



An Chomdhail Bhliantuil  
Ar Luan 3 Nollaig 2018  
Óstlann Dunsilly, Aontroma  
Toiseacht Ar a 7.30pm



*Proinsias O Coinne, Runaí  
Nollaig 2018*

## Orduithe Seasaimh Don Comhdhail

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

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

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

## Aimniuchain for 2018 (Nominations)

Cathaoirleach	Joe Edwards Owen Elliott Ciarán Mc Cavana	
Leas-Cathaoirleach	Tommy Campbell	
Leas-Rúnaí	Paul O Brien	
Cisteoir	Eamon Grieve	
Leas-Cisteoir	Tyrone Eastwood	
Oifigeach Caidrim Poibli	Sean Kelly	
Oifigeach Oiling	Liam Mc Goldrick	
Oifigeach Forbartha	Paul Molloy	
Oifigeach Teanga agus Cultur	Bronagh Lennon	
Ionadaí ar an Ard Comhairle	Philip Christie	
Teachta Comhairle Uladh (2	Alex Mc Quillan Joe Edwards	

## Clár Oibre

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	➤ Competitions Control Committee Report	
	➤ Pro Report	
14	Any Other Business	

## Ruin agus Moltai

### Moltai 1

#### **Restructure of the All County Football Leagues for the 2019 Season**

The All County Football League to be restructured on a pilot basis for 1 year to the following;

Div 1A – 8 team league (top 8 placed teams in 2018 season)

Div 1B – 8 team league (9-16 placed teams in 2018 season)

Div 2A – 8 team league (17-24 placed teams in 2018 season)

Div 2B – 10 team league (25-34 placed teams in 2018 season)

All teams to play each other home and away allowing for 14 league games in Div 1A, 1B & 2A and 18 league games for Div 2B with all leagues played on a basis of 2 promoted and 2 relegated.

The rationale is that this structure would lead to a higher quality league format with most (if not all) teams playing at a similar/comparable level of competition. This is a pilot proposal for 1 year – to be revisited again at 2019 convention.

**St Pauls**

### Moltai 2

This motion proposes that the GAA provide financial assistance (in the form of an annual grant) to help clubs employ an administrative assistant, to deal with the ever-increasing amount of administrative work currently required of volunteers to ensure the club meets all its obligations and carry on as a functioning club.

**St Josephs, Glenavy**

### **Moltai 3**

All juvenile knockout competitions (from u12 and up to and including u18) that finish level at full time proceed to extra time of two 10 minutes and if still level proceed to a replay.

**Mc Quillians, Ballycastle**

### **Moltai 4**

That the All Ireland Club Championships at Senior, Intermediate and Junior in both Hurling and Football be completed in the calendar year starting from 2019.

**Glen Rovers, Armoy**

### **Ruin 1**

In all juvenile league competitions (up to and including u16) where two or more teams finish on level points at the top a playoff shall be used to decide the winners.

**Quillians, Ballycastle**

### **Ruin 2**

All U21 football championship games going forward to be fixed on a Sunday.

**St Pauls**

## Miontuairiscí Chomdhail 2017

Coiste Chontae Aontroim CLG  
County Convention  
4th December 2017

### Apologies:

None		
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### Condolences:

None		
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A minute's silence was observed for all deceased members.

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

**Proposed by-** J. Edwards  
**Seconded by-** J. McVeigh

### Appointment of Tellers-

G. McGarry	N. Wheeler	P. Barr
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**Proposed** – S. McMullan  
**Seconded** – G. McClory

**Minutes of Convention 2016**– (5th Dec 2016)

**Matters arising;** - No matters arising

**Proposed** – B. Herron  
**Seconded** – T. McCollum

## Updates on County Activities

- Saffron Business Forum - P. McErlaine reported
  - Outlined the activities of the past year and plans for the incoming year
  - The Forum is actively seeking new members and expanding further afield.
  - £90,000+ was raised through a variety of events e.g. Business Breakfasts, A.P. McCoy event.
  - It is hoped to set up in Dublin in 2018.
  
- Dermot Early Programme – B. Herron reported
  - Outlined the aims of the initiative.
  - Preparing our young people for the future in our games and administration.
  - Antrim the first Ulster county to be involved in the initiative
  - Introduced Aishling Walsh who shared her experiences while participating in the scheme.
  
- Antrim Senior Hurling - N. Peden reported.
  - Highlighted the highs and lows of the past season.
  - Explained the “Leaving the jersey in a better Place” philosophy of the management and squad.
  - Outlined the aims and aspirations for the incoming season.
  - Explained the role of Liam Sheedy.
  - The use of Sports science in preparing our teams.
  - The ethos of “nurturing our players” current within the management.
  
- Antrim Senior Football - L. Harbinson reported.
  - What happens when your players comes to the county?.
  - Explained the History and vision of the management.
  - Presented the team involved in running the County football team.
  - The “first 30 days” and the “next 30 days” outlined.
  - Individual schedules for each player re. training, conditioning and diet.
  - Acknowledge the rich history Antrim have in football and strive to return to this.



## Chairman's Address

An Cathaoirleach, Colín O Donnale, delivered his Chairman's address to Convention 2017

During an Cathaoirleach speech he referred to the following;

- Antrim "Out of decline"
- Turnaround regarding cash flow over the past two years
- Looked forward to the implementation of the Belfast Plan and that all of Antrim would reap benefits from it.
- Confident we would see movement with Casement Park in the New Year.
- We continue to negotiate successfully, Antrim's role in the governance of the new Casement.
- The excellent job C.C.C. done over the past year in completing the administration of the many competitions run within the County.
- Thanked all those involved with Antrim Vision.
- Antrim brand is now a positive one that groups want to be associated with.
- Welcomed the uptake in the County of the D. Early initiative which will empower our young and give them confidence to organise our Association in the years to come.
- Congratulations to all the League and Championship winners in 2017.
- Looked forward with anticipation to seeing our County hurlers and footballers progress in 2018.
- Recognised that there were areas that we were less successful in dealing with but that we will strive to remedy this in the incoming year.
- Thanked B. Lennon for her work in organising Scor within the County and congratulated those who competed and were successful to an All-Ireland level.
- Key to improving things within the County was to surround yourself with positive people –of which Antrim now had many.

<b>Voting Strength</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Number clubs in attendance</b>	<b>43</b>

## Vote for Co Chairman

Collie Donnelly	95
Jim Mc Lean	39

Collie Donnelly elected as County Chairman.

## Secretary's Report –

Read and adopted.

**Proposed by-** Sean Boyle

**Seconded by-** Colm Cochrane

## Vote for Vice Chairman

Terry Reilly	84
Columb Walsh	43

Terry Reilly elected as County Vice Chairman

## Financial Report

Teresa Nugent from Accountants DNT joined the meeting.

An Cisteoir Pol Mac Cana, presented the accounts for 2017.

Main points were:

- Overall a healthy balance sheet and strong set of accounts.
- First time in the County history that income exceeded £1,000,000.
- Surplus of over £227,000
- Indebted to quite a number of people and groups, firstly to those raising the income and also to those who facilitated the preparation of the accounts including Teresa Nugent (Auditor), Staff at Antrim office, Gatemen, sponsors, Casement Pk. Social Club, Cathal McNeilly

There were no questions.

**Proposed by-** Jack McNaughton

**Seconded by-** Gerard McGarry

## Vote for Leas Runai

Paul O Brien	
Sinead Mullan	

Sinead Mullan withdrew her nomination.

Paul O Brien elected as Leas Runai

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vote for Comhairle Uladh

Alec McQuillan	
Dr J Mc Sparran	
Joe Edwards	
Jim Mc Lean	

Dr J Mc Sparran and Jim Mc Lean withdrew their nominations.  
Alec McQuillan and Joe Edwards elected.

### Presentation of 2017 Championship awards;

Minor Football	O D Rossa
U21 Football	O D Rossa
Junior Football	Sarsfields
Intermediate Football	St Brigids
Senior Football	Lamh Dhearg
Minor Hurling	Cuchullains Dunloy
U21 Hurling	Cuchullains Dunloy
Junior Hurling	Gortnamona
Intermediate Hurling	Sarsfields
Senior Hurling	Cuchullains Dunloy

### Moltai 1

O'Donnell's GAC would like to make an amendment to the County Bye-law 19.1.C from

A player who has played with a club at any grade from under 12 to under 18 (minor) grades in Championship or League may only transfer to another club if the player's family residence has changed to the catchment area of the club he wishes to be transferred to.

#### **To Read**

A player who has played with a club at any grade from under 12 to under **16** grades in Championship or League may only transfer to another club if the player's family residence has changed to the catchment area of the club he wishes to be transferred to.

### **O Donnell's GAC**

After a short discussion the motion was carried by a majority of delegates voting in favour of the motion.

## **Moltai 2**

O'Donnell's would like to add the following to Bye Law 19.2

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

### **O Donnell's GAC**

After discussion the motion was carried by a majority of delegates voting in favour of the motion

## **Moltai 3**

To grant CCC unilateral power to rearrange fixtures where a previously unforeseen clash of league and championship fixtures across codes would otherwise lead to one or more teams being treated unfairly.

### **St Mary's GAC, Ahoghill**

Motion withdrawn

## **Moltai 4**

That the All County Minor (or Under 17 if applicable) football league revert back to the divisional boards.

### **Conn Magee's GAC, Glenravel**

After a discussion the motion was lost by a majority of delegates voting against it.

## **Moltai 5**

St Brigids GAC wish to replace the current Ulster GAA bye-law relating to the provincial Club Hurling Championships to read as follows:

To participate in the Ulster Hurling Club Championship at any level (with the current exception of Lisbellaw). A club must have taken part in a club championship within their own County in the competition year.

A Club that has previously won an Intermediate or Junior Championship shall not participate for one year at the grade after their previous win.

A county board must apply to Comhairle Uladh for regrading if necessary.

## **St Brigids GAC, Cloughmills**

The above motion was passed and will be forwarded to Comhairle Uladh for discussion at their 2018 Convention

### **Ruin 1**

That the incoming CCC consider duals clubs with County players on Hurling/ Football panels when fixing club games in the opposing code. A degree of flexibility is shown to club's who have players playing with the County on the same day as club league games have been fixed and allow time change/ date change of club games were possible.

### **Patrick Sarsfields GAC**

Referred to Antrim C.C.C

### **Ruin 2**

That, given the overwhelming majority of players are in favour of change, in the 2018 season the CCC initiate a pilot scheme to move 3-6 Adult league fixture rounds from a Sunday to a Friday evening.

### **St Joseph's GAC, Glenavy**

Referred to Antrim C.C.C



## **Antrim Committee Reports**

The following committee reports were proposed and seconded:

### **CCC Report**

Proposed by- B Herron

Seconded by- S Boyle

### **Pro Report**

Proposed by- B Lennon

Seconded by- S Fleming

### **Coaching & Games Development Report**

Proposed by- T Mc Collum

Seconded by- P Dugan

### **Development Report**

Proposed by- P Barr

Seconded by- J Mc Veigh

### **Referees Report**

Proposed by- G Mc Clory

Seconded by- C Walsh

### **Scor & Cultural Report**

Proposed by- J Mc Lean

Seconded by- T Reilly

### **Health & Wellbeing Report**

Proposed by- M Magee

Seconded by- S Mc Naughton

### **South West Antrim Divisional Report**

Proposed by- J Mc Grath

Seconded by- P Quinn

### **North Antrim Divisional Report**

Proposed by- A Mc Quillan

Seconded by- S Mc Mullan

### **South Antrim Divisional Report**

Proposed by- F Caldwell

Seconded by- S Mullan

## Tuarascail an Runai 2018

It's my honour and privilege to present this secretary's report to convention 2018, the 133<sup>rd</sup> convention of Coiste Chontae Aontroima CLG.

- The Casement Park redevelopment is again approaching the line in relation to planning. The lengths to which the design team have gone to this time around are unprecedented. The Casement project has set new standards in stadium design in the area of spectator safety, the levels of community engagement were unparalleled and the concerns raised have subsequently been incorporated into the final submitted design. Antrim needs Casement Park ...let's push to make it happens
- During 2018 Antrim GAA committed to developing a new 3-year strategic Plan for the period 2019 to 2021. A draft plan will be circulated to clubs early in the new year. It's hoped that this plan will provide a road map for the development of a strong, sustainable Antrim GAA brand.
- As the 2018 playing season draws to a close, I believe its time for a major review of our internal fixture scheduling. In my opinion what is being offered to our club players isn't good enough! We need to develop a fixture framework throughout the county that provides meaningful, regular games in an atmosphere that removes conflict form our Country and Development squad members. To that end I will be arranging a fixtures seminar early in January 2019.



- The plan to regenerate the GAA in Belfast, "Gaelfast" is now on the ground under the leadership of Dr Paul Donnelly. By February 2019 he hopes to have his full team in place. As a result of the new staff being deployed in Belfast existing county coaching staff will be able to spend more time in the North and Southwest divisional areas. Therefore, coaching inputs throughout the entire county will increase as a result of the "Gaelfast" project.

- During 2018 Ciara Ferry left her post as Antrim games manager. I wish to place on record my thanks to Ciara for her efforts on behalf of Antrim coaching and more importantly I wish her strength for what lays ahead.
- To the various team managers and development squad mentors I thank you for your work to increase the standards of our player pool.
- The new rules around data protection, which are now in place, have added more responsibility on our club officers. We will continue to support and train our members to be compliant with this legislation throughout 2019.
- During 2018 the work of the Saffron business forum has continued to revitalised the financial position of Antrim GAA. My thanks go to all involved and I look forward to their ongoing financial support.



- March 2018 saw the retirement of Páraic Ó Dufaigh, from the position of Ard Stiúrthóir CLG. Páraic led the association for over 10 years and has overseen many major incentives within Antrim such as the Casement Park redevelopment, Dunsilly, Gaelfast and most recently the proposed redevelopment of Corrigan Park. I wish to place on record my thanks to Paraic for all his assistance over the years and I wish him a long and happy retirement.

To all those Gaels who passed to their eternal rest in 2018 I offer my sincere condolences to their families and friends.

*Go ndeanfaidh Dia trocaire ar a anaim dhil*



I wish to place on record my appreciation to all those who contributed to the successful running of Antrim GAA in 2018;

- ✓ Members of County Committee, An Coiste Bainisti and all the various subcommittees
- ✓ Dr Joe Dugan, Dr Mark Salter's and Dr Peter Murphy for their medical assistance with our County teams.
- ✓ The Gatemmen who cover our Championship games whatever the weather
- ✓ To the Antrim GAA office staff, Breda & Nicola, groundman Jim Duffy and all the full-time coaching staff for your efforts and commitment to Antrim GAA
- ✓ John "Curlie" Mc Ilwaine for all his assistance during the year.
- ✓ County IT officer Martin Mc Carry.
- ✓ Our referees, without whom no games would be played
- ✓

I would like to thank all of our sponsor's, advertisers, and corporate partners for their continued support.

2019 is almost upon us let's move forward united and invigorated to raise the standards within Antrim GAA. Our clubs are our core let's not lose sight of that!

### **Is Mise**

### **Proinsias O Coinne**

Runai an Chontae



## Antrim Committee Reports 2018

### **South West Antrim Divisional Report 2018**

I would firstly like to thank all our clubs that have hosted meetings and our finals this year, you have all helped to make this a successful year for the South West Antrim division. Hopefully with the continued developments undertaken by individuals and clubs, we shall continue to see growth within the South West Antrim division. We have also this year launched our new website <https://swantrimgaa.com/> to help aid in the growth of sharing information with our clubs.

We pray to Our Lady Queen of the Gael to look after all the deceased members from our clubs this past year. As a division we were shocked and saddened, with the passing of our esteemed committee member and friend John O'Boyle who had been elected as treasurer at our last convention had also held many different positions over the years within the South West. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

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

Clubs from South West Antrim have had yet another successful year on the playing field. At all county level our clubs have tasted success at several levels. Kickhams Creggan have won the All County Division 1 League with Roger Casements winning the Division 1 Reserve league. The Senior championship was won by Erin's Own Cargin, Senior Reserve championship was won by Kickhams Creggan and the Intermediate championship by St Endas. Con Magee's Glenravel won the Junior Football Championship and the Division 3 League. Congratulations to Naomh Padraig who after years of development gained promotion to division 2 next year. Clooney Gaels won the Division 3 Hurling league and in their first year back Ballymena All Saints won the Junior B Hurling Championship.

At underage St Mary's Aghagallon won the All County Division 1 Minor league and Cuchullian's Dunloy won the All County Minor A championship. At U14 St Mary's Aghagallon won the All County Division 1 title and Tír na nÓg won the All County Division 2 title. St Ergnats won the All County U16 Division 2 title. Ballymena All Saints won the All County U15 Og Sport and Ulster Plate.

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

I would like to firstly thank all our sponsors for their continued support this year; The U12 and U14 Football Leagues sponsored by Thomas Devlin. The U14 Feile Cup sponsored by Heffrons Restaurant Randalstown. The U14 Feile Shield sponsored by Seamus Kelly Mace Dunloy. The U14 Feile Hurling sponsored by Thomas McCann Plastering. Ciaran Doherty & Co. Accountants sponsored the U16 Leagues. The Breslin Cup sponsored by Truffles Restaurant Randalstown and the Breslin Shield sponsored by Kelly Slone Ballymoney. The U16 Hurling championship sponsored by the Black Bull Brasserie Randalstown. The Lavery Cup sponsored by J&P Toal Ltd. The O'Cahan Cup sponsored by Thornton Roofing. The Abbey Cup sponsored by Kevin McStocker Butchers Toome. The McCormick Cup sponsored by the Orchard Randalstown.

I would like to congratulate all those who won our competitions this year. These are shown below;

## **SW Competitions**

<b><u>Competition</u></b>	<b><u>Winners</u></b>	<b><u>Referee</u></b>
O'Cahan Cup	Kickhams Creggan	Kevin Parke
Mc Cormick Cup	Cuchullian's Dunloy	Karol Doherty
Laverty Cup	All Saints Ballymena	Jarlath O'Donnell
Breslin Cup	All Saints Ballymena	Sean Mc Atamney
Breslin Shield	Con Magees Glenravel	Thomas Eastwood
Og Sport	All Saints Ballymena	Ryan O'Reilly
Feile Hurling	Loc Mor Dal gCais	Michael Hardy
Feile Football A	Erin's Own Cargin	Sean Mc Atamney
Feile Football B	Cuchullain's Dunloy	Thomas Eastwood
U12 FL Cup	St Mary's Aghagallon	Joe Cavana
Shield	Con Magees Glenravel	Paul Lagan
U14 FL Cup	St Mary's Aghagallon	John Hasson
Shield	Tír na nÓg	Michael Hardy
U16 FL Cup	St James' Aldergrove	Martin Quinn
Shield	St Ergnats' Moneyglass	John Moran
Plate	St Mary's Aghagallon	Stephen Higgins

This year we have fixed 422 league and cup games, from U12 to Senior level, with over 92% played. I would like to thank Columb Walsh and the SWCCC for their hard work in arranging fixtures this year. At the start of the year we held coaching support workshops and hope to offer more next year. It is also our intention to hold further development meetings with clubs to look at ways of supporting our clubs, improving our games programme and support for managers at the start of 2019. I would like to thank Thomas McCann for his work in coordinating our Hurling Go Games between our indoor and outdoor blitzes we had 130 Hurling games which also involved teams from North and South Antrim. Thanks to the individuals at each club who helped to run our Gaelic Go Game blitzes at their clubs including a joint blitz day we hosted with South Antrim clubs, which provided just over 350 games.



## **Referees**

I would like to thank Gerard Dougan (referee coordinator) and all our referees for their continued hard work this year. Our games will not happen without them. The demands placed on our referees by our own competitions, All County fixtures, Provincial games, Ladies Gaelic and Camogie fixtures, is an area we hope to look at next year. There is a massive push on avoiding player burn out and player welfare, yet some of our referees are covering more matches than players take part in with much less rest time between games. Congratulations to Sean Laverty from St Ergnats' Moneyglass who was 4<sup>th</sup> official at the All Ireland Senior Gaelic final this year and to those South West referees on the Ulster Referee Academy.

## **Dinner presentation**

Our annual presentation was once again held at a new venue, the Dunsilly Hotel, with a great spread of representation from clubs especially the youth members from our clubs. The Executive would like to thank our guest speaker Ulster President Michael Hasson for attending and presenting some of the awards.

I would like to thank all those involved in any capacity with our clubs for their hard work this year. Thank you to all the delegates who have attended our board meetings this year. My thanks to all those who have been members of our executive and CCC who have spent many hours working behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running and success of the South West Antrim divisional board this year.

## **2018 Executive**

Jim McGrath – Chair  
Stephen Graham - Vice Chair  
James McVeigh - Secretary  
Stephen O'Boyle - Vice Secretary  
Columb Walsh - Treasurer  
Jerome McAllister - PRO  
Shane McStocker - Cultural Officer  
Paddy McQuillan - Football Development Officer  
Tomas McCann - Hurling Development Officer

## **2018 SW CCC**

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

Is mise le meas  
Seamas Mac An Bheatha  
Runci

## North Antrim Divisional Report 2018

Firstly, may I thank all the volunteers; referees, umpires, club members and players, who freely give their time within our divisional board. They are the essential components of the GAA in North Antrim which keep Gaelic games alive. I wish to express thanks to all those who sponsored competitions throughout North Antrim this season.

We were able to start the year with a cultural event, a talk by Dr Eamon Phoenix, nearly 300 people listened to the stories of events and revolution covering the period 1891 to 1922, in North Antrim. Éamon referred to The Gaelic Revival; the rise of the GAA; The Irish Volunteers; Protestant Home Rulers; 1916 Rising; 1918 Election; Partition and The War of Independence.

The long 2018 season started in early January with the Central Restaurant Ballycastle Indoor Leagues followed shortly after by the Teamkit Airborne League, with the last North Antrim competitions decided by games played in early November.

This year the U8 Indoor Leagues had thirty-nine teams entered from twenty-four clubs and 156 games played over three weekends at six different venues. U10 had forty-nine teams from twenty-one clubs and 301 games played over three weekends at seven different venues. Joining the Antrim clubs were clubs from Strabane, Ballygalget, Swatragh, Omagh, Dungannon and Slaughtneil.



In February the U12 & U14 Airborne Blitzes were held over two venues. In total in the competitions twenty-six teams from sixteen clubs entered at U12 and u14 with a very high standard of hurling on show from all the young hurlers.

Throughout this season, U8 & U10 Go Games Blitzes were played each weekend, starting in the middle of May and ran until August.

At each blitz there were as many as twenty-five teams taking part. All clubs were asked to respect the silent side line ruling, and where possible young whistlers were used to referee the games.

In March we started the TeamKit Féile A, with the Countess of Antrim cup and TeamKit Féile B starting in April. By May we had fixtures in the u14a & b leagues, The Countess of Antrim, North Antrim Junior league, u18b Championship and Darragh Cup all ongoing. Getting referees to cover all the games proved to be a major issue this season. It soon became clear that although clubs had a nominated referee, not all referees made themselves available for matches. This is something that clubs will need to agree to address for the 2019 season.

2018 was the fifth successive year of our Development Squads. We have squads at U10, U11, U12 and U13. Unfortunately, at u12 and u13 we were not able to get coaches to take charge of the squads so we had to cancel our festival of hurling competition, which we hope to restart again for 2019. The southern teams that were due to take part in the festival, instead were hosted by Cuchullian's for a weekend of hurling.

On the County hurling scene, North Antrim Clubs were successful with Ruairi Og winning the Senior Championship, Cuchullian's the U21 and Minor Championships, Emmets the Junior Championship, All Saints the Junior B Championship, and Shamrocks the Senior Reserve Championship.

In July All Saints Ballymena welcomed Feis na nGleann. North Antrim along with the Feis committee organised the following competitions with the finals held on the weekend 13th, 14th & 15th July; U16 Feis Camogie, Junior Feis Hurling Shield, Junior Feis Football, Junior Feis Camogie, Mc Mullan Cup, Senior Feis Camogie, Senior Feis Hurling Cup. This year we had no entrants in the Senior Feis Football. North Antrim provided three Roger Casement part-scholarships, which were presented to students going on courses in the Gaeltacht.

Finally I'd like to thank all my fellow committee members whose tireless efforts contribute greatly to the success of the GAA in North Antrim and also I thank the clubs for their continued support in helping us run GAA games in North Antrim.

Frank McCarry  
An Runai

## South Antrim Divisional Report 2018

A new committee was elected on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2018. Since then the Executive Committee – CCC- Referees, Clubs and very importantly our Club mentors have ensured that we have successfully completed our leagues and Championships.

A total number of 873 games were played in both codes from U12 –Senior.

This required enormous effort from Committee, in particular CCC who are deserving of special mention.

The number of games has increased on last year's figures by 225.

Quite an achievement considering we had no Senior Hurling this year, something we are determined to put in place next year.

### **Referees**

A referees committee was set up. Gerry Carroll, Gerard McKiernan and Mark McDonald carried out tremendous work ensuring games were covered as far as possible.

We need more referees! Clubs must ensure a supply of referees if we are to achieve our goal of a referee for every game.

### **Congratulations**

To all who won our South Antrim Competitions and especially those who secured All County success.

#### **South Antrim All County Winners.**

St Galls –Intermediate Hurling Championship.

O'Donovan Rossa - U16 Hurling Championship

St Galls – Under 16 B Hurling Championship

St Brigids –Feile Football A

Sarsfield's – Feile Football B

St Galls – Feile Hurling B



## **South Antrim Competition Winners.**

Senior Football – St Galls

Under 16 Football League Division 1- Sarsfield's

Under 16 Football League Division 2-Lamh Dhearg

Under 14 Football League Division 1-St Pauls

Under 14 Football League Division 2- Lamh Dhearg

Under 12 Football league Division 1 –St Galls

Under 12 Football League Division 2 – O'Donnell's

Under 12 Hurling League Division 1 - St Galls

Under 12 Hurling League Division 2 – Brid Og

Under 14 Hurling League Division 1- St Pauls

Under 14 Hurling League Division 2 Brid Og / Lamh Dhearg

Berringer Cup not concluded at this date.)

McDermott Cup- St Galls

Martin Cup- Gort na Mona

Dwyer Cup- St Brigids

Carmichael cup- Rossa

Under 16 Football A St Galls

Under 16 Football B - Lamh Dhearg

Under 16 Hurling A – Rossa

Under 16 Hurling B – St Galls

Father Mullan Cup A- St Brigids

Father Mullan Cup B – Gort na Mona

Father Mullan Cup C - Rossa

Stout McDonald Cup A - Sarsfield's

Stout McDonald B- Brid Og

O'Donnell Cup A St Galls

O'Donnell cup B - Lamh Dhearg

O'Donnell cup C - Gort na Mona

Nipper Quinn Shield A - St Galls

Nipper Quinn Shield B – St Pauls

Nipper Quinn Shield C - Loch Mor Dal gCais

Feile Football A - St Brigids

Feile Football B - Sarsfield's

Feile Football C -Lamh Dhearg

Feile Hurling A - St Pauls

Feile Hurling B - St Galls.

Feile Hurling C - Sarsfield's

## **Thanks**

We would not be able to organise such a volume of activity without the great volunteers on our various committees who should be greatly appreciated by all South Antrim Clubs. Thanks, to our referees who provide great service to our Divisional Board, to all our County Officers for their support throughout the year, and to our sponsors who have been very generous and are shown below.



Michael Herron above all deserves a special mention, his work for South Antrim is immeasurable.

Value cabs

Casement Social Club

Work Force

Frankie Cahill

J.C. May.

Thanks to South Antrim Clubs who provided us with use of their facilities.

Also St Mary's Grammar School and Colaiste Feirste.

Exciting times are ahead for South Antrim with the Gaelfast Project about to begin, we wish Dr Paul Donnelly every success in his new role.

Is Mise

Frank Caldwell.

Cathaoirleach.

## **Coaching & Games Development Report 2018**

Coaching in 2018 has seen a greater range of activities being delivered across a wider range of players and coaches. It has also been a year which offered potential for the future with the Gaelfast project receiving backing from Croke Park. It is with great anticipation that we await the introduction of this programme and the many benefits it will offer clubs, not only in Belfast, but throughout the county.

Unfortunately, however, the Ulster Council's Keystage 1 FUNdamentals programme has had its' funding withdrawn which will obviously leave a massive gap in the promotion of the GAA within the primary school sector throughout Antrim and Ulster. This programme will end in December 2018.

### **Primary and Post Primary School**

We have been able to maintain an extensive schools coaching programme with our 3 full time county coaches. They ran 3 coaching blocks during the year covering 42 primary schools and 8 post primary schools. Their coaching in primary schools covered 4044 children and in post primary schools they have coached 458 children.

### **Development Squads**

Once again, our development squads competed in their respective developmental leagues and blitzes from U14 to U16 in both football and hurling. To improve our development squad programme, we included specialist areas of strength & conditioning, nutrition and sport psychology/player welfare. These programmes were delivered by experts in each of these fields and their inclusion greatly enhanced the development squad programme. We hope to be able to further develop and maintain these areas in the years ahead.

We would encourage all clubs to forward players to the development squads. These players receive excellent coaching, opportunities to train with the best player in the county and play competitively against the best players in other counties. This experience can only enhance players development, helping to make them better club players and assisting them on their pathway to becoming a future county player.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our development squad coaches who continue to give freely of their time to assist players in realising their potential and nurturing a love of our games.

### **Cúl and Saffron Óg Camps.**

Our Cúl and Saffron Óg camps were as popular in 2018 as they were in 2017. During 7 weeks of the summer we ran 28 Cúl Camps and 20 Saffron Óg Camps. The Cúl camps were attended by 3029 children and 299 children attended our Saffron Óg camps. Camps ranged in size from those with 25 attendees to camps with 215 attendees. These camps offered children from the age of 7 to 13 a week full of GAA activities in a developmental and fun filled environment.

We thank all those clubs who ran a camp and encourage those clubs who didn't to put the Cúl & Saffron Óg camps into their calendar for 2019. It is a great way to encourage children to become involved in their local club.

During the summer we also ran three U13 football talent ID camps in South West Antrim and three more in South Antrim. These camps were attended by a total of 77 players and a subsequent All County U13 football blitz was held which had 68 players taking part. A similar programme was run for hurling in North Antrim and South Antrim with 67 attending talent ID camps and 68 players taking part in the following All County U13 hurling blitz.

### **Coach Education**

Demand from clubs for Foundation Football and Hurling courses was very high. We held 9 joint football & hurling foundation course and 2 football and 2 hurling foundation courses. We also ran one Level 1 football and hurling course and one Level 2 football and hurling course. We were also invited into St. Mary's University, St. Mary's Grammar School and Cross & Passion to deliver foundation hurling courses.

A variety of CPD courses were also held during the year including a goalkeeping workshop with 21 attendees, a full day Ulster Council football CPD course with 52 coaches in attendance and 63 players being put through a series of drills, modified and conditioned games. We also delivered a Mindfit course with 64 attending and a strength and conditioning course with 32 attending.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to Ciara Ferry who left her post as Games Manager at the end of August after 9 years of service. I would like to personally thank her for her commitment and dedication in striving to improve our games within Antrim and wish her every success with her career in the future.

Liam McGoldrick

## Development Report 2018

Throughout the year I attended Seminars at Croke Park and attended the Development Officers quarterly meetings at Ulster GAA in Armagh.

Some of the ongoing issues that are currently being debated in the GAA are the role of the Development Officer as they have responsibility for training club personnel, club and county infrastructure development and a health and safety role.

My brother Jim who is a member of the Ulster Council Parks and Safety Committee and I provide a service to clubs to give advice and guidance in applying for loans, grants and development of infrastructure. We have been in contact and met with Cushendall, Glenariffe, Moneyglass, Cargin, St Tereasa's Glenavy, Lamh Dhearg, St Galls, Portglenone, Sarsfield's, Davitt's and St Pauls. This service has proved to be quite popular and hopefully if we don't have the answers, we can point clubs in the right direction.

I have also been involved in planning issues and ongoing work to Dunsilly and tentative discussions on Corrigan Park.

I set up the Annual General Meeting Seminar and the Accounts Seminar recently held in the Dunsilly hotel and this proved to be a great success. The GAA is becoming more professional in every aspect of the organisation and these courses reflect the ambition that Cumann Luthchleas Gael has for its club and members. I hope to run the "Office 365" seminar for all club officers around March/April time. This is a seminar on how to use software which is the preferred e mail vehicle for all GAA correspondence and should be used by all clubs and officers.

Notice of the seminar will be sent out to all clubs.

I also carried out an update of the Development part of the County Web Site with information on the procedures to be followed when applying for loans, grants and ground developments. Club Officers should note the timelines that are mentioned in this information.

Any club applying for loans, grants and carrying out ground developments must in the first instance inform the county development officer and the county secretary. Ulster Council will send any correspondence back to the county for approval if they are approached directly by any club.

Le meas,

Pol O Maolmhuadh

Paul Molloy

## Teanga agus Cultur Report 2018

“Oidreacht luachmhar ár sinsir, a tháinig anuas ó ghlúin go gluain” (The rich heritage of our ancestors, passed down from generation to generation) – Cathal Ó Searcaigh

The words of Irish poet Cathal Ó Searcaigh could not be more apt when describing Scór. County Antrim has a rich Scór tradition and over the last 50 years we have had great success both at Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsir at Provincial and National levels. Scór, for me, is something that can't just be described as a "competition", it is much more than that. It is about meeting great people, making memories and promoting our wonderful Irish traditions. Yes, the success is nice, but as Paula Magee from Coiste Náisiúnta Scór always says "Success in Scór can't be measured by the medals you win, only by the friendships you make and the people you meet along the way."

This year, in particular, is a very important and historic year for Scór, as it marks the Golden Jubilee. Although Scór participation has improved greatly over the last 3 years, we still have room to improve. To any clubs here who would like to promote Scór in your communities, I urge you to contact your local choirs, music groups, dancing schools and Comhaltas groups ask see if they can help you out with some acts for the 50th anniversary year. Scór can enrich club life so much and bring an extra element to your club that may be missing, you won't be sorry. I will support you in any way I can.



## **Amhrán na bhFiann**

A special word of thanks to all of the singers who enhances our matches and functions throughout the year by singing our National Anthem. This is an honour that is afforded to Scór competitors in every County. I would like to thank the following singers:

- Orla McIntyre (Loughgiel)
- Órlaith McAteer (Creggan)
- Caitriona McAteer (Creggan)
- Eibhlín McAteer (Creggan)
- Gillian Dixon (Dunloy)
- Mary Kate Bonnes (Tír na nÓg)
- Méabh McNeill (Lámh Dhearg)
- Bernie Mc Allister (Ruairí Óg)

It is my intention to hold another workshop for Scór competitors who wish to be trained in how to sing the national anthem correctly. This will happen when I receive entries for Scór sinsir 2019. A huge thank you to Owen Elliott, Chairman of CCC for sending on the fixtures to me so promptly and enabling me to arrange singers.

### Culture and Social Media/ Website

With help from County PRO, I have tried to promote the culture, language and Scór through the use of Twitter, Facebook and the County Website. The County Website has also been updated regularly. This includes information about Scór, Scór rule books and also an Irish language section. Thanks to Martin McCarry for his assistance throughout the year.

## **Scór Season (Nov 2017- April 2018)**

Like in our Gaelic games , it is our aim through Scór , to showcase the talents that are within our clubs at county, provincial and national level. This year was no different and we saw a wealth of talent in both Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsir. We had 3 Antrim acts competing in the Ulster Scór na nÓg Final; Mary Kate Bonnes from Tír na nÓg and 2 acts from Aghagallon. The Leiriú drama act from Aghagallon won an Ulster title and went on to represent the County in the All Ireland Final in Sligo

A massive thank you to who hosted County Scór finals last year. St Brigid's hosted Scór na nÓg County Final and Glenavy hosted the Scór Sinsir County Final. Go raibh míle maith agaibh

## **Scór 2018/19**

The 2019 Scór season has already begun with the most successful Scór na nÓg competition that the County has seen in many years. With new clubs participating and

lots of clubs returning after breaking from Scór, it is an exciting time to be involved in Scór in Antrim. On 11th November, Moneyglass hosted the Scór na nÓg County final and it was a huge success. If you would like some More information on Scór, you will find it on the county website.

Newly crowned County Scór na nÓg Champions are as follows:

- Ceili Dancing - St Mary's Aghagallon
- Solo Singing - Meabh McNeill, Lámh Dhearg
- Recitation - Mary-Kate Bonnes, Tír na nOg, Randalstown
- Instrumental Music - St Mary's, Rasharkin
- Ballad Group- Tír na nÓg
- Leiriú - St Mary's Aghagallon
- Rince Seit - Ruairi Óg



## Gaeilge

Clubs have asked for support in a number of areas with regard to Irish language . I am currently working on resources for clubs and I have ordered new signage also . This will be available in the new year. I have tried to incorporate Irish into social media, County programmes and the County website. Information workshops on language grants are being held throughout the country over the next few weeks and I will keep clubs informed on that.

Finally, a special thank you to the Club Cultural officers and to anyone in the County who helps to support the promotion of Scór and Irish. I appreciate all the support and I look forward to working with you again next year .

Beir, bua agus beannacht  
Bronagh Lennon

## Healthy Club Report 2018

Apologies for this being a short report as I am only in post a few short months and it has taken some time for me to get my bearings and to try and get a Healthy Club committee up and running plus contact information of club Healthy Club officers. To date only fourteen clubs have responded with the contact details of their officers. There are a number of important initiatives taking place now and in the new year which would be of benefit to all GAA clubs and their community.

### **The Healthy Club Project**

The Healthy Club project aims to help GAA clubs explore how they support the holistic health of their members and the communities they serve. GAA clubs already contribute to the health and wellbeing of their members by providing opportunities to develop their physical, social, emotional, and psychological health.

The project aims to help GAA clubs identify what they are already doing well, identify areas where they can or would like to improve, and empower them to ensure that everyone who engages with their club benefits from the experience in a health-enhancing way, be they players, officers, coaches, parents, supporters, or members of their local community.

The healthy club model, which is based on best national and international practice, also aims to embed a healthy philosophy in a club while integrating health into the day-to-day club activities in a sustainable way. It also aims to place the local GAA club at the heart of the community, making it a beacon for health in the locale.

The Health Club Project will be open to all GAA clubs in 2020

Antrim Clubs participating at present are

All Saints Ballymena, St Egnat's, Lamh Dhearg, Ruairi Og

### **Ireland Lights up with the GAA**

The GAA, in partnership with Rte.'s Operation Transformation, is seeking to bring together communities across the 32 counties to enjoy healthy walks in the safe, bright, environs of their GAA club. In a bid to make exercise more accessible on the dark winter nights, 'Ireland Lights Up' will see participating clubs turn on their floodlights/lighting systems between 7-pm-9pm each Thursday for a five-week period (January 17th – February 21st 2019) as Operation Transformation returns to our screens in the New Year. Each Thursday, club and community members will be invited to come together at participating clubs to walk off the Christmas excess, catch up with their neighbours, and banish the winter blues. (Walking is proven to benefit both our physical and mental health.) GAA clubs are already becoming hubs for health through the Healthy Clubs Project, with at least one Healthy Club in each county. During the five-week period Operation Transformation cameras will visit a selection of participating clubs across the series, with all clubs encouraged to capture their stories via videos and images for use on the show, GAA.ie, and RTE's various platforms.

The GAA is seeking expressions of interest from clubs that are keen to participate in 'Ireland Lights Up', which is also supported by Healthy Ireland and Get Ireland Walking (GIW). Clubs that complete the registration process and adhere to the necessary criteria will be covered by GIW's insurance for all walk leaders and participants. However, irrespective of GAA membership status, leaders and participants are not covered by the GAA Injury Benefit Fund for this initiative.

Enrollee at <http://getirelandwalking.ie/GAA/>

**Initiatives clubs can now get involved are**

- Smoke Free GAA Clubs
- Get Respect Give Respect
- Suicide Awareness Training
- Alcohol/ Drug Abuse Training
- Mindset Project Training Run by Action Mental Health

For more information contact your Health Club Officer.



I sent out a Defibrillator Audit form to be completed and returned to me ASAP to date two clubs have responded. Defibrillators are an important piece of equipment to be maintained and looked after at all GAA premises. The importance of having them in proper working order and suitable people trained and refresher courses in paramount

While the GAA will always primarily be known as one of the world's leading amateur sports organisations, our members and our communities remain at the heart of what we do.



A quick glance at the Association's mission statement leaves you in no doubt about such ideals; We are dedicated to ensuring that our family of games, and the values we live, enrich the lives of our members, families and the communities we serve.'

To better achieve this the Antrim Health and Wellbeing Committee will be helping the Association in our County to identify and respond to the health and wellbeing needs of its members, both directly through GAA health-related programmes such as the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) programme, the GAA Social Initiative, the RESPECT Initiative, the 'Live to Play' road safety initiative, and the Play in my Boots mental health resource for players and clubs.

It will also involve signposting to and partnering with relevant national and local agencies who can provide services that may be of use to our members, such as Samaritans, the GAA's new mental health partners.

Can I take this opportunity to encourage all clubs to appoint a Healthy Club Officer and to become actively involved in this project? I am prepared to visit your club and discuss the Health Club project with your club executive.

Is Mise  
Gearoid Mac Labrai  
Oifigear Cláb Sláinte Chontae

## **Children's officers Report 2018**

Throughout the past year, there has been a significant increase in awareness of the issue of Safeguarding (child protection) within clubs in the county. This is a result of the high level of training and education opportunities, which have been made available to clubs via the county safeguarding team, coupled with the team's commitment to being available to provide advice and guidance in a professional and a timely manner. In addition, the design and implementation of training and awareness programmes from the National Safeguarding and Child Welfare Committee at Croke Park and in particular from the provincial Safeguarding Manager at Ulster Council have also served to provide an important support network for all clubs and in particular to club Children's Officers. The county safeguarding team have expended huge energies in developing a network of Children's Officers throughout the county and this has resulted in every club in the county now having an identified Children's Officer. This is a major development for Antrim who are now viewed throughout the country as being to the fore in the promotion of safeguarding children and young people in sport.

The structure of safeguarding within the county, which mirrors the Associations National template, now has a recognisable team, which is as follows:

**County-Delegated Liaison Person - County Chairperson (Collie Donnelly)**



**COUNTY CHILDREN'S OFFICER (Barney Herron)**



**COUNTY SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

**South Antrim - Roisin O Hare**

**South West Antrim - Frances O Neill**

**North Antrim - Martin Magee**



**CLUB CHILDREN'S OFFICERS**



**CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES**

At the beginning of the year, the county laid out a safeguarding plan, which focused on developing an identified Children's Officer within each club unit and then training these officers and giving them the skills and knowledge to take on the role. To that end there have to date been two Children's Officer workshops at divisional board venues at which there was a healthy representation from clubs across the county. There remain some gaps in this area but the remaining officers who have not yet trained will be given further opportunities to do so within the next few months. As a back up to this, the County Safeguarding Team have established a Children's Officers support forum, which seeks to provide regular updates on training, policies and procedures, advice and guidance in relation to specific concerns and a general signposting resource for all children's officers. To date of this report this forum has had two meetings with a healthy attendance from across the county.

In addition to this the safeguarding team have (as a further support mechanism) in consultation with the Divisional Boards established three members who will now sit with these boards to provide regular updates on issues such as training opportunities, and availability of resources to assist clubs in this important area of our Associations work. **All safeguarding issues will however remain the responsibility of the county children's officer and any concerns, allegations etc must be reported directly to him.**

## **Training completed in 2018**

During the past year the safeguarding team have been involved in or arranged the following training events:

- Children's officer training workshops x 2
- Safeguarding awareness training workshops x 9
- Anti- Bullying awareness workshops x 5
- Connections suicide awareness training workshops x 2
- Autism/ Special needs workshop x 1
- Digi-pal social media awareness workshops x 2
- Critical incident training x 1

## **Development of county safeguarding determining and hearing committee's committees**

In line with National policy we have established two committees which will assist clubs and County CCC in dealing with allegations and Breach of Code or Behaviour issues. Membership of both committees comprise persons with a strong knowledge and skills base in the area of safeguarding and of the rules of the Gaelic games family. There are members from GAA, LGFA and Camogie on both groups and this has proven to be most beneficial when dealing with cases referred by clubs or CCC. The work of both committees will become more evident as we move forward into the new year.

## **Case management**

During the past year there have been a constant stream of referrals and queries, which have on occasion required different interventions. Some of these have required only advice and guidance and were easily dealt with. However there have been around 15 complex referrals, which have required interventions, which have ranged from providing re-education and clarification, whilst others have involved working with statutory authorities including Social Services, NSPCC and Police. The team have been in a position to liaise with clubs and in particular, with Children's Officers and also to work closely with parents and young people in order to deal with concerns and to seek to ensure that our children and young people can be involved in sport in a fun and safe environment.

On a number of occasions, these cases have required the advice and guidance from the Provincial Safeguarding Manager, Bernie Fox and from the National Child welfare and Safeguarding Committee of which our own County Children's Officer Barney Herron is a member.

## **Future work**

During the coming year of 2019 the County Safeguarding Committee will be seeking to bring on board new members who have a background in the area of safeguarding and who are interested in developing this vital part of our Association. We are also keen to develop our practice in the area of conflict resolutions as a means to assisting us to deal with concerns and allegations and to, where appropriate; deal with issues in an informal manner. We also are in the process of ensuring that everyone involved in working with children and young people in our County are AccessNi checked, have completed their Safeguarding Awareness training and have an appropriate qualification as required by our Association. This is a major work issue for the team and we will be following this up with each club in the county to ensure compliance. To that end the team will commence a series of visits to each club in the period January – March 2019 to assist Children's Officers in this task.

Safeguarding team members are:

County Children's Officer - Barney Herron childrensofficer [antrim@gaa.ie](mailto:antrim@gaa.ie);  
barneyjoe59@gmail.com Ph: 07756713111

Linda Fegan

Frances O Neill

Roisin O Hare

Martin Magee

Fra Stone



## C.C.C. Report 2018

I think it is only right and proper to start off this year's report to pay tribute to a man who dedicated his life to the GAA and for the betterment of Antrim and that is John O Boyle. He has been sorely missed at CCC with his insightful mind to fixtures and discipline. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam uasal.

### **Committee**

This year the CCC committee changed considerably and it was made up of members from diverse and different backgrounds as well as representatives from all the Divisional boards and the referees' committee.

As a result of this there was a lot of debate, discussion and the democratic process was followed with the conclusion to a subject based on everyone's input. I would like to thank each of the members of CCC individually for their dedication, as it is a well-known fact that the CCC committee is one of the most difficult and hardworking committees to be involved in.

After a health scare from which he has now fully recovered, Stephen O'Boyle took the reins as the secretary and once again proved how both insightful and efficient he was in all his dealings with CCC matters; he showed his real potential and ability when working for CCC, proving he is a vital cog in the wheel.

After open heart surgery, Gregory Walsh took the post up as fixture secretary and also was the liaison officer to the referee' committee. At times he has put the clubs of Antrim before his family and he is a credit to the association. His flexibility was the key to being able to perform at the highest level but going forward can I suggest that the discipline of playing your games as per the schedule needs to be adopted by all clubs as the postponed games will conflict and catch up with you later in the year as certain clubs have experienced.

It is vital that games are played as per schedule no matter who is missing.

Alistair McCambridge, Paul Mc Carthy, Garrett Duffy and Aidan Kelly provided invaluable experience and insight into divisional board activity.

Gerry Mc Clory provided the wealth of knowledge and know-how when dealing with discipline and he certainly took on a work load which not even I can appreciate the effort untaken over the year.

An unofficial member of CCC who needs to be acknowledged at this stage is Breda Coleman who is the County Administration officer and who played a significant role by dealing with and producing the paperwork on a day to day basis.

Brendan Toland was a welcome member to CCC on behalf of the referees committee and he was extremely helpful in providing referees to cover all of the matches.

John Friel provided the technology know how when dealing with Servasport and its' intricacies.

I cannot thank each and every one of them enough for making CCC an enjoyable committee to work on even though the subject material was certainly not enjoyable.

## **Fixtures**

Once again CCC dealt with over 1,200 games in over 40 competitions and all of them were completed on time. At present the U21 championship is at quarter final stage and is on scheduled to be completed on time also.

It was a function of CCC to make decisions for the best interests of the competition, to maintain the league integrity and there was no malice or prejudice involved either to a club or person.

The practice of sending an e mail rearranging a game on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning believing that that was sufficient and also believing CCC members sat in front of their computers 24 hours a day waiting to react to games being postponed is just absurd in the extreme!! I can categorically state that CCC members have lives to live so it is unacceptable for the last minute.com phone call or e mail. CCC would ask each and every club secretary to ask themselves would they like that to happen to them and the answer would be no. The by product was also that a referee would waste his afternoon by turning up at a venue with no game going to be played.

For the first time in Ulster we held a fixtures forum and it proved to be a huge success where the discussion was about what effected clubs most - games. We intend to hold another forum at the start of the year where we would like the same input from clubs so decisions can be made for the overall improvement in Antrim fixtures.



## **Football**

Overall the football fixtures were played as per the schedule. However, the reserve football leagues are woeful and this needs to be looked at and clubs need to decide when these games are to be played because at the present time, we are losing players due to the lack of games being played regularly. The juvenile football once again was played on a regular basis with very little disruption and credit is to go to all the teams and mentors.

The Mc Donagh Cup had a huge impact on football games being played on a regular basis and it was a very stop start league. It was proposed at the fixtures forum that the 2019 league start early and avoid totally the debacle which was the October / November fixtures. This was a complete disaster and clubs were forced to play meaningless games and the integrity of the league was once again questioned. Games should be completed in and around the championship in August \September. I still genuinely believe that in order to increase competitiveness and skill regular games being played at your level and at your grade is what is required. We also now have to bear in mind that a second-tier competition in football will involve Antrim in 2020 and we need to be ready for this as it will commit our county to perhaps double the fixtures for a year thus reducing our club fixtures.

The championship fixtures were a success and worked well with no issues.

We were hugely successful this year in spreading our championship fixtures around the county and we continually strive to promote GAA throughout the county as demonstrated this year.

Even when asked why certain clubs were not used as a venue an explanation was given and a promise given that if those issues were addressed that championship matches would be given. In a number of cases this consultation was done and championship matches were held at the venue very successfully.

## **Hurling**

The Joe Mc Donagh Cup fixtures, the inflexibility of senior hurling management all culminated in an incredibly poor fixture structure for hurling this year. In my opinion CCC did an excellent job with what they were given and perhaps clubs did not fully appreciate the problems and issues which faced CCC this year. Unfortunately I would predict it will get worst next year and we as a county need to be able to sit down and agree on the way forward to promote hurling in Antrim

We have the most competitive league structure of an eight team league and despite the obstructions in our way the hurling fixtures were played and completed, with games affecting promotion and relegation going down to the last two games in all divisions. Competitive matches will increase a player's overall skill level and it will make them see what it is like to play and compete under pressure on a regular basis. This in turn will help our county hurling management so that they can have a greater pool of skilful players at their disposal and start to achieve badly needed success.

As in football the reserve games proved to be extremely difficult it is a numbers game, and clubs have to be realistic that having a panel of 30 – 35 players is not enough to field two teams. A suggestion could be that the reserve league could be looked at being rescheduled on a different day?

Once again juvenile hurling fixtures is a either a success or a disaster it is too hit and miss and in the fixture's forum at the start of the year clubs and CCC need to sit together and iron out where it is going right and going wrong and together solve the problems.

The championship fixtures were a success and worked well with no issues. We were hugely successful this year in spreading our championship fixtures around the county and we continually strive to promote GAA throughout the county as demonstrated this year.

## **Discipline**

This is the most soul-destroying aspect of CCC, it is a fact that the CCC members just did not want to deal with this unpleasant aspect of our games but it has to be done reluctantly. CCC has to somehow come up with a penalty to suit the infraction which the club never agrees upon even though they know it actually happened. CCC has demonstrated prudence, fairness and accessibility in their dealings with clubs who have discipline issues. There are no vendettas or personalities in the decision-making process, it is just an impartial verdict by all of CCC and not just the Chairman based on the evidence provided by the referee's report.

If managers and players had self-discipline and showed respect to others then there would be no need for CCC to make decisions so ultimately it is up to the clubs.

## **Transfers**

January, February and March was sanction and transfer season and this too was incredibly problematic. The CCC were faced with very deeply disturbing decisions which could affect the health and wellbeing of a child it is vital that some sort of flexibility be applied but still not allow the poaching era back again.

There has to be a degree of integrity and common sense here where the practice of poaching should be stopped by the officers of the club and take the decision-making process away from others.

Once again, thank you to everyone for their cooperation throughout the year.

Owen Elliott

Chairman of Competitions Control Committee

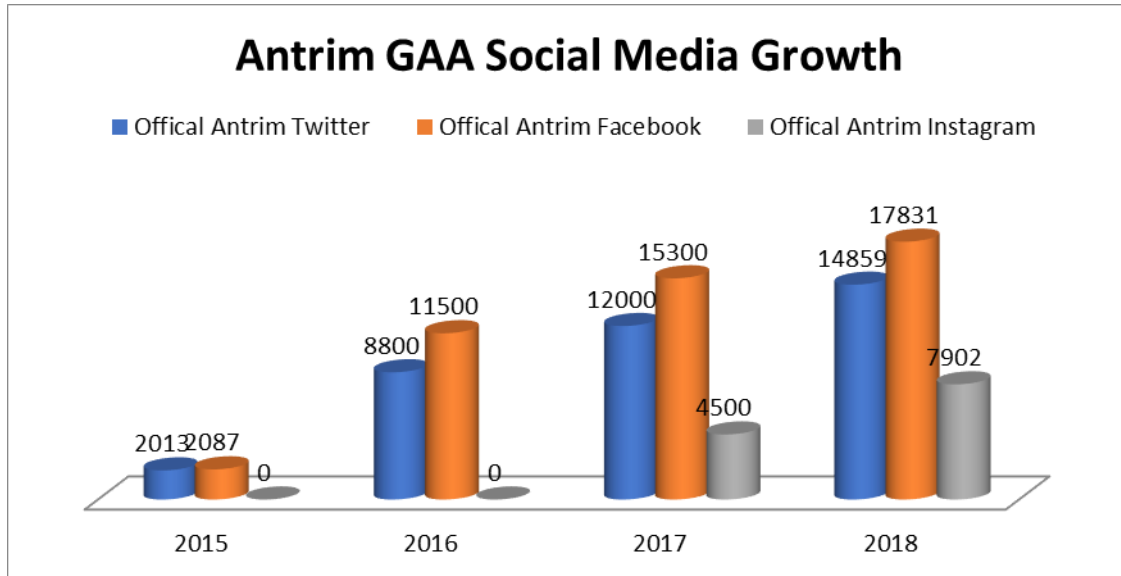




# PRO Report 2018

The last year for Antrim GAA has been both eventful and enjoyable as I have worked towards raising the County's profile through the use of social media and associated content.

I am delighted to report that our various social media platforms have gone from strength to strength as illustrated below:



Instagram is a photo and video-sharing social networking service owned by Facebook. Our Instagram account is the largest account compared to our fellow Ulster counties. Twitter has 14,859 followers and Facebook has 17,831 followers and continues to grow daily.



(Above – Our Antrim Instagram account which is the largest GAA account in Ulster)

Throughout the year there were various videos, photographs and tweets which went viral. Two of the more memorable ones included:

- (i) Tomas McCann last gasp goal in the Northern SwitchGear SFC Semi Final 109,000 views on twitter alone.
- (ii) Neill McManus 'Hand pass' in the Bathshack SHC



I would like to thank both our Senior football and hurling teams in 2018 for their generosity and willingness to engage with me as I have striven to promote Gaelic Games at County level.

One particular memory that will stay with me was Sambo McNaughton's hair-raising speech to the players on the eve of our league game against the All Ireland Champions Galway.

This speech was everything that makes our games great and had a profound impact on every person in the room, players and management alike. #Inspiring

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our management teams across all codes and age groups for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. I would like to note gratitude to the outgoing senior hurling team management.



Jerome Quinn has been fantastic in producing championship interviews and highlights which showcase our great games. The coverage has been top class and I look to develop this coverage over the next year. Conor McCann has provided remarkable assistance with anything I have asked him to help with in the past year.

## ANTRIM GAA TO COLLECT SHOEBOXES IN SUPPORT OF SVP

**Gaels encouraged to 'hot-foot' it to local GAA Club with shoeboxes for charity**



Antrim Gaels have been set an unusual festive target for Christmas 2018. They have been challenged to beat their own record of providing more than 1,000 shoeboxes filled with thoughtful gifts for those in need in their local community.

The challenge was set at the launch of #SaffronAid3 which encourages GAA fans across County Antrim to fill shoeboxes with useful items for vulnerable families and individuals, which will then be distributed by St Vincent de Paul in Northern Ireland (SVP) in the run up to Christmas.

For some families in Northern Ireland, the fast-approaching festive season is something to dread rather than celebrate, with many households having to forego presents as they choose between buying food or providing heat. In 2017, generous Antrim Gaels and their friends and families donated more than 1000 shoeboxes through the #SaffronAid2 charity initiative and it is hoped that even more can be collected and distributed this year, helping to make sure that as many families as possible wake up to something special to open on 25 December.

GAA clubs and supporters are wonderfully generous and we are delighted to do what we can to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

This is our third year of running this very special appeal and we were overwhelmed by the generosity of Co Antrim Gaels in previous years, especially last year when 30 clubs gathered more than 1000 shoeboxes.

We're so pleased to be working with SVP once again and we hope that there is even more support this year as each shoebox or gift that is donated makes such a huge difference to those in need within our own communities.

Clubs across the county will be getting involved by encouraging their members to donate a shoebox containing a few items for families in need or alternatively, they can donate a gift for a child. We also hope many Clubs will make their premises available as collection points for SVP.

## #SaffronTrolleyDash



Antrim Gaels added a few new moves to their fitness regime when they took part in a trolley dash for Antrim GAA's Christmas charity initiative, #SaffronAid3, at Sainsbury's Supermarket in Belfast's Kennedy Centre.

Following the successful addition of the trolley dash to our fundraising efforts last year, we were absolutely delighted when Iain Semple, Sainsbury's manager at the Kennedy Centre store, generously agreed to let us loose in his aisles once again.

£1200 worth of toys were delivered to SVP as a result of the Saffron trolley dash. St Enda's Sinead Steele has been invaluable in the Saffron Aid and Saffron trolley dash.



## Run For Anto

Sam Maguire was gleaming in the cool September sun at the Falls Park for the deterMND 'Run For Anto' charity event that attracted over 1,000 runners and Dublin's All-Ireland winning manager Jim Gavin.

The West Belfast park was a kaleidoscope of colour as the runners were doused in powdered paint before, during and after the fun run.

Gavin, who made the 200-mile round journey to support the event, was accompanied by the coveted silverware Dublin have owned for the past four years and former Dublin forward and backroom team member Jason Sherlock.

Gavin said he was "privileged" to be part of the charity run and was delighted to be reacquainted with one of his heroes – Anto Finnegan.

"I remember speaking with Anto in 2014 and we had a great game with an Ulster Select side at Ravenhill," said the Dublin manager.

"He's a hero of mine. He's such a determined man. He lives life to the full and he's always a smile on his face." "We're just delighted to be here to support his charity deterMND. Anto is raising awareness of Motor Neurone Disease for research and to raise funds for people that have the illness. What a legacy that is – to keep driving on."

We're overwhelmed by the amount of people that took part in the run and the generosity they have shown to support Anto's charity. It's was a great morning and I think everybody enjoyed themselves, which is the main thing.

Antrim GAA dug deep to support the 'Run For Anto' with the Saffron Business Forum presenting Finnegan with a £1,000 cheque while the North Antrim and South West Antrim Divisional Boards made £500 donations. The total raised for the event was £10,816.30



I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank John McIlwaine and the Saffron Gael for providing photographs throughout the year which were used on social media platforms and other official county publications.

Dan McConnell has assisted me with managing the Official Antrim facebook page and the occasional tweeting from this year's club championship games. Martin McCarry Antrim's IT officer has enabled me to add the Saffron Gael website on to our website which attracts a massive number of visitors each year.

Overall it has been another successful year building upon the accomplishments of last year.

There are many plans afoot for next year including the introduction of Antrim GAA Radio and I continue to explore the possibility of streaming live championship games.

On a personal level I want to thank you all and wish all those involved with Antrim GAA at club and county level a very successful 2019

Sean Kelly  
PRO



## 2018 Antrim Championship Winners

Football		
Competition	Winner	Runner Up
Senior Football	Erin's Own Cargin	Kickhams Creggan
Intermediate Football	St Endas	Gortnamona
Junior Football	Conn Magee's Glenravel	St Patricks, Lisburn
Reserve Cup	Kickhams Creggan	Erin's Own Cargin
Reserve Shield	St Pauls	St Brigids
U21 Football "A"		
U21 Football "B"		
Minor Football 'A'	Cuchullian's Dunloy	St Galls
Minor Football 'B'	Sarsfield's	Rossa
U 16 "A" Football	St Galls	St James Aldergrove
U 16 "B" Football	St Ergnats	Lamh Dhearg
Og Sport	All Saints, Ballymena	Davitt's
U14 A Football	St Marys Aghagallon	St Brigids, Belfast
U14 B Football	Tir Na nOg	Gortnamona
Feile" A" Football	St Brigids	Erin's Own Cargin
Feile" B" Football	Sarsfield's	Cuchullian's Dunloy





## 2018 Antrim Championship Winners

Hurling		
Competition	Winner	Runner Up
Senior Hurling	Ruairi Og, Cushendall	Shamrocks Loughgiel
Intermediate Hurling	St Galls	Kickhams Creggan
Junior "A" Hurling	Emmets, Cushendun	Shane O Neills
Junior "B" Hurling	All Saints, Ballymena	St Agnes
Reserve Cup	Shamrocks Loughgiel	Cuchullian's, Dunloy
U21 Hurling	Mc Quillians Ballycastle	O Donovan Rossa
Minor Hurling "A"	Cuchullains Dunloy	Shamrocks Loughgiel
Minor Hurling 'B'	St Pauls	St Enda's
U 16 "A" Hurling	O Donovan Rossa	Ruairi Og, Cushendall
U 16 "B" Hurling	St Galls	Shane O Neills
Feile "A" Hurling	Shamrocks Loughgiel	St Pauls
Feile "B" Hurling	St Galls	Loch Mor





Antrim V Down



Antrim V Dublin

## 2018 Antrim League Winners

<b>Football</b>		
<b>Competition</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner Up</b>
Division 1 Football	Kickhams, Creggan	Erin's Own, Cargin
Division 1 Reserve	Casements Portglenone	Kickhams, Creggan
Division 2 Football	Gortnamona	St Brigids
Division 2 Reserve	St Pauls	All Saints, Ballymena
Division 3 Football	Conn Magee's, Glenravel	St Pats, Lisburn
Minor Football Div1	St Marys, Aghagallon	All Saints, Ballymena
Minor Football Div 2	Sarsfield's	St Ergnats, Moneyglass

<b>Hurling</b>		
<b>Competition</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner Up</b>
Division 1 Hurling	Cuchullian's, Dunloy	Shamrocks, Loughgiel
Division 1 Reserve	Shamrocks, Loughgiel	Portaferry
Division 2 Hurling	Mc Quillians, Ballycastle	St Galls
Division 3 Hurling	Clooney Gaels	Carey Faugh's
Division 4 Hurling	Bredagh	Na Magha
Minor Hurling Div1	Cuchullian's, Dunloy	Kevin Lynchs
Minor Hurling Div 2		
U 16 Hurling Div1	Mc Quillians, Ballycastle	Shamrocks, Loughgiel
U 16 Hurling Div 2	St Galls	Shane O Neills





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**Antrim Senior Hurling Championship Sponsors**

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