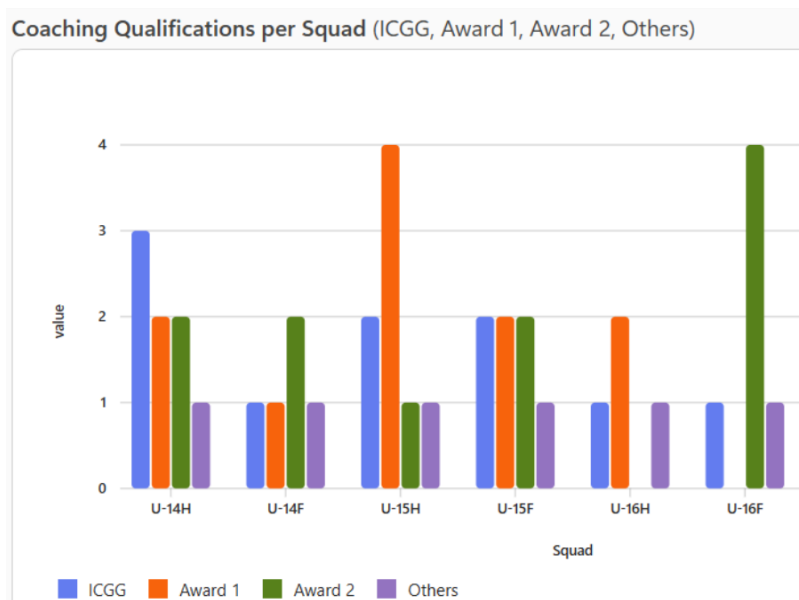
We'd like to thank our long-standing sponsor for **Antrim GAA Talent Academies, Creagh Concrete**. We have an outstanding partnership developing and enhancing solid foundations with the hope of providing future players within our Minor, U20 & Senior teams.



Please see below x3 graphics illustrating the number of clubs & schools represented, coaching qualifications and games played for each talent academy squad.

Representation by Clubs and Schools





2.1.6 Celtic Challenge

The Celtic Challenge team were promoted to the next division in 2025. The lads enjoyed games vs Kilkenny, Wexford, Tipperary, Waterford & Clare. The experience of playing against the highest-level opposition helped the lads prepare for a U16 National fixtures only losing 2 games out of 7. Massive credit to Dominic McKinley, Andrew Breslin Joe Carberry and Ryan Mc Naughton who have coached this team consistently well over the course of the Celtic Challenge competition.

2.1.7 Táin Og Hurling League

We had 6 clubs participate in this years Táin Og competition. All teams participated in a minimum of 4 league games, a blitz day and knockout rounds. I would advise other clubs to look out for future games opportunities via the Tain Og Competition and competitions alike. Some of our clubs use these competitions to assist development of the players in different roles, to boost confidence and increase a player's minutes on the field.

2.1.8 Cathair Bheal Feirste Initiative

Belfast schools unite for Ulster Schools 'A grade' competitions; Rannafast Cup (Year 12) and D'Alton Cup (Year 9) with the formation of Cathair Bhéal Feirste, an amalgamated team representing five local schools. Participating schools are St Malachys College, Rathmore Grammar, Edmund Rice College, Coláiste Feirste and Aquinas Diocesan Grammar. This initiative aims to elevate the profile of Gaelic football in Belfast and provide elite young players with the opportunity to compete at the highest level of schools' competition.

The programme is proudly teacher-led, with invaluable support from Antrim GAA staff, ensuring a high standard of coaching, development, and mentorship. This collaborative approach has created a structured and nurturing environment for players to thrive.

Sincere thanks to our sponsors who are supporting this initiative – Clonard Credit Union (CCU), the Clover Group and P Graham Contracts. Their financial support has helped the group focus solely on the training and preparation for games in a professional-like manner.



The organisers extend sincere thanks to the sponsors and teaching staff from the five participating schools whose collaboration and commitment have made this initiative possible. Their shared vision and dedication to youth development are helping to shape a brighter future for Gaelic games in Belfast.

The Rannafast squad have undertaken over 20 training sessions to date from July in preparation for the competition which started in September. The squad were narrowly defeated in their first 2 games against St Ronan's Lurgan and Our Lady St Patrick's Knock. The team deservedly won their third group game away to St Colman's Newry and now play St Patrick's Maghera in the next round. The D'Alton team will begin their preparations shortly with their competition commencing in January.



Conclusion

As you can see from the information contained within the Gaelfast report, our staff have been extremely busy over the last twelve months. We continue to support our clubs, schools and academies but we have also put more emphasis in our support of Post Primary schools, Player & Coach development. This was evident for everyone to see with the success of the inaugural Antrim Schools Cup competitions & Post Primary support programmes. This has proved to be a huge success so far. Thanks to all the schools, coaches, referees, parents, stewards and pupils for making this a success and especially to the Saffron Business Forum for their sponsorship and Coiste Bainisti for their support and assistance.

Another enhancement in our Coaching & Games programme, is the role of an Athletic Development Participation Officer Marcus Graham Full. In this role we offer some Post schools qualified support for their own in-house programmes and run sessions to support pupils who are part of our Academy programme, a huge step forward for us and we will benefit massively from the access to our new facilities in Dunsilly, Antrim GAAs Centre of Participation & newly developed S&C Gym in St Marys CBGS.

I would like to thank all those individuals who gave their time so willingly to volunteer to coach our Academy squads and our U17 and U20 football & hurling teams. The level of passion dedication and commitment displayed by these Gaels is second to none, and we hope we have been able to support them in their coaching journey.

There are challenges ahead. Although we have better systems in place than at any previous time, no one stands still and we always are playing catch up to the Premier counties but I hope that gap is narrowing year on year. There is no quick fix for Antrim. If we are looking for a seat at that top table of GAA we must start with the fundamentals. We must improve coaching within our clubs, increasing the catchment and appeal of our Club, School and Academy teams, increase the number of games our youth play, expose our players to different forms of learning in terms of the 7 and 9 a side games, expose our players to higher standards of opposition by getting our schools competing regularly in A grade competitions, get our Academies competing with the best in Ireland in both codes, encourage our players to attend our local Universities and continue their education, on and off the field, where they are still functioning participants within our clubs and county. We shouldn't be afraid to look outside our county for new ideas, to look at models in club and counties beyond our own county lines and to experiment and try something different "if we value the pursuit of knowledge, we must be free to follow wherever that search may lead us" Adlai Stevenson.

Finally, a word of thanks to all our Gaelfast staff, who have been so helpful and supportive over the year.

Alfie Hannaway, Head of Coaching & Games
Paddy Kelly Coaching Officer

County Childrens Officer Report

2025 has been my first year in the role as County Antrim Children's Officer. In 2025 the Code of Behaviour (Underage) was renamed to the Child Safeguarding Policy at the same time as this renaming a full review of the current code commenced. It is anticipated that the revised sections along with more up to date policy, legislative and procedural guidance will be available from 2026. Until the revised sections of the Code are available the current sections remain in place.

Safeguarding Audit and risk assessment

In April / May of this year our County and Clubs completed our second Safeguarding Risk Assessment and adopted a revised Child Safeguarding Policy Statement. The Risk Assessment exercise involved us assessing all areas of our services from a safeguarding perspective and establishing whether there was a feature of the service that could put our young people at risk of harm. If there was we needed to identify how best to manage and if possible eliminate that risk. This was a massive exercise for all involved and it's fantastic that Antrim achieved 100% return and are considered fully compliant against national standards. Well done to all our clubs who made it happen.

Whilst this exercise is only required every 2 years it is important that units consider the risk assessment a live document and that it is good practice that it should be reviewed on a regular basis.

Compliance Checks

Safeguarding compliance has been very much a key priority at national level supported by a GAA Safeguarding Co-ordinator appointed to undertake compliance checks on Clubs within the Association. During 2025 this was extended to also include a compliance check on Cul Camps. The checks look at the legislative requirements for all persons working (in any capacity) with underage teams / players – Vetting, child Safeguarding training and a minimum coaching qualification.

A number of clubs in Antrim have already navigated through this process and I cannot emphasise enough how important having up to date and accurate records is as the timescales imposed when your club is selected are very tight.

Work within the County

This year only a small number of concerns, 23, were referred to the County and these ranged from minor concerns in relation to the code of behaviour to more significant issues concerning alleged abuse, bullying and inappropriate behaviours. In the vast majority of cases our Club Children's Officers have resolved these quickly and informally in line with GAA policies and procedures. The Code of Behaviour Determining and Hearings committees remained in place for 2025 and fortunately there has been a very limited demand on their time. Safeguarding courses continue to be heavily in demand in Antrim. The table below shows a summary of this year's activity in the county. A massive thanks to our Safeguarding Tutors and Alfie Hannaway for co-ordinating the courses to ensure that as a County we remain compliant.

58	Safeguarding 1 courses completed
37	Clubs hosted 1 or more courses
2	Primary Schools hosted a course
1081	Participants

The County also hosted a Safeguarding 2 and Safeguarding 3 course during the year.

With recent AGM's it is anticipated that there will be changes in personnel within our clubs and we will reach out shortly to establish what courses are required for next season.

Safeguarding plan for 2026

The following are the main priorities for 2026:

To continue to ensure that the young people in Antrim benefit from and participate in our Gaelic Games family in a safe, enjoyable and developmental environment where they are valued, respected and encouraged.

To continue to ensure and assist club in maintaining the compliance achieved in 2025.

To reconstitute the County Safeguarding Committee.

To undertake an assessment needs assessment to establish safeguarding training requirements at all levels in the county.

I wish to put on record my thanks to all those who have assisted in safeguarding work within the County. A special thanks to Barney Herron, who has been at the other end of a phone to provide support and give an insight into his knowledge and experience.

Kathryn Bradley



County Football Development Subcommittee Report

We identified key areas of focus as

1. Go Games & Participation
2. Coaching within Clubs
3. Schools
 - Primary
 - Secondary
4. County Development Squads
5. High Performance Structures

Ongoing work includes

All aspects of the above areas are under discussion, however immediate focus is on

- Full Review of County Football Development Squads and related operational structures
- Assisting with the identification and recruitment of new coaches at every level in County Development Squads
- Introduction of All County element to our Go Games programme (small number per year) and developing coaching showcases within that for new coaches starting on their coaching journey for the 2026 Season
- Ongoing oversight of the amalgamation at Dalton and Rannafast level. Findings to be used to review and refine approach to 2026/27 amalgamations.

Key Outputs to Date

- Review of Go-Games structures at divisional board levels; introduction of coach development sessions within this.
- Input into implementation of an appointments process for County Minor & U20 Football Management teams for the 2025 and 2026 Seasons.
- A management review process has been concluded with 2025 management teams with a view to maintain relationships and identify learnings to be considered in 2026 planning.
- Introduction of a Belfast City (Cathair Beal Feirste) Amalgamation Team to compete on both the D'Alton and Rannafast 'A' Football competitions in the 2025/26 Schools Season (5 Belfast Schools in each as detailed in the table below. Significant time was directed towards consultation with a range of colleges in Belfast, Ulster Schools GAA, clubs and Antrim GAA to bring the proposal through the appropriate governance structures for approval.

Dalton Cup	Competition	Rannafast Cup
A	Grade	A
9	Year	12

1. St Marys CBGS 2. Rathmore Grammar School 3. Coláiste Feirste 4. Edmund Rice College 5. Aquinas Grammar School	Participating Schools (5 in each amalgamation)	1. St Malachy's College 2. Rathmore Grammar School 3. Coláiste Feirste 4. Edmund Rice College 5. Aquinas Grammar School
Cathair Bhéal Feirste	Name	Cathair Bhéal Feirste
Predominantly saffron	Colours	Predominantly saffron

**note the proposal is to constitute two separate amalgamations, which may be made up of different schools in future years depending on the success of the initiative.*

- We continue to liaise on an ongoing basis with a range of the key stakeholders to maximise effectiveness of football structures within Antrim GAA, including Antrim GAA, Gaelfast, County Board, Divisional Boards and Clubs

Football Development Committee Members

Brian Burns, Kevin Niblock, Conor McCartan, Eunan Conway, Paddy Kelly (C&GD Officer)



County Antrim Safety Officer Report

This is my third report to convention as county Safety and Facilities officer. This position and its Roles and Responsibilities have been slow in progressing and being clarified.

The role of the Safety and Facilities Officer is to provide advice and support to Clubs and the County Management Committee on best practice in several key areas including Ground Health & Safety, the Protection of Association Property, Trusteeship, Insurances and the development of Grounds and Facilities (including funding available for these developments).

To date my main role has been mainly at County Championship and National league fixtures.

It is hoped in 2026 the H+S committee will be engaging with all our clubs outlining what Health and Safety means to your club, these onsite visits will range from looking at everyday activities at the club, to being able to host our championship games.

I am aware there is a reluctance to accept this position but as it is now within rule, I am encouraging clubs to appoint someone with some background in H+S to this role.

In 2023 a Health + Safety committee was set up to oversee the Safety Officer duties and assist clubs in their implementation. we have been asked to oversee. Unfortunately, this year we were not as active as we should have been due to a number of factors and ill health, hopefully 2026 will see a new vigour and focus and we can meet the legal requirements.

This committee comprised of Stephen O Boyle, Tyrone Eastwood, Fergal Kearney and myself.

Examples of the duties this committee carry out are:

Each club that hosts a fixture has a duty of care to ensure the safety of players, spectators, and staff. Clubs must now have a club safety statement within their policies and the H+S committee will be assisting clubs produce this document as well as Risk Assessments for their grounds and premises.

The role of the Committee is to assure the County Committee that the health and safety management systems in place are robust; that appropriate data is available; and to be able to give assurance that good practices are carried out. Another aspect of this role will be the recruitment and training of potential stewards. Some clubs have an excellent pool of volunteer stewards while others rely on the club committee to carry out this role. In 2025 accredited training has taken place for people both male/female to become stewards. In the long term it is hoped that theses trained stewards will become the backbone of the stewards required for the new Casement Park. So, in theory we as a county if Casement is filled, we will require approximately 130 people to act as stewards a big ask but if

you the clubs send along 5 people to be trained, we will have a pool of over 200 people trained as stewards. Should clubs wish to avail of steward training please contact me ASAP.

Observations from the 2025 championships have been the excellent quality of people who have volunteered to steward at our championship games. Most of the clubs have a first-rate method of organising events on the day, **but there is always room for improvement and I am aware a number of clubs who have hosted championship games have not had Event and Stewarding plans in place as required.** If clubs contact me or a member of the committee, we will endeavour to visit them and assist with these plans.

As we enter 2026 from a safety Officer point of view, I highlight two concerns which may be problematic in the future. The planning of championship double headers and the playing of games at Dunsilly. These problems can be resolved but careful consideration and dialog must take place to ensure the smooth running of our games next year.

Can I take this opportunity to thank our county Chairman Séamus for all his help and advice during the year and all the other county officers and clubs for their help and cooperation, together we can and will make our grounds and premises safety for all our GAA family.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to publicly thank former county secretary Frank Quinn for all his assistance and friendship in our journey together over the past 50 years in trying to make Antrim GAA better for everyone. Good luck in your retirement.

Is Mise

Gearoid Mac Labrai

Oifigeach Sabhaileachta Contae

Gerry Mc Clory

County Safety Officer

Southwest Antrim Divisional Board Report

Chairperson's Address – S. Graham

This was the first year since Covid impacted our games that all SW Competitions have been played. At the time of writing there are still two competitions to be completed – Lavery Cup and U16 Hurling (they are due to be completed this week) but with 95% of all games played across both codes we can conclude it was a good year.

At All County Level I would like to extend my congratulations to Cuchulain's Dunloy and Roger Casement's Portglenone for bringing the Senior and Minor Football Championships to the South West. All four semi-finalists in these two competitions were South West Antrim clubs.

At Reserve level congratulations goes to both Erin's Own Cargin and St Joseph's Glenavy for winning both the Cup and Shield respectively.

In U16 FB Championship it was again South West Clubs who took the titles with Roger Casement's Portglenone taking the A title, St Ergnat's Moneyglass the B and St Comgall's the C. Massive congratulations to all these clubs.

At Divisional level, finding nights and dates available to fit in our competitions has remained a challenge and will require careful planning, with input and support from our clubs, for next season.

Secretary's Report – F O'Neill

I am delighted that 2025 saw the return of all South West Competitions, as this has been the aim of the South West Executive since getting back to play after Covid and has taken several years to achieve. Given that South West Antrim CCC do all they can to ensure our divisional competitions compliment, and not conflict with, All County Fixtures this has been no easy task at times this year and my sincere thanks goes to the members of the South West CCC for their time and commitment to the clubs we serve in South West Antrim.

Within our clubs every effort is made to keep club members involved in club life - and with activities such as community clean ups, charity fundraisers, festival weekends, bingo & quiz nights, seniors citizen dinners, gardening / walking / cycling clubs and initiatives such as Mother's & Others, Dads & Lads and the GAA All Stars Inclusive Programme I am confident that clubs in South West Antrim are striving to deliver on the GAA manifesto "GAA where we all belong".

I am aware that it was a challenge some weeks to find enough available referees to cover all games, especially on Friday evenings, and while some nominated club referees made time to support the delivery of South West Games at all age groups, there were a few who were rarely available. Looking ahead to 2026 I would hope to see an increase in the number of Club Referees / Young Whistlers at divisional level – South West Antrim will arrange any / all training required and support new referees during their initial games.

Lastly, it would be remiss not to mention that 2025 has been a year of celebration for All Saint's Ballymena who have marked their 50th Anniversary Year with a number of local events and celebrations. Congratulations to all who have been involved in growing the club over the last 50 years since its beginnings in the parish

field at Hugomount in 1975 to the present day with their plans to cut the ribbon on their most recent developments including a gym, ball wall, floodlit 3g juvenile training pitch this December. The club held a very successful Gala Dinner in the Tullyglass House Hotel on the 22nd November – maith sibh.

SW Antrim CCC - S. McAtamney Chairperson

SW Antrim Go Games and U12 Go Games

Vast majority of games played and enjoyed by all the participating clubs!
Massive thanks to K. Doherty for arranging the fixtures.

U14 FL

Run of very well with again thanks to K. Doherty for arranging fixtures, and thanks to the clubs for playing the vast majority of games in the spirit of development. Play-Off's again were a resounding success.

U14 Cup Winners – Cuchulain's Dunloy

U14 Shield Winners – Naomh Éanna

U14 Plate Winners – Con Magee's Glenravel

U16 Breslin Cup/Shield and U18 Lavery Cup/Shield

Not all games played, it was difficult to get some games fixed, but the clubs that wanted to participate, did so, and all trophies were played for.

Breslin Cup Winners – St James Aldergrove

Breslin Shield Winners – Erin's Own Cargin

Lavery Cup Winners - Naomh Éanna

Lavery Shield Winners – All Saints Ballymena

U14/16 Hurling

Again the number of clubs were low but those that did participate did so with lots of passion, and both trophies will be awarded this year. For winners see Hurling Report below.

McCormack Cup/O'Cahan Cup

Some difficulty getting fixtures fitted in, but again when clubs committed to the competitions, games were played and the last of these finals will be played asap.

McCormack Cup Winners – St James Aldergrove

O'Cahan Cup Winners – Erin's Own Cargin

Abbey Cup

Difficulty in getting clubs to play fixtures but competition was played to a conclusion.

For winners see Hurling Report below.

Some serious thought has to go into playing our senior football and hurling competitions much earlier in the year – and we will need the clubs to support this. We hope to fix dates soon for all 3 competitions.

Thanks must go to G. Walsh for arranging referees almost on a weekly basis, and for heading up disciplinary matters! Thanks also to our referees, very few games was left to a home club referee or 'an appropriate adult'.

And finally a special mention to the Ladies and Gents who man the gates at our

finals. We only put on a gate at finals at a nominal rate, to cover expenses of all our competitions and I would like to thank all clubs and spectators for complying with very few complaints.

Personally I feel the CCC took a few forward steps this season and are very determined to improve further next year. We are obviously particularly pleased to say that for the 1st time since before Covid we have completed all comps in the South West!!

SW Hurling – C. Simpson Hurling Development

A number of P1/2 blitzes were ran this year and well received and enjoyed by all involved.

Building on the good work from last year, the U14 and U16 championships were run again in 2025. However, numbers of entries were low again, although the games ran were competitive.

In addition to these, the Abbey Cup was organised and played for the first time since 2019 adding another Hurling competition to the fold for South West, but it too struggled with entries.

In light of the situation with entries, the committee is going to explore the option of running the competitions significantly earlier in the year (March / April) to try and increase participation and open up more options for teams that wish to participate.

2025 Winners

U14 - Kickham's Creggan

U16 - TBC Final St Olcan's v Naomh Éanna

Abbey Cup - Tir Na nÓg

Go Games - K. Doherty

In early 2025, there were 3 weeks of P5/6 blitzes held at Allen Park & in Crumlin, followed by 3 for P3/4 footballers. After Easter the full Go Games schedule commenced, offering a total of 12 blitz days per age group. This year U12 Go Games were again ran on a Friday night prior to U14 league games and were refereed by the home club.

We gained a few new referees at U14 level, but also lost a few at the same time due to injury.

Only a very small number of games were not officiated by an official referee at U14 football.

Cultural

Several clubs continue to run Irish Language and Traditional Music classes which are well supported and the Irish Language is also promoted through increased dual language signage.

South West Antrim was well represented in both the County Scór na Sinsir and Scór na nÓg competitions with Con Magee's Trath g Ceist team winning the county title for their 20th time!

There were no nominations to the role of South West Cultural Officer this year and we would hope to fill this position in 2026.

Word of Thanks

On behalf of the SW Antrim Executive I would like once again to thank all our referees and officials, our club committees and membership who continue to demonstrate all that is positive about the GAA. Special thanks to Tir Na NÓg, St Mary's Ahoghill, All Saints, St Mary's Aghagllon, Erin's Own and St Comgall's who have been extremely supportive and accommodating of requests to facilitate meetings, and host games.

Finally, I would like to extend thanks to the dedicated team at Saffron Gael, for their coverage of our games this year.

2025 Executive

Chair - S. Graham, Vice Chair - S. McAtamney, Secretary - F. O'Neill, Treasurer - C. Walsh, Assistant Secretary / PRO - K. Doherty, Cultural Officer - VACANT, Football Development Officer - P. McQuillan, Hurling Development Officer – C. Simpson.

Frances O'Neill
Rúnaí
November 2025



Tuairisc Coiste Chontae Aontroma Théas 2025



It gives me great pleasure to present this year's South Antrim report to County Convention.

2025 has been another busy and productive year for the South Antrim Committee, marked by continued progress across a wide range of areas and a renewed sense of collaboration and ambition across our clubs.

1. Games Activity

Following on from the record number of fixtures delivered in 2024, South Antrim again achieved strong numbers in 2025, maintaining a high level of participation across both football and hurling. Fixture delivery remains one of the core strengths of the Division, and we acknowledge the commitment of our clubs, players, coaches, and referees who ensure our competitions run successfully week after week.

Our league and cup competitions continue to provide structured and competitive opportunities for players of all ages. The full list of 2025 winners is included at the end of this report, and we congratulate all successful clubs on their achievements.

2. Development of Hurling

Despite some encouraging signs at underage level, hurling continues to face challenges across the city. The Committee remains committed to addressing gaps in hurling provision / development and we have been actively working with Antrim GAA, Gaelfast, and Ulster GAA to develop a targeted action plan to support the development of hurling in Belfast. This includes pilot initiatives within schools, coach education, and the establishment of additional Go Games and blitz opportunities for young hurlers.

We are encouraged by the early engagement of clubs and schools in these efforts and recognise that sustained collaboration will be essential to continue to address participation levels across the City.

3. Partnerships and Collaboration

Building stronger working relationships with Cumann na mBunscoil, Gaelfast, and Ulster Colleges continues to be a central priority. These partnerships are key to strengthening player pathways, increasing participation, and ensuring that South Antrim clubs and players remain a vibrant and inclusive part of the Antrim GAA family.

The Committee has also continued to align its work with the Le Chéile le hAghaigh strategy launched by Antrim GAA. This ambitious roadmap provides a shared vision for growth and development across all Divisional Boards. South Antrim remains fully committed to contributing to its implementation and encourages all clubs to engage proactively in this collective effort.

South Antrim Committee also look forward to working collaboratively with our new Operations Manager, Ciaran Kearney to support the role out of this strategy, and ongoing development of Antrim GAA.

4. Competitions and Fixtures

The success of the All-County football finals in 2024 highlighted the benefits of cooperation between Divisional Boards, and we are pleased that discussions progressed throughout the year which resulted in the inclusion of All County hurling finals in the 2025 calendar.

That said, due to a number of factors, it was disappointing that there were a number of All County finals in both codes that didn't take place. Earlier planning and enhanced communication between divisional boards and clubs, with the support and input from Antrim GAA should ensure the continued development and staging of the All-County finals at U14 level.

The Committee, in ongoing engagement with our clubs, is currently exploring a new pre-season tournament model for the South Antrim senior hurling and football clubs. It is hoped that this initiative will increase participation, improve scheduling, and provide a more sustainable model going forward.

5. Youth Development and Go Games

The Go Games programme continues to be one of the cornerstones of our youth development work. In partnership with Gaelfast, hundreds of children participated in organised and enjoyable games throughout 2025. Our focus remains on fun, inclusion, and participation for every child, and we are grateful to the clubs, coaches, and volunteers who make this possible. We will once again begin consulting with clubs and Gaelfast on the best format for delivering Go Games as we head into 2026.

Special thanks go to Stevie Bunting for his continued leadership in coordinating the Go Games programme in South Antrim.

6. Handball

Handball participation within South Antrim continues to grow steadily. Increased engagement at juvenile level, along with greater investment by clubs in facilities and coaching, has contributed to this positive momentum. We commend Paul Graham, the Antrim Handball Committee, and Fiona Shannon of Ulster GAA Handball for their ongoing efforts to promote the sport across schools and clubs. There is work to be done to recruit and develop additional handball coaches in 2026.

7. Discipline and Respect

The downward trend in disciplinary actions noted in 2024 has continued in 2025, reflecting a positive cultural shift within our clubs. This improvement demonstrates the collective commitment to respect for match officials, opponents, and all those involved in our games.

However, maintaining high standards of behaviour remains a key focus area. The Committee will continue to promote education and engagement initiatives aimed at fostering a welcoming and respectful environment at every level.

8. Referees and Match Officials

Referees remain at the heart of our games, and we once again extend sincere thanks to all those who officiated across the year. The Committee acknowledged the challenges faced around the referee payment system in 2024 and is pleased to report that improved communication and coordination in 2025 has ensured our payments system has been up to date.

We also wish to record our gratitude to our referee coordinators, Joe Sloan and Mark McDonald, for their dedication and professionalism in ensuring fixtures are adequately staffed.

9. Acknowledgements

The progress made this year would not have been possible without the dedication of our clubs, volunteers, and committee members. Our sincere thanks go to every club official and player who contributed to another successful year.

I would like to extend special appreciation to the members of the South Antrim Committee:

Conor McCartan, Stephen Bunting, Kevin McDonnell, Stephen McCann, Piarais McAllister, and Kevin Herron, along with our CCC members, for their continued hard work and commitment.

10. Looking Ahead

As we look to 2026, our focus remains on maximising participation, strengthening player pathways, improving facilities, and fostering a positive culture within all

South Antrim clubs. With collaboration, commitment, and the shared ambition of our members, we look ahead into 2026 with renewed ambition for our South Antrim Clubs, and our County as a whole.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

11.Key Achievements – 2025 Summary

- **Over 340 fixtures** delivered across football and hurling, maintaining record levels of participation.
- **Expanded Go Games programme**, with hundreds of young players participating across multiple venues.
- **Sustained reduction in disciplinary cases**, reflecting improved culture and respect for officials.
- **New hurling development initiatives in planning** in partnership with Antrim GAA, Gaelfast, Cumann na mBunscoil and Ulster GAA.
- **Increased handball participation**, with new coaching and school-based initiatives.
- **Closer collaboration** with Cumann na mBunscoil, Gaelfast, and Ulster Colleges.
- **Improved referee support and communication systems** following 2024 challenges.
- **Planning initiated for pre-season Senior Championships** to enhance club engagement.
- **Full alignment with “Le Chéile le hAghaigh”**, ensuring South Antrim's voice in the county's strategic direction

12.South Antrim Winners 2025

South Antrim Divisional Winners 2025	
Football	Hurling
U 14 Football Leagues	U14 Hurling Leagues
Div 1 Naomh Eoin A	Div 1 Naomh Pol
Div 2 Naomh Eoin B	
Football	Hurling
O'Donnell League – U12 (In line with Go Games Rules)	Nipper Quinn Tournaments – U12 (In line with Go Games Rules)
Cup – Naomh Bríd A	Cup – CLG MacDaibhéid
Shield – O`Donovan Rossa	Shield – Gort Na Mona
Plate – Na Piersaigh	Plate - O`Donovan Rossa
Football	Hurling
Fr Mullan Tournaments – U14	Stout McDonald Tournaments – U14
Cup – Naomh Eoin A	Cup – Naomh Pól A
B – Lamh Dhearg	B – Naomh Gall
C – Gort na Mona	C – Lamh Dhearg

D – Naomh Éanna	
E - Clan Na Gael	
Senior Football League	Senior Hurling League
Div1 – TBC	Naomh Eoin
Div2 – Naomh Úna	
Senior Football Championship	Senior Hurling Championship
McDermott Cup – O`Donovan Rossa	McGuigan Cup - Naomh Eoin
Martin Cup – St Comgalls	McGuigan Shield – Lamh Dhearg
Martin Shield – Mitchells	
All County Winners from South Antrim Division 2025	
Football	
Div 2 Senior Football	Pádraig Sáirseil CLG
Div 3 Senior Football	Naomh Úna
Div 3 Senior Football Reserve	Pádraig Sáirseil CLG
U18 FL Div 1	Naomh Bríd
U18 FL Div 2	Gort na Móna CLG
U16 FL Div1	Naomh Pól
Junior Football Championship	Naomh Úna
U18 Football Championship B	Gort na Móna CLG
U18 Football Championship C	Ard Eoin
Hurling	
Div 1 Senior Hurling	O`Donovan Rossa
Div 4 Senior Hurling	Naomh Bríd
U16 HL Division 2	Pádraig Sáirséil
U18 HL Division 2	Naomh Eoin
Senior Hurling Championship	Naomh Eoin
Junior B Hurling Championship	Loch Mor Dal gCais
U18 Hurling Championship B	Naomh Eoin or O`Donovan Rossa (Final not played at time of report)
U16 Hurling Championship B	Lamh Dhearg

Ar aghaidh linn, le chéile!

Kevin Gamble

Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Aontroma Theas

North Antrim Divisional Board Report

North Antrim had another successful year with the games they played

P3-4 P5-6 Hurling Blitz started on the 6th April running on alternate weeks through to the 14th of September 30-40 teams playing each Sunday. Each player received a slitor from North Antrim on the final blitz of the year.

U12 Go Games League was run on Saturday at 3pm from the 5th April running to the 27th of September. The majority of Div1 and 2 games completed at the end of the year blitz. Each player received a slitor from North Antrim for their work on the pitch throughout the year.

U14 League A&B was completed with 2 teams from Derry competing this year. We look forward to next year with more club looking to enter the U14 League.

North Antrim Feis was held in Glenariffe again and another success. The Feis means a lot to North Antrim Hurling and Camogie clubs.

North Antrim Winners 2025

U14A

Naomh Padraig

U14B

Creggan Kickhams

Junior League

Loughgiel Shamrocks

Knockout Competition Winner

U14A

Naomh Paudrig

U14B

Ballycastle

McMullan Cup

Dunloy

U16B

St Olcans

Darragh Cup

Cushendall

Adult Competitions

McCaughan Cup

Loughgiel

Countess of Antrim Cup

Osins

Junior Feis Cup

Dunloy

Senior Feis Cup

Cushendall

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the North Antrim Clubs for the use of their facilities and wish all clubs success in 2026.

Go Raith Maith Agat

Paddy Gray



Scór & Culture Report

Scór na nÓg agus Scór Sinsir

Like all other competitions within the GAA, we enter Scór to showcase the best talent that we have within our Clubs and County and I firmly believe clubs in this county have done this with great success.

Competitions yet again were run very effectively and efficiently, providing many nights of high class entertainment and fun. The standard of the competitions continues to rise year on year and I congratulate all who competed or prepared teams and groups this year. Congratulations to all our County, Ulster and All Ireland finalists on an outstanding year.

Scór Success 2024/2025

The story began back this time last year as clubs started their journey in the 2024/25 season. Following a very successful Antrim County Scór na nÓg final hosted in Parish Centre, the County champions headed for Dunloy to compete in a very tough Ulster Semi Final. Aghagallon dancers emerged as winners on the night respectively booking a place in Ulster Final. Unfortunately, the group didn't win the Ulster title but did their club and County proud.

St Comgalls were winners of "Scór club of the year" for Scór na nÓg 2024/25. They have made a huge effort to come back to competing in Scór and this was hugely deserved.

Scór Sinsir County final took place in Glenravel. Our county champions competed in high standard Ulster rounds and 3 acts reached the Ulster final for Antrim. We congratulate Conn Magee's Ballad group, Aghagallon ceili dancers and Aghagallon novelty act for reaching an Ulster final. Aghagallon were victorious in the Novelty Act and competed in the All Ireland final, finishing second in the competition in Castlebar.

We have just completed our Scór na nÓg final for 2025. The final was held in Moneyglass and the club were great hosts. We congratulate Aghagallon who won 5 County titles and Conn Magee's who won 2. Aghagallon won "Scór club of the year". We wish them all well in their quest for Ulster glory as the Ulster semi finals take place on 23rd November. We also wish Conn Magee's quiz team all the best in the Ulster final on 6th December.

Scór Venues

I would like to thank all the clubs, parishes, communities and personnel for their help in hosting Scór, particularly to Creggan, St Comgalls, Moneyglass and Glenravel. To all who assisted in any way I would like to convey my thanks.

COMHBHRÓN - Sympathy

I would like to express my sincere sympathy to the Gaels of Down who lost loved ones, inside or outside the County during the past year. Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh a n-anamnacha uasal.

BUÍOCHAS- Thanks

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who work tirelessly within their clubs to promote and develop Scór and our language. In Scór each year there are only sixteen titles to be won, so for most, the reward is the joy of taking part and presenting a little bit of Irish Culture for the glory of the club. The title, as I have said previously, is a bonus.

To County Cathaoirleach Séamus McMullan, thank you for the guidance and advice and to all members of County Management I thank you for your continued support.

Le gach deá-ghuí don bhliain atá romhainn,

Bronagh Lennon - Oifigeach Scór Aontroma



Competition Winners 2025/Roll of Honour

Minor "A" Football	Roger Casements Portglenone
u21 "A" Football	St Brigid's
Junior Football	St Agnes
Intermediate Football	Moneyglass
Senior Football	Cuchulain's Dunloy
Minor "A" Hurling	Ruairí Óg, Cushendall
u21 "A" Hurling	Ruairí Óg, Cushendall
Junior Hurling	Con Magee's, Glenravel
Intermediate Hurling	Oisin's Glenariffe
Senior Hurling	St John's



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Antrim Football Leagues 2025			
Competition	Winner	Competition	Winner
Division 1 Football	Kickham's Creggan	u18 Football Div 1	Naomh Brid
Division 1 Reserve	Clann na hÉireann	u18 Football Div 2	Gort na Mona
Division 2 Football	Pádraig Sáirseil CLG		
Division 2 Reserve	St Mary's Aghagallon	u16 Football Div 1	Naomh Pol CLG
Division 3 Football	Naomh Una CLG	u16 Football Div 2	Cuchulain's
Division 3 Reserve	Pádraig Sáirseil CLG	u16 Football Div 3	Naomh Comhghall

Antrim Football Championships 2025		
Competition	Winner	Runner Up
Senior Football	Cuchulain's, Dun Laithi	Clann na hÉireann
Intermediate Football	Naomh Eargnait	Pádraig Sairseil
Junior Football	Naomh Una	Na Piarasigh
Reserve Cup	Clann na hÉireann	Ruairi Mhic Asmáint
Reserve Shield	Naomh Seosamh	Gort na Mona
u21 Football "A"		
u21 Football "B"	Gort na Mona	O'Donovan Rossa
u18 Football 'A'	Ruairi Mhic Asmáint	Naomh Pol
u18 Football 'B'	Gort na Mona	Naomh Eoin
u18 Football 'C'	Ciceam Ard Eoin	Naomh Brid
u16 "A" Football	Ruairi Mhic Asmáint	Cuchulain's, Dun Laithi
U16 "B" Football	Naomh Eargnait	Gort na Mona
u16 "C Football	Naomh Comhghall CLG	St Mary's Rasharkin
Feile" A" Football	Cuchulain's, Dun Laithi	
Feile" B" Football	All Saints	
Feile" C" Football	St Comgalls	



Antrim Senior Football Championship Winners

1902 - 2025

St Johns	24
St Galls	19
O Donovan Rossa	15
Erin's Own, Cargin	13
James Stephens	7
Cuchulain's, Dunloy	7
Seagan An Diomais	5
Sarsfields	4
Gaelhil Uladh	3
Lamh Dhearg (Hannahstown)	3
O Connells	3
St Pauls	3
Ardoyne	2
Kickham's, Creggan	2
Mitchel's	2
Otlamh Fodhla	2
Con Magee's, Glenravel	1
Davitt's	1
Eire Og	1
Lamh Derg, Toome	1
O Neill Crowley's	1
O Donnells	1
Pearse's	1
St Teresas	1
Tir Na nÓg (Belfast)	1

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Antrim Hurling Leagues 2025	
Competition	Winner
Division 1 Hurling	Ruairí Óg, Bun An Dalla
Division 2 Hurling	Glenariffe Oisin CLG
Division 3 Hurling	Mac Uilin CLG
Division 4 Hurling	Naomh Brid
u18 Hurling Div1	Glenariffe / Glenravel
u18 Hurling Div 2	Naomh Eoin
u16 Hurling Div1	Cuchulain's Dun Lathai
u16 Hurling Div 2	Padraig Sairseil

Antrim Hurling Championships 2025		
Competition	Winner	Runner Up
Senior Hurling	Naomh Eoin	Seamroga, Loch gCaol
Intermediate Hurling	Oisin's Glenariffe	Tir na nOg
Junior "A" Hurling	Conn mag Aoidh	Glen Rovers
Junior "B" Hurling	Loch Mor Dal gCais	Latharna Og
Reserve Cup	Cuchulain's, Dun Laithi	Mac Uilin CLG
Reserve Shield	Seamroga, Loch gCaol	Naomh Pol
U21 Hurling "A"	Ruairí Óg, Bun An Dalla	Seamroga, Loch gCaol
U21 Hurling "B"	Shane Ui Neill	Tir na nOg
u18 Hurling "A"	Ruairí Óg, Bun An Dalla	Glenariffe / Glenravel
u18 Hurling 'B'	Naomh Eoin	Rossa
u16 Hurling "A"	Seamroga, Loch gCaol	Naomh Pol
u16 Hurling "B"	Lamh Dhearg	Naomh Eoin
Feile "A" Hurling	Cuchulain's, Dun Laithi	
Feile "B" Hurling	Ruairí Óg, Bun An Dalla	
Feile "C" Hurling	Conn mag Aoidh	



Antrim Senior Hurling Championship Winners 1901 - 2025	
Shamrocks, Loughgiel	20
McQuillan's, B, castle	17
Cuchulain's, Dunloy	16
Ruairi Og, Cushendall	16
O D Rossa	15
O Connells	9
St Johns	8
Carey Faughs	3
Mitchell's	3
Seagan An Diomais	3
Tir Na nOg, Randalstown	3
Brian Oge	2
O Neill Crowley's	2
Osins, Glenariffe	2
Tir Na nOg (Belfast)	2
Emmet's, Cushendun	1
James Stephens	1
Lamh Dhearg (Belfast)	1
Sarsfields	1

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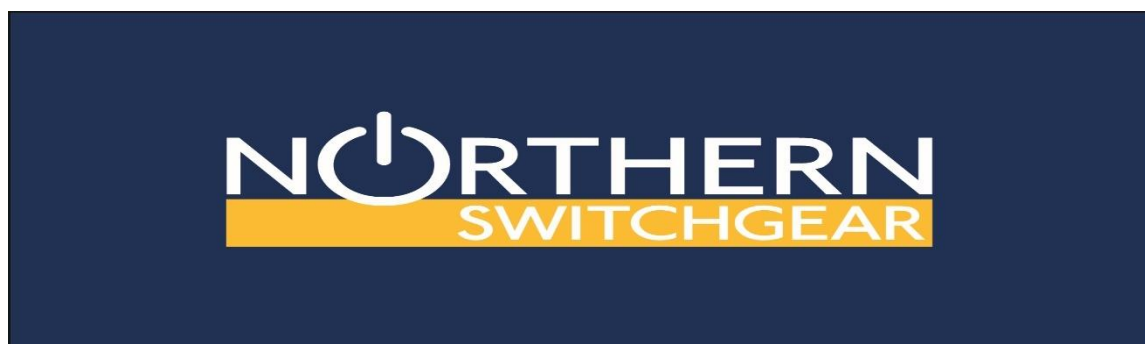
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