



An Chomdhail Bhliantuil
Ar Luan 6 Nollaig 2021
Óstlann Dunsilly, Aontroma
Toiseacht Ar a 7.30pm



*Próinsias O Coinne, Runaí
Nollaig 2021*

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Aimniuchain for 2022 (Nominations)

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Cathaoirleach | Ciarán Mc Cavana (Naomh Éanna) | |
| Leas-Cathaoirleach | Brendan Toland (Lamh Dhearg) | |
| Leas-Rúnaí | Sinead Mullan (Naomh Gall) | |
| Cisteoir | Donal Murphy (Ruairi Mhic Asmáint) | |
| Leas-Cisteoir | Tyrone Eastwood (Naomh Seosamh) Tony Shivers (Cu Chullain) | |
| Oifigeach Caidrim Poibli | Dan McConnell (Naomh Una) | |
| Oifigeach Oiling | Paddy Kelly (Ros Earcain) | |
| Oifigeach Teanga agus Cultur | Orla Fitzsimons (Lamh Dhearg) | |
| Ionadaí ar an Ard Comhairle | Terry Reilly (Gortnamona) | |
| Teachta Comhairle Uladh (2) | Sean Kelly (Naomh Maoileachlainn) Seamus McMullan (Con Mag Aoidh) | |



Orduithe Seasaimh Don Comhdhail

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

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

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

Appointment of Tellers- Convention 2021

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
|--|--|--|



Miontuairiscí Chomdhail 2020

Coiste Chontae Aontroim CLG
County Convention

Date of Meeting 7th Dec 2020

Venue – Via Video Link

Apologies:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
|--|--|--|

Condolences:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Patrick McGarry | Alex McDonnell | |
|-----------------|----------------|--|

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

Adoption of Standing Orders. – The standing orders, as outlined on page 4 of the Convention Booklet, were adopted by Convention.

Proposed by- Gerald Mc Garry

Seconded by- Tyrone Esatwood

Appointment of Tellers- No positions to be contested

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
|--|--|--|

Proposed by – NA

Seconded by – NA

Minutes of Convention 2019 – (11th Dec 2019)

Matters arising – No Matters arising

Proposed – Paul Stevenson

Seconded – Gerry McClory

Secretary's Report –

An Rúnaí Proinsias Ó Coinne highlighted the following:

- Over 50% of the teams contesting the County finals were from dual clubs.
- All County fixtures were fulfilled.
- New corporate sponsor FonaCAB .
- Age Grades will change in 2021 to U13,U15, U17 & U20.
- Documents relating to competition entries for 2021 currently with Clubs to be returned by Thurs 17th Dec.
- Thanked the outgoing officers.

Matters arising: - No Matters arising

Proposed by- Bronagh Lennon

Seconded by- Sean Kelly

Financial Report

Teresa Nugent from Nugent Accountants joined the meeting.

An Cisteoir Dónall Murphy, presented the accounts for 2020.

- Thanked Club Officers for selling tickets for both, Group and knockout games. Clubs received 50% of monies received for their Group Game tickets.
- Gaelfast staff were furloughed from March; returned to work November.
- Fundraising capability was significantly impacted by Covid-19 restrictions.
- No Summer Camps in 2020; this would usually generate approx. £160k
- Affiliation fees- generally £156k income from Clubs; no leagues in 2020 saw reduction to £106k.
- Increase in match days costs; additional costs included video and live-streaming of games, insurance, scaffolding etc.
- A full year of referee fees was missed during invoicing; as goodwill gesture Clubs will not be invoiced in arrears.
- Admin Expenses – provision set aside in 2019 of £38k has now been removed.
- Bank loans and overdraft have been cleared. Antrim GAA essentially debt free.

Matters Arising – No Matters arising

Proposed by- Sean Kelly

Seconded by- Gerry McClory

Chairman's Address

An Cathaoirleach, Ciaran Mac Mhanaigh, delivered his Chairman's address to Convention 2020

During an Cathaoirleach speech he referred to the following.

- **Leadership during Covid-19:** Clubs commended particularly Lamh Dhearg for their leadership in dealing with Covid-19 cases within their Club. The GAA have provided excellent community support throughout the Country.
- **CCC** – Thanked the Cttee for their work during an unprecedented year.
- **2020 Championship format** – Round Robin format well received by Clubs, competitive championship in 2020. This may be considered in 2021.
- **Outgoing Officers:** Thanked the 5 County Officers leaving Coiste Bainisti - Bronagh Lennon, Sean Kelly, Philip Christie, Joe Edwards & Alex McQuillan.
- **Casement Park:** Full Planning Permission has been granted; now in the 90 day consultation period.
- **Corrigan Park:** Thanked John Rainey for his excellent work. Some outstanding steelworks to finish the Stand; Hurling Wall to be completed.
- **Corporate Sponsors:** Despite an unprecedented year, all Sponsors fulfilled commitments to Antrim GAA. League Sponsorship will be carried over to 2021.
- **Gym:** A County gym has been created in Belfast, capable of facilitating 15 people.
- **Senior Football:** After a great game v Limerick, Covid hit. The Team and mgt were commended for the decision to offer an alternative venue for the Waterford game, and whilst a win was secured, the team finished 3rd in the Division. Many thanks to Lenny Harbinson and his backroom team for their 3 years service. The new Senior Management has been appointed, trials are ongoing.
- **Senior Hurling:** After winning the Div 2a League title, the hurlers will now contest the Joe McDonagh Cup final v Kerry on Sunday 13th December. An Cathaoirleach thanked Philip Christie.
- In an unprecedented year, it has been a privilege to serve as Chairman of Antrim GAA.

Matters Arising:

Terry Reilly (Gort Na Mona) enquired if the 3 sub-cttees created to discuss financial management, pitch access and office space within the new Casement Park stadium were still active. As Planning Permission was under consultation, these Cttees were unnecessary. Once the 90 days have elapsed and subject to a JR not being lodged, the sub committees will be reformed.

Presentation of 2020 Championship Awards

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Minor Football | Erin's Own Cargin |
| U21 Football | Not Completed |
| Junior Football | Kickhams Ardoyne |
| Intermediate Football | St Ergnats, Moneyglass |
| Senior Football | Erin's Own Cargin |
| | |
| Minor Hurling | Shamrocks Loughgiel |
| U21 Hurling | Not Completed |
| Junior Hurling | St Paul's |
| Intermediate Hurling | Tir Na Nog |
| Senior Hurling | Cúchullains Dunloy |

Ruin

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

Cuchulainn's Dunloy

Replica to be purchased.

Proposed by- Sean Mc Kendry (Cushendun)

Seconded by- Sean Kelly (PRO)

Elections

The voting papers returned via Post =

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|
| Coiste Banisti | 18/19 | 95% |
| | | |
| Clubs | 39/44 | 88% |
| | | |
| Units Returned | 57/63 | 90% |

Voting Strength =

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Coiste Banisti | 18 |
| Clubs | 117 |
| Total | 135 |

Results

Ionadaí ar an Ard Comhairle

Terry Reilly (Gortnamona)

Teachta Comhairle Uladh (2)

1 Seamus McMullan (Con Magees)

2 Sean Kelly (St Malachys)

Antrim Committee Reports

The following committee reports were proposed and seconded; points noted:

CCC Report

- Increase in instances of verbal abuse towards referees.
- Clubs must provide referee(s); CCC may have to consider no home games to those not providing these.

Pro Report

- Sean Kelly thanked the Clubs for their support over the past 5 years. Commended An Cisteoir Dónall Murphy on the years accounts.

Scor & Cultural Report

- Bronagh Lennon thanked the Clubs and their Cultural Officers for their support and participation throughout the 5 years.

Children's Officer Report

South Antrim Divisional Report

South West Antrim Divisional Report

North Antrim Divisional Report- Martin Magee apologised for the late circulation.

Gaelfast Report

- Terry Reilly encouraged Clubs to engage with Gaelfast GPOs and Paul Donnelly.

Development Report

- Club Maith - Clubs encouraged to apply for this accreditation.
- Sports Sustainability Fund – Ulster GAA will issue additional information in coming days. Niall Muldoon overseeing applications from Antrim Clubs.

Proposed by: - Frank Caldwell

Seconded by : - Jim McGrath

Aon ghnó eile

U20 Grade - Gloria Ward (All Saints, Ballymena) enquired if an U19 or U20 grade would be formed; An Cathaoirleach confirmed U20 grade has been agreed by Clubs for 2021.



Tuarascail an Rúnaí 2021

It is my honour and privilege to present this secretary's report to convention 2021, the 136th convention of Coiste Chontae Aontroma CLG.

When the Association when into lockdown at midnight on the 12th of March 2020 who would have thought that as we enter 2022 the scourge of Covid19 is still wreaking havoc around the world.

During 2021 Antrim CCC scheduled a full programme of League and Championship competitions across both codes and all age groups with most competitions having been completed ahead of this evening's convention. Playing games at club level is how we service the needs of the majority of our membership and as we move into 2022 and the new intercounty playing season CCC will be engaging with our clubs early in the year to ensure that club competitions remain to the fore within Antrim GAA.

Enda Mc Ginley, in his first year as Senior Football manager, secured promotion to Div 3 of the NFL for 2022 and despite a spirited performance against Armagh in the USFC our pursuit the Anglo Celt cup ended in the athletic grounds



The u20 Footballers exited the Championship at the hands of Fermanagh while a covid effected Minor Football panel suffered a heavy defeat away to Donegall in the Ulster Minor football championship.

Both managers. Hugh Mc Gettigan and Seamus Hasting indicated that they would not be seeking reappointment to their respective managerial positions.

The Senior Hurlers retained their Div 1 league status for 2022 but unfortunately a defeat at the hands of Laois in Parnell Park will see a return to the Mc Donagh Cup next season. Nonetheless Darren Glesson and players gave us some great league performances to whet our appetites for season ahead.



The U20 Hurlers were heavily defeated by Dublin having previously defeated Down in the Leinster Championship qualifying game.

Our minor hurlers secured the Peadar O Loan cup (Leinster Minor B) with a final victory over Down.



Both managers. Karl Mc Keegan and Paul Donnelly also indicated that they too would not be seeking reappointment for 2022

I want to thank all our team managers and their respective backroom teams for all their efforts on behalf of Antrim GAA.

Within the last few days, Antrim football icon, Paddy Cunningham announced his retirement from Intercounty Football. Not only has Paddy has been a wonderful servant to Antrim Football, but he also has been a great role model for younger Gaels. I wish Paddy well for the future. A future I'm sure that will see Paddy contributing to Antrim GAA in non-playing roles.



2021 saw the introduction of the new age grades (u13 u15 u17 and u20) across both codes. The debate into whether this was the correct thing to do continues across many counties. The physical development of u17 County players and what is the best age group to serve players in the post u17 to adult grade appear to be the most prominent concerns.

The impacts of Covid 19 have created many new ways in which we conduct our business. The introduction of the online ticketing of our games has been a major success. One which has contributed to the financial wellbeing of both our clubs and the county Board.

My thanks go to Martin Mc Carry, county IT Officer, for his assistance throughout the year and to Curlie McIlwaine for the continuous supply of photographs.

To all those Gaels who passed to their eternal rest in 2021 I offer my sincere condolences to their families and friends. I particularly want to remember James McClean, Sean Mc Guinness and Anto Finnigan.

Go ndeanfaidh Dia trocaire ar a anaim dhil



Is Mise
Prionsias O Coinne
Rúnaí an Chontae

Championship Plaques 2021

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Minor "A" Football | St Mary's Aghagallon |
| U20 "A" Football | |
| Junior Football | St Comgalls |
| Intermediate Football | Tir na nOg |
| Senior Football | Kickhams Creggan |
| | |
| Minor "A" Hurling | Shamrocks Loughgiel |
| U20 "A" Hurling | |
| Junior Hurling | Con Magees |
| Intermediate Hurling | Carey Faughs |
| Senior Hurling | Cuchullian's s Dunloy |



Ruin agus Moltai

Moltai 1

Lamh Dhearg CLG propose that the next age grouping after u17 for our young players, should be at the U19 age level in Antrim. The u19 age grouping would apply to club games in Gaelic Football and Hurling.

Lamh Dhearg CLG

Moltai 2

GLC Naomh Padraig notes the One Club guidelines published by the GAA , Camogie Association and LGFA and the recommendation that all Club members be registered with the GAA.

The Club further notes that the clubs of the Camogie Association and the LGFA remit County and Provincial 'per member' fees to the relevant unit of their respective associations.

Acknowledging that under T.O. every GAA club must remit €2 per GAA member to the respective County Secretary, the Club calls on Central Council to establish GAA policy that GAA County and Provincial units should not levy additional per member fees, on Camogie Association and LGFA

Naomh Padraig CLG

Ruin 1

Sarsfields CLG propose that league competitions for the age grouping above u17 and below adult should be scheduled to start and conclude before the adult leagues get underway.

2 divisions should be separated into two groups, with the top two sides from each group playing in league semi-finals (i.e. 1st from group one playing 2nd in group two and vice. versa). Semi-final winners will then contest league finals.

Sairséil CLG

Ruin 2

u19 Club league games to be played Feb to May 2022 avoiding clashes with u17 All County Fixtures.

Lamh Dhearg CLG

Ruin 3

Gaelic Football & Hurling U19 Championships to be played on a knockout basis. A & B Grades in both Gaelic Football & Hurling.

Lamh Dhearg CLG

Ruin 4

For the age grouping above u17 and below adult A and B championships should be scheduled for late October and November. A round robin format would be preferable. However, if this is not possible then a knockout format would suffice.

Matches can be played on Club Pitches (if available) or 4G on Sundays and/or midweek under floodlights.

Sairséil CLG

Ruin 5

Gaelic Football and Hurling, Club games at U19 in Antrim to be played 13 a side.

Lamh Dhearg CLG



Ulster MFC V Donegal

Antrim Committee Reports 2021

C.C.C. Report 2021

I have now completed my second incomplete year as CCC chair; hopefully all of us will be able to have a normally chaotic 2022.

The restrictions imposed upon our lives have had wide ranging impacts and presented us all with many new challenges; these impacts were felt across all aspects of our personal, working, social, cultural and sporting lives.

I freely admit that at times it was difficult to keep pace with the ever changing landscape; at times it felt like more fixtures were being cancelled and/or changed than were being played.

It is important however to reflect that in 2021 we had leagues and championships in both codes from U15 to senior and that in itself was a huge improvement on 2020.

Administration

CCC first meeting for the 2021 season took place on the 18/12/20 and the committee has meet on a total of 24 occasions.

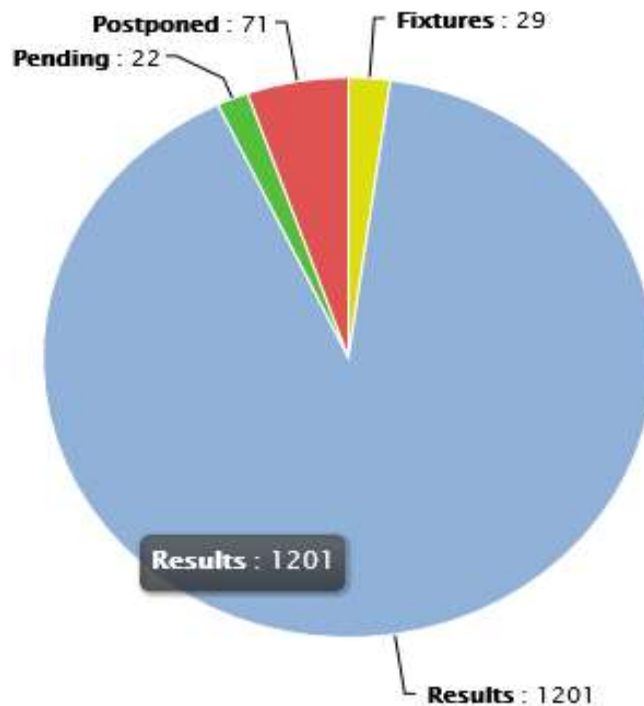
I would like to place on record my gratitude to all the members of CCC and CDC who worked extensively throughout 2021 to deliver the competitions. Their expertise, experience and dedication were crucial and we, the Gaels of County Antrim, should acknowledge their contributions.

County Antrim Competitions Control Committee

| CCC Membership 2021 | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Name | Initials | Role (or representing) |
| Raymond Compston | R.C | Chairman |
| Frankie Quinn | F.Q | Secretary |
| Sinead Mullan | S.M | Disciplinary Secretary |
| Gerry McClory | G.McC | Disciplinary Admin |
| Mark O'Neill | M.O'N | Referees Representative |
| Danny McLernon | D.McL | CCC Rep to CHC |
| Eugene Gallagher | E.G | Fixtures Analyses |
| Brendan Toland | B.T | Committee Member |
| Dessie Donnelly | D.D | Committee Member |

Fixtures

Fixtures for the 2021 Playing Season



In 2020 454 games accounted for the playing season, in 2021 over 1200 games across all competitions were played.

Feile and Feile Peil also returned to the playing calendar for 2021.

The age groups for competitions moved to U15, U17 and U20 as well as adult.

Many of the scheduled competitions ran well with games proceeding as per the plan however there were also low points that need to be noted and reviewed.

Areas that need to be reviewed include

The U20 age group has not gone well, not all Clubs entered, others withdrew before kicking a ball or swinging a Hurl and others withdrew after playing 1 or 2 games. CCC will review this.

Clubs withdrawing from competitions has been an issue across more than the U20 age group. CCC sets structures and issues fixtures based on the entries received, Clubs withdrawing after having entered creates significant problems which have a negative impact. CCC appreciates that Clubs don't take the decision to withdraw lightly but maybe they need to consider carefully if they can fulfil the requirement of entry.

In Round Robin competitions the protocol will need to be changed to ensure that postponed fixture is played before the final series of games.

Sourcing neutral venues for the semi-final games of league competitions proved extremely difficult, we need to consider that the venues for all league semi-finals should be decided by a coin toss between the participating clubs.

I must place on record my personal thanks to any Club that hosted a game throughout the 2021 season. I am going to resist naming them but there are a small number of Clubs that have gone above and beyond. There are Clubs that do all in their power to accommodate other Clubs by providing a neutral venue. In truth we cannot continue to pressurise these Clubs.

Trophies, should not be the difficult task that it is, members of CCC have been run ragged finding trophies, delivering trophies presenting trophies, presenting substitute trophies. There is a requirement to return trophies by the 31st of March, Clubs should respect this deadline not because of the threat of a fine but because it the right thing to do.



CCC failed to have a representative at the JHPF to present the trophy to the eventual winners Latharna Óg, can I take this opportunity to apologise to the Club.

I understand that there was one incident of a trophy being presented that was in poor condition again I would like to apologise for this.

Can I also issue a rebuke to Clubs who return trophies in a poor state of repair, we live in the real world and accept that a trophy may be damaged but surely the Club should organise any necessary repairs before returning it.

If all trophies are returned when they should be then the issues outlined above can be avoided

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

CCC failed to deliver on a commitment to play outstanding U16 competitions in both codes from the 2020 season.

It is worth recalling that fixtures did not start until the 07/05/21, with the adult football leagues (Division 1-3) throwing in on the 16/05/21, a late start with very little preparation time and a very intensive games programme. The late start and the short lead in time were direct consequences of the pandemic and the timetable for the easing of lockdown. These were not choices but consequences of the circumstances in which we found ourselves.

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

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

Referees

Can I mention the work of Brendan Toland and Mark O'Neill who in addition to refereeing many games also work tirelessly in recruiting, training appointing and assisting referees.

Mark and Brendan are assisted by Anthony McCague and Gregory Walsh, and I am sure there are others, can I place on record my gratitude to every volunteer.

The commitment of our referees must be recognised but I believe that recognition whilst welcome is not enough; we need to be actively supporting our referees.

It is important that we all accept that refereeing is at a crisis point; one illustration is that two U17 football championship games had to be postponed because there was no referee available. I don't want to go into the details of the effort and lengths that the referee's team went to in their attempts to have the games covered; it was immense but ultimately unsuccessful.

It should also be noted that fixture planning requires that CCC takes into account the availability of referees, some fixture plans can't be considered or properly explored because there are not enough referees.

The referees' expenses per game have not changed in over 10 years a significant uplift is required and this should be combined with a recruitment drive.

Clubs could also help by tackling all instances of abuse directed at our referees.

Discipline

Whilst the vast majority of disciplinary issues are efficiently dealt with to the satisfaction of all parties it remains the case that contested disciplinary issues demand significant input from members of CCC, CDC & CHC.

I wish to place on record my gratitude to Sinead Mullan CDC Secretary, Danny McLernon CCC representative to CHC and County Secretary Frankie Quinn for their immense commitment in dealing with matters of discipline and to thank Gerry McClory and Breda Coleman who provides excellent administrative support to the CDC.

Reamann P Compston

An Cathaoirleach
County Antrim CCC





Coaching & Games Update

A Welcome Return...

April 2021 saw staff returning from furlough, restrictions beginning to lift and activity back at our clubs. Our Development Officers have engaged with all schools and clubs to provide support and develop players and coaches.

92 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Received coaching support

1869 lessons

took place to 05.11.2021

NO. CHILDREN COACHED PER WEEK

4,872

children engaging in Gaelic Games sessions every week of the school calendar

CLUB SUPPORT SESSIONS

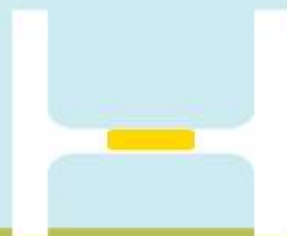
203

Club support sessions implemented in the form of coach education, coaches workshops, parents workshops and Nursery support

CÚL CAMPS

24

clubs supported in coordinating Cúl Camps.



1.0 Staffing

A number of changes have occurred in 2021 on a staffing front, including the departure of Dr Paul Donnelly, Dr Ciaran Kearney, Steven Millar and Simon McCrory. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their service with Antrim GAA, particularly our long-serving Games Promotion Officer (GPO) and senior hurler Simon.

Dr Paul Donnelly's departure saw an interim arrangement where Ulster GAA's Provincial Games Development Manager Jimmy Darragh overseen the Gaelfast project and a replacement for Paul. Thanks to Jimmy for his time and effort.

Antoin McCaffery became the new Regional Games Development Manager August 2021 and will manage the Gaelfast project. In this time 2 new GPOs in Ronan McCartan (commenced Monday 06th Sept) and Gerard McNulty (commencing 22nd Nov) were appointed. Once the Gaelfast budget has been confirmed, the plan is to recruit more staff to engage with schools & clubs.

Two University of Ulster interns have begun with Antrim GAA on the Gaelfast project and both are working around schools in Belfast, with an application pending via DfC for six more schools coaches via the JobStart scheme.

A pilot initiative, which will see a GPO working for just two clubs, and focussing on recruitment of players and education of coaches, will take place in the near future, awaiting Croke Park approval. The aim is to increase the number of staff and to focus on the recruitment and retention of players in the GAA.

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 in order to attain funding for personnel. These areas are:

| 2021 Priority Games Development Areas |
|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Cúl Camps |
| 2. Nursery Programme |
| 3. Go Games |
| 4. Super Games |
| 5. Primary Schools Coaching Programme |
| 6. Coach Education Programme |
| 7. Youth Games Programme |
| 8. Talent Academy Programme |

2.1.1 Cúl Camps

After a year of uncertainty, and no camps taking place in Antrim in 2020, we managed to coordinate and support the running of 24 club Cúl Camps in 2021. The main focus for these camps is to ensure children have fun in a safe and coordinated matter.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increased focus on the health & safety compliance from clubs and facilities and an increase in paper work for clubs and coordinators. Croke Park also now require coaches to be 18+ (previously 16+) and to have completed Access NI, Safeguarding and a coaching qualification. We facilitated eight Coach Education programmes in the lead up to the camps and provided mentoring, advice and resources to coaches to ensure activities were fun for children.

To put things into perspective, a total of 252 coaches worked at 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 have never been possible without the great work of club volunteers and club coordinators who we thank dearly for their hard work.

2.1.2 Club Support & Nursery Programme

Our staff are assigned clubs to work with and support via coaching workshops, parents workshops, player development workshops and nursery support. Over the course of 2021 a total of 203 club support sessions took place with various clubs. If your club would like some assistance please get in touch.

In addition to our club support programme, our staff developed a number of resources that can be found on the Gaelfast website:

<http://www.antrimgaagamesdevelopment.ie/resources>



2.1.3 Go Games and Super Games

When restrictions lifted and clubs were allowed to meet for Go Games fixtures, Games Development Manager Kieran Megraw liaised with divisional boards on their level of need for support for Go games in each divisional board area. A games programme for u7, u8, u9 and u10 have been arranged and almost complete for the Belfast clubs in football and hurling over the course of 14 game days. The South West and North Antrim divisional boards also hosted their own Go Games blitzes over a number of age grades and dates. It takes a lot of communication and organisation to run Go Games programmes around the County,

so we would like to thank all volunteers and coaches for their time and effort in making games happen for our children.

In Primary School Go Games, we work alongside Cumann na mbunscoil to provide games opportunities for children. Unfortunately, due to restrictions no activity has been allowed to happen, however, we have plans to host a games programme in December providing authorities allow for this to happen.

Super Games are non-competitive blitzes for players aged 12-17 in the club, school or community environment. As soon as restrictions eased, All-County and divisional board fixtures commenced to allow our youth to get games. When the fixture calendar eased, it became clear that u17 were an age group that had less games than most other grades. As this is a big age for drop out, we are currently facilitating u17 Super Games Blitzes in football and hurling at Cherryvale & Rasharkin GAC. A big thanks to Rasharkin GAC, Coaching Officer Paddy Kelly and staff for their assistance and facilities in running the blitzes.

Since restrictions from the GAA and the Education Authority have lifted, we have also been able to bring Post Primary Schools together to compete in Hurling and Football Super Games blitzes. Numbers competing in these blitzes have been incredible with some schools bringing numerous teams. We would like to thank school principals and teachers for their participation in blitzes and Sean McGourty from Ulster Schools for his assistance in this.

2.1.4 Coach Education Programme

A series of online webinars took place over the months of February and March, where special guests were invited to present to club coaches and engage in Q&A. 402 people registered for the webinars over the 6 weeks and recordings have been put on Antrim GAA YouTube channels for those who have missed it.

Due to the pandemic, the Foundation and Award 1 courses have had a more online interaction with coaching practical's being the only face-to-face permitted at present. To date, 20 foundation courses have been delivered to club coaches, one Award 1 currently underway and three foundation courses for Post Primary students. There has also been 22 safeguarding courses scheduled and completed.

If a club would like to register their interest in hosting a safeguarding or coaching course, please contact Kieran.megraw.gm.antrim@gaa.ie

It has been an extremely difficult and challenging year for our staff and volunteers. The uncertainty around restrictions made any type of long term season planning next to impossible. In a year of change of both situation and personnel, Gaelfast staff have went far and beyond what would have been expected of them and as a County we should all be very proud of them. Antoin McCaffrey has become our new Regional Development Manager and has already shown leadership, an in-depth knowledge of the issues we face, and an insight and strategic planning for going forward.

I would like to thank all our volunteer coaches who helped with our Development squads, Minor & U20 teams in a very trying year. We have more coaches than ever involved in our Development Squads for 2022, many with intercounty and senior club management

experience which will undoubtedly raise the bar and help facilitate a better and more valuable learning experience for our players.

As mentioned previously, we intend to run a pilot Full time Club Coach scheme in the New year. This system is based on the Dublin model, which has now been adopted throughout Leinster, and involves a GPO being allocated to one club where he/she will run juvenile activities at the club and also at feeder schools on behalf of the club. Clubs would be expected to part fund the salary of this GPO.

We need clubs to be more pro-active in their juvenile recruitment. Gone are the days when kids from traditional GAA families automatically played for "the club". We are in a war for hearts and minds of young people, they have so many opportunities not to play our games that we must be much more aggressive in marketing our brilliant games to them. Its great that we can send GPO's into primary schools to get the kids started in Gaelic games, but we need clubs to back this work up and take advantage of this work, get bodies down to the primary schools and recruit these kids back to the club.

I have been working with Brendan Murphy to instigate an Athletic Development plan for all our players, bringing much more structure and consistency to our strength training, and making values more measurable in both the short and long term.

I would also like to thank our Divisional Chairs for their help and feedback, our clubs for providing facilities and support when needed and Tony McCollum for his advice and guidance to help me get started in this role.

Thanks must also go to our Director of Hurling Neal Peden for the tireless hours he put in over the season working with our players and management and I wish our newly appointed Director of Hurling Gearoid Adams every success in his new role, and I look forward to working him.

Paddy Kelly

Coaching Officer

Referees Report 2021

We commenced the 2021 season with the usual shortage of referees: 60+ referees were tasked with refereeing more than 1800 games. This shortage was made worse because no foundation courses were offered by Croke Park at the start of 2021. It meant that we were in danger of not being able to have many of our games covered. Given this situation, we had to appeal to other counties to enable us to provide officials and we were grateful to receive support from Armagh, Tyrone, Derry, Donegal and Down. We had challenges in hurling, and, on numerous occasions, we were forced to play several hurling matches without qualified referees. In the case of the Championship, several games had to be postponed due to the lack of referees. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that there are at least 10 clubs in Antrim that do not provide referees to officiate at all-county games.

A foundation course for new referees was eventually run online in September 2021 and 8 people took part. Most of these participants came from clubs that already provide referees. This means that we still have 10 clubs that are not represented among our cohort of referees. As we move into 2022, county regulations will be enforced.

“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 2022. In order to facilitate any club that does not currently have a referee, a foundation course will be held in January 2022. These clubs must ensure that someone from the club attends this course.



Finally, I would like to thank all referees who officiated at our games over the course of this year. I would also like to congratulate Colum Cunning, Dunloy, who refereed this year's Minor Hurling Final between Cork and Galway in Semple Stadium in August 2021.

Championship Referee Appointments 2021

| Competition | Referee | Club |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Senior Football | Colm McDonald | St Gall's |
| Intermediate Football | Kevin Parke | St Enda's |
| Junior Football | Brendan Toland | Lámh Dhearg |
| Under 20 A Football | Eamon McAuley | Cargin |
| Under 17 A Football | Cathal McDermott | Tír na nÓg |

| Competition | Referee | Club |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Senior Hurling | Mark O'Neill | Armoy |
| Intermediate Hurling | Colum Cunning | Dunloy |
| Junior Hurling | Ray Matthews | Glenavy |
| Under 20 A Hurling | Fionntán McCotter | Sarsfields |
| Under 17 A Hurling | Paddy Tumelty | Lámh Dhearg |

Brendan Toland
Referees Chairperson

Development Report 2021

This year again has been difficult with covid.

However, we have set up a new Development Committee as the Development Officer Role has been redefined by Central Council.

We now have a Development Officers Committee :

Philip Christie (North Antrim, Alec McQuillan, South West Antrim, Jim Molloy South Antrim, Gerry McClory Health and Safety Officer and myself as Planning and Training Officer and Facilities Officer.

This committee are available to help clubs with their infrastructure and playing areas developments.

Some of the areas to be addressed are club Insurance and defining club land.

Gerry McClory will be carrying out a Health and Safety Audit of club grounds.

Jim Molloy will look at Insurance issues.

PLANNING AND TRAINING

The GAA is now a diverse organisation which is reflected in its Planning and Training Programme.

There has been a focus on, "On line Seminars", due to the pandemic which upskilled our members.

These events were widely distributed to our Antrim GAA club officers to avail of and hopefully we will soon return to some of the seminars being held face to face.

Some of these events were:

GAA Communications and Marketing,

Corporate Trustee

Microsoft PowerPoint,

Creating a Safe Club

Diversity & Inclusion Visibility

Introduction to the GAA's Governance Guide

IT Governance (Webinar)

Insurance and Injury Benefit Fund (Webinar)

Human Resource Management (Webinar)

Financial Governance (Webinar)

Games Development and Child Safeguarding (Webinar)

Microsoft Excel

Microsoft OneDrive & Forms (IT GAA Delivered)

An Ghaeilgesa Chlub (delivered through Irish)

GAA Club Initiatives from the Community (delivered by the GAA Community & Health dept.)

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

I have been involved in several projects to assist in

the redevelopment of Corrigan Park,

the New Flood Lighting Project at Dunsilly,

the New Proposed Gym at Dunsilly,

and the proposed temporary accommodation for the Gaelscoil at Dunsilly.

Also All Saints Ballymena have upgraded their facilities by opening a new lounge.

GRANT FUNDING

Build Better Facilities, Stadium Community Benefits, Community Ownership Fund and Rural Community Pollinator Grants were just some of the Grant Funding that could be applied for. However the most successful Grant Funding was the Sport NI Sports Sustainability Fund were Antrim GAA and Clubs were successfully granted £1.16m. Grant Funding is a continuing and evolving process and a number of our clubs have been very successful in obtaining this money.

Pol O Maolmhuadh

Paul Molloy

Oifigeach Forbartha Chontae Aontroma -

Development Officer Antrim GAA



Gaeilge agus Cultur Report 2021

Ar dtús báire, ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil le Coiste Chontae Aontroma as an fháilte chroíuil a chuir siad romham i mbliana. I would also like to thank the committee for their support throughout this year as the newly appointed County Irish Language & Cultural Officer.

It has been an unusual start due to the Covid 19 restrictions and limitations that has created. My passion is very much for the promotion of Irish Language, and I have tried where possible to do so, within those boundaries.

I would like to personally thank Brónagh Lennon, the County Scór Officer, for her continued work and effort with Scór throughout the County. I would also like to congratulate her again on her appointment to the National Scór Committee. It is a huge honour for Antrim GAA to have one of our members representing on the National board and we wish Brónagh all of the best in her endeavours.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021

Lá Idirnáisiúnta na nBan - International Women's Day 2021

International Women's Day fell during SnaG21 and I took the opportunity to highlight and celebrate women of Antrim GAA. I chose what I felt was a broad representation of women at all levels within Antrim GAA ranging from volunteers to parents, coaches to County representatives, players to chairpeople; each telling their own stories and journeys as women within the GAA. I then compiled these videos to be released each day during SnaG. I ensured that there was also a strong representation of Irish speakers amongst these female members.



I feel the project got a very positive response online with high social media engagement upon the posting of each video. I would personally like to thank each and every woman who made the effort to tell their story and inspire other young female members to play, volunteer and be an active part of the future of the GAA in County Antrim.

- Brónagh Lennon – County Antrim Scór Officer, All-Ireland Scór Winner, National Scór Committee Member, St Mary's Aghagallon
- Linda Fegan – Female Liaison Officer for County Antrim Ladies, Coach for Lámh Dhearg CLG
- Maura Mhic Ionrachaigh – Founder & Coach, Laochra Loch Lao
- Fionnuala Murphy - Vice-Chairperson of County Antrim Ladies, Naomh Gall
- Áine Máire Mhic Neachtain - Oifigeach Cultúr & Teanga, Ruairí Óg
- Sinéad Mullan - Assistant Secretary, Coiste Chontae Aontroma, Secretary of Naomh Gall, member of Competitions Control Committee
- Aoife Nic Cathmhaoil – PRO and Player at Pádraig Sáirséil
- Margaret Flynn, Chairperson of Ó Donnabháin Rosa

Ceolchoirm SnaG Coiste Chontae Aontroma – Scór Concert

During SnaG21, and with Covid 19 restrictions being what they were, we arranged an online concert of Scór competitors. This was a showcase of the fantastic Scór talent we have throughout the county and also hopefully something uplifting for all of our members to enjoy during that difficult period. Special thanks to Brónagh Lennon for her efforts in co-ordinating all the acts and Dan McConnell for his promotion of the event.



Cómórtas SnaG21 – SnaG Competition

During the week of SnaG, I wanted to engage with our young members on a cultural level and help highlight the fantastic talent through the County. I ran a competition aimed at 7-14 year olds members whereby they submitted a video of themselves singing, playing a musical instrument, performing a recitation or dancing (to mirror the categories within Scór na nÓg). We received over 20 entries from over 12 clubs, and I was very pleased with the positive response online.



Club participation

I would like to give a special thank you to any and all clubs that held cultural events during SnaG21. These included Irish Classes, Irish singing lessons, and even learn the National Anthem.

Ranganna Gaeilge – Irish Classes

2021 was a difficult year for Irish Language & Cultural Officers in terms of engagement. Coming off the back of a turbulent 2020 impacted by Covid 19, many Officers communicated that the initial enthusiasm for online classes had waned, with many older members in particular finding it a challenging way to participate. The overwhelming consensus was that members preferred to learn in a face-to-face environment, which was not a possibility until 8th September 2021, when we received confirmation, the indoor meetings could be held in GAA clubs (following a risk assessment and with reasonable measures being taken into account).

As the County Irish Language Officer, I made the decision to not commence an online County Irish Language class following the feedback I received from Officers, as I felt this may have been more to the detriment of their already waning classes. Instead, I elected to focus energies into promoting their ongoing classes through an online membership form and booklet which we promoted throughout our social media, and to support new officers to begin classes.



The traditional time of year for a class to commence would in fact be September, however, with the announcement of indoor arrangement coming at such short notice, it did prove difficult for some Officers to arrange indoor classes in that time. Nevertheless, a number of clubs did prevail and some even held Irish classes for the first time with some support.

1. CLG Ciceam an Creagan
2. CLG Ciceam Ard Eoin
3. Lámh Dhearg CLG
4. Naomh Eoin
5. Naomh Gall
6. Ó Donnabháin Rosa
7. Pádraig Sáirséil
8. Ruairí Óg
9. Tír na nÓg

Leabhrán Tacaithe an Chontae - Antrim GAA Supporters booklet

2021 saw the launch of the Official Antrim Supporters Booklet which was officially endorsed by Coiste Bainistí. excellent booklet produced by Michael Doherty of 'Live, Learn, Love Gaelic Games' aims to help create, nurture and enhance the bond between individuals, their families, coaches and community using the values and benefits of Gaelic Games.

We are also excited to confirm that the booklet will be available in both English and Irish and we hope this inclusive booklet, alongside the support our young members receive within their individual clubs, will help them to develop key social, emotional, physical and life skills. The booklet was officially launched on the 21st October 2021 at Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich and it was honour to speak at the launch as a representative of Coiste Bainistí.

Scór

Although COVID has halted the gathering of people to celebrate our culture through Scór, we have made every effort to keep the cultural side of the GAA alive through a range of virtual activities. Virtual Scór had a great uptake on both occasions, with members from more than 20 clubs taking part.

'Get into Scór'

The County hosted a 'Get into Scór' webinar to educate clubs on Scór with the aim of increasing participation. This was a huge success with over 23 clubs participating and we look forward to seeing more clubs compete this year.



This

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Scór 2020 competition

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, the Scór 2020 competition was unable to be completed. Following a meeting of Coiste Náisiúnta Scór, it was decided that the provincial and National finals would take place before the end of the year.

The following clubs were County Champions in Scór Sinsir

- Aithriseoireacht – Malachy Duffin, Tír na nÓg – ‘Still Buried Beneath the Snow’
- Amhránaíocht Aonair – Bronagh McIlfatrick, Dunloy
- Rince Foirne – Naomh Muire, Aghagallon

We were represented by 2 acts in the Ulster final in Silverbridge on 30th October, with Aghagallon unable to attend. Both Bronagh McIlfatrick (Solo Singing) and Malachy Duffin (Recitation) gave amazing performances but missed out on reaching the All Ireland time.

Scór na nÓg 2022

Scór na nÓg 2022 will be starting in the New Year, with the County final taking place most likely at the end of January/start of February.

Gaelscoil Aontroma

Following the announcement (January 2020) by the Department of Education to close Tannaghmore P.S/Gaelscoil na Tamhnaí Móire in June 2020, a meeting was initiated by Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta to explore the next steps for Irish Medium Education in the area. It was proposed at this meeting that Dunsilly GAA grounds be explored as a possible location.

We have at Antrim GAA, agreed to support a proposal in principle to establish an Irish Medium Naíscóil and Gaelscoil, at the Dunsilly Centre of Participation



This is an ongoing project, but we hope that it will be a mutually beneficial arrangement while helping to promote Irish language and culture in the area, which should help bolster the local clubs both on and off the field.

Na meáin shóisialta - social media

One of my aims this year was to increase the visibility of Irish language throughout our social media accounts, as a means to promote the language. This will be an ongoing endeavour and I want to thank Dan McConnell, our PRO, for his continued support in this area.

Ongoing Project – Irish Language Podcast

I am currently working on producing a podcast to support learners through their Irish language journey. This will hopefully be an effective and easily accessible audio tool, which will enhance the learning experience they are already receiving in classes at their local GAA club.

I am currently undertaking research with Cultural Officers, teachers and learners to understand their needs fully so that we can support our members in a functional yet engaging manner.

This learning tool will be GAA specific and something that can be built upon year after year.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Orla Nic Shíomóin
Oifigeach Gaeilge & Cultúr

PRO Report 2021

In December 2020, I had the privilege of taking over as Antrim Public Relations Officer from Sean Kelly who gave an excellent 5 years of services to the county and has helped me transition into my new role for the upcoming year ahead. It was a tricky start to the year as the Covid Pandemic halted the start of the County season and posed a global challenge for sport.

Despite the situation, it gave me time to thoroughly think and set down my goals and objectives for the year ahead. I set out to carry on the excellent work of my predecessors, promote the Cultural and Irish Language, the Antrim LGFA and Camogie teams, our underage squads as well as our County, Club League and Championships.

On the 4th of February 2021, Belfast City Hall was lit in Saffron colours to congratulate our Antrim Hurlers on their Joe McDonagh Cup and Allianz League winning season. Darren Gleeson and his players were set to embark on playing in Division 1 of the 2021 league season, which eventually would begin in March.



Start of the County Season

The County season finally got underway in mid-March with our Hurlers first game at home in the newly developed Corrigan Park to the former All-Ireland champions Clare. With the Coronavirus still prevalent in society, no fans were permitted inside grounds, only a small number of backroom staff and officials allowed to witness a fantastic start to our Antrim Hurlers 2021 campaign.

The game was broadcast live on TG4, with fans able to watch this Division 1 clash in the comfort of their own home. With the Saffrons returning to the top flight off the back of their Division 2A and Joe McDonagh Cup success, all eyes were on how they would fare against tougher competition. Darren Gleeson and his squad did not disappoint. It was a glorious 1-21 to 0-22 win and return to Division 1, as they struck late points from Neil McManus and Ciaran Clarke to score a surprising, yet fully deserved victory over Clare to get their campaign off to a winning start.



Our Antrim Footballers then began their Division 4 campaign away to Louth. Former All-Ireland winning player now manager, Enda McGinley took charge of the Saffrons for the very first time, and what a better way to start his managerial career with a victory over former boss Mickey Harte.

Antrim made a perfect start under their new boss as Ryan Murray snatched an injury-time winner over Louth in Haggardstown. The final score read 3-8 to 1-15, and for me it was the impact of bringing on Paddy Cunningham who landed a crucial and quality score to close the gap. His point which I captured had a total of almost 80k views.

Our Footballers then hosted their first home game of the season at Corrigan Park the following weekend, aiming to build on their first win of the campaign. A tight and tricky contest with Sligo proved nothing between the sides. Well, until Paddy Cunningham entered the fray.

A last gasp point with the sides locked at 3-12 apiece, it was the magic man Cunningham who was vital again and showed how experience wins matches. My final score tweet went viral, with almost 95k people watching and interacting with my video posted on the Official Antrim GAA Twitter page.

Lovely score from Paddy Cunningham 🍀

[Translate Tweet](#)



78.9K views

Latest | [#AllianzLeagues](#) Divs4 🌐

Full Time

Aontroim 3-13 (22)

Sligeach 3-12 (21)

Last kick of the game and give it to Paddy [@paddyc13](#)!!!!!!!!!!!!



[Add another Tweet](#)

On the same weekend our Antrim Hurlers welcomed a tough Wexford side to Belfast. Not many gave the Saffrons a chance to get any form of result but that's exactly what they did, levelling the game 24-points each from a last-gasp Keelan Molloy score to take a vital point from the contest. This video reached a total audience of 40k.

The roar inside Corrigan Park, from

those lucky enough to witness the unfolding events was incredible. Another huge result for the Saffrons with James McNaughton picking up the man of the match award on the day.



These videos provided those fans still restricted from attending live games a glimpse of what was unfolding, the drama and sheer entertainment provided in these magical moments. Both County teams flourished that weekend. Our Senior Hurlers went on to retain their Division 1 league status and our Senior Footballers successfully gained promotion into Division 3 for 2022.

Donate 4 Daithi Campaign



This year Antrim GAA had the privilege to meet young Daithi Mac Gabhann and his parents Mairtin and Steph, who have been campaigning for Organ Donation and Awareness. Their son Daithi was born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome and eventually requires a heart transplant to save his life.

An idea came about that our County Footballers could help promote organ donation during their Ulster Senior Football Championship fixture against Armagh. The discussions began and the idea of creating a pink jersey from Oneills Sportswear grew and grew.

The #Donate4Daithi campaign was fantastic to be involved in, and the official jersey launch in Oneills was a huge success and a complete sell-out. My role as Antrim PRO is to promote and use my platform to promote all the good things going on in our communities and clubs. I believe I achieved this during the campaign, helped raise awareness and for people to start having the Organ Donation conversation, which hopefully can save lives.

I would like to thank Senior Footballers Paddy McBride, Declan Lynch, captain Peter Healy and the entire squad who have been fantastic in promotion of the campaign. As well as Daithi, Mairtin and Steph for allowing us access into their lives.

The Antrim LGFA squad also adopted to promote the campaign which spreaded the support for a very important cause. We also had Daithi at our Senior Hurling semi-finals, and at our Senior Football Final. Both goalkeepers wore the specially designed pink jersey to help spread more awareness for organ donation.



Club Season/Live Streaming of Games

Ahead of the new club season Antrim GAA in partnership with Pairc TV, Jerome and Mark Quinn decided to increase our club coverage via the streaming of live games. Many still couldn't get to games due to the Covid restriction so this was the perfect storm and opportunity to expand our coverage.

Antrim GAA was the first county in Ireland to live stream a game ahead of the new 2021 season, and continued to show how we are leading the way as well as expanding our coverage for fans at home and those watching from afar. What better way to commence the season than to have the previous years Senior Hurling finalists Dunloy and Loughgiel square off in the first round of the league campaign.



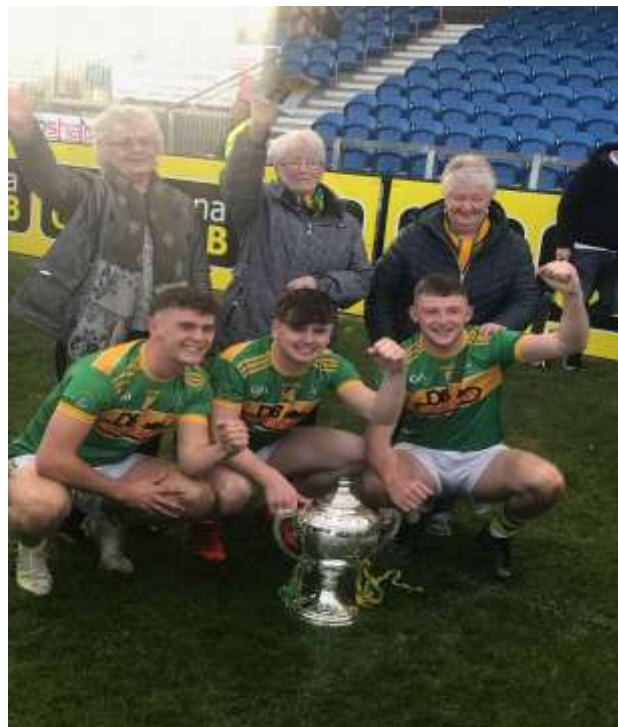
There was plenty of excitement throughout the year via our live streams, which provided a great service and value in the promotion of GAA activity especially in these uncertain times. Jerome, Mark and Peadar used their skills to broadcast every game which was smooth, professional and provided a great service. We covered 27 games in the last 4 months at 10 different venues.

The standard of coverage was top class and our team put in numerous hours behind the scenes creating highlights, graphics to promote each game to a very high standard. There is no doubt that this partnership will continue throughout 2022 and beyond.

The Bathshack Senior Hurling Championship had its usual thrills and spills, with reigning champions Cúchullains Dunloy taking on O'Donovan Rossa in the final, in a real North Antrim v Belfast affair.

The game was broadcast live on TG4, and was the first big occasion with mass fans allowed back into stadiums and this produced a cauldron of an atmosphere.

Congratulations to Cúchullains Dunloy who won their third Volunteer Cup in a row.



The Northern Switchgear Antrim Senior Football Championship provided the shock of the year, as reigning champions Cargin who were bidding for four titles in a row, suffered defeat at the hands of Kickham's Creggan in the semi-final stages. On the other side of the draw St Mary's Aghagallon beat Roger Casement's Portglenone to reach their first ever Antrim SFC Final.

A historic occasion at Corrigan Park would crown new champions for 2021. It was Creggan who had been knocking on the door the past two years, and finally got their hands on the McNamee Cup after an excellent display.

Corrigan Park has been recently developed to host big games, events, and occasions for this season, and it certainly hasn't disappointed with many memorable moments along the way. Corrigan has become a home ground for Antrim GAA until the development of

Casement Park, and this is something I hope to see achieved as an Antrim Gael and within my 5 year term.



The Devenish All-Stars

This year the Devenish Complex in Belfast launched the Devenish Antrim Club All Stars. This is the first awards ceremony of it's kind in our county, and it is brilliant to recognise the efforts of those players and teams over the course of the past season.

There are awards for the top 15 Hurlers and Footballers, Young Players of the Year in both codes, top scorer in both codes, plus overall Footballer and Hurler of the Year.

Each player receives a specially designed O'Neill Sportswear playing kit and kit-bag, plus two complimentary tickets for the awards Gala at the Devenish.

A great night to recognise all good things about our Antrim clubs, and there was a great buzz around our club scene during our championship games with more at stake for the teams and individuals. I used our social media platforms to promote the event, used polls for voting and posted interactive content in the lead up to our first club all-stars. It is important to profile the hard work and dedication put in throughout our clubs to make Antrim GAA what it is today, without the club support this would simply not be possible.

Social Media Stats

Social media stats taken from December 2020-November 2021

The Official Antrim GAA Facebook page is third in Ulster in terms of page likes, and is growing on a daily/weekly basis. Our total post engagement is top in Ulster and shows how much better content we are producing compared to our counterpart counties.

| Page | Total Page Likes | From last week | Posts This Week | Engagement This Week |
|---|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 Tyroone GAA | 44K | ▲100% | 1 | 0.4K |
| 2 Official Donegal GAA | 31.2K | ▲100% | 12 | 3.3K |
| YOU 3 Official Antrim GAA | 29.3K | ▲100% | 52 | 44.9K |
| Keep up with the Pages you watch Get More Likes | | | | |
| 4 Armagh GAA | 26.6K | ▲100% | 0 | 6K |
| 5 Official Down GAA | 22.5K | ▲100% | 10 | 2.2K |
| 6 Derry GAA | 21.9K | ▲100% | 7 | 21.2K |

Facebook

- ✓ likes-25.7k-29.3k
- ✓ reach-429.1k
- ✓ Post engagement-268.3k

Twitter page followers-21.8k-25.5k

The Official Antrim GAA Twitter account is mainly used for posting live match updates through scores, multimedia and sharing club information. This is a platform which is better for networking and sharing viral content.

Instagram page followers-14.8k-17.1k

Our Official Antrim GAA Instagram account is used to show behind the scenes and light-hearted content for our viewers. It is our most interactive social media account.

Final Thoughts

My first year as Antrim PRO is almost coming to an end. I have met some wonderful people and thoroughly enjoyed my role, the experiences and opportunities it presents is an absolute privilege and I hope that I can continue to do so. I hope you see that in the famous words of famous Waterford Hurler John Mullane 'I love me county' and strive to ensure that our social media platforms and coverage is the best in Ireland. This is something I firmly believe.

I wish to say thank you to all those who have helped me along the way in my first year as PRO. Special mention to former PRO Sean Kelly who has guided me in the right direction this year, and allowed me to build on his great work which is visible for all to see. Thank you to Antrim IT Officer Martin McCarry, who has also assisted and helped me wherever possible this year.

Thank you to the Clubs, for interacting, supporting and providing me with the relevant information to promote Antrim GAA. And a final thank you to all our County management and panels for allowing me the access into their world during a very challenging year for sport due to the pandemic.

I look forward to continuing my work through to the end of 2021 and beyond, and hope that I have promoted everything great about Antrim GAA from our County to Clubs in a professional and dignified manner.

**Antrim Public Relations Officer
Dan McConnell**

Children's officers Report 2021

Overview

This has been a challenging year for safeguarding within the county and indeed within the country and it seems that given recent statistics on Covid numbers and hospital admissions we are heading into another challenging period. A huge amount of work has been completed by club children's officers in ensuring that our children and young people have been kept safe and we are indebted to these people for all their hard work.

In general, the past year has been disrupted by the issues and subsequent challenges that have presented and despite this we have maintained a high standard of safeguarding practice within our clubs and county. The fact that we have been limited to zoom/teams communications has limited the work of further developing our safeguarding team throughout the county.



Training

Training has continued at pace throughout the pandemic and many of our members have taken the opportunity to avail of the online refresher course which was on a temporary basis made available to any fresh applicants. The level of training accessed by members and children's officers has exceed our expectations and the following are the most recent statistics for safeguarding in the past year:

There have been 17 virtual safeguarding workshops with a total of 214 people completing this mandatory training.

The temporary safeguarding programme was completed by 385 club members across the county.

The online refresher programme for members whose registration has run out was completed by 369 members.

This is a total of almost 1000 members who have completed safeguarding training in the past year which is an incredible number given the difficulties and challenges we all faced in the past few years.

The challenge moving forward is to ensure that all people who are working with juveniles have completed an appropriate GAA approved safeguarding training programme.

This includes:

Safeguarding 1 training which is the minimum qualification for everyone working with Juveniles.

Safeguarding 2 which is a programme that all club children's officers are required to complete.

Safeguarding 3 which is a programme specifically for Designated Liaison person's which in most cases unless otherwise stated are the chairpersons of the GAA clubs within the county.

The level 2 and level 3 courses are currently being redesigned but will be available in the new year for roll out within the county.

County Safeguarding plan for 2022

Jan 29th, 2022 - County safeguarding forum- Dunsilly Hotel Antrim

All club children's officers will be in attendance and will be addressed by Gearoid o Maoilmhichil National Safeguarding Manager and Bernie Fox Ulster safeguarding manager.

The theme of the seminar will be the use of the

Code of Behaviour/ Dealing with Breaches of the Code.

Feb 2022 - Internal County safeguarding audit

All clubs will be invited to complete a club audit with a focus on training of all people working with Juveniles.

March 2022 - Club Children's officer Training (date and venue to be confirmed)

Training for club children's officers who had not yet completed this programme and an opportunity for current children's officers to renew their training.

April 2022 - Safeguarding Training level 3

Training for designated Liaison Persons who unless otherwise agree are usually the club chairperson. Training will take place at Dunsilly Hotel Antrim.

May 2022 - County Training for club Children's officers and chairs of club hearings committees: the process of dealing with complaints/concerns within your club.

May – Dec 2022 - 2 x Club children's officers support group meeting: (Dates and venue to be confirmed)

If you have any safeguarding issues, please contact your club children's officer at the earliest opportunity. All clubs should display the name and contact details of their club children's officer in a prominent location.

All clubs must display their club safeguarding statement in a location where it can be clearly viewed by members.

For any queries regarding safeguarding issues please contact county children's officer Barney Herron

Children's officer

Health & Wellbeing Report 2021

No Report received at the time of printing

South Antrim Divisional Report 2021

Once again, we had serious disruption in our fixture schedule due to the continuing pandemic, although this pales into insignificance when we consider the devastation it has had on people's lives and health, We managed however to produce a schedule to fit within the time available to us which at least provided meaningful games for both Underage and Seniors. We are sorry a full season was not possible, but I hope that clubs enjoyed the programme provided, limited as it was.

Underage generally was successful as was Senior Football. Senior Hurling was disappointing in terms of games and discussion on this code should be a priority for an incoming committee We were unable due to time restraint complete the Berringer Cup which was also a huge disappointment. At this time the McDermott Cup and the Martin Cup are at final stage. South Antrim have no All County Senior Winners and that is very disappointing for us. O'Donovan Rossa fell short in the Senior Hurling Final, but it was great to see them back at the top table. We congratulate all clubs who excelled at All County Senior, Intermediate and Junior and wish them every success as they challenge for Ulster and hopefully All Ireland success.

At All County Underage S.A. Clubs had success in various competitions listed below
Discipline We must have a serious conversation about abuse of referees. We have had several issues and the time for action is now. The line is the biggest problem and it has to be a priority for us to eradicate this behaviour. BUIOCHAS To all our Committee who volunteer to ensure that Our Divisional Board runs as efficiently as possible. Joe McVeigh, Ray Compston, Sinead Mullan, Conor McCartan, Stephen McCann, Kevin Herron, Terry Park and Andy McStay.

To our referees' who need the full support of all clubs in the county in order to eradicate the abuse they receive regularly at games. The Herron Family presented South Antrim with a beautiful Trophy in memory of our great friend Michael which was fittingly won by Lamh Dhearg (Div 1 South Antrim Football). We thank them for this wonderful gesture.



Buiochas to our County Chairman Ciaran McCavana, Secretary Frankie Quinn, and Kieran McGraw for their support. Gerry McClory who gave us time and advice on disciplinary matters, and to Mark McDonald and Joe Sloan who supplied us with our Referees, which is a very difficult task due to the lack of officials across the County. We wish Antoin McCaffrey every success in his new post with the Gaelfast Project. Thanks to our clubs for their support and understanding of the difficulties we faced this year. Hopefully next year will allow us to have a season without disruption and a much more enjoyable season for everyone.

| South Antrim Divisional Winners 2021 | |
|---|------------------------------|
| U: 13 Football | U: 13 Hurling |
| Div 1 St Brigid's | Div 1 St Pauls |
| Div 2 Naomh Eanna B | Div 2 Rossa |
| Div 3 St Teresas | |
| O'Donnell Cup | Nipper Quinn |
| Cup -St Pauls "A" | Cup – St Pauls "A" |
| Shield -St Johns | Shield - Gortnamona |
| Plate 1- Naomh Eanna B | Plate – St Teresa |
| Plate 2 -St Teresas | |
| Sen Football League | Senior Hurling League |
| Div 1 -Lamh Dhearg | Sarsfields |
| Div 2- Pearses | |
| Mc Dermott Cup | |
| Lamh Dhearg | |
| Martin Cup | |
| Ardoyne | |

| South Antrim All County Winners | |
|--|----------------------|
| Div 1 Res Football | Naomh Brid |
| U17 FL Div 1 | Naomh Brid |
| U17 FL Div 3 | Lámh Dhearg |
| U15 FL Div 1 | Naomh Brid |
| U15 FL Div 3 | O Donnells |
| Reserve Football Cup | Naomh Brid |
| U15 A FC | Naomh Brid |
| U15 C FC | Ui Domnaill |
| | |
| ACHL Div 4 | Lámh Dhearg |
| U15 HL Div 2 | Na Gael Óga |
| U15 B HC | Na Gael Óga |
| U17 B Hurling Championship | Corpus Christi Gaels |

South Antrim GAA Go Games 2021

Thankfully for 2021 we were able to get back on the pitch playing Go Games with children getting the opportunity to enjoy our sports once more.

The Go Games Hurling fixtures for U7, U8, U9 and U10 started on Saturday 15th May with the same age groupings for football beginning a week later. The majority of sections were

organised on a home and away basis from May until the end of their fixtures in Oct & Nov. The U11 Go Games were organised by South Antrim CCC and played on Thursday evenings again home and away. Many thanks to all coaches for their co-operation over the season

Unfortunately, for the first time in over 10 years there were no indoor Go Games due to Covid restrictions and it is unlikely that there will be an indoor programme in Feb/Mar 2022 due to Covid 19.

In early March 2021, clubs submitted their entries and fixtures were organised on a single fixture format for 2 clubs rather than blitz format involving a number of teams with a view to limiting the transmission of Covid 19 and to ensure maximum participation within any recent or future restrictions. Thank you to Stephen McCann for his assistance in compiling the entries. Figure 1 shows the number of teams at each age group in 2020 and 2021.

| Age groups Football | No. of teams 2021 | No. of teams 2020 | Age groups Hurling | No. of teams 2021 | No. of teams 2020 |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| U11 | 22 | n/a | U11 | 14 | n/a |
| U10 | 12 | 18 | U10 | 6 | 13 |
| U9 | 18 | 12 | U9 | 13 | 6 |
| U8 | 17 | 18 | U8 | 13 | 12 |
| U7 * | 19 | 17 | U7 | 16 | 12 |

Fig.1 Team Entries for Go Games 2021 *Carryduff participated in U7

NB A number of clubs entered 2 teams in certain age groups

Once again, thanks to the chair of South Antrim GAA, Frank Caldwell and to Raymond Compston (Chair County CCC) for their support with the Go Games Programme.

It should be noted that two clubs have been in contact to request Go Games times are moved in order to accommodate soccer and rugby. While we want to ensure our games are open for as many children and volunteers to participate in, we cannot look at other sports fixtures programmes and begin changing our own programmes to suit theirs. It is imperative that we have enough numbers within our squads to ensure games are fulfilled regardless of soccer, rugby, basketball and every other sport that is played at the weekend. Not all children within our teams participate in these other sports and are readily available to play in the games programme. While I understand that some teams want to have the best players playing; Go Games are small sided and non-competitive to ensure any child can participate regardless of ability. We have a problem in our teenage set ups where some children are now choosing soccer and rugby over our games regardless of fixture times. If we begin to develop our GAA-only players now at this age, give them plenty of game time

and ensure our multi-sport players are enjoying GAA, then we can make sure we have enough capable players at teenage level in the event of players dropping out.

A Young Whistlers workshop was delivered online on Wed 5th May with 30 attendees from across Antrim wanting to referee Gaelic Football and Hurling Go Games. There will be a number of new workshops in February 2022 for aspiring Young Whistlers.

The Young Whistlers from various clubs who refereed at many of the Games deserve your SUPPORT and ENCOURAGEMENT at all times, many thanks to them for refereeing the games. The GAA initiative “**Give Respect, Get Respect**” is in place to remind coaches that there is to be no shouting or abuse directed at Referees. If a Young Whistler is being abused at a game, it is a breach of the GAA Code of Behaviour.

Clubs need to ensure the Young Whistlers are protected.

A huge thank you to all coaches and volunteers in clubs for their commitments to their clubs and the GAA, providing the opportunity for children to be able to get out and play, renew friendships and make new ones.

Go raibh maith agaibh

Frank Caldwell

Cathaoirleach



South West Antrim Divisional Report 2021

South West Antrim GAA suffered a devastating loss on the 26th December 2020 with the untimely death of Tír na nÓg stalwart, our divisional secretary and friend James McVeigh. James was an amazing individual and an outstanding advocate of all things GAA who worked tirelessly to promote our games and culture at every opportunity. His death has been keenly felt within the GAA community not only in the South West, but across County Antrim, Ulster GAA and wider afield. We offer our deepest condolences to James's family, and to his GAA family at both Tír na nÓg GAC and CLG Ciceam Ard Eoin. We pray to Our Lady Queen of the Gael to look after James and all the deceased members from our clubs this past year. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

In March SW Committee hosted an online historical lecture as a memorial to James, delivered by Dr Eamon Pheonix, looking at the key figures and events behind "Partition and The Birth of The Northern Ireland State". The event was very enlightening and enjoyed by all who attended.

The 2021 season continued to be overshadowed and dictated by Covid, with club committees, players, volunteers and general membership rising to meet the challenges posed by operating within the ever changing Covid protocols and striving hard to offer games and training, maintain a level of connectivity and a sense of community during these ongoing challenging times.

All County successes.

We extend our congratulations to the following South west clubs on their respective All County successes.

| Football | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Div 1 | Erin's Own | U17 FL Div 2 | St Ergnats |
| Div 2 | Tír na nÓg | U17 FL Div 3 | St Mary's Rasharkin |
| Div 3 | St Mary's Rasharkin | U15 FL Div 2 | Cúchullains |
| JFC | St Comgall's | U17 A FC | St Mary's Aghagallon |
| IFC | Tír na nÓg | U17 B FC | St Ergnats |
| SFC | Ciceam Creggan | U15 B FC | Cúchullains |
| Res Shield | St James' | Div 2 Res | All Saints |

| Hurling | | | |
|----------------|------------|-----|-------------|
| U15 Div 2 | All Saints | JHC | Con Magee's |

South West Antrim competitions.

SW CCC focused their efforts in the earlier part of the year on organizing a comprehensive Go Games Blitz schedule for P2 – P7s as well as an U13 Football League. In the later part of the year the decision was reluctantly taken to suspend the running of our McCormick, O’Cahan and Abbey competitions for this year, but to proceed with Breslin & Lavery competitions upon completion of County fixtures for these age groups. Congratulations to the following clubs on their respective successes.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|
| U13 Cup | Roger Casements | U13 Shield | St Joseph’s |
| Breslin Cup | St Mary’s, Aghagallon | | |

*At the time of writing Breslin Shield & Lavery competitions are still ongoing.

SW CCC - I would like to take this opportunity to thank Columb Walsh and the SW CCC for their hard work in arranging fixtures this year in the face of many challenges, and for their ongoing commitment to providing quality games for our clubs.

Referees - I extend my gratitude to Gerard Dougan (referee co-ordinator) for his tireless efforts to ensure as many of our games as possible had a referee – no easy task given the multiple demands placed on a small pool of referees – and we are grateful to each of them for their continued hard work this year.

On behalf of the executive, I would like to thank all our club committees and membership who have continued to demonstrate all that is positive about the GAA, operating through challenging times while also seeking to support everyone in their communities.

Finally, I would personally like to extend my thanks to the members of our executive and to our club secretaries, for patiently supporting me and enabling me to fulfill my role as Interim Secretary this year.

2020 Executive

Jim McGrath – Chair, Stephen Graham - Vice Chair, Frances O’Neill - Interim Secretary, Columb Walsh – Treasurer, Jerome McAllister – PRO, Shane McStocker - Cultural Officer, Paddy McQuillan - Football Development Officer, Tomas McCann - Hurling Development Officer.

2020 SW CCC

Columb Walsh (Chair), Stephen O’Boyle (sec), Gerard Dougan, Stephen Graham, Karol Doherty, Gerard McFall, Gregory Walsh (in advisory capacity).

Frances O’Neill

Runai

North Antrim Divisional Report 2021

No Report received at the time of printing



McGurk Cup Winners 2021



| Antrim Football Leagues 2021 | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Competition | Winner |
| Division 1 Football | Clann na hEireann |
| Division 1 Reserve | Naomh Brid |
| Division 2 Football | Tir na nÓg |
| Division 2 Reserve | Naomh Uile |
| Division 3 Football | Naomh Muire, Ros Earcain |
| u20 Football Div 1 | |
| U20 Football Div 2 | |
| u17 Football Div 1 | Naomh Brid |
| u17 Football Div 2 | Naomh Eargnaid |
| u17 Football Div 3 | Lamh Dhearg |
| u15 Football Div 1 | Naomh Brid |
| u15 Football Div 2 | Cu Chullain, Dun Laithi |
| U15 Football Div 3 | Ui Domnaill |

| 2021 Antrim Football Championship Winners | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Competition | Winner | Runner Up |
| Senior Football | Ciceaim Creagain | Achadh Gallain |
| Intermediate Football | Tir na nÓg | Naomh Uile |
| Junior Football | Naomh Comhghall | Ros Earcain |
| Reserve Cup | Naomh Brid | Naomh Gall |
| Reserve Shield | Naomh Seamas | Naomh Seosamh |
| U20 Football "A" | Con Mag Aoidh/ Naomh Gall | |
| U20 Football "B" | Naomh Padraig /Ros Earcain | |
| U17 Football 'A' | Naomh Brid | Naomh Pol |
| U17 Football 'B' | Naomh Eargnaid | Naomh Gall |
| U 15 "A" Football | Naomh Brid "A" | Naomh Pol |
| U 15 "B" Football | Cu Chullain, Dun Laithi | Clann na hEireann |
| U 15 "C Football | Ui Domnaill | Naomh Brid "B" |
| Og Sport | Not Played | |
| Feile" A" Football | Naomh Brid | |
| Feile" B" Football | Cu Chullain, Dun Laithi | |



Antrim Hurling Leagues 2021

| Competition | Winner |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Division 1 Hurling | Ruairí Óg, Bun An Dalla |
| Division 1 Reserve | Seamroga, Loch gCaol |
| Division 2 Hurling | Roibeard Eimeid |
| Division 3 Hurling | Sean Ui Neill |
| Division 4 Hurling | Lamh Dhearg |
| U20 Hurling Div 1 | Seamroga, Loch gCaol |
| U20 Hurling Div 2 | Sean Ui Neill |
| U17 Hurling Div 1 | Seamroga, Loch gCaol |
| U17 Hurling Div 2 | Naomh Uile |
| U15 Hurling Div 1 | Oisin, Glaenn Airimh |
| U15 Hurling Div 2 | Na Gael Oga |

2021 Antrim Hurling Championship Winners

| Competition | Winner | Runner Up |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Senior Hurling | Cu Chullain, Dun Laithi | Ui Dhonnabhain Rossa |
| Intermediate Hurling | Cathaoir An Ri | Ciceaim Creagain |
| Junior "A" Hurling | Con Mag Aoidh | Sean Ui Neill |
| Junior "B" Hurling | Naomh Uile | Latharna Óg |
| Junior Hurling Shield | Latharna Óg | Ard Eoin, Ciceaim |
| Reserve Cup | Mac Uilin / Loch gCaol | |
| U20 Hurling "A" | Competition Void | |
| U20 Hurling "B" | Competition Void | |
| U17 Hurling "A" | Seamroga, Loch gCaol | Oisin, Glaenn Airimh |
| U17 Hurling 'B' | Gaeil Chorp Chríost | Naomh Uile |
| U15 Hurling "A" | Oisin, Glaenn Airimh | Seamroga, Loch gCaol |
| U15 Hurling "B" | Na Gael Oga | Ui Dhonnabhain Rossa |
| Feile "A" Hurling | Oisin, Glaenn Airimh | |
| Feile "B" Hurling | Ui Dhonnabhain Rossa | |

| Antrim Senior Hurling Championship Winners 1901 - 2021 | |
|---|-----------|
| Shamrocks, Loughgiel | 21 |
| Mc Quillans, B, castle | 17 |
| Cúchullains, Dunloy | 15 |
| O D Rossa | 15 |
| Ruairi Og, Cushendall | 14 |
| O Connells | 8 |
| St Johns | 7 |
| Carey Faughs | 3 |
| Mitchell's | 3 |
| Seagan An Diomais | 3 |
| Tir Na nOg, R, stown | 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 Dearg (Belfast) | 1 |
| Sarsfields | 1 |

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Antrim Senior Football Championship Winners 1902 - 2021

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



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