



# CLG Aontroim

**ANTRIM GAA**  
**Strategic Plan 2020 - 2022**



# ANTRIM GAA

## Strategic Plan 2020 - 2022

### CONTENTS

- Foreword from County Chairman
- Context
- Planning Process
- The Strategic Goals from 2020 to 2022
- Games Development
- Fixtures
- Governance
- Communications
- Culture and Scór
- Infrastructure



## FOREWORD

# COUNTY CHAIRMAN

Ba mhaith liom buíochas ar leith a ghabháil le gach duine a chur leis an phleán straitiseach seo. Bhuaíl muid le clubanna agus daoine eagsúla agus shocraigh muid ar na rudaí a ba mhaith linn a chur i bhfeidhm sa phlean agus tá mé an-bhuíoch as na daoine sin as a mbarúlacha a Léiriú dúinn. Go raibh céad maith agat don Choiste as an sár obair a rinneadh ar an phleán seo le míonna beaga anuas.

We can often be so engrossed in the day to day running of our organisation that we may fail to see areas which need attention. Therefore, it is good practice from time to time to step back and reflect on what is working well and what needs reforming.

This plan is the culmination of an inclusive consultation process that sought the views and ideas of the stakeholders in the county with a view to improving standards both at club and county level. It charts a course for the next three years, It will ensure Antrim GAA continues to participate and be competitive on the field in all codes and all levels, and that the activities of our Association enriches the lives of our communities whether in city, town or country.

As with all strategic planning processes, this document is not the end point. Such plans are of little benefit unless they are implemented. Each section identifies the key people who are responsible for delivery and include a definite time scale. The plan will be reviewed on a frequent basis to ensure that the targets in it are met or changed to meet changing circumstances. It is only by frequently monitoring progress that we can ensure the success of the plan.

While being a true dual county creates additional challenges in providing fixtures and having to resource both codes, any additional burdens are far outweighed by the joy of knowing that with the help of our clubs, divisional boards, Antrim Camogie and Antrim LGFA that any young boy or girl in Antrim can play their national games from U6 right through to senior level.

Over the next three years with current solid foundations in place, Antrim GAA aim to see the rebuilding of Casement Park which will shine as a beacon to the nation of the strength of the Gael in Aontroim and beyond.

Additionally, Antrim GAA will endeavor to enhance the facilities at Corrigan Park and the Centre of Participation at Dunsilly.

The future is bright the future is Saffron.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le gach éinne a chuir an plean seo ar fail.

Beir bua ar Aontroim.

**Ciarán McCavana**  
Cathaoirleach Choiste  
Chontae Aontroma



# INTRODUCTION

Antrim GAA has the responsibility for the promotion and administration of Gaelic games and cultural activities within County Antrim. The development of this strategic plan will be a key component in mapping out the future for Gaelic games within the County. To enhance the fortunes of Antrim GAA, it is important that all units of the Association share a vision to develop the on and off field activities within the County in relation to games development, good governance, sound infrastructure and community development.

This strategic plan seeks to implement solid foundations for the future of Antrim GAA and provide a platform to improve the fortunes of the County and our units into the next decade.

Within the last decade we have seen our clubs and schools achieving national success across

various codes and grades. Within Antrim there is a passionate and dedicated volunteer base who will play a key role in the implementation of this strategy. As a County we have seen the development of Dunsilly as a centre to provide our County teams a home and made strides to improve the governance and capacity of our county administration. The future redevelopment of Casement Park alongside the implementation of the Gaelfast strategy can be a catalyst for sea change in the fortunes of Antrim GAA.

Within Antrim our clubs, schools and colleges have long history of success however in recent years the success of our County sides has been few and far between.



# MISSION

Antrim GAA is a community based, volunteer led, sporting organisation which is dedicated to enriching lives through the family of Gaelic games. We are committed to enabling all our members to achieve their full potential both on and off the field of play.

# ANTRIM GAA VISION

To promote Irish identity and culture through the family of Gaelic games, in a manner in which we encourage lifelong participation and individual well-being for all.

# VALUES





# STEERING GROUP

**This Strategic Plan aims to set Goals and Objectives for the three-year Period between 2020 and 2022.**

Antrim Co Committee empowered Coiste Bainistí Aontroima to select a steering group that contained the necessary skill sets required to formulate a Strategic plan for the period 2020 – 2022.

The Steering Group would like to thank all clubs and individuals who engaged and contributed to the process.

*Thanks to J. McIlwaine and R. Trowlen for photographs.*

**The following people were appointed:**

Seamus McMullan, Con Magee's GAC.

Ciaran Kearney, Ruairí Óg GAC.

Paul O'Brien, Ass .Co. Secretary.

Frankie Quinn, Co. Secretary.

# CONSULTATION PROCESS

The steering group organised workshops in 2018 to which all clubs were invited to attend.

Club Chairpersons, Secretaries, Treasurers, P.R.Os & Cultural Officers attended the initial workshop which covered Communication, Governance, Scór and Culture. On the second evening Club Chairpersons, Secretaries, Coaching Officers, & Development Officers attended the workshops dealing with Infrastructure, Coaching/ Development Squads and Fixtures. Contributions as to what should be addressed in the Strategic Plan were wide ranging and varied. Clearly not all suggestions could be included in the plan.

The steering group were keen to ensure that the goals were all achievable within the time frame. It was stressed that the plan would not be addressing all issues identified during the workshops but that the steering groups brief was to prioritise these and see what was viable and what was not. In keeping with all successful plans, the action items undertaken in each priority area would be capable of measurement. Where possible, priorities and projects would be distributed over the three years of the plan to ensure an even and balanced workload for those involved.





## THE STRATEGIC THEMES

# FROM 2020 TO 2022

### **GAMES DEVELOPMENT: FORBAIRT CLUICHÍ**

Antrim GAA's approach to games development is in line with the vision of the GAA 'that everyone is welcomed to participate fully in Gaelic games and culture, develop to his or her full potential and be inspired to keep lifelong engagement with our Association'.

### **FIXTURES: CLÁR CLUICHÍ**

To ensure a program of games that is regular, meaningful, and meets the needs of all our patrons.

### **GOVERNANCE: RIALACHAS**

To provide a framework in which clubs and volunteer officers can effectively manage their clubs.

### **COMMUNICATIONS: CÚRSAÍ CUMARSÁIDE**

To improve communications within the County and associated organisations.

### **CULTURE AND SCÓR: CULTÚR AGUS SCÓR**

To promote all aspects of the Irish Language and Culture in accordance with the aims of Cumann Luthchleas Gael.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE: INFREASTRUCHTÚR**

To continue to develop GAA facilities to an appropriate standard to meet the expectations of players and spectators.



## 05: GAMES DEVELOPMENT: FORBAIRT CLUICHÍ

### GOAL

To Enhance the Standard of Coaching and Games within Antrim GAA

ACTION What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	When will we do it?	Outcome sought
To provide adequate games for clubs at juvenile level	Develop a programme of games at potentially 7, 9, 11 or 13 a side	Coaching & Games Committee analysis & support from CCC	Early 2021	Increased number of clubs participating in competitions appropriate to their level. Retention of players playing within their own clubs and combatting drop out
To have increased quality coaches working within County teams and identifying potential future County Senior Coaches	Devise an academy programme to educate and support coaches within the County and Identify a number of coaches to join the programme for future intercounty progress	Coaching & Games Committee	By 2021	To have a greater pool of coaches working at the highest level in their codes
To have all divisional boards operating the same age grades	Work with Divisional boards to have a scoping exercise on the grades currently used and reach common age appropriate levels across divisions	Divisional Boards, Coaching & Games Committee, CCC	By 2020	More streamlined approach to underage games and confusion across clubs operating in different codes and divisional boards
Have an in-depth review of the Antrim GAA Academy Squads to identify effectiveness, approaches taken and benchmark activities against other counties.	Identify appropriate personnel to conduct the review, benchmarking exercises and player transitions within the county.	Coaching & Games Committee, Gaelfast Director.	By 2020	To have greater buy in and systems around recruiting players (and coaches) and providing appropriate pathway to senior County representation





<b>ACTION What will we do?</b>	<b>How will we do it?</b>	<b>Who will do it?</b>	<b>When will we do it?</b>	<b>Outcome sought</b>
To create the posts of Director of Football & Director of Hurling	Identify suitable individuals with the skill sets and experiences necessary to successfully undertake the role.	Coiste Bainistí	By 2020	Directors appointed who will liaise with the Coaching & Games Development Committee and county management teams to develop and implement appropriate player and coaching pathways.
To develop an annual coach education programme for the development of coaches within the county.	Coaching and Games Committee and staff to analyse current coach education opportunities and identify skills gaps within coaching.	Coaching & Games Committee	End of 2020	To have high quality coaching across all ages and codes within the county resulting in increased player capabilities
Implement a recruitment drive for young referees.	Work alongside clubs and colleges to provide opportunities for new referees.	Referees Committee Coaching & Games Committee.	By 2020	An increased number of referees coming through the system.
To inform the development of a Gaelfast Plan.	To complete baseline research. Undertake meaningful consultation with all stakeholders.	Gaelfast Management Board, Gaelfast Team and County Officers.	By 2020	To have in place a comprehensive plan for the development of GAA in Belfast and Antrim. Resulting in improved levels of co-ordination and integration to support player development.



## 06: FIXTURES: CLÁR CLUICHÍ

### GOAL

To Ensure a Program of Regular Meaningful Games for all our Players

ACTION What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	When will we do it?	Outcome sought
Review the Antrim Fixtures programme and assess its fitness for purpose	Convene a focus group representative of those impacted by the fixture programme	Co Secretary and appointed working group	By March 2020	Develop a fit for purpose Antrim fixture programme
Develop an Antrim fixture programme that caters for all age groups and codes	Establish a sub group to review and analyse the ongoing fixtures. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scheduling Adult fixtures throughout the weekend</li> <li>Explore &amp; develop algorithm to enable league fixtures to progress in the absence of county players</li> <li>Under age fixtures (Football &amp; Hurling) be played on alternative weeks</li> </ul>	C.C.C.	By September 2020	A fixtures programme that provides adequate games for club players, while catering for the demands of both dual club players and inter county players
Ensure adequate support for referees to support the fixture programme	Develop a Referees Academy	Referees Committee/ C.C.C. Coaching and Games Committee	Ongoing	To increase the standard and number of referees to enhance the Antrim fixture programme.

## 07: GOVERNANCE: RIALACHAS

### GOAL

To Provide a Framework in which our Volunteer Officers can Effectively Manage their Clubs

ACTION What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	When will we do it?	Outcome sought
To help Club officers meet specific GAA deadlines	Provide a basic to do list to assist club officers	Co. Secretary	By June 2020	All officers have the knowledge of what has to be done and by what time it has to be done
Assess the current state of club Trustees and land registry details	Co. Development Committee	Co. Secretary / Co. Development Committee	By June 2020	Assist Clubs to have all the legal paper work to be in a fit for purpose position
Carry out a physical audit of all club grounds in Antrim	Conduct Club visits	Co. Secretary / Co. Development Committee	By August 2021	Assess the insurance value of each unit. Grade grounds for hosting championship games
Promote the One Club Model within Antrim GAA	Liaise with Antrim LGFA and Camogie	Co. Officers	By Dec 2020	Have a fixtures schedule that allows for joint promotion of the ladies games within Antrim





## 08: COMMUNICATIONS: CÚRSAÍ CUMARSÁIDE

### GOAL

To Improve Communication within the County and Associated Organisations

ACTION What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	When will we do it?	Outcome sought
Identify those clubs and club officers who do not use official GAA email addresses.	Target those club officers who routinely use personal email addresses for GAA use.	Co. Secretary and Ass. Secretary	January 2020	All correspondence with clubs and principal officers will be through their official GAA email.
Update the Administration section of County website.	Identify any new club secretaries appointed within the last three years and direct them to the resources available on the County website. Inspect the County website and delete obsolete/out of date information.	Co. Secretary and Ass. Secretary County P.R.O.	2020/2021	Increased awareness and knowledge of where important resources can be obtained e.g. County byelaws, injury scheme etc.
Update contacts for Gaelic games in all Schools within the County.	Identify main GAA contact person in all schools within County.	Co. Secretary and Ass. Secretary Co. P.R.O.	2020	Less clashing of fixtures and competitions.
Appoint an Integration Committee for Gaelic Games in Antrim	Coiste Bainistí to identify and contact appropriate personnel to join the committee.	Co. Secretary Ladies Football Co. Secretary Antrim Camogie Co. Secretary Antrim GAA	January 2020	Further enhance relationships with Ladies Football and Camogie

## 09: CULTURE & SCÓR: CULTÚR AGUS SCÓR

### GOAL

To Promote all Aspects of Irish Culture in Accordance with the Aims of Cumann Luthchleas Gael

ACTION What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	When will we do it?	Outcome sought
Increase the participation level in Scór among the clubs.	Further good communications with Cultural Officers and County Cultural Officer. Enhanced coverage of Scór on Social Media and website.	County Cultural Officer and Club Cultural Officers and County P.R.O.	By 2022	To further raise the profile and participation levels in both Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsir within the County
Encourage greater use of the Irish language amongst clubs, members and spectators.	Produce resources with a range of phrases and languages for use in the club. e.g. Signage	County Cultural Officer and Club Cultural Officers	To be in place in all clubs by end of 2020	Greater use of Gaeilge signage in all club premises and grounds.
Establish a pool of singers to sing Amhrán na bhFiann at Antrim GAA events	Hold workshops throughout the County to facilitate more singers	County Cultural Officer	By August 2020	To achieve a higher standard of rendition of the national anthem, Amhrán na bhFiann for club and Inter County fixtures.
Encourage Irish language use for club names, grounds and fixtures on GAA management platform	Ensure all clubs are adequately using the GAA management platform	Club Officers	2022	The use of Gaeilge when referring to all Clubs, grounds and fixtures.





# 10: INFRASTRUCTURE: INFREÁSTRUCHTÚR

## GOAL

To Continue to Develop GAA Facilities to a Standard that Meets the Needs of our Players and Patrons

ACTION What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who will do it?	When will we do it?	Outcome sought
Develop phase 2 of the Dunsilly Centre of Participation	Explore all funding opportunities and source required investment	Coiste Bainisti	Dec 2021	Complete Phase 2 at Dunsilly
Support clubs in the development of their facilities	Review Club audit to identify opportunities for development	County Development Committee	Ongoing	To develop fit for purpose, family friendly facilities, that meets the needs of our members and communities.
Develop spectator facilities at Corrigan Park	Secure funding from National GAA, Provincial GAA and other sources.	Coiste Bainistí & St Johns GAA	By 2020	Provide adequate spectator facilities to enhance the match day experience
Support the development of Casement Park	Provide the relevant support to the Casement Park Project Board	Antrim County Committee	From 2020 until project completion	Development of a world class stadium as a hub for Gaelic Games and culture within Antrim and beyond





ANTRIM PRIMARY, POST PRIMARY  
& 3RD LEVEL COLLEGES

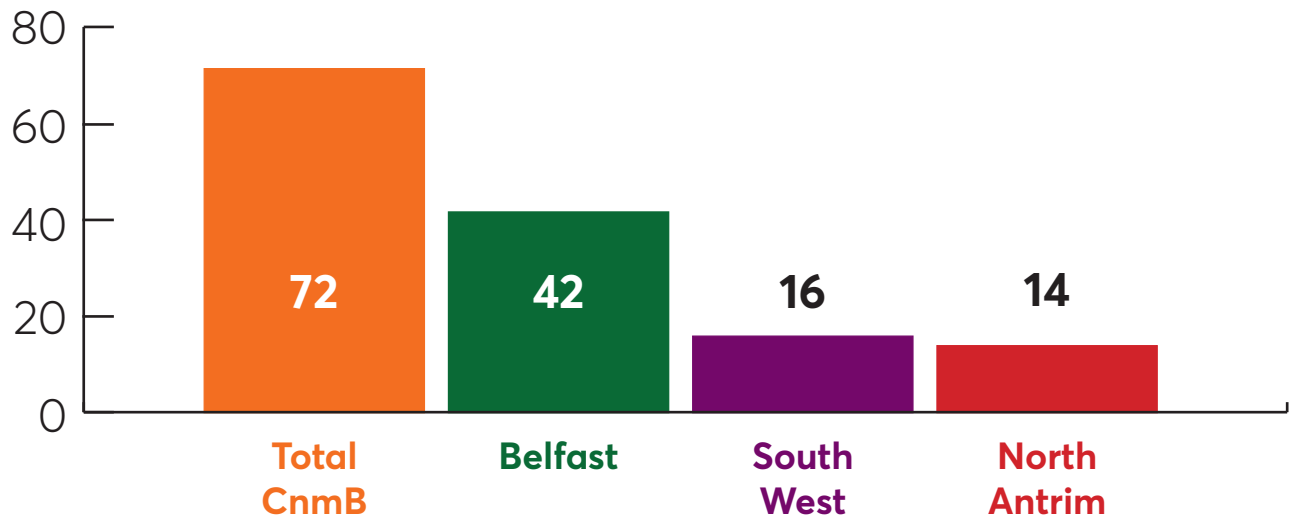
# SCHOOLS / 3RD LEVEL COLLEGES IN ANTRIM BY MANAGEMENT TYPE

PRIMARY		POST PRIMARY		3RD LEVEL COLLEGES
MAINTAINED	86	MAINTAINED	27	<b>ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE</b> <b>QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST</b> <b>STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE</b> <b>ULSTER UNIVERSITY</b>
CONTROLLED	158	CONTROLLED	39	
INTEGRATED	20	INTEGRATED	8	
GAELSCOIL	11	GAELSCOIL	1	
	265		75	





## PRIMARY SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN GAELIC GAMES IN COUNTY ANTRIM, BY DIVISIONAL BOARD



## ANTRIM GAA: PLAYING ACHIEVEMENTS

Antrim have contested 2 All Ireland Senior Hurling Finals - 1943 and 1989	Antrim have played in 2 All Ireland Senior Football Finals - 1911 and 1912	Antrim were All Ireland U21 Football Champions in 1969	Antrim won the All Ireland B Football Championship in 1999	Antrim won the All Ireland Intermediate Hurling title in 1970
Antrim have won the All Ireland B Hurling title on 3 occasions - 1978, 1981 and 1982	Antrim have won 10 Ulster Senior Football titles, the last being in 1951	Antrim have won the Ulster Senior Hurling title on 55 occasions	St Galls won the All Ireland Club Senior Football title in 2010	Antrim has 5 All Star Hurlers: Ciaran Barr: 1988 Dessie Donnelly: 1989 Olcan McFetridge: 1989 Terence McNaughton: 1991 Paul McKillen: 1993
Antrim won the All Ireland Junior Hurling title in 2002	Loughgiel have won the All Ireland Club Senior Hurling title on two occasions: 1983 & 2012	Rossa won the All Ireland Club Intermediate Hurling title in 2015	Creggan won the All Ireland Club Junior Hurling title in 2014	
Antrim has 1 All Star Footballer: Andy McCallin: 1971	Christy Ring Cup winners: 2006	Walsh Cup winners: 2008	Antrim have won the McKenna Cup on 6 occasions	Antrim won the Tommy Murphy Cup in 2008





## CLUBS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA

### Belfast City Council

Chiceaim Ard Eoin | Na Phiarsaigh | Michéal Mac Daibhéid | Ó Dónaill | Naomh Gall | Naomh Eoin | Gort na Móna | Lámh Dhearg | Lochra Loch Lao | Séain Ui Mhistéil | Gaeil na Collin | Naomh Treasa | Ui Dhonnabháin Rosa | Pádraig Sairséil | Naomh Pól | Naomh Úna | Éire Óg | Naomh Bríd, Béal Feirste | Naomh Maoileachlainn

### Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Fanaithé An Gleanna | Mac Uíln, Baile An Cháisleain | Cathaoir an Rí | Roibéard Eiméid, Cois Abhainn Duinne | Ruairí Óg, Bun Abhann Dalla | Oisín, Gleann Airbh | Na Seamróga, Loch gCaol | Naomh Brid, Muileann na Cloiche | Cúchullian, Dún Iathí | Naomh Mhuire, Ros Earcáin

### Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

Naomh Séamas, Garr An Searnoich | Naomh Comghall | Tír na nÓg | Ciceaim An Créagán | Clann na hEireann | Naomh Eargnaid, Muine Glas | Naomh Éanna | Loch Mór Dál gCais

### Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Naomh Uile, Baile Meánach | Naomh Mhuire, Achadh Eochaille | Conn Mag Aoidh | Ruairí Mhic Asmoint | Gaeil na Cluanaigh | Séan Ó Néill | Latharna Óg

### Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Naomh Phádraig, Lios na gCearrbhach | Naomh Seosamh, Lann Abhaigh

### Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council

Naomh Mhuire, Achadh Galláin



future generations  
ó ghlúin go glúin

# WHAT IS GAELFAST?

Gaelfast is a catalyst for transforming gaelic games within the Belfast, as Ireland's 2nd city, and throughout county Antrim. Although Gaelfast as a concept was first advocated during the tenure of a previous Antrim County Board, it has commenced operation during the last year. Mobilising resources and expertise, Gaelfast will spearhead a new beginning to coaching and games development. While it preceded Gaelfast, this Antrim strategy will help to inform the way forward and be integrated

into a Stakeholder Engagement by Gaelfast across Belfast and Antrim which is about to commence.

This is an exciting and challenging juncture in the development of gaelic games in Ireland's second city. Gaelfast will seek to harness all of the energy and the best ideas, including those set out in this strategy, within a Gaelfast Plan for the next 10-15 years which embraces and uplifts All Codes, All County and All Communities.



*The Antrim team that beat Roscommon in the 1969 All Ireland Under 21 Football final in Croke Park*





# ANTRIM SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: 1902 - 2019

St John's	24 Wins	Lamh Dhearg	3 Wins	Eire Og	1 Win
St Galls	19 Wins	O'Connell's	3 Wins	Lamh Derg, Toome	1 Win
O'Donovan Rossa	15 Wins	St Paul's	3 Wins	O'Neill's, Crowley	1 Win
Erin's Own, Cargin	9 Wins	Ardoyne Kickham's	2 Wins	O'Donnell's	1 Win
James Stephen's	7 Wins	Kickhams, Creggan	2 Wins	Pearse's	1 Win
Cuchullains, Dunloy	6 Wins	John Mitchel's	2 Wins	St Teresa's	1 Win
Seagan An Diomais	5 Wins	Otlamh Fodhla	2 Wins	Tír na nÓg (Belfast)	1 Win
Patrick Sarsfield's	4 Wins	Con Magee's, Glenravel	1 Win		
Gaelhil Uladh	3 Wins	Michael Davitt's	1 Win		

ANTRIM CUPS	
Senior Football Championship	Padraig McNamee Cup
Intermediate Football Championship	Kevin Armstrong Cup
Junior Football Championship	Joe Cunningham Cup
U21 Football Championship	Gerry Cullen Cup
Minor Football Championship	Ciaran Lavery Cup

# ANTRIM SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: 1901 - 2019

Shamrocks, Loughgiel	21 Wins	Carey Faugh's	3 Wins	Tír na nÓg, Belfast	2 Wins
McQuillan's, Ballycastle	17 Wins	Mitchel's	3 Wins	Emmet's, Cushendun	1 Win
O'Donovan Rossa	15 Wins	Seagan An Diomais	3 Wins	James Stephen's	1 Win
Ruairí Óg, Cushendall	14 Wins	Tír na nÓg, R'town	3 Wins	Lamh Dearg (Belfast)	1 Win
Cuchullain's, Dunloy	13 Wins	Brian Oge	2 Wins	Patrick Sarsfield's	1 Win
O'Connell's	8 Wins	O'Neill's, Crowley	2 Wins		
St. John's	7 Wins	Oisíns, Glenariffe	2 Wins		

ANTRIM CUPS	
Senior Hurling Championship	Volunteer Cup
Intermediate Hurling Championship	Frank Corr Cup
Junior Hurling Championship	Kevin Grieve Cup
U21 Hurling Championship	Niall Patterson Cup
Minor Hurling Championship	Tommy Rice Cup

