

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael - Coiste Átha Cliath
Comhdháil Bhliantúil
Páirc Parnell, Dé Luain 18ú Nollaig 2017 ar 7.00 i.n.

An Clár

1. Minutes of 2016 Convention.
2. Adoption of Standing Orders.
3. Auditor's Report and Financial Statement.
4. Secretary's Report.
5. Chairman's Address.
6. Appointment of Tellers & Election of Officers.
7. Fixture Planning & Competitions Control Committee Reports.
8. Coiste Éisteachta Report.
9. Coaching & Games Development Reports.
10. Appointment of Auditor.
11. Motions
12. Appointment of Delegates to Leinster Convention and Congress.

Standing Orders for Convention

1. The Proposer of a motion, or amendment thereto, may speak for no longer than five minutes.
2. A Delegate speaking to a resolution or an amendment must not exceed three minutes.
3. The proposer of a resolution or amendment may speak a second time for five minutes before a vote is taken, but no other delegate may speak a second time to any resolution or amendment.
4. The Chairman may at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed call on the proposer for a reply, after which a vote must be taken.
5. A Delegate may, with the consent of the Chairman, move 'that the question be now put' after which, when the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
6. A speaker to the Annual Report or to any other general discussion shall not exceed three minutes.
7. Convention shall not be entitled to consider any matter not on the Agenda, except with the consent of a majority comprising two-thirds of the votes of those present, voting and entitled to vote.

AINMNIUCHÁIN

Cathaoirleach

Seán Mac Seanlaoich (Craobh Chiaráin) **Outgoing**

Leas-Chathaoirleach

Mícheál Ó Saomhar (Oileán na hÉireann) **Outgoing**

Leas-Rúnaí/Cisteoir

Séamus de Róiste (Fionnbhrú Colmcille) **Outgoing**

Cisteoir

Fionnbharr Ó Mathúna (Naomh Pádraig Baile Phámar) **Outgoing**

Oifigeach Forbartha

Cionnaith Ó Súilleabháin (Cuala)

Oifigeach Oiliúna

Gearóid Ó Liatháin (Uí Duibhir) **Outgoing**

Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí

Fiona Ní Thuairisc (Naomh Bríd) **Outgoing**

Oifigeach Leanaí

Dara Ó Glisáin (Fionnbhrú Colmcille) **Outgoing**

Árd Chomhairle

Seán Mac Seanlaoich (Craobh Chiaráin) **Outgoing**

Comhairle Laighean

Seán Mac Niocláis (Gaeil N. Shéamais An Caisleán) **Outgoing**
Pól Mac Gabhann (Na Fianna)
Tomás Ó Sé (Naomh Marcais)

Tuarascáil An Rúnaí

Tá sé in am dom arís féachaint siar ar na príomh imeachtaí don bhliain atá imithe. Chomh maith le sin, seo an t-aon seans atá agam, mar Rúnaí Chontae, mo thuairim phearsanta a chur ós bhur gcomhair. Teastaíonn uaim mo bhuíochas a ghabháil le hOifigigh an Chontae agus na gClub as ucht a gcuid oibre i rith na bliana

Senior Football

It proved another brilliant, landmark year for the county's senior footballers as they ended the season in stunning fashion by claiming their third successive All-Ireland title - a first for Dublin since 1923.

The year started in a similarly successful manner on 8th January as an experimental selection, managed by Paul Clarke, impressed in their O'Byrne Cup campaign, starting off 2017 with a 1-15 to 0-11 win over DCU Dóchas Éireann at Parnell Park.

However, they suffered a reverse three days later as a UCD team featuring Dublin senior panellists of 2017, Eoin Murchan and Jack McCaffrey, beat the Dubs by 2-9 to 1-10.

Dublin needed a win in their final group game to confirm a semi-final spot and they duly delivered as eight points by Paul Hudson edged them past Wexford by 1-12 to 1-9 in Enniscorthy.

Their reward was a trip to Newbridge and Dublin impressed by beating Kildare by 0-16 to 2-8 with Paul Hudson, Conor McHugh and Niall Scully sharing ten of Dublin's points.

Dublin continued in their travels as they faced Louth in the O'Byrne Cup final in Drogheda and goals by Killian O'Gara and Colm Basquel proved sufficient as Dublin eased home by 2-16 to 1-10 on January 29.

Dublin's National Football League campaign started a week later in Kingspan Breffni Park and with many of their more established players returning to the starting line-up, they enjoyed a 0-18 to 0-11 win with Dean Rock firing seven points in front of a massive attendance.

Dean Rock was again to the fore for Dublin's first home match in Croke Park, kicking six frees as the holders finished strongly to claim a 0-10 to 1-7 draw against Tyrone.

It proved another tense, low-scoring affair as Dublin travelled to Ballybofey at the end of February with 1-1 from Niall Scully earning Dublin a 1-8 to 2-5 draw with Donegal.

Dublin were far more fluent in the fourth league match, dominating from the start as they defeated Mayo by 1-16 to 0-7 in Croke Park. Conor McHugh impressed from corner-forward with a 1-3 tally while Dean Rock's eight points ensured Dublin pulled away comfortably by the end.

If the Mayo contest was lukewarm, the same could not be said of Dublin's next match in Tralee as a fractious encounter culminated in a 0-13 apiece draw with Kerry. The Dubs looked likely to lose their unbeaten run as they trailed late in the game but nine frees by Dean Rock and Paul Mannion's levelling score ensured a share of the spoils.

Round 6 marked the return to the starting line-up of Paul Flynn and the Fingallians player didn't disappoint. His 1-6 personal tally helped Dublin cruise past Roscommon by 2-29 to 0-14.

Dublin's final group game required a victory to confirm a final spot and that ambition looked in doubt as they trailed Monaghan by six points but a goal apiece from substitutes Bernard Brogan and Jack McCaffrey propelled Dublin to a dramatic 2-15 to 1-15 victory.

Seeking their fifth successive National League title, Dublin fell short by the narrowest of margins despite an inspired late comeback, losing by 0-20 to 1-16 to Kerry in the decider. A second-half goal from Paul Mannion led to a thrilling conclusion in which Dean Rock saw his injury time free cannon off the upright to deny Dublin the prospect of extra-time.

The players returned to their clubs at this point but returned in plenty of time for Dublin's Leinster Championship opener against Carlow in O'Moore Park, a match they won by 0-19 to 0-7.

Carlow frustrated Dublin for the opening-half but gaps appeared upon the restart with Bernard Brogan kicking two points after his introduction from the bench.

Dublin were far more free-flowing in their Leinster semi-final against Westmeath in Croke Park as Paul Mannion kicked eight points from play in their facile 4-29 to 0-10 win. Ciarán Kilkenny netted for the first time in senior championship fare, with Dublin's other goals coming through Dean Rock, Kevin McManamon and Eoghan O'Gara.

Dublin arrived at the Leinster Final looking for their seventh title in-a-row and a bright start proved pivotal as they defeated Kildare by 2-23 to 1-17. Goals in the first quarter from Dean Rock and James McCarthy handed Dublin the dream start and they were further buoyed by a wonderful display from Con O'Callaghan who scored 0-12, six of which coming from open play.

Dublin entered the All-Ireland Series in good health and a second-half goal from Dean Rock confirmed a comfortable 1-19 to 0-12 win over Monaghan in their one-sided quarter-final.

It proved even more emphatic at the last-four stage as Con O'Callaghan's brilliant early goal propelled Dublin to a comprehensive 2-17 to 0-11 victory over Tyrone. The Ulster champions were a shadow of the side that had impressed all year and Eoghan O'Gara sealed their fate with a second Dublin goal late on.

This win ensured a repeat of the 2016 decider and once again, Dublin found themselves on the right side of an epic encounter against Mayo, prevailing by 1-17 to 1-16 in a final that will live long in the memory.

Con O'Callaghan's superb goal in the second minute failed to unduly trouble a Mayo side that played the more compelling football and they deservedly enjoyed a 0-10 to 1-6 interval advantage.

The dismissals of John Small and Donal Vaughan added to the tension but, ultimately, it was Dublin's ability to finish on the front foot that made all the difference as Dean Rock converted a free, deep into injury-time, to confirm a historic win for the Dubs.

Once again this team had dug deep to show true grit and come up with the winning plays when their backs were to the wall, the hallmark of a great side. Dublin were honoured with seven All-Stars awards and one or two others surely went close - congratulations to the winners as representatives of the collective Dublin unit.

Senior Hurling

With manager Ger Cunningham coming into his third year in charge, expectations of an improved showing in 2017 unfortunately proved wide of the mark. Our senior hurlers struggled throughout the year and ended their campaign as early as the second weekend in July - decisively outclassed by Tipperary.

It was evident from the start of the year that due to absences, Ger Cunningham would be calling on a large number of inexperienced players from recent U21 and minor teams but there were some encouraging signs of their development during the Walsh Cup.

Cuala's brilliant run to a historic All-Ireland club glory had a negative knock-on effect for the senior intercounty team as they had to plan without the considerable number of talented hurlers from the Dalkey club.

Donal Burke and Cian O'Sullivan were drafted in from Dublin's Leinster Minor Championship winning team of 2016 and both showed well as Dublin opened up with a 2-17 to 1-13 victory over Carlow in Parnell Park in their Walsh Cup opener.

Both players found the net in Dublin's second match as Donal Burke scored 1-10 in total in helping to defeat UCD by 2-26 to 0-21. However, their campaign ended when a strong Wexford team narrowly secured a 1-17 to 0-17 victory despite three points apiece from play from Niall McMorrow and Chris Crummey.

Dublin's opening National Hurling League Division 1A fixture was a dark early portent of what was to come as an inexperienced side fell to All-Ireland champions Tipperary by 1-24 to 1-8 in Croke Park.

Dublin's isolated success in the league arrived in their next match in Páirc Uí Rinn as they produced their most complete performance in defeating Cork by 2-19 to 1-14.

Ryan O'Dwyer and Eoghan Conroy netted for the Dubs while Donal Burke scored eight points to offer a welcome degree of optimism for the coming campaign.

However, that optimism was punctured to a degree as Dublin lost to Waterford a fortnight later with the Déise finishing strongly to claim a 2-19 to 1-17 win in Croke Park.

Dublin impressed initially with Eamonn Dillon looking especially bright in attack but their fluency disappeared after the break, a trend that was to re-emerge over the year. The Dubs remained competitive in their next game but the concession of two points in added time saw them fall to Clare by 0-20 to 1-15 in Ennis.

A Ryan O'Dwyer goal in the first-half helped the visitors to a wind-assisted 1-10 to 0-8 interval lead but their challenge petered out upon the restart as they recorded their third defeat from four.

Dublin were condemned to a relegation play-off by virtue of their home loss to Kilkenny at Parnell Park with the dismissal of goalkeeper Gary Maguire effectively sealing their fate. Donal Burke and Chris Crummey showed well throughout for Dublin but, as the contest evolved, the visitors pulled clear to complete a 2-20 to 1-16 success.

Perhaps Dublin's confidence was beginning to wane at this stage and there were clear signs of their struggle as they lost to Clare by 3-18 to 0-19, in Ennis once again, to drop through the trapdoor into Division 1B.

If that result wasn't disheartening enough, worse was to follow in their Leinster Championship quarter-final against Galway at the end of May. Their challenge wilted after the break, leading to a 2-28 to 1-17 reverse in Tullamore.

A Ben Quinn goal offered Dublin hope in the first-half but there was no denying Galway's supremacy on the day and Cian O'Callaghan's unfortunate sending-off adding to Dublin's pain by the final whistle.

Dublin had to wait five weeks for their next competitive outing and were impressive in beating Laois by 2-28 to 1-15 in Parnell Park in their first round qualifier, with Eamonn Dillon helping himself to 2-4 on the night.

That proved a stay of execution, sadly, as on 8th July, Dublin were offered a stark reminder of their slide with 11 points by David Treacy never likely to prove sufficient as Tipperary claimed a facile 6-26 to 1-19 win in Thurles.

It was a disappointing end to Ger Cunningham's three year term as manager but I wish to thank him and his selectors for their commitment to Dublin hurling and for giving valuable inter-county experience to many of our young players. Pat Gilroy was appointed manager for a three year term in October.

U21 Football

Dublin will go down in history as the last winners of the All-Ireland U21 Football Championship. This followed a wonderful campaign that culminated in a superb final victory over a talented Galway outfit in O'Connor Park, Tullamore, in late April.

Their season had begun eight weeks previously with a workmanlike 2-14 to 0-6 victory over Westmeath in their Leinster quarter-final in Mullingar. Aaron Byrne was the star for the Dubs as he scored a goal in each half to set Dublin up for victory.

Aaron's first goal arrived on 11 minutes when the sides were level at 0-2 each, the Dublin full-forward firing to the net from a rebound after Westmeath goalkeeper Kevin Fagan had saved Byrne's initial effort.

Dessie Farrell's side finished the game very strongly. In the final ten minutes, points from Eoin Murchan and Chris Sallier and two each from Con O'Callaghan and Colm Basquel, as well as a well taken goal by Aaron Byrne, sealed a very comfortable victory for an impressive Dublin side.

That win secured another trip down to Mullingar with Longford the opponents on this occasion, and on an awful night weather-wise for football, Dublin did enough to prevail by 2-10 to 0-9.

Just five days after helping Cuala to win the All-Ireland Club hurling championship, Con O'Callaghan proved Dublin's match-winner with two goals in the opening ten minutes of the second-half. They led 0-4 to 0-3 at half-time, though were fortunate, as Longford played with a stiff wind and kicked six wasteful wides, while they also dropped a point effort short and had a goal chance blocked.

Chris Sallier was another player to impress in the Dublin attack, with the Thomas Davis player kicking three points while Brian Howard was a commanding presence as Dublin ultimately freewheeled through the final quarter to win with plenty to spare.

On 29th March, Dublin made their third visit to the midlands with O'Moore Park, Portlaoise, their destination and despite, at times, a less than assured display, were still too strong for Offaly, winning the Leinster final by 2-14 to 0-8.

The Dubs opened up brightly and raced into an early 0-6 to 0-2 lead and late points from Eoin Murchan and Con O'Callaghan propelled them to a 0-10 to 0-5 interval lead.

Con O'Callaghan played Tom Fox in for a 34th minute goal and, although they took their foot off the gas for a period and went 16 minutes without a score, Con O'Callaghan booted two more scores to reaffirm their control.

Stephen Smith added Dublin's second goal in injury-time when he finished off a neat passing move with a low left-footed finish from close range, confirming Dublin's fourth successive provincial title.

Dublin improved from their Leinster campaign to complete a 1-13 to 0-9 win over Donegal in their All-Ireland semi-final in Kingspan Breffni Park. Despite losing Con O'Callaghan to a fourth minute black card, the boys in blue led 0-5 to 0-2 at the interval and had shut down their opponents for the opening 24 minutes before Donegal eventually opened their account. It was something of a tactical masterclass by the Dublin management and players.

The Dubs were more clinical in possession and were patient and strong with players such as Brian Howard playing a real leadership role while Glenn O'Reilly kicked two first half points with Con O'Callaghan, Tom Fox and the impressive Aaron Byrne all on target.

In the second-half, the energetic Darren Byrne popped up in attack to push Dublin 0-10 to 0-5 clear before the only goal of the game arrived in the 50th minute when Seán McMahon burst onto the end of a superb Dublin move to fire to the roof of the net.

Dublin's reward was a final date against Galway, who had surprised many in beating hot favourites Kerry in the other semi-final. But they failed to replicate that form as Dublin ran out worthy winners by 2-13 to 2-7 in Tullamore.

After a tight first-half in which Dublin controlled possession against the wind with keeper Evan Comerford doing well, they led by the bare minimum (0-5 to 0-4). However, they resumed impressively to make a decisive burst at the start of the second-half.

They hit 1-3 without reply as Con O'Callaghan found the net from Aaron Byrne's pass with Dan O'Brien kicking an excellent long-range point. Dublin looked primed for victory as they led by eight points with ten minutes remaining.

However, Cillian McDaid netted for Galway and the Connacht champions also struck the post before Aaron Byrne was on hand late on to score a decisive goal that secured Dublin's second U21 championship under manager Dessie Farrell.

I can't let the opportunity pass without publically thanking Dessie and his management team for the extra-ordinary development work they have done with players over the past decade. A huge number of our current seniors were managed by Dessie at either, and in some cases, minor and/or U21 level – a key stepping stone on their way to senior status.

U21 Hurling

The Leinster draw for the Dublin's U21 hurlers could well have been kinder as they were pitted against Kilkenny in their Leinster Championship quarter-final in Nowlan Park at the end of May.

Unfortunately, from a Dublin perspective, the worst fears were realised and despite some encouraging moments, they eventually succumbed by 0-21 to 0-16, ending their title ambitions as a result.

What certainly can't have helped in terms of their preparations was Dublin's Senior Hurling Championship defeat to Galway just three days previously, a game that featured many of Dublin's U21 panel.

Freshness was an issue on the night and while Dublin enjoyed generous amounts of possession, they failed to translate the chances they created into scores and left themselves with too much of a mountain to climb.

Watching as the Dubs clawed into their seven-point deficit late on, the Cats needed points from subs John Donnelly and James Bergin in the last five minutes to dull a Dublin charge, while a top class diving save from goalkeeper Darren Brennan really broke the visiting side's spirit.

Kilkenny looked to be cruising towards the semi-finals when man of the match Billy Ryan helped himself to a fine 47th minute point that drove his side into a 0-17 to 0-10 lead. However, Dublin got a new lease of life and four scores on the trot from Colin Currie (two), Donal Burke and Rian McBride helped close the gap. It was left to subs John Donnelly (two) and James Bergin to sink their revival, as Kilkenny booked a semi-final against Westmeath.

The sides struggled to find true scoring form in the first half, posting a number of wides between them. Shane Walsh opened the scoring for the hosts but Colin Currie (free) quickly had Dublin on level terms. Currie was to the fore in that first half, helping himself to five points (four frees and a 65) but Kilkenny boasted a greater number of scorers as Alan Murphy scored three points in the opening 30 minutes, while Billy Ryan nabbed a brace.

With Tommy Walsh, Seán Morrissey and Shane Walsh also on the scoresheet, Kilkenny did enough to keep their noses in front in that first half. And they could have been further in front, but Dublin goalkeeper, Jonathan Treacy, did well to parry Shane Walsh's shot to safety.

The Cats led by two at the break (0-9 to 0-7), but raised their game in the second half. Led by Alan Murphy (0-4), they surged into a 0-15 to 0-10 lead by the 43rd minute and were only denied a goal when defender Cian Hendricken got in to block Pat Lyng's searing 35th minute shot.

Dublin did close the gap late on but, unfortunately, they couldn't fully reel in their rivals, ending a poor four-day period for the county's senior and U21 hurling sides.

Minor Football

Ultimately, it proved a successful year for Dublin's minor footballers as they regained the provincial title after a three-year absence.

A Leinster MFC title looked the least likely eventuality midway through Dublin's opening Leinster championship match as they trailed by ten points to Meath in Parnell Park at half-time.

However, the Dubs were a different proposition after the break and inspired by James Doran, who scored 1-5 in total, they managed to force extra time with Doran's goal and a late point from Mark Tracey ensuring a 1-11 apiece stalemate after sixty minutes. Dublin maintained their momentum from that point with three frees by Ciarán Archer seeing them home with two points to spare.

It was far more comfortable in the provincial quarter-final against Longford a month later, with Dublin dominating from the start as they enjoyed a 6-12 to 0-5 victory.

James Doran once again impressed with a personal tally of 1-2 as Dublin improved as the contest evolved. With Ross McGarry adding 2-2, Dublin eased home thanks to further goals by Seán Hawkshaw and substitutes Adam Byrne and James Madden.

The Dubs were forced on the road for their provincial semi-final but gave arguably their most complete performance of the year when defeating Kildare by 1-16 to 0-14 in early July.

Despite starting slowly and falling three points behind, Dublin began to find their collective groove but a James Doran run in the 29th minute led to Ross McGarry scoring the solitary goal of the game. David Lacey kicked five points on his first start of the championship while Daniel Brennan and Seán Hawkshaw added vital scores to confirm Dublin's five-point win.

Dublin entered the Leinster Final as warm favourites and they validated that view by beating Louth by 2-19 to 0-12. Most of the damage was done in the opening quarter as goals from

James Madden and James Doran left Dublin with a handy buffer and three Ross McGarry points saw Dublin 2-11 to 0-5 clear by the interval.

Dublin eased off upon the restart but with Kieran Kennedy, Eoin O’Dea and Peadar Ó Cofaigh Byrne all impressing in defence, they never looked in any trouble of losing their control of matters.

Dublin beat Clare by 2-11 to 0-10 in their quarter-final in Portlaoise on 7th August. Dublin benefitted once again from an early goal, this time through Ross McGarry. But they struggled to make any impression from that point and were fortunate to lead by 1-3 to 0-5 at the break, given the general poverty of their display.

They improved significantly in the second-half with Seán Hawkshaw improving as the contest evolved and another Ross McGarry goal, in the third quarter, effectively sealed their win.

Unfortunately, Dublin’s season was truncated at the All-Ireland semi-final stage where some missed chances proved costly as they succumbed to Derry by 0-17 to 0-14.

The Dubs missed a host of goal-scoring chances throughout the contest and their challenge was undermined by just four players scoring over the sixty minutes. James Doran impressed in kicking six points from play, but a lack of composure in front of goal proved their downfall as Derry finished strongly to record victory.

Minor Hurling

Dublin’s minor hurlers offered an encouraging year in terms of results and performances before eventually bowing out at the All-Ireland semi-final stage to a talented Cork outfit.

Under the management of Fintan Clandillon, Dublin started off their provincial campaign in mid-April and in truth, struggled for fluency before eventually seeing off a stubborn Laois side by 1-11 to 1-8 in Parnell Park.

An early goal from Kevin Desmond was just the start that Dublin would have looked for. However, they failed to build on that platform and looked in danger of losing when reduced to fourteen players, after the dismissal of Kevin Burke in the 50th minute.

However, Burke's Na Fianna team-mate, Seán Currie, produced a hugely influential finale and after levelling matters through a '65' in the 53rd minute, he added two superb points soon after to turn the tide in Dublin's favour.

Dublin's reward for that victory was a home semi-final against Wexford four weeks later and they delivered a far more accomplished display when winning by 0-20 to 1-14. In truth, the margin of victory could have been greater but there was little doubting their supremacy on the day with Seán Currie once again central to their win.

The talented attacker struck 0-12 over the hour with seven of those points coming from placed balls, while Liam Murphy impressed with four scores in total.

Hopes were high within the camp that the Dubs would successfully defend their provincial title. However, the concession of two goals inside the opening four minutes against Kilkenny proved crucial as they succumbed by 3-15 to 1-17.

Granted, Dublin fought back from those body blows to draw level towards the end of the first-half. But a third Kilkenny goal, in the 38th minute, proved decisive with Enda O'Donnell's riposte four minutes from time of mere consolation value to Dublin.

However, the All-Ireland Series offered Dublin an immediate opportunity for redemption and they bounced back impressively with a 2-20 to 0-11 win over Antrim in Páirc Esler.

The Dubs took a while to find their feet but scores from Seán Currie, Mark Grogan and Emmet Allen pushed them 0-10 to 0-3 clear by half-time.

Antrim enjoyed their best period of play in the early stages of the second-half, trimming their deficit to five points, but Seán Currie's goal in the 45th minute helped regain Dublin's momentum. They cruised home from that juncture, with Seán Currie bringing his personal tally to 2-13, 2-9 of which came from play, by the final whistle.

Munster champions Cork lay in wait in the All-Ireland semi-final with Dublin rueing some missed chances as they fell by 0-23 to 2-13. Dublin couldn't deal with the threat of Brian Turnbull over the hour, with eleven of his thirteen points coming from placed balls.

They stayed in contention through a first-half goal by Eoghan O'Neill but with goalkeeper Conor O'Donoghue missing a penalty, they failed to take advantage of Cork being reduced to fourteen players for the final quarter. Seán Currie and Lee Gannon battled valiantly as the contest evolved, but a Mark Grogan goal in injury time was the only consolation by the end.

U17 Football

Dublin's Under-17 footballers delivered some encouraging displays in a campaign that was bookended by defeats at the hands of near neighbours Meath.

The old rivals were pitted against each other in the opening round of the provincial championship with Meath starting strongly as they recorded a 1-15 to 1-10 win in Páirc Tailteann in late June. With Meath full-forward Jordan Morris to the fore, the Royals had opened up a 0-8 to 0-0 lead inside 16 minutes.

Dublin eventually settled and began to work themselves into the game and, by the interval, were 0-9 to 0-5 in arrears with Dublin minor footballer, Ciarán Archer, accounting for all of his side's tally - four converted frees and another from play.

Eleven minutes into the second half hopes of a stirring Dublin comeback were as good as ended when Morris fired to the Dublin net.

In injury-time, Ciarán Archer got Dublin's goal, a low shot to the right corner of the net to finish with a personal tally of 1-9 (0-7f) while fellow Dublin minor panellist, Adam Byrne, was Dublin's only other scorer on the night.

The Dubs made the most of the second chance afforded to them when they beat Offaly by 3-15 to 0-7 in their qualifier at O'Connor Park, Tullamore. The Dubs took control of the game towards the close of the opening half to hold a seven-point interval advantage (1-8 to 0-4) with Jordan Leonard netting in the 18th minute. Ciarán Archer added a second goal to Dublin's account after the break with Jordan Leonard tagging on the third before the finish.

Dublin booked their berth in the last-four of the Leinster Championship with a 2-16 to 1-10 victory over Westmeath in Abbotstown the following week. Dublin led by 0-10 to 0-5 at half-time with three points each coming from Darragh Warnock and John Foley and goals from Ciarán Archer and Adam Byrne early in the second half ensured victory.

The Dubs edged out Laois 1-16 to 1-14 in their thrilling semi-final in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise. The Dubs led by seven points, 1-12 to 1-5, early in the second half but were made sweat all the way to the final whistle which came four minutes into added time, before they could relax with late points from John Foley and Ciarán Archer seeing the Dubs to victory.

However, history was to repeat itself in the decider as Dublin succumbed to Meath by 3-12 to 1-13 in Drogheda. In a well-contested and entertaining battle the Royal County struck for three goals at crucial times as they defied Dublin in front of a large crowd.

It was Meath who held a 1-4 to 0-6 advantage at the break with Matthew Costello firing to the net for the Royals. Meath came flying out of the blocks on the restart and raised their second green flag in the first minute of the second half when Jordan Morris rattled the net.

However, by the 39th minute, the Dubs were back level again as John Foley swept a pass from Ciarán Archer to the net and points from Fionnán O'Sullivan, Seán Lowry and Darragh Warnock made it 1-9 to 2-6.

But Meath made the vital break for the winner's enclosure when scoring 1-3 without reply to leave Dublin with too much to do in the final ten minutes.

U17 Hurling

It proved a hugely encouraging year for Dublin in the inaugural Under-17 Hurling Championship as the county progressed to the All-Ireland Final but were denied at the last stage by a talented Cork outfit.

Under the guidance of minor manager Fintan Clandillon, the Dubs started their provincial campaign with an ultimately comfortable 1-20 to 0-15 win over Offaly in Parnell Park.

Next on the agenda was a Leinster semi-final against Wexford, also in Parnell Park, with the Dubs improving as the contest evolved to register a noteworthy 2-20 to 0-17 success. Dublin trailed 0-8 to 0-11 at half-time and the Slaneysiders had stretched their advantage by a point on the restart.

However, two frees from Liam Murphy, who ended with nine points kept Dublin in contention before a superb Tom Aherne goal put Dublin in front for the first time since the 25th minute. Dublin were never in arrears again with Liam Murphy adding three points, including two frees, to lead 1-14 to 0-14 by the 41st minute.

They kept the pressure on with scores from Kevin Desmond, Seán Clerkin and Billy Ryan, who finished with a tally of 0-6, moving Clandillon's side 1-17 to 0-14 clear. The Dubs maintained their tempo to the end with Kevin Desmond and Billy Ryan tagging on scores before substitute Andrew Carroll hit a 58th minute goal, a just reward for Dublin's second half efforts.

Their reward was a final berth against Kilkenny in O'Moore Park with Dublin controlling matters from the outset as they cruised to a 3-17 to 2-10 success. Dublin struck first when captain, Mark Grogan, burst through and fired an unstoppable shot to the net, only for Kilkenny to hit back straight away through Conor Drennan.

It remained closely contested as just a point separated the sides approaching first half injury-time, when centre forward Billy Ryan gave Dublin a major boost with their second goal and they led by 2-8 to 1-7 at the interval.

A third Dublin goal in the 37th minute, fired home by Luke McDwyer, stretched their advantage to nine points (3-10 to 1-7) and Kilkenny never looked likely to stage a recovery. Free-taker Liam Murphy slotted over some nice points for the winners and the best Kilkenny could muster was a consolation goal late on by Ciarán Brennan.

After receiving a bye from Antrim at the semi-final stage, Dublin qualified for the All-Ireland final but, despite an impressive display, they fell short, succumbing by 1-19 to 1-17 by the final whistle.

The first half produced a pair of goals, one for either side with Dublin awarded a penalty in the 20th minute after Kevin Kirwan was fouled and goalkeeper Eddie Gibbons travelled upfield to slam a low shot to the net past Eoin Davis.

Six minutes later, Cork cancelled out that strike when they raised a green flag of their own through Joe Stack, as the Rebels enjoyed a narrow 1-9 to 1-8 interval lead.

Dublin were awarded a second penalty after half-time when Micheál Murphy was fouled but, on this occasion, Eddie Gibbons's drive whistled over the bar and the Dubs were further undermined by the dismissal of Tom Aherne in the 41st minute.

Cork took advantage through the free-taking of Daire Connery and Colin O'Brien with late scores from the impressive Enda O'Donnell and Lee Gannon proving in vain by the end.

Results

The following is a record of the performances of our various teams in official competitions during the past 12 months:-

Allianz Hurling League

11/02/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	1 - 8	Tipperary	1 - 24
18/02/2017	Cork	Dublin	2 - 19	Cork	1 - 14
04/03/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	1 - 17	Waterford	2 - 19
12/03/2017	Ennis	Dublin	1 - 15	Clare	0 - 20
26/03/2017	Parnell Park	Dublin	1 - 16	Kilkenny	2 - 20
02/04/2017	Ennis	Dublin	0 - 19	Clare	3 - 18

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship

28/05/2017	Tullamore	Dublin	1 - 17	Galway	2 - 28
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All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship

01/07/2017	Parnell Park	Dublin	2 - 28	Laois	1 - 15
08/07/2017	Thurles	Dublin	1 - 19	Tipperary	6 - 26

Walsh Cup Senior Hurling

08/01/2017	Parnell Park	Dublin	2 - 17	Carlow	1 - 13
11/01/2017	Parnell Park	Dublin	2 - 26	UCD	0 - 21
19/01/2017	Wexford	Dublin	0 - 17	Wexford	1 - 17

Allianz Football League

05/02/2017	Cavan	Dublin	0 - 18	Cavan	0 - 11
11/02/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	0 - 10	Tyrone	1 - 7
26/02/2017	Ballybofey	Dublin	1 - 8	Donegal	2 - 5
04/03/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	1 - 16	Mayo	0 - 7
18/03/2017	Tralee	Dublin	0 - 13	Kerry	0 - 13
25/03/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	2 - 29	Roscommon	0 - 14
02/04/2017	Clones	Dublin	2 - 15	Monaghan	1 - 15
09/04/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	1 - 16	Kerry	0 - 20

Leinster Senior Football Championship

03/06/2017	Portlaoise	Dublin	0 - 19	Carlow	0 - 7
25/06/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	4 - 29	Westmeath	0 - 10
16/07/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	2 - 23	Kildare	1 - 17

All-Ireland Senior Football Championship

06/08/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	1 - 19	Monaghan	0 - 12
27/08/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	2 - 17	Tyrone	0 - 11
17/09/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	1 - 17	Mayo	1 - 16

O'Byrne Cup Senior Football

08/01/2017	Parnell Park	Dublin	1 - 15	DCU	0 - 11
11/01/2017	Parnell Park	Dublin	1 - 10	UCD	2 - 9
15/01/2017	Wexford	Dublin	1 - 12	Wexford	1 - 9
22/01/2017	Newbridge	Dublin	0 - 16	Kildare	2 - 8
29/01/2017	Drogheda	Dublin	2 - 16	Louth	1 - 10

Leinster U21 Hurling Championship

31/05/2017	Kilkenny	Dublin	0 - 16	Kilkenny	0 - 21
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Leinster U21 Football Championship

01/03/2017	Mullingar	Dublin	2 - 14	Westmeath	0 - 6
22/03/2017	Mullingar	Dublin	2 - 10	Longford	0 - 9
29/03/2017	Portlaoise	Dublin	2 - 14	Offaly	0 - 8

All-Ireland U21 Football Championship

15/04/2017	Cavan	Dublin	1 - 13	Donegal	0 - 9
29/04/2017	Tullamore	Dublin	2 - 13	Galway	2 - 7

Leinster Minor Hurling Championship

15/04/2017	Parnell Park	Dublin	1 - 11	Laois	1 - 8
13/05/2017	Parnell Park	Dublin	0 - 20	Wexford	1 - 14
02/07/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	1 - 17	Kilkenny	3 - 15

All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship

22/07/2017	Newry	Dublin	2 - 20	Antrim	0 - 11
13/08/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	2 - 13	Cork	0 - 23

Leinster Minor Football Championship

22/04/2017	Parnell Park	Dublin	1 - 15	Meath	1 - 13 AET
20/05/2017	Parnell Park	Dublin	6 - 12	Longford	0 - 5
05/07/2017	Newbridge	Dublin	1 - 16	Kildare	0 - 14
16/07/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	2 - 19	Louth	0 - 12

All-Ireland Minor Football Championship

07/08/2017	Portlaoise	Dublin	2 - 11	Clare	0 - 10
27/08/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	0 - 14	Derry	0 - 17

U17 Hurling Championship

19/04/2017	Parnell Park	Dublin	1 - 20	Offaly	0 - 15
20/05/2017	Parnell Park	Dublin	2 - 20	Wexford	0 - 17
18/06/2017	Portlaoise	Dublin	3 - 17	Kilkenny	2 - 10
27/07/2017		Dublin	W/O	Antrim	Conceded
06/08/2017	Croke Park	Dublin	1 - 17	Cork	1 - 19

U17 Football Championship

28/06/2017	Navan	Dublin	1 - 10	Meath	1 - 15
05/07/2017	Tullamore	Dublin	3 - 14	Offaly	0 - 7
13/07/2017	Abbotstown	Dublin	2 - 16	Westmeath	1 - 10
18/07/2017	Portlaoise	Dublin	1 - 16	Laois	1 - 14
22/07/2017	Drogheda	Dublin	1 - 13	Meath	3 - 12

Our 'Advantages'

Some of the commentary around Dublin's perceived 'advantages' - such as population and finance - is both repetitive and often, quite frankly, misinformed. Firstly, I'd like to address a number of recurring 'beliefs' about our current set-up at senior intercounty level.

Myth 1: Our senior teams have meals delivered to their homes on a daily basis or ever in fact. UNTRUE.

Myth 2: Our senior teams are given five-star, 'all-expenses paid' treatment. UNTRUE.

Here's a short story to illustrate such myths concerning our senior footballers! The hard yards every year are done in Innisfails GAA club in late winter/spring before they move to St Clare's, DCU for Championship preparation.

Last year, two training sessions were cut short owing to floodlight failure at Innisfails. On investigation, it turned out this was caused by a player, who had to return to the dressingrooms following injury on the pitch, who turned on a heater which cut short the circuit! Nothing five-star about that!

Broadening out the debate, as I have often said the battle for young hearts and minds is ongoing - and tougher than ever. My belief is that it is tougher in Dublin than in any other county in Ireland. In rural areas, the local GAA club is often the very heart beat of the parish. Playing underage for the local club is often a rite of passage for young people. This is less so in the larger suburban areas of Dublin.

But through the wonderful work of our clubs and schools, we can reach as many young Dublin children as possible and introduce them to what will hopefully be a lifelong love of

our national games. But we are not in a situation where we are turning thousands of children away from the gates of our clubs every day.

Other sports in the capital are well established, well organised and often directly in competition with our games. Add in the many other non-sporting distractions of a large city and you have a real challenge to attract young players. It may surprise some but the penetration of the GAA in certain areas of Dublin remains relatively low. This too remains an ever present challenge.

Sport and exercise in young lives is massively important. It is great to see so many opportunities available to young people these days but, as CEO of the Dublin GAA Board, I feel it is vital that the opportunity for participation in Gaelic games is available to every child.

But availability is only one thing. We need to make our games the most attractive. We need to make our facilities the best, we need to instil a love of our games and that unique belonging to the Association in the hearts of every child.

And while volunteerism and GAA effort is at record levels in the county, and I thank each and every person for this, huge investment is still required in terms of providing the right coaching resources and infrastructure.

I make no apology to anyone for the strategic investment we continue to make in this regard. In my opinion, the benefits of the money spent here comes back in multiples – not just to Dublin GAA but to the organisation nationally and to wider society too. It helps to positively shape young lives and inculcates a culture of community, worth and belonging in them.

Indeed, in recent years, the GAA has broadened its footprint in our communities with many extra-curricular and non-GAA related activities now taking place in our clubs. There are many new initiatives which reflect well on the organisation and underline our unique and hugely important role in every parish in the country. In the area of mental health especially, the GAA has been hugely instrumental in schemes and programmes to educate and increase awareness.

While the Government should and must develop policy and provide funding in this key area, the role of the GAA - with its key social network and omnipresence - can be a massive ally in this particular ongoing battle.

Personally, I feel that there are other key areas of our social infrastructure where the GAA can be a willing and very positive partner, for national and local Government.

As we continue, thankfully, to move out of recession, there is an increased and renewed awareness of the need to maximise the use of our resources, which are often limited. We need to ensure that we get the best possible outcomes from the development of these resources, from both a practical and capital spending point of view.

This is most apposite in Dublin, where costs are higher than other areas and where land and development capacity is hugely restricted both in terms of availability and price. The fact of the matter is that resources in the capital are finite.

Many clubs in established areas in our suburbs are flourishing but the increased numbers bring problems – albeit welcome ones – in terms of playing space, facilities etc. It is rare for any land or space to become available at all and, when it does, it is often at a hugely prohibitive cost.

I have spoken before of the real worth of social capital. An asset can be used for the public good and the benefit in the longer-term can far outweigh any short-term monetary gain for the asset.

As NAMA continues to wind down, perhaps it would be an idea to sit down and review what remains in their portfolio. There could be huge benefit in the Government liaising with the GAA and other sporting organisations in drawing up an inventory of potentially available assets and then identifying where the critical shortfall of facilities are in the country.

A short to medium-term plan could then be devised to address the issue, with a partnership approach to strategically develop the assets. The potential result here would be a win-win in my opinion.

Sports organisations would get increased facilities, taxpayers' money would be used for social good and the spin-off of healthy activity etc. would be of benefit to the local communities.

As an organisation that reaches into most corners of every county, and now with a huge presence abroad, I feel the GAA is uniquely positioned to be a positive conduit in the development of social progress of this country.

The GAA network is like no other. In many communities it is the very glue that binds. The GAA is proudly non-political but hugely social and cultural and, as mentioned above, is now involved in hugely important initiatives such as mental health.

With well over half a million members across all ages and social divides, the GAA is a substantial 'boots on the ground' organisation backboned by people of tremendous ability, loyalty and social conscience. Sometimes I think we could tap this well a little deeper. We could further explore partnerships and shared initiatives at local level to make our communities even better places to live.

Give Super 8s A Chance

Based on the doomsday reaction of assorted naysayers to the looming arrival of the 'Super 8' format, you'd swear that next summer's All-Ireland senior football championship is going to be an unmitigated disaster for almost everyone.

Or, more specifically, that all those counties, outside our increasingly dominant elite, are facing the sporting equivalent of Armageddon.

Following this year's four All-Ireland quarter-finals it was suggested that many counties will regret making the Super 8s as they will be comprehensively defeated in the round-robin format. It is fair to say that these games did little to stir the soul. Kerry won by eight points, Tyrone by 18, Dublin by ten and Mayo (albeit at the second attempt) by 22. A combined margin of 58 points ... all of which begs the question, how lopsided could it get if the same last-eight victims found themselves in next year's round-robin format?

But let's not rush to judgement. The Super 8s are here for a three-year trial period so please give them a chance to sink or swim. Other voices have offered the hope/belief that they could be the gateway to further reform and a new SFC structure that provides all counties - not just the heavy-hitters - with a tangible prize to aim for.

Of course that would require a leap of faith that, to date, a lot of counties have been unwilling to take. But that's another argument. What has been clear, for some time, is that a format that had remained largely unchanged since the introduction of the qualifiers in 2001 badly needed a shake-up.

You might well argue that there is no such thing as a 'Super 8', more likely, based on the outcomes during recent summers, a 'Top 4' comprising Dublin, Mayo, Kerry and one other (currently Tyrone) ... but if that really is the case, retaining the status quo was not a viable solution either, given the quarter-final beatings endured by the next four pretenders last summer.

Here's the thing, though. In the last half-decade we have seen a handful of unheralded counties (Cavan in 2013, Fermanagh in 2015, Tipperary and Clare in 2016, Roscommon this year) reach the last-eight. Nor was it a complete humiliation for all of them once they got there: Fermanagh kept the Dubs to single digits; Roscommon's mauling by Mayo was preceded by an edge-of-the-seat stalemate; while Tipperary actually burst through the glass ceiling to reach the last-four.

Maybe that couldn't happen under the new round-robin structure ... but don't dismiss the possibility entirely, especially with the so-called 'whipping' boys enjoying home advantage in one of their three group games.

In summary, this is a worthwhile experiment. Let's not draw any conclusions before the results are in.

Quick Kickouts Coming Under Siege

Speaking of experiments, quite a few experts weren't shy about forecasting that the introduction of 'the mark' would have no influence whatsoever on Gaelic football ... that it

would, in effect, be ignored by teams who would continue to go short in pursuit of retaining possession at all costs.

It didn't quite pan out that way. At different stages of the championship you could clearly discern a pattern of some goalkeepers choosing the longer restart route to try and punch holes in blanket defensive set-ups.

That said, the tactical game of kickout cat-and-mouse has become one of the most fascinating elements of football today. How and when teams decide to push up on restarts, forcing the opposing goalkeeper to punt into that congested middle-eight is very interesting to watch. Equally, how possession is such a precious component that those same netminders will attempt seemingly high-risk kickouts to locate one of their defenders in a pocket of space.

Suffice to say, 'keepers are no longer there to block piledrivers, catch the odd ball and kick an O'Neill into the stratosphere. They are deep-lying playmakers who launch the game-plan – no one better, in my mind, than our own Stephen Cluxton.

During the first half of the All-Ireland final, Mayo did a clinical job applying serious heat on Stephen's kickout but his second half response, successfully kicking short and to the wings with an 11-out-of-11 success rate, was just brilliant. And crucial to Dublin's ultimate victory.

Since then, of course, we've seen another rule book change following Special Congress at the end of September. From 1st January, every kickout must travel beyond the 20-metre line before being touched by another player from the defending team. The old edict – that the ball must travel 13 metres – still applies.

Effectively, what this means is that defenders can no longer make a late burst inside the 20m line to collect a restart.

Stephen Cluxton is the undisputed king of the rapid-fire kickout as a means of launching attacks. Is the tactic that he's perfected such a bad thing? Although it should be added that contrary to a lot of statements, Dublin players don't actually collect the ball inside their own 20-metre line, as often as is suggested.

I hope this latest rule change isn't part of a trend, especially when taken in tandem with the 'mark' and some talk of umpires being tasked with controlling delivery of the ball to 'keepers.

Is it possible that there is a small but influential number in our games that are trying to turn back the clock to an era of catch-and-kick, where sharpness of thought and speed of movement are rendered less important?

If so, Gaelic football would be the poorer for it.

Sports Capital Programme

Over the years, sporting organisations and volunteers have formed the backbone of sport in Ireland. Sport and recreation also have other benefits for the nation both economic in terms of sports tourism, employment opportunities through growth in the sector, and social in terms of better physical and mental health and well being. Sport also has a special part to play in combating the problems of drug abuse, crime and social exclusion, particularly among young people living in areas of social and economic disadvantage.

The aim of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is to increase participation and interest in sport, to improve standards of performance and to develop sports facilities at national, regional and local level, thereby contributing to healthier lifestyles and an improved overall quality of life.

I have to admit being a little bemused, again, at some of the commentary around the recently announced Sports Capital Grants. The 2017 round of the Sports Capital Programme opened for applications on 23rd January 2017 and closed on 24th February 2017. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, in partnership with Local Sports Partnerships, organised a series of regional workshops on 'How to make an application under the 2017 Sports Capital Programme' in Athlone, Cork, Dublin, Limerick and Sligo. The Department website included a Guide to making an application, A Sports Capital You Tube Channel, A blank sample application form, A copy of the Workshop presentations and the 2017 scoring system. How more transparent and enlightening can a Government Department be?

Those who beat Dublin with the ‘biggest population’ stick did it again last week when the grants were announced and the largest allocations came to the capital – for all sports. Indeed looking at the breadth of sports covered in the grant allocations, it reinforces for me the massive competition that Dublin GAA faces from other sports. But I congratulate these sports organisations on their successful applications because, as a person with lifelong involvement in sport in this city, I know that if Dublin alone got the full €56 million allocation it would still not be enough for the sporting needs of juveniles alone in this city.

There are a number of factors which are unique to Dublin clubs and sporting organisations but let’s look at this from a GAA perspective. I am aware that land cannot be bought from these grants but, as mentioned elsewhere in this report, the cost and (lack of) availability of land is a critical factor in this county and this has a knock-on impact across the finances and facilities of every single club.

At the beginning of this month I attended the launch of the Cuala Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 where the Cuala chairman, Adrian Dunne, pointed out that there is only enough suitable land left in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown area for eight more pitches in the next 100 years. Those eight pitches are to cover all local sports’ needs. Currently, there are 50 clubs in the area between Gaelic games, rugby and soccer. No other county faces this kind of vista. Cuala’s own training bill runs to tens of thousands on rent because of the acute shortage of space – and this is just to train.

Most rural clubs are well established over decades and have pitches and facilities long since in place in their parishes. There is nothing like the pressure of lack of land which is prevalent in Dublin. The bigger Dublin projects are mostly for all-weather surfaces. This is not a luxury but a necessity. The pressure on the existing pitches is so great that the only solution is all-weather surfaces that can be in constant use for both training and playing.

I also note that much of the grant-aid outside of Dublin is for upgrading of pitches and improvements to existing facilities, lights, fences etc. There are also larger capital projects such as building dressing rooms or extending clubhouses. Again, it has to be noted that the cost of similar capital projects in Dublin would be much greater than elsewhere. What would cost €100,000 in Dublin might be realised for a little more than half of that in rural Ireland. A

euro invested by the Government in Dublin is better value due to the large population and the realistic opportunity to increase participation.

So I think it is wonderful to see the Government give grant aid of €56 million to Irish sports organisations. It is even more wonderful to see that 553 Gaelic clubs were allocated almost €23.5 million. It must also be stated that all these clubs will have to fundraise significantly to complete their individual projects as the grants only part-fund the developments.

But I would never apologise to anybody for a single cent of grant aid received in this city. Instead, I would congratulate those who have the vision, who plan, who budget and who give of their time to ensure that their club is enhanced or improved – or as is often the case - is assisted in providing the very basic facilities to keep the club going. These people are to be lauded – they are doers and achievers. They get out on the pitch and hurl rather than sit on the ditch and carp.

Áras an Uachtaráin

President Michael D. Higgins and his wife, Sabina, hosted a reception for the All Ireland winning Dublin Senior Football and Ladies Senior Football teams on Monday 11th December in Áras an Uachtaráin on Monday 11th December.

President Higgins congratulated both teams on their respective victories and stated that “Inter-county footballers and hurlers are so often looked to as heroes and role models by young people and I want to acknowledge now, as President of Ireland, the role that you play in inspiring young people to participate in sport at all levels and abilities.”

President Higgins mingled with players and management from both squads and I wish to thank him for his kind words and public acknowledgement of the work of the GAA in Dublin.

Will We Come To Regret The End Of U21 Inter-County Football?

As the GAA community looks forward to 2018, one wonders if we'll even recognise the new calendar and structures, given the suite of measures about to be unveiled.

But it's not just at senior level, where the most headline-grabbing alternations have been voted in.

Previously, at this time of year, under-21 county football managers were shaping panels and stepping up plans for the fast-looming midweek onslaught. Instead, next February, March and April will be an U21-free zone.

Arising from a decision of Congress in February 2016, the U21 inter-county football championship will make way for a developmental U20 grade, with eligible players to be aged between 18 and 20.

The competition will take place between June and August, with no replays. Drawn games will be decided by extra-time, and, if needs be, a sudden-death free-taking competition.

Here's another key change. Any player submitted on a team list for a senior inter-county championship match that season will not be eligible to compete in the U20 competition.

There are, of course, some persuasive reasons for all the above. The move is designed to reduce the at-times crazy fixtures logjam of early spring – and the risk of burnout for our young elite stars, coveted as they've been by various senior, U21 and Sigerson Cup managers.

But ... have we ventured a step too far? My fear is that, long-term, the GAA could rue the decision to jettison an U21 championship that has been such an important springboard to senior success.

Dublin, no doubt, have been huge beneficiaries and it goes far beyond the tangible triumphs. The confidence that flowed from our All-Ireland U21 victories in 2010, 2012, 2014 and finally 2017 has been something of a catalyst for further glories on the senior stage. It has provided a defined pathway for a myriad of players – not to mention a certain manager by the name of Jim Gavin.

But our loyalty is not based on biased considerations. Would Tyrone and Mickey Harte have won their first three Sam Maguires (in the space of six seasons) without the foundation

stone of back-to-back U21 titles in 2000 and 2001? Would Mayo have come so persistently close, this decade, without the array of young guns who came off the conveyor belt of their 2006 All-Ireland U21 success?

My fear is that there's a significant gap from U20 to senior. Moreover, the new competition's height-of-summer timing seems bound to ensure that several U20 teams will be bereft of key players who, instead, are left to make up the numbers on a county senior bench. The new timing will also be extremely challenging for students sitting their Leaving Certificate or A Level examinations.

Time For Two Sets Of Eyes?

Have you ever witnessed a more relentless, turbo-charged, utterly exhausting All-Ireland final than this year's latest battle of inches between Dublin and Mayo? And that was just watching the game, never mind playing it!

When the dust had settled on the history-making outcome, on the various controversies, on the flashpoints spotted, another thought sprung to mind.

Or rather, a recurring thought came back stronger than ever.

Surely the time is nigh to introduce two referees at inter-county level – both football and hurling?

I appreciate that this is no easy aspiration, given the ongoing struggle to produce a sufficient number of highly-trained referees who can be trusted with inter-county games. Now, in one fell swoop, you'll need twice as many surely that's bound to prove a recruitment and logistical nightmare?

I still maintain that it's worthy of serious consideration, perhaps initially for the early seasons competitions and if successful there, then at National League level. The pressure placed on GAA referees has always been high - too high perhaps?

Over the last decade, it has been ratcheted up even more by the increasing speed and intensity of the game; by the technological leaps that mean every decision is parsed and analysed to the 'nth' degree; and by the explosion of media outlets, social as well as the traditional formats.

It's all very well for the armchair pundit and his multiple slow-mo replays. How can one referee spot everything in real time?

It stands to logic that one match official positioned in either half would not alone lessen the arduous workload, but also provide that invaluable second pair of on-field eyes.

Would this ensure that all foul play is punished? No. Would it prevent every single miscarriage of sporting justice? Doubtful. But it's fair to surmise that there would be less errors.

Of course, the sceptics would probably rail against two referees on the grounds that differing interpretations (in the same game) will fuel even more inconsistency and player frustration. We're not convinced by this argument: having a referee in the right place, more often, is half the battle.

We'll even venture that having two of them will greatly reduce the glaring spotlight, and gargantuan pressure, on our currently embattled men in the middle. When the ire of supporters is dispersed upon two sets of shoulders surely you'll be less inclined to blame it all on the ref

Seo Spóirt

Unfortunately TG4's excellent Seo Spóirt is no longer after 11 seasons on our screens. From its inception as a 20-minute show in 2007 it developed over a decade-plus to a full hour long show which served to whet the GAA public's appetite for that weekend's action.

While I appreciate that RTE's GAA Nua filled the void in the market to some degree I feel there is still the need for a GAA review/preview programme during the entire season and not just a quick round-up of a few top league games, with hurried analysis during the spring and then the championship schedule.

TG4 do great work with highlights of our club games, both live and highlights, but surely supporters i.e. license payers deserve more? Wait until the commencement of the early season competitions in the New Year and see the crowds that will attend games, in both

codes, in all four provinces and then ask the question: 'Why is there no weekly GAA analysis programme all-year round on the national broadcaster'?

All-Ireland Football Final Apres Match

In the aftermath of our brilliant three in-a-row All-Ireland SFC success this year there was commentary from some quarters - I repeat some quarters - which I can't let go unchallenged.

Dublin teams, especially senior football ones, are well used to the cut and thrust of media analysis and scrutiny, successful ones even more so! It was there in the 1970s, there was a tsunami of vitriol after the 12 men of Dublin defeated Galway in 1983, and the current panel and management seem to be 'fair game' now in some eyes.

A quick spin through this type of 'commentary' post this year's decider against Mayo goes something like this - full-time whistle sounds; Stephen Cluxton lifts Sam; split Dublin in two, actually make that four; these conceited Dubs might be liked by some but they'll never be loved; these unpatriotic Dubs they should be forced to surrender the GPO!

Some of the 'rhetoric' was in fact so puerile it was like a collaboration between Roger Hargreaves, the author of the Mr Men series of books, and the writers of that timeless classic, The Magic Roundabout!

There used by a perennial column written in some publication about the dangers of the 'Cult of the Manager' maybe some commentators should examine the 'Cult of Me' which seems very much in vogue with some of them. For example have a go at the Dubs, then sit back, get invited as a paid guest onto various radio shows etc - kerching, cha-ching, cha-ching, kerching!

I'll try to outline, in no particular running order, some of the issues and inaccuracies.

We've been down this road before with regard to the splitting of Dublin and I don't wish to copy and paste old convention reports here. Suffice to say that sense of place and identity is one of the core principles of Gaelic games. Dublin is a united county.

However, this theme was given a fresh lick of paint this summer when it was implied that Dublin GAA was 'short-changing' young players in the capital and that it would be in the greater good if Dublin were split, for their own sake, if you wish. I presume that was an attempt at engineering dissent and not really a genuine, heartfelt plea for the 'boys on the hill' to be thrown a Dublin jersey?

Maybe, if the powers that be and all other counties were in agreement, Dublin could enter a senior development squad in Division 4 of the league? Yes, didn't think so!

Moving on.

Our senior football manager, Jim Gavin, was the target on several occasions during the summer of plenty of hostility - one paper declaring mid-summer that Jim "was losing it" and that it was time for Jim to be moved on as "Dublin now need a true leader". Jim's 'crime' was standing up for one of his players, Diarmuid Connolly (who knows he crossed the line against Carlow) in the face so much rage and counter-rage.

Then, after the All-Ireland final, Jim was again held up to much ridicule and inaccurate reporting. The atmospheres in the rivals' dressingrooms after an All-Ireland final could not be any more polar. One utter delirium, the other utter dejection.

As Jim, rightly, does not see his first priority as Dublin manager to provide a 'Turn Down' service for the media, he was accused of effectively being very hostile and that his delay in getting to the media area was provocative.

Perhaps we'll have to get Jim to wear a GPS tracker in future, to give up to the second information on his location. In fact, I think there was a spare one knocking around on All-Ireland Final Sunday!

The truth of the matter is different though. After celebrating and congratulating his players, management and backroom staff, the squad and members of management made time for pictures with a young Derry supporter with special needs. This young lad and his family had requested that he could spend some time with the Dublin players and management after the game and the team and management gladly obliged.

Moving on.

In response to 'Mr Flip-Flop', neither his real name nor a real Mr Men character, obviously these Dublin players will never be loved the length and breadth of the country, but they are liked, admired and respected by plenty outside the county. In fact, in terms of within the county, I don't think, in my lifetime association with Dublin, that I have ever witnessed as strong a connection between our supporters and the current team and vice versa.

And finally, you will be glad to read that! suggestions that Dublin players had 'snubbed' the International Rules were totally untrue. Any player who was asked out for trials with the Irish team could not commit fully for the entire term owing to club commitments, or injury, or work.

Despite Jack McCaffrey highlighting this for one commentator, in plenty of time before publication, it was still dressed up as a 'Dubs snub' story with, what read as some half-hearted disclaimer, stuck in.

Development Plans

Over the past few years submissions have been made on behalf of Dublin GAA during the different stages in the plan making processes for the County Development Plans for the four local authority areas – Dun Laoghaire Rathdown; Dublin City; South Dublin and Fingal – within Dublin. The last of these Development Plans – Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 – was made this year on 16th February 2017. I wish to review briefly for your information the submissions made on behalf of the County Board with regard to that Plan.

In May 2015, a submission was made to Fingal County Council for consideration in the making of the new Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023, with regard in particular to the provision of playing facilities in the Tyrrelstown, Hollywoodrath, Hollystown area of Dublin 15.

It focused, in particular, on the deficit in the stock of playing facilities available in the area of Hollystown, Hollywoodrath and Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15, the effect of which is that the Tyrrelstown GAA Club are often compelled to go outside the area and avail of other clubs' pitches in order to play games. This was identified as being detrimental to the club's interests

and a consideration which would seriously impair its capacity to grow and consolidate its role as the GAA club in this area.

Having regard, therefore, to this particular circumstance, the continuing increase in the area's population and the number of new houses authorised for development in the locality, the provision of local playing facilities was represented as a matter of serious concern to the County Board. The deficit in the available playing facilities is also acknowledged as a problem for schools in the area with regard to the playing of Gaelic games.

Faced with this scenario and having regard to the limited resources available at local level and the demands being made on those adult members responsible for running the local club, the County Board identified a need for the provision of an area of c.6 to 7 acres in the locality of Hollystown, Tyrrelstown and Hollywoodrath. This would be suitable for the development of a playing field for adult GAA games together with the appropriate ancillary facilities at a location easily accessible to local members / residents.

To this end, the County Board requested the inclusion of an Objective in the new Draft Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 committing the Council to facilitate the provision of a new GAA sports facility featuring a playing pitch and ancillary facilities in the Hollystown, Hollywoodrath and Tyrrelstown area. This was seen as representing a significant step forward for the promotion of Gaelic games in the area in that it sought to address the issues with regard to the availability of playing facilities in the community.

Following publication of the Fingal Draft Development Plan 2017-2023 in February 2016, Cuman Luthchleas Gael Coiste Átha Cliath, in collaboration with Hollystown Golf and Leisure Limited, which own a 27 hole golf course at Hollystown, agreed to make a joint submission on the Draft Development Plan. The submission related to an area of c.10 hectares within the golf club, in the vicinity of its southern boundary. A Vision Masterplan was prepared for the lands which envisaged the rezoning of the land from Objective 'OS' "*Preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities*" to 'RA' with the provision of a 2.5ha GAA sports facility featuring a playing pitch and ancillary facilities. The County Board expressed its endorsement of the Vision Masterplan and requested that the necessary alterations be made to the Draft Development Plan to facilitate its implementation, including the provision of the new sports facility.

The submission was successful and the necessary alterations were made to the Draft Development Plan. Their effect was to provide for the rezoning of the subject lands to Land Use Zoning Objective ‘RA’ – *“Residential Area – Provide for new residential communities subject to the provision of the necessary social and physical infrastructure”* and for the inclusion on the relevant Development Plan Map – Sheet No: 12 ‘Blanchardstown North’ of Map Based Local Objective ‘72’ *“Provide a recreational facility for the Dublin County Board through the provision by them of a 2.5ha playing pitch and local recreational community facility including a clubhouse, related ancillary facilities and car and cycle parking”*.

These alterations were adopted as part of the new Development Plan, which was made on 16th February 2017.

Spawell Complex

The Blue Wave Strategy 2011 - 2017 identified a critical need for additional GAA facilities in Dublin in order to meet the demands of the growing numbers of participants who wish to play our games. The report recognised that both the shortage and the relatively high cost of land in Dublin made it very difficult for the majority of clubs to acquire land to develop additional pitches. The strategy noted the need for (a) cluster facilities with floodlights and all-weather capacity for use on a shared basis by Dublin GAA clubs and (b) two centres of excellence on the Northside and Southside respectively, for use by extended development squads and local area development needs.

The Dublin County Committee recognised the Spawell complex, as one of the locations, which represented a unique opportunity to achieve all of the above objectives. It is difficult to conceive of a site that is more suitably located for a flagship GAA development in Dublin than the Spawell Complex. The site is located in a pivotal position at the south east corner of Tymon Park. It is immediately adjacent to the M50 at the Tallaght exit (at N81), servicing the entire Dublin Motorway network and thus provides convenient access by road from all parts of Dublin. It is serviced by several bus routes (including QBC routes along the N81 boundary of the site) and rail (Luas to Tallaght at about 2 kilometres), and has excellent pedestrian and cycle access. It is immediately adjacent to a number of Dublin GAA clubs and is within convenient travel distance for most Dublin GAA clubs from all catchment areas.

The County Committee agreed to buy the site and established a subsidy company, Blue Clusters CLG, to purchase, develop, operate and manage the Spawell site on its behalf. The purchase of the complex was completed in February 2017 and the County Committee appointed a separate Board of Directors – chaired by Sean Benton, with the appropriate experience, who are now developing a masterplan for the site.

I wish to thank David Kennedy for his invaluable guidance and effort in securing this site and also to Brendan Waters, Gerry McGreevy and the GAA Director of Finance, Tom Ryan, for their commitment and support for this project.

Denis Bastick

One of our great 'warriors' Denis Bastick recently retired from intercounty football. Denis's was a career that ultimately brought great reward with five All-Ireland senior medals to add to his junior one. Denis gave his all for Dublin and eventually got to enjoy the good times after many years of experiencing broken dreams. A real leader who inspired all the younger players in the camp, as well as the wiser ones! May I take this opportunity to thank Denis for his service to the jersey and wish him all the best for the future.

David O'Callaghan

One of the great stylists of Dublin hurling, David 'Dotsy' O'Callaghan was forced to retire from the intercounty game this winter. His bravery coupled with his skill and powers of deception made him more than a match for any corner-back. Over his career in blue Dotsy won two Leinster SFC medals before going on to be a vital cog when we won NHL Division 1 honours in 2011 and again when capturing the Bob O'Keefe Cup as Leinster SH champions in 2013. Dotsy scored four points from play that day in a super individual and team display. He experienced both the good and bad days in the county colours but his attitude and flair on the pitch made him an idol of Dublin fans.

All-Ireland Club Senior Hurling Champions

This time last year, Cuala were celebrating provincial club glory as Dublin hurling's senior championship representatives. A few months later, they were crowned All-Ireland champions. They achieved it in style also to create history when securing Dublin's first All-Ireland club senior hurling championship when outclassing Clare's Ballyea in the final at Croke Park on St Patrick's Day. Cuala's hurling throughout the provincial and All-Ireland

Series was a joy to watch combining a superb work ethic with some brilliant movement and touch.

Ladies All-Ireland Senior Football Champions

Dublin turned on the style late on to overcome Mayo in the All-Ireland SFC final at Croke Park to pull away winners by four clear goals. It was a just reward for all the hard work the squad and management undertook in 2017. To do it in such fashion, in front of a record attendance of 46,286, made it all the more memorable.

Dublin had lost the last three finals to Cork to get their hands on the Brendan Martin Cup for a second time, notching their first title win since 2010. It was an extra special achievement when showing great resolve to come back stronger from such a chain of big-day defeats.

Congratulations to Dublin's six representatives on the 2017 TG4 Ladies Football All-Star team. Dublin's haul of awards matches their previous best on an All-Star team – which was achieved in 2010 when they also lifted the Brendan Martin Cup. Team captain, Sinéad Aherne, was honoured for the sixth time – making her the most decorated Dublin All-Star recipient in history. To add to Dublin's great year Noelle Healy, was named as the 2017 TG4 Senior Players' Player of the Year - becoming the first Dublin player to win the coveted award.

Camogie

Dublin Camogie continues with its revival. This year the Seniors, Minors and U16s all reached their respective All-Ireland semi-finals while the Premier Juniors were narrowly defeated by Westmeath in the All-Ireland decider.

Club Championships

Cuala won their third consecutive Dublin Senior Hurling Championship by defeating Kilmacud Crokes 1-13 to 0-13 in a repeat of the 2016 final. The omens were not great for Crokes at half-time as Cuala led by two points having played against a strong breeze. However, Kilmacud rallied in the second-half to get within a point of their near neighbours but a couple of late scores from David Treacy secured the win.

Cuala progressed to the Leinster Final with comprehensive wins over Dicksboro (2-20 to 1-16) and St. Martin's (3-17 to 0-15). The reigning All-Ireland and Leinster champions faced Offaly champions Kilcormac-Killoughey and had built up an eleven point lead after 18 minutes. They dominated proceedings throughout and retained their title on a scoreline of 1-23 to 1-9. Their opponents in the All-Ireland semi-final will be Liam Mellows from Galway.

The Senior Football Championship Final between St. Vincent's and Ballymun Kickhams wasn't the classic that everyone anticipated. St. Vincent's were appearing in their fifth final in a row and, in a low scoring game, they won their fourth title in five years by 1-8 to 0-8. The crucial goal was scored by Diarmuid Connolly in the first-half with a low left footed finish past Evan Comerford.

St. Vincent's, reigning Leinster Club Champions, travelled to Aughrim to play Rathnew for their opening game in the 2017 competition. A goal by Tomás Quinn in the 46th minute of the second-half put St. Vincent's two points clear but this proved to be their last score of the game. A late rally by Rathnew with James Stafford scoring 1-1 in the final minutes ensured a famous victory for the underdogs. This was the first time that a Dublin Club had been defeated in the Leinster Championship since 2011 following provincial wins by Ballymun Kickhams in 2012, St. Vincent's in 2013, 2014, 2016 and Ballyboden St. Enda's in 2015.

Ballyboden St. Enda's and Raheny won the Senior 'B' Football and Senior 'B' Hurling Championships respectively. Congratulations also to Ballyboughal who reached the Leinster Intermediate Club Football Championship Final following exciting wins over Emo and Curraha, only to lose to Kilanerin by 0-13 to 0-11.

Format of Dublin Club Championships

The format of our club senior football championship is an issue that I have raised in the past in my Convention reports. I suggested that the time has surely arrived for a proper senior 'A' championship as many clubs are out of their depth in the current structure.

Following a review by the Competitions Control Committee, under the leadership of Mick Seavers, it was accepted that the one chance knockout system of football championship was not best suited to the needs of our players or clubs. There was also a view, among smaller clubs especially, that they were not getting a fair chance, by having to compete against

second or third teams from larger clubs, in their efforts to achieve championship success or representing Dublin in provincial competitions.

The new proposal of a SFC 'A' competition features 16 teams, divided into four groups of four, with the top two teams in each group progressing to an open draw for the county quarter-finals. The bottom team in each of the four groups will go into an open draw for the relegation semi-finals and a final, with the loser dropping down to the SFC 'B' competition.

SFC 'B' will follow the same format of four groups of four, with the winner promoted to SFC 'A' for the following season, and the loser relegated to intermediate football. Clubs will be selected for either SFC 'A' or 'B' based on their results over the previous five years, 2013-2017, with consideration given to clubs who have not had a five-year history at senior level.

Similar reforms were also adopted for the intermediate and junior championships, with the winners of those competitions representing Dublin in their respective Leinster campaigns. However, clubs whose first team are competing in either the senior or intermediate championship, will field their second and subsequent teams in a separate "all-county" intermediate or junior competition.

These proposed changes will give the club player more meaningful games against opposing teams of a similar standard and will give the clubs a realistic opportunity of achieving success.

Health and Wellbeing

The County Health and Wellbeing Committee have been very active during the past year and when challenging times arise, as they inevitably do from time to time, they rally to support those affected. Our website www.dublingaa.ie/health-wellness is a source of information for clubs and individuals containing important contacts and health and wellbeing information and resources. A number of high profile initiatives were also undertaken during the year including:-

- Recruitment and training of Healthy Club Officers;
- Assisting clubs to become "Healthy Clubs";
- Implementation of the Dermot Early Youth Leadership Initiative;
- Poster campaign; and

- Engagement of Healthy Club Partners Pieta House, JIGSAW, HSE.

Dublin GAA is committed to promoting health and wellbeing within our membership, our clubs, and our communities. We aim to achieve this through the provision of information, initiatives and campaigns to promote physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Our sincere thanks to Chairperson, Michael O'Toole (Craobh Chiaráin), Vice-Chairperson Clare O'Sullivan (Naomh Olaf), Secretary Linda Howley (O'Dwyer's), Stephen Maguire (Fingal Ravens), Jackie Morrisson (Skerries Harps), Ger McTavish (Round Towers C.), Niall Turner (St Judes) and Kevin Spain (Cuala) for their excellent work in this area. This is a service for all the clubs and these volunteers are selfless and their immense contribution is done quietly and confidentially.

Sponsorship

We are now completing the fourth year of our partnership with AIG. 2017 was by far the most active they have been to date as they continue to identify and build on ways to utilise their relationship with Dublin GAA to meet their targets for the partnership. The recent hurling exhibition game played in Fenway Park in Boston allowed AIG to showcase their partnership with Dublin GAA on an international stage.

Our thanks to AIG CEO - Declan O'Rourke - and all of his colleagues for their sponsorship and friendship as we regard AIG as real team players, integral to our development. In addition, to the commitment that AIG bring to Dublin GAA, they continue to be a central part to growing our participation rates across the county through their support for a number of initiatives.

I would like to welcome our new partners AIB and Subaru who, along with Britvic and our family of partners, provide valuable support to Dublin GAA. O'Neill's continue as our playing gear sponsor and our thanks to Tony Towell and his team in O'Neill's for their support over the years. We value our partnerships with the corporate sector and look forward to another year working to our mutual benefit.

Under the management of Tomás Quinn, Commercial and Marketing Manager, our sponsorship portfolio continues to develop and the outstanding performance from our teams

make us an attractive marketing platform for brands and organisations. I wish to thank Tomás and his team for his outstanding work in the area of sponsorship and marketing.

GAA National Club Draw 2018

The GAA National Club Draw is now an annual event following its success over the past four years, in which over €6 million has been raised by clubs throughout the country. The sole purpose of the GAA National Club Draw is to assist clubs in their drive to raise much needed funds to help with the development and the promotion of our games.

This is an opportunity for clubs to earn €20,000 by selling their full allocation of 2,000 tickets. Each club retains all the proceeds and the prizes are provided by Croke Park. Since the draw was established in 2014, Dublin clubs have sold tickets to the value of €779,210. The next draw will take place in March 2018 and sincere thanks to our Treasurer, Finbarr O'Mahony, for co-ordinating the distribution and reconciliation of ticket sales.

Club AGMs

The AGM is the most important meeting of the year in any club. This meeting should take place before the end of November (Rule 8.3 Club Constitution) so that it has taken place before the County Convention. It must be organised in accordance with the rules, as laid out in the Official Guide and the Club Constitution.

Annually, I receive emails and phone calls from clubs enquiring about the procedures to be followed and the eligibility of members to contest various positions. In brief, club members are entitled to receive at least 28 days' notice of the meeting and, at the same time, be advised that they may submit nominations for election to the Executive Committee and motions for consideration at the AGM. This communication must be in writing but emails are acceptable.

The agenda, reports and nominations for election to the Executive Committee must be circulated ten days in advance of the meeting. Only full members, whose membership fees are paid before 31st March (or earlier if stated in the individual Club Constitution) can vote at the AGM and be eligible for election to the Executive Committee.

Club Constitution

The Club Constitution is the single most important document in the club and every club must adopt this, in accordance with rule 3.5 of the GAA's Official Guide.

The Club Constitution provides a means whereby the GAA Club can be operated and managed by the Executive Committee of the club. The Constitution provides for control of the assets of the Club and the operation of activities within the Club regarding membership, management structure, sub-committee structure, club property, AGM etc. A club can make certain alterations to the Constitution at their AGM, but these must be passed by the County Committee. Any amendments cannot be contrary to a rule in the Official Guide.

All Ticket Matches

This year we were involved in all-ticket games commencing with the Spring Series and concluding on 17th September with the All-Ireland Senior Football Final. The demand for tickets during the summer months places a heavy burden on the staff, particularly when games are scheduled for consecutive weeks. The end of August and the beginning of September was a particularly difficult period as we had extraordinary demand for the All-Ireland Football Semi-Final against Tyrone and the Final against Mayo. The collection and reconciliation of payments are also very time-consuming. The co-operation of all the clubs was appreciated, especially the individual club co-ordinators who have the unenviable task of satisfying their members' requests. A special word of thanks to Fiona Waters for her exemplary commitment and assistance for the duration of the ticket season.

Garda Vetting

The GAA has a long established principle of vetting any person who, on our behalf, works with children or vulnerable adults in our Association. This principle is enshrined in rules through our Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and has become part of the overall recruitment and selection process for those who wish to work with us in the GAA, in a voluntary or paid role.

In the GAA any person who carries out a role of responsibility such as coaching, managing or training underage teams, or indeed adult teams that contain any player under 18 years of age must be vetted. It also applies to organising underage activities or refereeing underage games. Thereafter, each club shall decide if other roles merit a person being vetted.

The National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 - 2016 commenced on 29th April 2016 and, from that date, a statutory obligation was placed upon the GAA to ensure that all persons who on our behalf undertook 'relevant work' with children has been vetted prior to taking up that role in Ireland. The Act also established the National Vetting Bureau (NVB) to oversee the e-vetting services previously administered by the Garda Central Vetting Unit.

It is a criminal offence, for a person, acting on behalf of the GAA, or for the GAA as an Association to permit any person to commence working with children on behalf of the Association without that person first obtaining a vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau in respect of the role for which they have been recruited. It is also a breach of GAA rule if you are working with children or vulnerable adults on behalf of the Association and have not been vetted.

GAA vetting services are available to any person over 16 yrs. of age fulfilling a role of responsibility with children or vulnerable adults. A parental consent form (NVB Parent/Guardian Consent Form) must be completed for applicants between 16 and 18 years of age.

Schools

Children these days spend much of their time watching television and playing video games. Often their diet is anything but healthy. Child obesity has become an increasingly serious problem inevitably entailing serious health hazards. Recent studies indicate that one in four children attending primary-school in Ireland are either overweight or obese.

For children, sport is not only a way of exercising and developing new group skills. It is also recreational and teaches teamwork. The physical exercise involved in doing sport has a beneficial effect on young people's physical health. A sedentary life and obesity often cause high blood pressure and diabetes, which ultimately increase the health care expenditure of the Government in the future.

While great work is done by our clubs in promoting our games, the lack of qualified PE teachers in our primary schools is also a significant problem. In order to improve the state of health and physical condition of children of school age, PE in primary schools should be

made compulsory. The decision of the Department of Education to introduce PE as examinable Leaving Certificate subject is a step in the right direction.

I would like to acknowledge the sterling work of all teachers who give up their time to promote our games. In general, our schools and clubs work well together and complement each other's work. Schools present extra opportunities to our players to play more games during the year and at the 'A' level, in particular they operate at a very high standard and offer extra highly competitive games to our potential future elite players.

Yet in an era of ever increasing obesity levels there is no Government recognition at all of the work that teachers, who are promoting our games, are doing. More and more young teachers, the very ones who are so keen to get into schools and contribute their talents to GAA coaching and extracurricular activities, find it is much more worth their while to head abroad for a few years where the salary is far better.

I would appeal to the Government to speed up pay equalisation between young teachers and their older colleagues and to find some small way of recognising the enormous contribution that other teachers have made, often for decades. Perhaps some small number of "Croke Park" hours could be offset by these teachers against the huge amount of time that they put into organising games and coaching throughout the year.

Press and Communications

I wish to thank The Herald for their continued coverage of Dublin GAA. The Fingal Independent and local community newspapers also give excellent coverage and analysis of our games. It is important that juvenile games are covered prominently in these newspapers as it will help to retain the interest of our young members. Our thanks to the members of the press and radio for their co-operation during the year.

Our website – www.dublingaa.ie – remains our primary platform for multimedia. We have continued to see sustained growth in numbers engaging with all Dublin media platforms in 2017. Our social media accounts are key to our interaction and information source to our clubs and supporters and with our Facebook (88,520) and Twitter (67,810) accounts consistently delivering news and content relating to our teams and competitions. We have also added Instagram in the last year with over 24,400 followers to date on that platform.

As well as the website and social media channels, other key areas include our sign up member's area 'The DubZone' and our DubsTV YouTube page which now has over 1 million views (all natural views - none have been paid for or promoted) as well as over 2,500 subscribers to our channel. The vast majority of these views are around our club senior football and hurling championships highlights coverage.

A very positive addition in 2017 was the live Eir Sport coverage of multiple Dublin championship matches. In total, Eir broadcast six Dublin championship games, 5 senior football and also the senior hurling final. The quality of the coverage produced by Eir was excellent and it was good to see many current Dublin players providing analysis of these games and allowing us to showcase the quality of the standard of our club championships.

Mick Hanley and Fergus Carroll from Dublin City FM (103.2) and Near FM (90.3) respectively, give wide coverage to our games with live broadcasts from both inter-county and club games.

Referees

Coiste na Réiteoirí are responsible for the recruitment and training of referees in the county and have been very successful in enrolling new recruits to officiate at games. They are also responsible for the administration and development of refereeing in the county, including the assessment and classification of referees.

Over the past year some of the work Coiste na Réiteoirí has undertaken includes:-

- Arranging In-Service training for all referees;
- Organising Foundation Courses for new club referees;
- Conducting fitness and rules tests for the Grade 1 referees;
- Referee Assessments;
- Referees' reports being submitted electronically (Sincere thanks to Anne O'Dea for her help with this initiative); and a
- Seminar with Dr. Olivia Hurley, Sports Psychologist, addressing referees on mental preparation before games and mental control during games.

I wish to sincerely thank Aidan Shiells, Noel O'Donoghue, Frank Brady, Tom Quigley and the members of Coiste na Réiteoirí for their exceptional commitment to refereeing matters.

Friends of Dublin Hurling

The Friends of Dublin Hurling continue with their excellent work including arranging transport for supporters to games around the country. The annual Awards evening was held in the Red Cow Hotel in November and, at this function, the Friends of Dublin Hurling recognise the achievements of our hurlers. David Treacy won the ‘Senior Hurler of the Year Award’, Seán Currie won the ‘Young Hurler of the Year’ and Dick Fields received the ‘Hall of Fame Award’.

In addition, the work being done by clubs for the development of hurling in Dublin is recognised through the ‘Club of the Year’ awards at Senior (Cuala) and Juvenile (Raheny) levels and also the School of the Year Second Level (St. Fintan’s High School, Sutton) and Primary (Scoil San Treasa Mount Merrion). I wish to acknowledge the commitment of Michael O’Grady and the committee to the promotion of hurling in the county.

Players Injury Benefit Fund

The GAA has operated an injury fund in one way or another since 1929. Through a process of constant review and frequent improvement, the Association continues to exercise concern for the welfare of members involved in our national games in various capacities.

The mandatory fund provides benefits to members playing hurling and football whose clubs are registered with the fund and, also, to accredited club personnel performing designated duties in connection with the activities of clubs registered in the Scheme. The Injury Benefit Fund is funded entirely from Club and GAA funds with no outside (e.g. insurance) involvement. There is no legal obligation on the GAA to provide such a Scheme.

Risk is an inherent factor in sport, as in life. When members voluntarily take part in club activities, they accept the risks that such participation may bring. The Injury Benefit Fund does not seek to compensate fully for injury but to supplement other schemes such as Personal Accident or Health Insurance. The Fund only provides cover for unrecoverable losses up to the limit specified under the scheme. Ultimately, the responsibility to ensure that adequate cover is in place lies with the individual member, commensurate with his/her specific needs.

Notification of an injury must be communicated to Willis within 60 days of the injury. There is an on-line application available for registering GAA Injury Benefit Fund claims. From

January 2018, it will be mandatory for all GAA Injury Benefit Fund claims to be registered on-line and efforts are ongoing to enhance the application and the claims process so that, for example, all letters will be replaced by emails and once a club officer logs in, they will see details of all payments issued against the claim.

The GAA has entered into Preferred Medical Provider Agreements with a network of hospitals and clinics countrywide with effect from the 1st October 2017. The key aim is to help reduce medical costs and to deliver quality healthcare to our registered members through the GAA Injury Benefit Fund.

It is vital that each claim is assessed by the Club Secretary to eliminate fraudulent applications. The majority of claims are processed within a period of four weeks and, generally, delays only occur when insufficient details are provided with the application.

Club Leadership Development Programme

The Club Leadership Development Programme is designed to provide the principal GAA Club Officers - Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO - with the basic knowledge and core leadership skills required to fulfil their roles effectively.

I wish to thank our Development Officer, Ken O'Sullivan, for organising two gatherings of this Programme in Croke Park for existing and prospective Club Officers. A total of 105 volunteer club members from 33 Dublin clubs attended and feedback from the participants was very positive and encouraging.

In January 2018, we will be enhancing the modules of the programme with additional structured support for club planning. All clubs are encouraged to engage with their members and define their strategic plan which will support and enable your club's growth and development. This will complement the excellent work being done by Ger O'Connor and our Regional Development Officers.

Grounds

Requests for the use of our county grounds continue to increase. Apart from our local competitions at adult and juvenile level, our grounds are utilised by Central and Leinster

Council, Dublin and Leinster Colleges, Third Level institutions, Camogie and Ladies Football Organisations, Cumann na mBunscol and Fingal Primary Schools.

The majority of championship games were played after our involvement in the All-Ireland championships and our county grounds were in excellent condition throughout, considering the volume of activity. I am indebted to our groundsman, Noel Brady, for his efforts. Everyone wants to have the pitch in pristine condition for their game but no natural playing surface can cope with this schedule without damage to the pitch. Accordingly, at certain times of the year, it is necessary to close Parnell Park in particular. While it is understandable that the majority of clubs wish to play important games in Parnell Park, it is not possible to host all adult finals there, although every effort is made to host juvenile finals. I wish to thank Luke Lawlor, Matt Palmer and Paddy O'Toole for their work in O'Toole Park.

A special word of gratitude goes to Patsy Kiernan for his commitment and attention to Parnell Park. His willingness to cater for the games programme, training sessions and all committee meetings are very much appreciated. Patsy also arranges a Coffee Morning in aid of St. Francis Hospice and a Mass for Deceased Members in Parnell Park annually. A sum of €25,000 was collected and donated to St. Francis Hospice this year. Included in this sum are the voluntary donations from patrons to our games in return for a team sheet and I acknowledge the support of the members of O'Tooles with this initiative.

Unfortunately, Patsy was extremely ill recently and is currently recovering in hospital. I know all his friends in Dublin GAA are thinking of him and wish him all the best with his recovery. We are very fortunate that Charlie Canavan has, in the interim, stepped into the breach and has made himself available around the clock for the various activities that occur in Parnell Park.

The numerous games programmes staged in Parnell Park entail a significant amount of time for the essential preparation and planning. This involves communicating with all the statutory agencies to ensure the safety of all our patrons. I am also indebted to the very small team of regular stewards for their assistance, their attention to their different duties and their courtesy to our patrons, all of which adds to the presentation of our games. I would appeal to clubs to provide additional stewards for Parnell Park and to co-operate with requests from stewards.

Alfie Byrne Park

Alfie Byrne Park is a full-sized, floodlit all-weather facility situated beside Clontarf Dart Station. The facility opened in September 2010 and Dublin County Board, in partnership with Dublin City Council, have full access to the facility. Over 12 clubs use the facility regularly along with both primary and second-level schools. In addition to this, many of our Inter County Teams and Development Squads have used the facility for training and matches. It has been an invaluable asset to clubs, schools and county teams, particularly during inclement weather when grass pitches are often unavailable.

Cuimhne na Marbh

Sadly, during the past year, a number of our colleagues were called to their eternal reward. I know I will be excused if I refer to a number of people that I knew personally - Eddie Boylan (Erins Isle), Mary Crowley and Paddy Rodgers (Whitehall Colmcille), Padraig Cullinane (Ballyboden St. Enda's), Paddy Duffy (St. Brigid's) and John Malone (St. Mary's).

Pat Bugler was Chairman of St. Oliver Plunkett's Eoghan Ruadh and previously held many officer positions. He was actively involved in coaching and managing Juvenile and Minor teams.

Fr. Tom Colreavy played inter-county football with Leitrim and served in many parishes throughout the city. He was actively involved in the promotion of the GAA in all those areas. He was a founding member of St. Marks GAA Club and, most recently, a great patron of O'Tooles GAA Club.

Denis (Danno) Mahony played with Dublin during the 1940s and 1950s winning an All-Ireland Minor medal and two National Football League titles along with eight Dublin SFC medals with St. Vincent's. He captained Dublin in the 1955 All Ireland Final against Kerry and became Chairman of the County Board in 1958 at 29 years of age.

Denis (Dinny) O'Brien was one of the founding members of Kilmore GAA Club. He was a passionate contributor and supporter of Irish music and Scór and was a dedicated steward in Parnell Park.

Vincent Walsh was a native of Galway and was actively involved in Templeogue Synge Street where he managed many juvenile and adult teams. He was also the club delegate to the County Committee.

Tommy Norton was a founding member of Na Fianna and was at one time a selector with the Dublin Senior Hurlers. His company, T. & D. Norton, gave employment to many individuals associated with Dublin club and county teams.

It is heartening to witness the community solidarity and support by GAA clubs at funerals and I'm sure that anyone who has had a bereavement appreciates this support.

John Horan

John Horan was elected GAA President-elect at Congress in February. He is the first Dublin native to hold the role since Daniel McCarthy (1921-24) although Dr. JJ Stuart, from Clare, was the last recorded president from the capital in 1958.

John is a life-long member of Na Fianna and is a secondary school principal in St Vincent's CBS. A former Dublin Minor Football Team Manager and Selector, John was elected vice-chair of the Leinster Council in 2011 and became chairman in 2014.

It is a great honour for John, his family, his club and for Dublin and we wish him every success during his term as President.

Páraic Duffy

I wish to acknowledge the support that I received during the year from the Árd Stiúrthóir, Páraic Duffy, and his staff in Croke Park. In October Páraic announced that he will retire from his position on 31st March 2018.

I wish to express my thanks to Páraic for his commitment to the Association over many years in a variety of roles - coaching and games development, games administration, player welfare and for the past ten years as Árd Stiúrthóir. Páraic understood the importance of having a strong Association in Dublin and he played a key role in the formulation of our Strategic Plan.

On a personal basis Páraic was very approachable and extremely honourable in all my dealings with him. On behalf of Dublin GAA I wish Páraic and his wife Vera a happy retirement in his native Monaghan.

Buíochas

I wish to thank our Chairman, Seán Shanley, for his assistance and support during the year. Seán has worked tirelessly in the past year and was always willing to attend any operational / sponsorship / business / provincial or central committee meetings during the year. Seán has often remarked to me during the year that one of the great privileges of being Chairman of the County Board is visiting clubs around the county and seeing, at first hand, the increase in underage participation, the new developments and meeting so many enthusiastic volunteers. Thanks also to Mick Seavers and Jim Roche for their help and assistance and their willingness to attend fixtures or meetings, as required. I would like to pay a personal word of thanks to all the office staff - for their continued support and loyalty.

The work of Strategic Programme Manager, Kevin O'Shaughnessy, and Gerard O'Connor, Games Manager, and their team is appreciated as they face the challenges of increasing our participation rates and establishing new clubs.

I am indebted to Finbarr O'Mahony for the ongoing outstanding commitment he gives as Board Treasurer, resulting in another operating surplus this year in a very challenging environment. All financial matters are handled smoothly and efficiently by Finbarr.

I wish to thank Gerry Harrington and John McNicholas for representing us diligently during the year at Leinster Council. It is important to have individuals of experience on these provincial committees. Gerry has completed the maximum term of five years on the Provincial Council and has given outstanding service to Dublin GAA at both club and county level. Michael Reynolds and his colleagues at Áras Laighean are always on hand to give assistance when called upon.

A special word of thanks to Michael Seavers (again!), John McNicholas, Carol Monahan and the members of the Competitions Control Committee for their work in scheduling and implementing a games programme for our players. Also to Michael Errity and Tom O'Shea

and the members of Coiste Éisteachta for the huge volume of work undertaken during the year. Thanks also to the members of our various sub-committees for their commitment.

I wish to acknowledge the efficiency of Bernie MacLaughlin, Damian Murphy and Kathleen McPoland of Coiste na nÓg. John Larkin has completed his five year term as CCC2 Chairperson and unfortunately due to work commitments overseas he is not available to serve on any committees in the coming year. A special word of thanks also to all the board officers, delegates and club officials for their dedication and co-operation with me during the past year.

I am indebted to the Parnell Park staff - Aileen, Fiona, Gabrielle, Kathleen and Sharon - for their support during the year and they work diligently to ensure the efficient running of our organisation.

I must again express appreciation on behalf of all involved in our games for the commitment of time and expertise by the many voluntary administrators at club and county level. Our games cannot function without them. I think that we can look back on a successful year for the Dublin GAA as we strive to be even better and face head-on the many challenges ahead.

A busy year indeed! Finally, I would like to finish by paying tribute to the legions of team mentors who, week in and week out, perform minor miracles to keep our games healthy and growing in Dublin.

Seán Mac Coisdealbha

Rúnaí

CCC Secretary's / Fixture Planners Report 2017

We have come to the end of another playing year, the time when we should review what has happened in the past twelve months and plan ahead for the next. This report will attempt to give a general overview of the adult games programme which is intended to provoke some reaction that will lead to improvements in the future.

In 2017 CCC Átha Cliath organised just over 3,900 competitive minor and adult hurling and football fixtures in 33 championships, 31 leagues and 12 cup competitions. In addition, 15 other Leinster qualifier competitions, shield competitions or tournaments for beaten championship first round teams were also arranged.

By and large the games programme agreed last January was adhered to throughout the year and the vast majority of fixtures were played on schedule. Where a fixture delay did occur it was usually because one of the team's involved was tied up in another competition, e.g. a Dublin or Leinster championship, which took precedence over the delayed fixture.

On the positive side I am pleased to report that our 2017 fixture programme, including all Under 21 games, was fully completed by Sunday December 10th. On the negative side I regret to report that the number of match concessions, in both codes, rose this year, particularly during the months of June and July when clubs were faced with the loss of players, especially younger adult players, to holidays and student working abroad schemes. Many teams - at all levels - struggled last summer, indeed some were so badly hit that they were forced to withdraw from competition. It is a problem which has been getting worse over recent years and one that Clubs need to give more attention to when planning entries for next Year.

Adult Hurling Championships; At Senior "A" Hurling Championship level Cuala completed a three in a row with a County Final victory over their neighbours Kilmacud Crokes. Raheny, Thomas Davis and Erin's Isle took the honours in the other principal championships. In general the hurling championships ran reasonably well although I would suggest that we need to review the championship format at SHC B and Intermediate levels where the involvement of players playing at these levels on inter-county level panels (both codes) has, and will in the future, cause problems particularly in relation to finishing these championships so that Dublin can be represented in the provincial club championships. As in previous reports I must again refer to the ease of qualification in senior B, intermediate and junior hurling championships. In my opinion a system that allows for four qualifiers from six participants is only inviting lower than acceptable playing standards. Qualification for championship knockout rounds should be an achievement following hard work in the group stages. It would be difficult to argue that some qualifiers made any sort of achievement under the current structure.

Adult Hurling Leagues; I mentioned above about the problems of games conceded and walkovers. Sadly, the fact is that in 2017 every hurling league division from division one to division nine inclusive was affected by a failure to fulfil fixtures. I can understand that in lower leagues some players may be called upon to make up numbers at higher levels or that players on lower teams may not be as committed as those on higher teams but teams not being able to field in the top league division/s is worrying.

Long drawn out league top 4 play-offs was a problem at the end of the season. In most cases the delays arose because of another team's involvement in Dublin and / or Leinster Championship. These delays are very unfair on the "waiting" team who must find ways of staying active and sharp as well as ensuring that they will be available at short notice when their opposition become available to play the all important fixture. The CCC has given consideration to the problem in both codes. Rather than have three games (2 semi-finals and a final) playoffs a proposal that the top three in each league be promoted and that the bottom three be relegated went before the December County Committee meeting. If it was passed, this will involve automatic promotion for the top two teams and a play-off (only one game) between the third and fourth team for the last promotion spot.

Adult Football Championships; St Vincent's claimed their 4th SFC title in five years with a victory over Ballymun Kickham's in what was a disappointing final for the neutral observer. Na Fianna and St Oliver Plunkett's Eoghan Ruadh took the titles at Intermediate and Junior "A" levels respectively.

While we managed to work around the cluttered inter-county programme in getting our own championship programmes played on time it was unfortunate that the involvement of the Dublin Under 21 team in the All Ireland final last April, and the decision of some players (or so we were led to believe!), not to play with their Clubs spoiled the participation of several clubs in the senior football championships. Despite opinions to the contrary the CCC had no option under rule but to refuse to postpone club championship fixtures as there are penalties listed in the Official Guide for doing so. Indeed, examination of our games programme will show that there were no alternative dates available to play our football championship fixtures. As a result of its decision not to postpone the championship first round the CCC, and specifically the CCC Chairman and I, as its Secretary, were cast in the roles as the villains of the piece, even being told at one point that it would be made known that it was our fault if Dublin were beaten in the All Ireland Final!! We have stayed quiet up to now but you will, I trust, excuse me if I will use the opportunity of this Convention report to set the record straight.

The GAA Official Guide, our County Bye-laws and our CCC regulations lay down very clearly that the period of time that Under 21 inter-county players (including those involved in an All Ireland Final) are not expected to fulfil inter-Club championship fixtures prior to an inter-county fixture, in the same code, is six days. At the January and April County Committee meetings and also at Football Committee meetings the CCC made it crystal clear that it intended to proceed with SFC fixtures (outside of six days prior to inter-county fixtures) regardless of the Under 21 team's progress in the All Ireland Championship. If I'm not mistaken, not one delegate raised any complaint or any opposition to the CCC plan to do so at any of the above meetings. While everyone kept their thoughts to themselves at County and Football Committee level everything changed when Dublin won their semi-final on Easter Saturday last as the CCC Officers were, on Easter Sunday and Monday, snowed under with emails from the Clubs of players involved on the Under 21 panel who were also on SFC club teams requesting that the SFC fixtures be postponed. It would appear that the email campaign may have been orchestrated as the wording of the various emails was almost identical. Based on the rules around the availability of players, the need to provide games for non-inter-county players who themselves plan work, family events and holidays around fixtures, and in order to get through our programme of games on time (we had, as I've already mentioned, no spare dates) the CCC refused these requests and proceeded with the first round of the SFC. Regrettably some players opted not play for their Clubs in this round.

Are there lessons to be learned? Yes, I believe that there are. Some of our Inter-county team managements have to understand that they have a responsibility to the clubs who they borrow players from. Insisting that an A v. B training match is more important than a Senior Club championship match and encouraging (allegedly!) players not to make themselves available for a Club fixture that the rules and our County Board say they should be available for is not acceptable. Young players should not be put in a position where they feel that their place on an inter-county panel is under threat if they don't commit completely to the County team even if it is to the detriment of their Club team and Club team mates. County Team Managers are entitled to support in the job that they are doing on behalf of the County Board but they do not have the right to try to control the activities of a sub-Committee of the County Board. The rules around the availability of players are there whether we like them or not and must be respected; Clubs are entitled to be protected by those rules and to have their players available to them for their important games.

Players should also remember that their first allegiance is to their Clubs and not the County team. I can understand that they didn't want to risk missing an All Ireland Final but their Club should always come first. One of the few positives with the new inter-county fixture plan is that the Under 20/21 championships in both codes are scheduled to be played during the summer months at the same time as the senior inter-county championships which should ensure that Club v. County issues at Under 20/21 level should not arise again, or at least for the next three years.

As you know the 2017 championships were the last championships played under the structures that have been in place for the past five years. In July last County Committee adopted new structures proposed by CCC. These will see our various football championships separated into 1st team Senior, intermediate and junior inter-Club Championships and All County team Championships at intermediate and junior levels for 2nd, 3rd etc teams in clubs. The benefits of the new structure is that every Club will now get a fair opportunity to try to win a county championship at their own level and that all teams and players will get the opportunity to play at least three (group) championship games each year. The days of one chance or you are out are gone!

As part of the football championship re-structuring it was agreed that the senior championship of 32 teams is to be split into two 16 team championships. There is no easy way of doing this and the method decided upon, and approved by County Committee, was by means of a league table with points awarded for SFC performance over the five years since the introduction of the Pot A / Pot B system in 2013. Obviously there will be disappointment in some clubs at their Championship position under this system but we in CCC think that it was the fairest way to carry out the task. I have included the SFC 1 and 2 lists for 2018 below; Points were awarded as follows;

SFC winners	6 points
Runners-up	5 points
Beaten semi-finalists	4 points
Beaten quarter-finalists	3 points
Beaten second round	2 points
Beaten first round	1 point

	<u>SFC 1</u>	-	<u>Points</u>
			<u>2013-17</u>
1	St Vincents		29
2	Ballymun Kickhams		19
3	Ballyboden St Endas		17
4	St Judes		17
5	St Brigids		13
6	Kilmacud Crokes		12
7	Lucan Sarsfields		12
8	Na Fianna		12
9	St O. Plunketts ER		12
10	Raheny		11
11	St Sylvesters		11
12	Skerries Harps		10
13	Ballinteer St Johns		9
14	Castleknock		9
15	Clontarf		9
16	Parnells		9

	<u>SFC 2</u>	-	<u>Points</u>
			<u>2013-17</u>
1	St Annes		8
2	Templeogue Synge St		8
3	Thomas Davis		8
4	Whitehall Colmcille		8
5	Cuala		7
6	Fingal Ravens		7
7	Erins Isle		6
8	St Marys		6
9	St Patricks (P)		6
10	UCD *		*6
11	Naomh Mearnog		5
12	Round Towers (C)		5
13	St Maurs		5
14	St Peregrines		5
15	Naomh Olaf		4
16	Fingallians		1

* UCD relegated to Intermediate Status for failing to fulfil a 2017 SFC relegation fixture.

The potential for good competitive, close and exciting Senior Football Championships is enormous and any group of four teams from either of the above lists would be expected to produce good quality matches and to attract huge attention from all with an interest in Dublin football.

Adult Football Leagues; The points made above in the section on Adult Hurling Leagues also apply to Adult Football Leagues. In addition, I am suggesting that we need to consider reducing the number of teams in Football leagues from 16 to 12 or 14 teams. My reason for this suggestion is that I believe that we are trying to play too many league fixtures in too short a time frame, especially during the summer months. We have a congested games programme where we pile on matches in order to complete our leagues on time which in turn greatly increases the risk of injury and burn-out to players. The new games structure where we will need to finish leagues by the end of August in order to concentrate on playing championships from early September onwards will, in my opinion, only make things worse.

National Inter-county Fixture Plan; The new “Super Eight” football championship and Provincial Hurling Championship structures at senior inter-county level comes into place in 2018. These have been sold by Croke Park as being structures which will increase the amount of time available to counties for the playing of Club games with one of the main selling points being that County Boards’ will have 24 club only weekends when Dublin and other Counties can play games without players being tied up on inter-county duty. Having studied the 2018 games programme issued by Central CCC it is my opinion that Congress – i.e. the Counties -in adopting the new structures have bought a pig in a poke. By my calculations 20 club only weekends are available.....seven of them in November or December! Unfortunately bad weather, unplayable pitches and the need to give players a winter break won’t allow us to play Adult games at that time of year. To be frank, we are no better off than we have been heretofore. In fact, at Club level we are actually worse off than we were. Apart from April, September and October there will be no other weekends available when Clubs can reasonably expect to play their fixtures with their inter-county players available to them. January (O’Byrne and Walsh Cups) and all of February, March, May, June, July and August (National League and Championships) are completely taken over by inter-county games (especially for successful Counties). The fact that the Leinster Hurling Championship and the so-called Super 8 Football quarter-finals are being scheduled over two separate periods of consecutive weeks makes our own fixture scheduling particularly difficult, (a) inter-county players won’t be available to clubs for lengthy periods and (b) our dilemma is do we schedule our fixtures against the Dublin Senior inter-county championship fixtures i.e. do we play matches or do we allow players etc to support Dublin teams? And if we don’t play matches when Dublin plays when should we schedule our club league games?

What may well have been a misguided panic attempt to deal with some of the noise coming from the newly formed CPA will, I fear, lead to the Club player in the more successful dual counties being even more disadvantaged in terms of when games can be played than they have been up to now.

Club Players Association: In mentioning the CPA I have been disappointed that in various interviews in the print and broadcast media since their launch last January their spokespersons have been allowed – unchallenged - to criticise, without substance, how the Dublin Club games programme is arranged. I am also disappointed that despite what they claim are the shortcomings in our games programme they have not made, to my knowledge, any effort to contact our County Board, our CCC or any individual member of our CCC, to

seek a meeting to discuss with CCC how the lot of those they claim to represent can be improved. If they are serious about resolving what they see as our fixture problems I would have thought that a meeting with the Committee responsible for organising the fixtures should have been the first item on the agenda. But then it's much easier to give out publicity seeking sound bites than to sit down and discuss solutions! Let me put on record that if any properly elected or appointed representative body wish to meet with CCC to discuss fixture programmes, or any other matter of interest, they are more than welcome to do so. After all the CCC has met, and continues to meet, and work with, County Committee and the Football and Hurling Committees – the original Club Player Representatives.

Minor: Up to now CCC's priority at minor level is to provide minor players with enough games to keep them in competitive action for as long as possible while still allowing them time for studies, exams and family (summer) holidays. The league's February to July (with a Leaving Cert' exam break from mid May to mid June) and championship September to November split season, although not ideal, does appear to be working reasonably well, enhanced as it has been this year by the introduction of championship shield competitions for teams not qualifying for the knockout stages of championship proper. Most teams are now getting a minimum of 11/12 league and championship matches in each code which is considered to be a sufficient number of games for players given their other commitments in their minor years.

Under 21 Competitions: I have made my views known in previous reports about the problems that the Under 21 grade causes for CCC at club level, although I do acknowledge that players seem to want these championships. While I personally question the need for playing Under 21 competitions on the basis that most, if not all under 21 players, are already well provided for with games at minor, adult club and /or school or college level I do feel if we are to continue with Under 21 championships we need to find a slot where these championships are not clashing with other important fixtures.. The end of year, early winter, time-slot is doing nothing for these championships. Apart from having to compete in worsening weather and mucky conditions the clash with the closing stages of other leagues and championships leads to all sorts of disputes and has been the cause of cancelled games and some lopsided championships because of the withdrawal of teams. If, as we hope to do in 2018, we can get to a situation where all adult competitions completed by mid-October it would be a help in running clash free Under 21 championships in late October and November should we not find another slot earlier in the year.

Cup Competitions: As also reported in previous years it is my opinion that our various cup competitions have run their course and should be dispensed with. The level of interest is minimal and most teams seem to give up on these competitions as soon as, if not before, their chances of winning the particular cup has gone. Indeed, some clubs have only shown interest in using their opening cup game as a warm-up for their first league fixture, pulling out of the cup after that stage and ruining the competition for remaining teams. The story of this year's cup competitions, like those in previous years, is generally a list of walk-over's and referees' involved in wild goose chases. The revised inter-county and club playing season schedules may come to our aid in bringing the cups to an end as I just don't see any room in the new schedules for cup competitions.

Discipline: Overall the level of discipline on the field of play has improved but it is still far from perfect. Most proposed suspensions issued by CCC are the minimum penalties allowed

by rule but there have been occasions when harsher penalties have been applied. The message must go out that foul play will not be tolerated.

At times there are those who come to the view that CCC has been lenient in dealing with certain matters of indiscipline. Having watched the process in action over a number of years I can assure everyone that it is fair and that any decision made by CCC is on the basis of the evidence presented, or available, to the members of CCC and in accordance with the Official Guide. It is disappointing, therefore, that some Clubs encourage players to use the Hearings system even when the evidence is very clearly against the player. Nobody has a problem in overturning a red card when it has been issued by mistake and CCC has, in 2017 as in other years, rescinded such cards when it needed to, but we do have a problem when the hearing is sought in order to overturn a card that was correctly issued. Please be aware that red cards can only be overturned when there is compelling evidence that it should be. In the main compelling evidence is defined in the GAA Disciplinary Handbook as video evidence which clearly shows that the red card should not have been issued or that it was issued to the wrong player.

Conclusion: I must give special thanks to the outgoing members of CCC; Mick Seavers (Chairman) (Erin's Isle), Donie Kerin (Vice-Chairman) (Ballyboden St Enda's), Colm Crowley (Fingallians), Eamon Potts (Good Counsel), Tom Rock (Kilmacud Crokes), Cathal O'Donnell (St Sylvester's), Brendan Mulally (St Margaret's), Noel Murphy (Trinity Gaels) and Aidan Shiells (Referees Co-ordinator / Clontarf) for their work and commitment during the year.

I would like to put on record my thanks to Aidan Shiells and Frank Brady who met almost every Wednesday during the playing season to make Referee appointments. Thanks especially to Frank for the tremendous work he does looking after Referee cry-offs and replacements after normal office hours and particularly over weekends.

Thanks also to all the Club Officers, Delegates, Mentors and Referees for your co-operation throughout the year.

Finally I wish to record my sincere thanks to the following; Carol Monahan, for her constant support and assistance in the office and to Anne O'Dea who took over when both Carol and I were on Sick leave last Spring, to John Costello, Seán Shanley and our other colleagues in Parnell Park for their constant help and advice and to Noel Brady, Charlie Canavan, Luke Lawlor and Paddy O'Toole for keeping Parnell and O'Toole Park in great condition throughout the year. Thanks and very best wishes to our usual Tuesday evening host Patsy Kiernan who has been unwell and a patient in hospital in recent months. His humorous commentary on matters CCC is greatly missed by all our Committee members.

I will finish by wishing You All a very successful year on the club and county playing fields in 2018.

Seán MacNiocláis.
Rúnaí CCC Átha Cliath.

<u>C.C.C Átha Cliath Hurling Winners / Runners-up 2017</u>		
	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Runners up</u>
Senior A Hurling Championship	Cuala	Kilmacud Crokes
Senior B Hurling Championship	Raheny	Whitehall Colmcille
Intermediate Hurling C/ship	Thomas Davis	Na Fianna
Junior A Championship	Erins Isle	St Marks
Junior B Championship	St Maurs	Faughs
Junior C Championship	Cuala	Realt Dearg
Junior D Championship	Trinity Gaels	Setanta
Junior E Championship	St Josephs OCB	Na Gaeil Óga
Junior F Championship	Na Fianna	Whitehall Colmcille
Minor A Championship	Na Fianna	Lucan Sarsfields
Minor B Championship	St O. Plunketts ER	Thomas Davis
Minor C Championship	Castleknock	Na Fianna
Minor D Championship	St Peregrines	Ballyboden St Endas
Minor A Shield	Ballyboden St Endas	Cuala
Minor B Shield	Faughs	St Brigids
Minor C Shield	St Maurs	Fingallians
Minor D Shield	Castleknock	St Sylvesters
Under 21 A Championship	Na Fianna	Ballyboden St Endas
Under 21 B Championship	Whitehall Colmcille	St Judes
Under 21 C Championship	St Sylvesters	Naomh Barrog
AHL 1	Ballyboden St Endas	St Brigids
AHL 2	Faughs	Lucan Sarsfields
AHL 3	Erins Isle	Scoil Ui Chonail
AHL 4	Fingallians	Clontarf
AHL 5	St Marks	Faughs 2
AHL 6	Cuala	Na Fianna
AHL 7	Craobh Chiarain	Clontarf
AHL 8	Na Gaeil Óga	Round Towers (L)
AHL 9	Commercials	St Josephs OCB
MHL 1	Ballyboden St Endas	St Vincents
MHL 2	Whitehall Colmcille	St Judes
MHL 3	Clontarf	Thomas Davis
MHL 4	Good Counsel	Cuala
MHL 5	Wild Geese	Ballyboden St Endas
BOLAND CUP	St Brigids	O'Tooles

<u>C.C.C Átha Cliath Football Winners / Runners-up 2017</u>			
	<u>2017</u>	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Runners up</u>
Senior Football Championship		St Vincents	Ballymun Kickhams
SFC Tournament		Ballyboden St Endas	Raheny
Intermediate Football C/ship		Na Fianna	St Judes
IFC Leinster Reps		Ballyboughal	Naomh Fionnbarra
IFC Tournament		Ballymun Kickhams	Scoil Ui Chonail
Junior A Championship		St Oliver Plunketts ER	Ballymun Kickhams
JFC Leinster Reps		Man O War	Crumlin
Junior B Championship		Skerries Harps	St Oliver Plunketts ER
Junior C Championship		St Brigids	Lucan Sarsfields
Junior D Championship		Kilmacud Crokes	Starlights
Junior E Championship		Ballyfermot DLS	Rosmini Gaels
Minor A Championship		Na Fianna	Thomas Davis
Minor B Championship		St Vincents	St Marys
Minor C Championship		Craobh Chiarain	Ballyboden St endas
Minor D Championship		Thomas Davis	Castleknock
Minor E Championship		St Sylvesters	Kilmacud Crokes
Minor A Shield		Lucan Sarsfields	Naomh Olaf
Minor B Shield		Sherries Harps	Parnells
Minor C Shield		St Patricks (P)	Garda
Minor D Shield		Clontarf	St O. Plunketts ER
Minor E Shield		St Patricks (D)	Skerries Harps
Under 21 A Championship		Na Fianna	Ballyboden St Endas
Under 21 B Championship		Round Towers (L)	Skerries Harps
Under 21 C Championship		St Margarets	Ballyboden St Endas
AFL 1		Kilmacud Crokes	St Maurs
AFL 2		Ballinteer St Johns	Naomh Olaf
AFL 3		Fingallians	Ballyboughal
AFL 4		Trinity Gaels	Good Counsel
AFL 5		Skerries Harps	Raheny
AFL 6		Ballymun Kickhams	St Brendans
AFL 7		Na Gaeil Óga	Thomas Davis
AFL 8		Naomh Olaf	GP Morans
AFL 9		St O. Plunketts ER	Kilmacud Crokes
AFL 10		Ballyfermot De La Salle	St Vincents
AFL 11 N County		Lucan Sarsfields	St Monicas

AFL 11 S County	Naomh Olaf	Wanderers
AFL 11 league Final	Naomh Olaf	Lucan Sarsfields
MFL 1	Thomas Davis	Kilmacud Crokes
MFL 2	Round Towers (L)	St Judes
MFL 3	St Patricks (D)	Fingal Ravens
MFL 4	Cuala	O'Dwyers
MFL 5	Ballymun Kickhams	Geraldine P. Morans
St Vincent de Paul Cup	Kilmacud Crokes	St Sylvesters
AIB Cup	Ballinteer St Johns	Na Fianna
Loving Cup	Fingallians	St Brigids
Joy Cup	St Margarets	St Finians (N)
Conlon Cup	Ballyboden St Endas	Na Fianna
Stacy Cup	Lucan Sarsfields	St Vincents
Parson Cup	St Margarets	St James Gaels An Caisleán
Murphy Cup	Naomh Olaf	Na Fianna
Sheridan Cup	Round Towers (L)	St Oliver Plunketts ER
Duffy Cup	Ballyfermot DLS	Rosmini Gaels
O' Broin Cup	Naomh Olaf	Lucan Sarsfields

Coiste Éisteachta 2017

During the course of the year Coiste Éisteachta met on 17 occasions, and two of the meetings dealt with Transfer and Regrading Appeals. There were 5 Transfer Appeals of which 2 were upheld, 2 were withdrawn and 1 was returned for re-processing and there were 13 Regrading Appeals which 6 were withdrawn, 5 were Lost and 2 were Upheld. The other 15 meetings dealt with 36 cases.

Of these 36 cases:

- 23 cases had the minimum suspension imposed
- 5 cases were withdrawn
- 2 cases the Appellants didn't appear for their Hearings
- 5 had their red cards rescinded (with the aid of video evidence)
- 1 case was remitted to a Club for re-processing

The decision making may, on some occasions, involve difficult circumstances and situations but Coiste Éisteachta strives at all times to be fair and honest. Each case is different and needs to be treated by all with the respect and privacy it deserves. When any member / unit feels our decision was incorrect, they then have the right of appeal to the Leinster Hearings Committee. We fully respect this, irrespective of the outcome of any appeal.

One decision taken by the Hearings Committee was the subject of an appeal to the Leinster Council Hearings Committee. This appeal was successful.

Since the introduction of Coiste Éisteachta in 2007, when a proposed sanction imposed by Coiste Cheannais na gComortaisí (CCC) to a Club or a member, who then seek a hearing, the proposed penalty proposed by the CCC is not made known to Coiste Éisteachta,

The role of the C.H.C. does not permit us to discuss any upcoming case with any of the parties. On a general note, parties can best prepare themselves for a Hearing by consulting the relevant parts of An Treoraí Oifigiúil which are easily accessible on the GAA website and set out very clearly the steps and time limits in the process of contesting a proposed Disciplinary penalty.

As stated in previous County Convention Reports the role of the County Hearings Committee (C.H.C.) isn't understood by all. The C.H.C. is not an Appeals Committee, as this is the function of the Leinster Council. The CHC does not seek to be seen as a defender of referees, committees or players. The role of the C.H.C. is to hear in person from both the Committee/Unit proposing the disciplinary penalty and Party contesting the imposition and make a decision. The parties may be assisted in presenting their case by the submission of documentary, video evidence or the testimony of witnesses. At the outset of each Hearing the member seeking the Hearing has the opportunity to object to the participation of any member of An Coiste Éisteachta. Similarly any member of the Committee who may have a conflict of interest in a case is expected to declare this and withdraw from participation in the relevant case. Having heard from all parties the Committee considers the case in detail and communicates its decision to all parties as soon as possible.

Working within a time frame imposes pressure on all involved from the claimant, defendant, referee to the C.H.C. members. We must remember that all of the participants are volunteers.

As match suspensions are now in place, where appropriate, this puts time restraint on a hearing request in that it may have to deal within a very short period of time. In order for a hearing to take place all parties have to understand that nothing can be done without a referees report. We acknowledge all those who co-operated where urgency and indeed patience was required for those rushed hearings to take place.

It is worth bearing in mind with regard to an individual or club seeking a hearing and the request is received outside the three days allowed the committee has zero tolerance in this regard and will not accommodate any such hearings outside the time frame allowed

Coiste Éisteachta are the only decision makers in **all disciplinary matters** within the County, not Coiste Cheannais na gComórtaisí or Coiste Bainistí.

In conjunction with the C.C.C. we believe that we contribute to improving discipline standards in Gaelic games in Dublin County and will continue to do so. However it must be said that too many individuals who have been sent off and reported apply for a Hearing under the impression that it is a case of the player's word against the referee's. This is not the position. We have constantly to remind applicants at a hearing that the position is set out in An Treoir Oifigiúil, is that the Referee's Report (including any additional /clarifications) is deemed to be factual unless compelling evidence to the contrary is produced. It is important to take this opportunity to remind players that this is very high bar to reach. We would again appeal to Club Officers to think about this when asked to support requests for Hearings.

We would like to pay tribute to the members of Coiste Éisteachta for their commitment and dedication, often attending meetings at short notice in order to accommodate players or clubs.

We are grateful to Patsy Kiernan & Charlie Canavan for looking after us on our meeting nights, Aileen Connolly for Her assistance with the video equipment and we would like to acknowledge the advice and help given to us by the County Secretary (John Costello).

Coiste Éisteachta Átha Cliath 2017 members:

Micheál Ó hOireachtaig	(Cathaoirleach)	Na Tráchtálaí
Diarmaid Ó Sirideain	(Leas Cathaoirleach)	Long Cogaidh
Tomás Ó Sé (Rúnaí)	(Rúnaí)	Naomh Marcais

Coiste:

Gearóid Mac Aindriú	Naomh Áine
Donncha Ó Carra	Naomh Oilibéir Pluncéid Eoghan Ruadh
Maitiú Ó Doinn	Croimghlinn
Daithí Ó Fathartaigh	Fionnbhrú Colmcille
Mel Ó Fearail	Oileán na hÉireann
Dáithí Ó Fiannaí	Parnell
Taidhgín Mac Cártaigh	Naomh Uinsionn

Mícheal Ó hOireachtaig
Cathaoirleach

Tomás Ó Sé
Rúnaí

Coaching and Games Development

The following are the members of the Coaching and Games Development Committee:-

Ger Lyons (Cathaoirleach)	O Dwyer's
Cormac O'Brien	Ballinteer St Johns
Tom O'Donnell	Secondary Schools
Martin Rabbitte	Primary Schools
Danny Harrington	Juvenile Referee Representative
Kevin O'Shaughnessy	DCB
Gerard O'Connor	DCB

The main areas of focus during the past year were: -

- Primary schools coaching programme
- Partnership with DCU "Moving well-being well" research programme
- Inner city coaching initiative
- Redeployment, recruitment and training of GPOs
- Promotion and delivery of Cúl camps
- Further roll out of the Child Protection in Sports Awareness workshops
- Review of CCC1 Go Games programme
- Coach and referee education programmes.

A central role of the games development strategy is the delivery of a coordinated primary school coaching programme to many schools. Throughout the past year 354 primary schools have benefited from this programme, totalling 75,765 children who have had an opportunity to play Gaelic games. We are indebted to all the teachers and schools providing us with strong vibrant link between the Club and the local School.

For many children, this is their first, and perhaps only experience of Gaelic games, so it's important that we make it a lasting one. Our philosophy in the primary school is one of participation, to introduce children to the games and offering them an opportunity to go and play for their local club.

Together with Larkin Community School, Dublin City Council, and Dublin G.A.A a pilot project was set up in the north inner city area. The Gaelic Primary Schools (G.P.S) Inner city programme was developed by Dublin G.A.A and Dublin City Council to increase both primary and secondary schools participation in Gaelic Games. The programme focused on both increasing young people playing and encouraging leaders in their own communities.

The programme centred on eighteen Transition Year students delivering coaching inputs to four local primary schools over the course of three months. During this period over two hundred and fifty received Gaelic football coaching skills. The conclusion of this pilot programme culminated with a very successful Easter camp, where over one hundred children from six to twelve years of age attended.

Since this report last year the games development section has engaged with Dublin City University (D.C.U) Insight research centre on “Moving wellbeing well project”. This research seeks to evaluate the motor skills proficiency level and physical activity of primary school children. Irish Physical Activity Guidelines for Health currently state that all children and young people, from two to eighteen years of age, should have at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day (Department of Health and Children, 2009). The ‘Children’s Sport Participation and Physical Activity Study’ (Woods et al., 2010) found that only 14% of ten to eighteen year olds in Ireland were meeting these requirements.

While investigating the factors that motivate children to partake in physical activity, the existing research emphasises the importance of developing the fundamental movement skills in children. Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS) are the basic observable patterns of behaviour present from childhood to adulthood. Irish research has measured FMS in adolescents (O’Brien, Belton & Issartel, 2014), and found that only 11% could perform the required movement patterns adequately. This is alarming, considering that FMS mastery can be developed by the age of 6. Current children’s physical literacy is dangerously dropping to an unprecedented low level.

The proposed research wants to equip the new generation of children with the skills they need in recreational daily life activities to engage, and enjoy participation in physical activity. Many of our G.P.Os have been actively involved in assessment of FMS of over 650 primary school children in Dublin. Initial findings of the study highlight that almost 89 percent of

children are struggling to learn basic skills such as catching a ball or skipping, which is a potential catastrophe for the next generation of players:

The research proposes to do:

- Assess the current status of Irish children's movement, physical activity health related fitness aspects, taking all bio-psycho-social factors into account.
- Develop and evaluate a school/club based intervention with a specific focus on FMS
- Take into account the psychological, environmental and social factors, leading children not to engage in physical activity, to optimise the impact of the intervention.
- Ascertain the best method to upskill teachers and coaches.

With the economy picking up and the jobs market continuing to improve many more Games Promotion Officers (G.P.O.s) have either changed career, left or gone back into full time studies. While this is a great loss for Dublin G.A.A, given the considerable time investment spent on training and up skilling they are not entirely lost to the wider G.A.A, some of our G.P.Os have sought out careers in different counties and are still spreading the gospel elsewhere. Recruitment, retention and development are now an ongoing process within the games development section.

The evolution of Go Games has come a long way over the last fifteen years. This started as far back as 2002 when the McGrath report which stated that "Conventional 15-a-side competitive games and competitions should be phased out for juveniles under age 12 and replaced with a varied programme of activities, including games with teams from 7 to 11-a-side, directed at maximising skill development, enjoyment and participation by all members of each squad played on small pitches with suitably sized goals and balls". Players to be provided with a regular and varied programme of games/activities throughout the full playing year consistent with their development needs.

In the following year 2003 as a result of the report small sided games were formally established for U/10s and U/11. In 2004 the County management committee decided to adopt the Go Games model as the county policy since then Go Games have been in operation. In 2005 after completing the first year of Go Games a comprehensive review was carried out, the key stakeholders involved in the process they were:

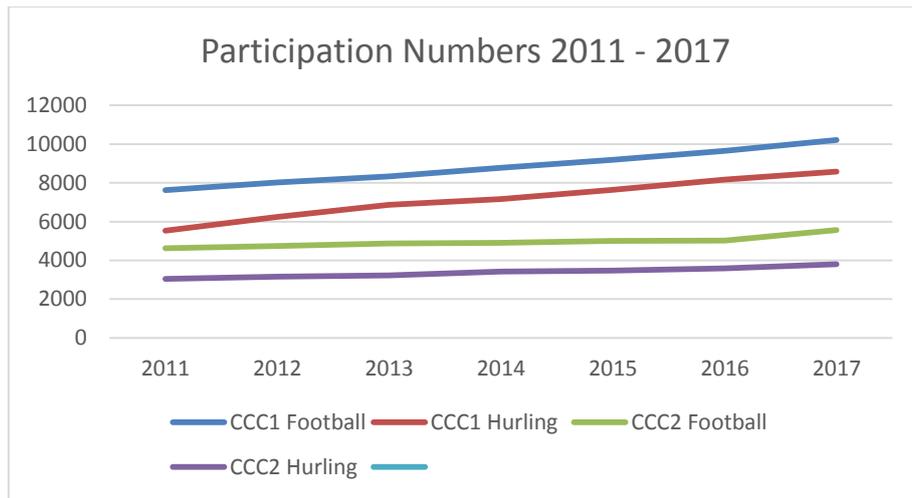
1. Juvenile mentors in both Football & Hurling.
2. Players from the target age groups 8 to 12years.
3. Full time Coaching & Games Development personnel in the county.
4. Designated sub-committee to review Juvenile games.

The following year 2006 another review took place, which set out to analyse the structure and implementation of Go Games and to make recommendations on the rules for the coming season. One of the key recommendations in this report was the systematic approach to the recruitment and training of referees and that all games up to and including under 10 be refereed by juvenile referees from the home club.

It also recommended that there would be no new rules changes until 2009 to allow time for new mentor, referees and player to become familiar with the programme. In September 2009 another review was conducted which concluded with some key recommended before the start of the 2010 season. It highlighted that international best practice advocated that at the most formative (7-10 years) years it is inappropriate to have a results driven structure and that the main emphasis should be on learning the game. With this no recording or publishing of match results is carried out. It is fair to say that the programme on offer has far surpassed these recommendations and is envied in many other counties with our young players receiving on average 30 hurling and football fixtures per year.

Dublin achieved a leadership position in the development of Go Games and the benefits of this leadership position can be seen from increased numbers to the skills levels in adult at club and county. In the year just past a review was commissioned in an effort to obtain the views and opinions of all clubs on the current working of the Go games programme and see what's working well, what's not working well and how we could improve for future programmes. The survey consisted of sixteen questions ranging in topics such as: playing rules current structures, ideal length of season and the training of referees. The review set out only some minor recommendations as the report found that Go Games is working really well at the moment.

While there has been a significant increase in participation over the last thirteen years at Go Games the challenge is maintaining these participation figures into older age groups.



Child Protection in Sport Awareness workshops has taken place in every club that has requested a course over the past year. A total of 67 workshops were delivered to a total of 1249 participants almost 500 more participants than 2016.: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children which will come into effect from 11th December 2017. This means that organisations involved with children will have an obligation to provide them with the highest possible standard of care in order to promote their well-being and safeguard them from abuse.

We will continue to Identify and facilitate the delivery of Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshops and other relevant Child Protection and Welfare training within the each Club. This will remain a top priority for the games development committee.

Over this past summer a total of 186 camps took place in Dublin clubs which saw a total attendance of 22,281 this was an increase of 7.5% on last year's figure. The success at inter county level is only one of the influencing factors for these increases, the high standard of organisations and the great value camps offer are all contributing aspects to the high attendance figures. In addition to summer camps growth, more and more children are now

attending camps at other times of the year in particular over the Easter period. This past year saw 8856 children attended camps over that two week period resulting in a 7.7% increase from 2016

Now ask yourself this, why I would want to learn more about coaching on a coaching course when 80% of what I will learn I can find on the internet. This information was relatively difficult to get access in the past, now, all you need is access to a laptop and an internet connection and all that has limited you in the past is readily available. But knowledge is now no longer the power anymore in coaching. Our coaching courses have been largely based on what you need to know about coaching rather than how to coach. We need to refocus and engage with teaching our coaches how to coach.

This past year upwards of 1770 coaches attended Foundation and Award 1 coaching programmes. This equates to 120 courses and some 1600 hours training time.

In addition to the official Coach Education programmes, we continue to deliver a wide range of practical seminars and workshops.

Again it has been a very busy but rewarding year in the area of Coaching and Games Development.

Gerard O'Connor
Games Manager

2017 Coiste na nÓg Secretary Report

Partial Extract of Report issued to Club

The full report available at <https://www.dublingaa.ie/juvenile/other-downloads>

The following people served on committees in 2017

Bord na nÓg (County Youth Management Committee)

- Cathaoirleach - Bean Uí Lochlainn (Bernie MacLaughlin) Na Cloigthí C. /Round Towers Clondalkin
- Leas Cathaoirleach - Déaglán Ó Laoire (Declan O'Leary) Na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin / Lucan Sarsfields
- Leas Rúnaí - Mícheál Ó hÁinle (Mike Hanley) Na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin / Lucan Sarsfields
- Ball / Member – Áine Ó Deá (Anne O'Dea) Na Fianna
- Ball / Member - Seán Ó Lorcáin (John Larkin) Naomh Peregrine / St Peregrines
- Ball / Member – Máirtín Ó Coinín (Martin Rabbitt) Primary Schools Representataive
- Ball / Member – Tomás Ó Dónaill (Tom O'Donnell) Secondary Schools Representative
- Ball / Member – Caoimhín Ó Seachnasaigh (Kevin O'Shaughnessy)
- Ball / Member - Eibhlín Ní Conghaile (Aileen Connolly)

CCC1 (County Youth Competitions Control Committee One)

- Cathaoirleach - Áine Ó Deá (Anne O'Dea) Na Fianna
- Leas Cathaoirleach - Riobard Ó Ceannubháin (Robert Canavan) Naomh Barróg
- Ball / Member – Conchúr Ó Maolmhuaidh (Conor Molloy) Cuala
- Ball / Member – Pól Ó Gamhna (Paul Gaffney) Beann Éadair
- Ball / Member – Éamann Gráinseach (Eddie Grange) Caisleán Cnuacha / Castleknock

CCC2 (County Youth Competitions Control Committee Two)

- Cathaoirleach - Seán Ó Lorcáin (John Larkin) Naomh Peregrine / St Peregrines
- Leas Cathaoirleach -
- Ball / Member - Daibhéid de Hearfort (Dave Harford) Baile Buadain Naomh Éanna / Ballyboden St Enda's
- Ball / Member - Déaglán Ó Coltair (Declan Coulter) Naomh Barróg
- Ball / Member - Aodhán Ó Scolaí (Aidan Scully) Fine Ghallainn / Fingallians
- Ball / Member - Néill Ó Ceallaigh (Neil Kelly) Rath Éanna / Raheny

Coiste Eisteachta na nÓg (County Youth Hearings Committee)

- Cathaoirleach - Ailin Conchur (Alan O Connor) Naomh Uinsionn / St Vincents
- Rúnaí – Eibhlín Ó Dúláin (Elaine Dolan) Baile an tSaoir Naomh Eoin / Balinteer St John's
- Ball / Member - Liam Mac Mathúna (Liam McMahon) Croimlinn / Crumlin
- Ball / Member - Tomás Ó Flannabhra (Tommy Flannery) Na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin / Lucan Sarsfields
- Ball / Member - Gearard Ó Rothláin (Gerry Rowley) Scoil UI Chonaill

Tuarascáil An Rúnaí

The Evolution of Go Games in Dublin

Arising from the McGrath report in 2002 a decision was made to introduce small sided games and replace 15-a-side competitive games for U12s. It was agreed to provide a more regular programme of games throughout the year which was consistent and that would be age appropriate.

Then in 2003 these small sided games were introduced to U10s and U11 for football and hurling. By now it had become established that this was the model we would be operating for the foreseeable future. So in 2004 the County Management Committee decided to adopt the Go Games model as the County policy.

After one full year of these games in action some more feedback was sought from the clubs to establish what impact they were having. The feedback was very compelling that what we had introduced only one year previously was really positive and encouraging.

Not to rest on our laurels the subsequent year in 2006 another review took place, which set out to analyse the structure and implementation of Go Games and to make recommendations on the rules for the coming season. One of the key recommendations in this report was the systematic approach to the recruitment and training of referees and that all games up to and including under 10 be refereed by juvenile referees from the home club.

It also recommended that there would be no new rules changes until 2009 to allow time for new mentors, referees and players to become familiar with the programme.

In the year just past a review was commissioned in an effort to obtain the views and opinions of all clubs on the current working of the Go Games programme and see what's working well, what's not working well and how we could improve for future programmes. The survey consisted of sixteen questions ranging in topics such as: playing rules, current structures, ideal length of season and the training of referees. The review set out only some minor recommendations as the report found that Go Games is working really well at the moment.

While there has been a significant increase in participation over the last thirteen years at Go Games the challenge is maintaining these participation figures into older age groups.

CCC1 Go Games Programme (U8 to U12)

We commenced on Saturday 11th February with U12 Football Blitz gradings games and by Saturday 18th February all five age groups from Under 8 to Under 12 had been fixed for games in both Football and Hurling.

CCC1 has issued over 11,000 Go Games fixtures this year. We continue to see growth in all age groups and in both codes. In 2017 Football numbers grew by +6.6% (+16.2 % since 2014) and Hurling +4.8% (+19.5% since 2014). An interesting measurement is to look at the percentage participation in Hurling versus Football. In 2008 for every 100 boys 64 played Hurling, in the last two years this figure has settled around 85.

It is Coiste na nÓg policy to give equal importance to the promotion of juvenile football and hurling. The above statistics show the policy is working. When combined with the structured weekly programme of activity for hurling and football, I believe the high participation rates allow us to compete well against soccer, rugby and other activities for the time and attention of young players in this important Under 8 to Under 12 age group.

Cathaoirleach CCC1, Anne O’Dea, has more information on the CCC1 season later in this report.

CCC2 Programme (U13 to U16)

The U13 to U16 age groups commenced with Football on Saturday 4th February and the Hurling season began Saturday 4th March. CCC2 has organised 116 competitions and issued over 4,000 competitive fixtures this year which is an increase of about 400 on the previous year.

We are constantly looking at ways to improve the running of our competitions. I believe the structured nature of our games programme can’t be over estimated as a factor in making the CCC2 season run so smoothly. As of early December prior to the start of every season, Clubs, Mentors, Parents and Players know with certainty what lies ahead of them. The feedback from Clubs along with a constant position by CCC2 Executive to question how and why we do things helps CCC2 achieve its goals.

The 2018 Season will see some major changes.

We will see the introduction of U13 Hurling Grading games. This year we had 58 teams at U13 taking part in 7 League Divisions and it was simply not possible to grade teams properly for competitive games (B teams in particular) based on Go Games performance at U12 the previous year.

CCC2 has always been aware the poorest programme for any age group or code was for U15 Hurling Leagues. In 2018 this will be addressed by both U15 Hurling and Football Leagues both delivering 14 League dates each in addition to U15 Championship and Shield competitions. I will address the proposed changes at U16 later in this report.

Finally I believe two changes introduced this year have been very successful and were fully embraced by participating teams. Firstly, all teams must now supply the Referee with a Team list which includes their unique GAA Registration number. Secondly, while all fixtures must be played on or in advance of the scheduled date, between 1st June and 31st August 2017, teams were able to with the agreement of both teams, play within a ten day period AFTER the scheduled fixture date. i.e. a game fixed for June 1st (a Summer fixture) could be played at any time from February 1st to June 11th inclusive and likewise August 31st games may be played at any time from February 1st to September 10th inclusive, and so on.

Please make sure you read, Cathaoirleach CCC2, John Larkin’s, very detailed review of the season later in this report.

Inter –Club Competitions Restructuring Proposal

The GAA Congress in 2016 decided that to be eligible for Inter – County Minor in 2018 a player shall be Under 17 years of age on 1st January 2018. Following the passing of this Congress Motion I advised the County Secretary John Costello of the need for Dublin to address this issue. The County Management Committee requested Ken O’Sullivan to chair a working group to consider the impact of the change on Dublin Club Competitions.

The Management Committee discussed the recommendations of the working group and called a meeting of Clubs on the 29th May of this year to discuss them. All seven recommendations were rejected. As a member of that working group I of course accept the almost unanimous view to continue with the status quo.

We accept our CCC2 Hurling and Football games are popular and well structured, so why do we see a drop-out as our players become older. Maximising participation in hurling and football continues to be our main strategic propriety. We achieve this by providing a regular programme of meaningful and inclusive games that we hope will set the conditions for life long participation in our games. We continue to watch out for and amend our programme if we feel there is dissatisfaction or negative experiences. This was the back drop to the contribution of Bord na nÓg and CCC2 to the Minor Games Review.

I don’t intend to rehash the recommendations that were rejected decisively on the night.

- The 2018 U16 programme has been amended to take account of the fact that a sizeable number of our U16 players will be part of the extended Dublin Hurling & Football Minor U17 panels at the start of the year (I also accept this number will be reduced as both Minor Management teams reduce their panel numbers in advance of the Minor Inter County Championships).
- The U16 Football Championship will move from the Spring to the Autumn to ensure all U16 players are available to play Championship for their Clubs (U15 Football Championship switches to the Spring).
- The reduced number of U16 Leagues fixtures will be offset by a revamped U16 Championship involving groups of four teams with the Top 2 moving to Championship Quarter Finals and the Bottom 2 taking part in a Shield Quarter Final competition.
- While U16 Leagues will be open to players born from 01/01/02 onwards, the U16 Championships will be open to players born from 31/12/01 onwards. The extra day will allow CCC2 to use “head to head” and score difference if required to determine places in each group if teams are tied.
- Leaving aside issues about Club availability for U16 players on a Saturday afternoon because of their County Minor involvement, I was disappointed Clubs didn’t see the merit in an U19 programme.
- This was designed solely to tackle the problem of drop-out once players finish at Minor (U18), the reality is that many of our U18 / U19 players are either still in School or entering first year College and have no wish to play with Junior teams (as usual our elite players will be served well but I’m more concerned about the large numbers of players who will never play for Dublin or their Clubs Senior team.)

Concussion

We must continue to stress the importance of concussion education. The reality is that at the thousands of games we play each year most will not have a trained medical personnel present. Therefore it is very important we encourage our juvenile mentors that when a player receives a blow to the head, to always err on the side of caution and that the young player is not allowed to return to the pitch. We need to repeat this message over and over again.

Signs and Symptoms

Contrary to popular belief, most concussion injuries occur without a loss of consciousness and so it is important to recognise the other signs and symptoms of concussion. Symptoms include:

- Headache
- Confusion
- Nausea
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double/blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Feeling sluggish, hazy or groggy
- Just not 'feeling right'
- Concentration/memory problems
- Pressure in hand

Return to Play

- A player with a diagnosed concussion should never be allowed to return to play on the day of injury.
- Return to play must follow a medically supervised stepwise approach and a player should never return to play while symptomatic.

Action Plan

- Recognise the signs and symptoms
- Report if suspicious, don't hide it
- Rehab with rest and medical guidance
- Return after following Return To Play Protocol and getting medical clearance

Child Welfare and Protection

We are aware of matters in the public domain this year that have brought close scrutiny to our current child safeguarding procedures. The current Code of Best Practice as promoted by the GAA is widely recognised as being to the fore amongst all Sports associations in Ireland. We must all be aware that vigilance coupled with knowledge of the Code and its implementation in our day to day practices will go a long way to ensuring that we provide the best safeguarding services for all children in the GAA.

All our coaches that work with children in our Clubs must meet three mandatory requirements:

1. They must have attended the Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Workshop.
2. They must be satisfactorily vetted through the National Vetting Bureau.
3. They must possess a minimum GAA coaching qualification.

Discipline

With over 15,000 fixtures issued this year by CCC1 & CCC2, it is inevitable due to the sheer number of games that issues around discipline will occur.

As I write this report 7 Referee Reports still not fully processed.

- 318 Disciplinary Notices have been issued (CCC1- 24 & CCC2- 294) which is a 40% increase on last year
- 206 Straight Red Cards recorded (CCC1- 13 & CCC2- 193) which is + 48 on 2016.
- 25 warnings as to future behaviour issued to Clubs +9 on the previous year.
- 16 Clubs put in Bond €3,800 of which €200 called in.
- Total of € 1,700 Fines issued
- 5 Hearings sought

As the figures above demonstrate I have been very busy this year concerning matters relating to discipline compared to the 2016 season. I don't believe our games have got nastier as I believe the increase is due to Referees reporting misbehaviour. In 2017 we introduced the need for Mentors to supply Referees with Team Lists displaying GAA Registration numbers. This new initiative along with the fast tracking our young referees through the "Referee Pathway" means discipline issues are simply being reported in my view !!

CCC1 & CCC2 will continue to send a clear signal that inappropriate behaviour by Players but most importantly by Mentors and Supporters is completely unacceptable at Juvenile games.

Can Clubs please note that in 2018 CCC1 & CCC2 will fine Clubs if Team Mentors fail to wear a Bib to indicate their position. CCC2 will also be fining Clubs if they fail to supply the Referee with Team Lists with GAA Registration Numbers. These sanctions have been in place this year but not applied... You have been warned.

Thanks

I wish to thank all the officers of Bord na nÓg, CCC1, CCC2, Juvenile Hearings Committee & County Hearings Committee for all their assistance and support during the year. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the help and guidance from Bernie MacLaughlin , Cathaoirleach Coiste na nÓg and Anne O'Dea, Cathaoirleach CCC1. As John Larkin is not going forward next year as Cathaoirleach CCC2, I want to recognise and express on all our behalves our appreciation of his contribution to Juvenile affairs in Dublin over the last five years as Cathaoirleach. It has been a pleasure dealing with John on a "daily basis". He has implemented many changes a lot of which are behind the scenes which have been necessary as the CCC2 activity had increased by 20% over the last 5 years.

I would like thank all my work colleagues in Parnell Park, in particular County Secretary, John Costello, John McNicholas, Ger O'Connor and County Chairman Sean Shanley. I also want to thank Patsy Kiernan who is currently in our thoughts. To Noel Brady, Charlie Canavan, Tony O'Shea and all the stewards who assist with our juvenile finals in Parnell Park.

A big thank you to St Peregrines for providing their excellent facilities for hosting our finals in Blakestown Road including at short notice on two occasions this Autumn. Last April 9th was a historic day, besides the day in which we held 10 Féile Peil na nÓg Finals for the first time, it was also the first time Tallaght Stadium was used to play Gaelic Games as the South Dublin County Council venue hosted 3 of our Finals. A special thanks to Kathleen McPoland for her continued help, guidance and assistance throughout the year.

Finally thanks to all Club Officials, Delegates, Mentors and Referees for their support in 2017 and I look forward to all of us collectively making sure all our young players, regardless of their level of ability, are provided with the opportunities to develop within the GAA Family.

Conclusion

As we have seen above in 2017 Dublin GAA continued to experience a surge of participation at Juvenile level.

This continued positive growth brings with it a host of opportunities. Increased engagement of our juveniles in GAA activities helps to address the issue of an increasingly sedentary life. The effect on positive public health intervention at an early age should not be underestimated or undervalued. The Coiste na nÓg programme helps deliver over 1.3 million hours per year of activity for our Club Under 8 to Under 16 players. Our daily work promoting our national games and culture is often defined solely in sporting terms -but we should, where possible, challenge this restrictive definition - the work of Dublin GAA and GAA nationally has a far wider societal impact than just the promotion of competitive sport.

The associations drive for inclusiveness of all abilities at Juvenile level is carefully nurtured to ensure that we continue to deliver a positive influence, far in excess of competitive sporting achievements. It's the sense of inclusiveness in all of our activities that is key to enticing parents to engage with our volunteer ethos. This leads to greater community and cultural engagement. In an increasingly disconnected world the daily impact of our unique culture and structures should be much valued.

It is through the daily engagement of our mentors, parents, players and officials that we devote so much time for our communities to interact. This special interaction is primarily in a volunteer environment where the value of community spirit, healthy physical activity, cultural and community engagement is placed before financial compensation or personal gain.

While thankfully due to the diligent work of club volunteers our numbers continue to grow in Urban Dublin the rapidly changing face of our society delivers new challenges.

In a growing number of areas the biggest inhibiting factor for our games is access to playing surfaces. A number of clubs are now experiencing very serious difficulty in accommodating their growing fixture requirements. As our requirements increase - the availability of playing space is for the most part static and in some areas now in decline. The historical ability of many GAA clubs to be self-reliant with their own grounds and facilities has relieved the state of much of its obligation to provide suitable municipal facilities for our communities.

The Clubs have also historically been assisted by access to facilities in state funded schools and colleges, mostly under the control of religious orders. It is most alarming to note that some of these grounds which our communities assumed were maintained for community use are now subject to private sale for commercial gain as the religious orders decline in influence. The recent cases of proposed sale of playing areas St Pauls in Raheny and Clonkeen College in south Dublin are ominous signs of which we must be wary.

The transfer of religious lands to private developers and increasing pressure on other lands for either housing or transport development has the potential to undermine our growing community engagement. It is worth noting that the most successful of our clubs remain firmly geographically embedded at the centre of their communities - we must continually question all arms of the state, and all other stakeholders, as to whether our collective efforts are best addressed by building buildings or building and sustaining communities.

Our most recent obsession with building buildings did not end well - we should be vigilant at all times to ensure that we have learned that lesson. We must continue to raise and debate this issue in our clubs, in our communities, with our local authorities, with our public reps, with the media and all other stakeholders - the future of our games in Dublin relies upon its answer.

Damian Ó Murchú
Rúnaí
Coiste na nÓg

Roll of Honour 2017

FOOTBALL

GRADE	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
U12 Division 1	Thomas Davis 1	Kilmacud Crokes 1
U12 Division 2	Lucan Sarsfields 1	Cuala 1
U12 Division 3	Ballinkeer St John 1	Whitehall Colmcille 1
U12 Division 4	Templeogue Synge Street 2	Garristown
U12 Division 5	Beann Eadair 1	Naomh OP/ER 1
U12 Division 6	St Peters 1	Thomas Davis 2
U12 Division 7	Pine Forest Gaels	Skerries Harps 2
U12 Division 8	Ballyboden St Enda 3	Clanna Gael Fontenoy 2
U12 Division 9	St Brigids 2	St Annes 2
U12 Division 10	Erin Go Bragh	Castleknock 3
U12 Division 11	St Kevin/Killians	Beann Eadair 2
U13 Division 1	Kilmacud Crokes A	St Sylvesters A
U13 Division 2	Ballinkeer St John A	St Patricks D.
U13 Division 3	St Margarets	Whitehall Colmcille
U13 Division 4	Fingal Ravens A	Naomh Mearnog
U13 Division 5	Ballymun Kickhams	Garristown
U13 Division 6	St Patricks Donabate B	Clontarf B
U13 Division 7	Ballyboden St Enda C	St Marks
U13 Division 8	Ballyfermot DLS	Kilmacud Crokes C
U13 Division 9	Robert Emmets	Na Fianna C
U13 Division 10	St Patricks Palmerstown	Erins Isle B
U14 Division 1	Kilmacud Crokes A	Skerries Harps A
U14 Division 2	St Vincents A	Clontarf A
U14 Division 3	Erins Isle	Castleknock A
U14 Division 4	St Maurs	Cuala A
U14 Division 5	St Peregrines	Counsel Gaels (GC/LG)
U14 Division 6	Westmanstown Gaels	Man O War
U14 Division 7	Thomas Davis	St Peters
U14 Division 8	Clontarf B	Castleknock B
U14 Division 9	Naomh Fionnbarra	St James Gaels / An Caislean
U15 Division 1	Castleknock A	Ballyboden St Enda A
U15 Division 2	Fingallians	St Sylvesters A
U15 Division 3	Thomas Davis	Erin Go Bragh
U15 Division 4	Ballymun Kickhams	St Peters
U15 Division 5	St Judes	Kilmacud Crokes B
U15 Division 6	Ballyfermot De La Salle	Lucan Sarsfields B
U15 Division 7	Counsel Gaels (GC/LG)	St Vincents B

U16 Division 1	Ballyboden St Enda A	Clontarf A
U16 Division 2	St Vincents A	Thomas Davis
U16 Division 3	Round Towers C.	Fingallians
U16 Division 4	Naomh Olaf	Erins Isle
U16 Division 5	St Peters	Kilmacud Crokes B
U16 Division 6	Liffey Gaels	Castleknock B
U16 Division 7	St Vincents B	St Sylvesters B
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.1	Skerries Harps A	Na Fianna A
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.2	Cluain Tarbh A	Naomh Barrog
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.3	Castleknock A	Naomh Mearnóg
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.4	Cuala A	Whitehall Colmcilles
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.5	Westmanstown Gaels	St Annes
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.6	Thomas Davis	St Peters
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.7	Geraldine P. Moran	Ballyfermot DLS
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.8	St Vincents B	Ballinteer St Johns B
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.9	St Brigids B	Na Fianna B
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.10	Raheny B	St Judes B
U15 "A" Championship	Castleknock A	Ballinteer St John A
U15 "B" Championship	Ballymun Kickhams	Whitehall Colmcille
U15 "C" Championship	Castleknock B	Round Tower C
U15 "D" Championship	St Patricks Palmerstown	Castleknock C
U15 "A" Shield	Fingal Ravens	Fingallians
U15 "B" Shield	St Peters	Erins Isle A
U15 "C" Shield	Ballyboden St Enda B	Ballyfermot DLS
U15 "D" Shield	Ballyboden St Enda C	St Sylvesters B
U16 "A" Championship	St Vincents A	Ballyboden St Enda A
U16 "B" Championship	Clanna Gael Fontenoy	Naomh Mearnóg
U16 "C" Championship	St Peters	Crumlin
U16 "D" Championship	Ballyboden St Enda B	St Patricks Palmerstown
U16 "A" Shield	Lucan Sarsfields A	St Sylvesters A
U16 "B" Shield	St Patricks D	Naomh OP/ER
U16 "C" Shield	St Peregrines	Castleknock B
U16 "D" Shield	Na Fianna B	St Vincents B

Roll of Honour 2017

HURLING

GRADE	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
U12 Division 1	Kilmacud Crokes 1	St Judes 1
U12 Division 2	Faughs 1	Cuala 1
U12 Division 3	O'Tooles 1	Raheny 1
U12 Division 4	Naomh Mearnog 1	Clanna Gael Fontenoy
U12 Division 5	Naomh OP/ER 1	Kilmacud Crokes 3
U12 Division 6	Naomh Olaf 2	Crumlin
U12 Division 7	Craobh Chiarain	Bray Emmets
U12 Division 8	Commercials 2	Skerries Harps 2
U12 Division 9	Pine Forest Gaels	Kilmacud Crokes 4
U12 Division 10	Lucan Sarsfields 3	Na Fianna 3
U12 Division 11	Scoil Ui Chonaill 2	St Maurs 2
U12 Camaint Div.1 Cup	St Judes/Thomas Davis	Joint winners
U12 Camaint Div.1 Shield	Naomh Barróg	Cuala
U12 Camaint Div.2 Cup	Erins Isle	Na Fianna
U12 Camaint Div.2 Shield	Ballinteer St John	O'Tooles
U12 Camaint Div.3 Cup	St Finians S	Whitehall Colmcille
U12 Camaint Div.3 Shield	Round Tower C	Beann Éadair
U12 Camaint Div.4 Cup	Faughs 2	Scoil Ui Chonaill
U12 Camaint Div.4 Shield	Craobh Chiaráin	Crumlin
U12 Camaint Div.5 Cup	O'Dwyers	Fingallians 2
U13 Division 1	Ballyboden St Enda A	Lucan Sarsfields A
U13 Division 2	Naomh Barróg A	Na Fiann A
U13 Division 3	Whitehall Colmcille	Thomas Davis
U13 Division 4	Erins Isle A	St Brigids
U13 Division 5	Round Tower Clondalkin	Faughs B
U13 Division 6	Ballinteer St Johns B	Kilmacud Crokes C
U13 Division 7	St Vincents B	Raheny B
U14 Division 1	Ballyboden St Enda A	Na Fianna A
U14 Division 2	St Judes A	St Vincents A
U14 Division 3	Naomh Olaf A	Fingallians A
U14 Division 4	St Maurs	O'Tooles A
U14 Division 5	St Peregrines	Round Tower Clondalkin
U14 Division 6	Lucan Sarsfields B	Bray Emmets
U14 Division 7	Trinity Gaels	Beann Eadair
U15 Division 1	Lucan Sarsfields A	Castleknock A
U15 Division 2	Na Fianna A	Naomh Olaf

U15 Division 3	St Marks	Erins Isle
U15 Division 4	Bray Emmets	Naomh Fionnbarra
U16 Division 1	Ballyboden St Enda's A	Kilmacud Crokes A
U16 Division 2	Skerries Harps	Clontarf
U16 Division 3	Thomas Davis	Naomh Olaf
U16 Division 4	Crumlin	Fingallians
U16 Division 5	Castleknock B	Kilmacud Crokes B
PJ Troy Div.1	St Judes	Whitehall Colmcille

Feile na nGael Div.1	Na Fianna A	Faughs A
Feile na nGael Div.2	St Vincents A	St Judes A
Feile na nGael Div.3	Fingallians A	Craobh Chiaráin
Feile na nGael Div.4	St Maurs	Ballyboden St Enda B
Feile na nGael Div.5	St Peregrines	Round Towers Lusk
Feile na nGael Div.6	St Vincents B	Cuala B
Feile na nGael Div.7	St Patricks P	Na Fianna B
U15 "A" Championship	Castleknock A	Ballyboden St Enda A
U15 "B" Championship	St Vincents A	Raheny
U15 "C" Championship	Whitehall Colmcille	Round Tower Clondalkin
U15 "A" Shield	Lucan Sarsfields A	Fingallians
U15 "B" Shield	Commercials	Erin Go Bragh
U15 "C" Shield	Fingal Gaels	Ballyboden St Enda B
U16 "A" Championship	Kilmacud Crokes A	Ballyboden St Enda A
U16 "B" Championship	Thomas Davis	Clontarf
U16 "C" Championship	Fingallians	St Peregrines
U16 "A" Shield	Raheny	St Sylvesters A
U16 "B" Shield	Faughs	St Marks
U16 "C" Shield	Erin Go Bragh	O'Tooles

Recommendations

1. Minutes of CCC meetings to be distributed to clubs within 3 working days of meeting.

(Cluain Tarbh)

2. Selection of any U16 players for Dublin U17 inter-county matches or training should not impact on their availability to their clubs for U16 league and championship matches, in either code, which take priority in the event of any clash.

(Cluain Tarbh)

3. Dublin County Management Board to promote ethos of Dublin players making themselves available for all club championship matches and the maximum number of league games. Failure of players to make themselves available in line with the agreed rules would render them ineligible for selection for Dublin for the following 12 months. To facilitate this the current 7 day rule to be strictly enforced for U17/U20/U21 panel members and a 10 day rule to be introduced at Senior level up to semi-final stages of the championship.

(Cluain Tarbh)