

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael - Coiste Átha Cliath

Comhdháil Bhliantúil

Dé Luain 11ú Nollaig 2023 ar 7.00 i.n.

An Clár

1. Minutes of 2022 Convention.
2. Adoption of Standing Orders.
3. Auditor's Report and Financial Statement.
4. Secretary's Report.
5. Chairman's Address.
6. Election of Officers.
7. Motions
8. Fixture Planning & Competitions Control Committee Report.
9. Coiste Éisteachta Report.
10. Coaching & Games Development Report.
11. Bord na nÓg
12. Appointment of Auditor.
13. 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

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

Leas-Chathaoirleach

Cionnaith Ó Súilleabháin (Cuala) **Outgoing**

Leas-Rúnaí

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

Cisteoir

Micheál Ó hOireachtaigh (Na Tráchtálaí)

Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Cóilín Ó Cearbhaill (Na Gaeil Óga) **Outgoing**

Árd Chomhairle

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

Comhairle Laighean

Mel Ó Fearghail (Oileán na hÉireann) **Outgoing**

Risteárd de Buitléir (Na Tráchtálaí) **Outgoing**

Tuarascáil An Rúnaí

Is mór an onóir dom mo chéad thuarascáil Rúnaí Chontae a chur i láthair, an ról a ghlac mé le déanaí. I dtosach báire ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil le hOifig an Bhord Chontae agus na clubanna as an gcúnamh sa ról a bhí agam roimhe seo mar chisteoir. Ba mhaith liom an tacaíocht agus an misneach a thugtar dom cheana féin i mo ról nua a adhmáil. Táim ag tnúth go mór le bheith ag obair go dlúth agus go táirgiúil lenár gclubanna ar fad sa todhchaí.

Facilities and Playing Pitches

While not exactly a new issue, the issue of available land and facilities for our clubs continues to be a major concern for Dublin GAA. Within Dublin there is very little available land, and where land is available demand far exceeds supply. Demand for housing in Dublin shows no sign of relenting anytime soon. This demand coupled with soaring prices across most sectors is driving the cost of purchasing and developing a site out of reach of most of our clubs.

For GAA to continue to grow and prosper in the city, our clubs need access to pitches and ancillary facilities. For juveniles in particular, these pitches need to be located within the communities our clubs serve.

The increased participation rates at juvenile levels and increase participation in LGFA and camogie at both adult and juvenile levels, means our existing club facilities are coming under increasing pressure. There are also significant new planned developments in areas like Clonburris, with over 8,000 new homes planned. This and similar developments will only add to these pressures.

As a county board, we are trying to assist our clubs with the development of two cluster facilities for use by clubs, schools and colleges within the county. Such facilities are not envisaged as training grounds reserved only for Elite teams but rather facilities to be made available to clubs to supplement the facilities currently available to clubs. We must ensure that we maximise the use of such facilities, these sites must be a hub of activity and not just protected solely for use by intercounty teams.

This is the model that is in place, in partnership with Dublin City Council at the Alfie Byrne site. While it is great to have this site available for clubs, the fact that we are over subscribed

for bookings demonstrates the need for more sites like this within Dublin. As a county board we would welcome the opportunity to explore similar ventures with our partners in the four local authorities or with schools or colleges within the county.

Local Authorities – Sport and Activity Plans

Under the National Sports Policy 2018-2027, each of the local authorities are committed to developing a local sports plan. South Dublin County Council launched their Active South Dublin plan in November, the first local Authority to launch such a plan.

The plan outlines 11 Ambitions across 4 key strategic themes. Firstly, I'd like to commend South Dublin County Council for their report. I look forward to the upcoming release of local sports plans from the other 3 local authorities in Dublin. For now, I'd like to take a moment to highlight some of these ambitions from the South Dublin report.

Ambition 3 – “Support the development of vibrant, inclusive sports clubs across South Dublin, building pathways to long term sustainable participation”. I would like to acknowledge the support and assistance that we have historically received from all 4 local authorities in terms of provision of playing facilities. I expect and hope that this support will continue and indeed lead to further opportunities to partner on provision of facilities within Dublin, resources our clubs are crying out for. Clubs need these facilities to be available within the communities they serve.

Ambition 5 – “Ensure that the sport and physical activity is part of planning and decision-making for new facilities and developments”. I welcome the sentiment outlined in this ambition and look forward to this being delivered in the new developments within Dublin. As a society we want to move towards a more sustainable way of living and yet the provision of amenities especially sporting amenities within communities has long been overlooked as part of the planning process for new large-scale developments. I hope that we will see this improve in the coming years.

Ambition 6 – “Significantly enhance the availability of quality sport, recreation and physical activity facilities and spaces through the full delivery of our sports capital programme and other capital programmes”. It is my belief that as a nation we have underfunded sport for decades. According to Eurostat statistics on government spending from 2021, Ireland spends 0.3% of

public expenditure on “Recreational and sporting services” far below the EU average of 0.7%, in fact we ranked last of all. Countries like Sweden and the Netherlands spent 1.2%. Accepting that funding is also provided through other avenues and not just national government expenditure and that there will always be many competing demands on the public purse strings, we still need to ensure investment in sport is not an afterthought.

The benefits of sport investment are widely accepted and the Active South Dublin plan outlines “Research proves that participation in sport, physical activity and recreation brings significant positive impacts to people, communities, the environment and the economy”. Sport positively impacts, physical and mental health, social interaction, equality and inclusion as well as having a positive impact on economic development both in terms of reduction in healthcare cost but also the economic activity generated by sport and sporting events for the local economy.

Hopefully the shift towards local sports plans and the international acceptance of the societal benefits of sports for the wellbeing of a nation and the economy will see increase in direct funding for sports and/or increase in the provision of municipal sporting facilities for the benefit of our members and the wider sporting community.

John Costello

It would not be possible to compile this report without taking a minute to acknowledge and thank John Costello for all he has done for Dublin GAA. While I know John would prefer it if we simply allowed him to slip away quietly, on behalf of Dublin County Board and our clubs it is important that we recognise the contribution John has made.

John will deflect all praise and will be the first to list all the individuals and committees who have given so much service over the last 29 years with John as CEO of Dublin GAA. However, I think all of us who have worked with John, will equally understand that his colossal personal contribution and his guidance have been defining factors.

During his 29 years, we have seen success on the pitch, but I think John’s greatest achievements can’t be measured by on field successes but the changes that he has overseen that have enabled our clubs to grow, raised the standards of coaching for gaelic games and the restructuring of the county board. Some of these changes are mentioned below, but to list them all would require a whole book!

We are at our core a games-based organisation, and the changes to the club games program over the 29 years has been immense, we now have a comprehensive player orientated program available to club players at both juvenile and adult level. Our games program has become the envy of all other counties.

The introduction of the coaching and games model within Dublin and the rollout of the GPO's across the county, has seen a massive increase in the participation levels within our clubs, supports our clubs in coach education and provides vital support for our army of club coaches and volunteers. This model has evolved over the years but remains the blueprint for coaching and games within other counties and at Provincial level.

The operational and administrative structures of Dublin County board have evolved during his tenure. Our volunteer led structure, supported by administrative staff based in Parnell Park ensures that we can support our clubs, our county officers and committees, our intercounty panels and we have the appropriate structures and resources to support the future ambition of the board.

This future ambition includes the planned developments of cluster facilities at Hollystown and Spawell. The acquisition of these sites would not have happened without John's foresight, drive and indeed his wide network of contacts across the GAA and the wider community. The development of these sites will provide much needed facilities for the benefit of our clubs, at a time where such facilities are desperately needed.

John's contribution to the GAA extends well beyond Dublin, he has served on numerous national committees including most recently as part of the Rules Advisory committee. In the background he has supported other counties with advice and guidance and is highly regarded throughout the organisation for both his abilities as a skilled administrator and more importantly for his caring nature and willingness to help others.

The biggest impact that John has had on Dublin GAA is not one which is immediately visible, but it is the unwavering support, expertise and insight that he has so expertly provided to our clubs, club officers and volunteers over the last 29 years. This was always done quietly and, in the background, but it is impossible to visit a club in Dublin without a club volunteer relaying

their thanks and admiration for all he has done for their club. This was also evident by the countless messages of appreciation that were posted following the news of his retirement.

All his efforts were always for the GAA and Dublin in particular, he worked diligently for the cause, he was adept at bringing together volunteers for Dublin GAA. It was never about John but always Dublin GAA. He had no ego and was never afraid to seek out experts within the GAA and to place them in central positions in various initiatives, to lean on their knowledge and facilitate them working behind the scenes.

While he steps away from the day to day, I'm sure will still see him at games and events. On behalf of Dublin GAA, I sincerely thank you for all you have contributed to the cause. To Marie and all the family, Dublin GAA are so grateful that you allowed us to borrow him for so long. We wish you all every happiness in John's retirement.

Minor footballers

Dublin retained the Leinster Minor Football Championship title, for the first time since 2012, before succumbing to eventual winners Derry at the All-Ireland semi-final stage.

Dublin were impressive throughout their successful provincial campaign, starting off with a hard-earned 1-15 to 1-10 win over Louth at Parnell Park on April 5.

The hosts looked well placed at half-time as they enjoyed a six-point advantage but there had been promising signs for the visitors throughout the first half and it was of little surprise that they fought their way back after the break.

Louth managed to trim their deficit to a solitary point by the 47th minute but crucially, they never managed to draw level, allowing Dublin sufficient breathing space to regroup and finish on a positive note.

An early Noah Byrne goal gave Dublin a dream start and while their efforts waned after the break, the scoring returns of Lenny Cahill (0-7) and Harry Curley (0-3) proved too much for the visitors.

Meath were Dublin's next opponents a week later as Dublin moved through the gears in the second half to register a welcome 2-9 to 0-11 win in Páirc Tailteann.

Dublin trailed by 0-5 to 1-1 at the break with Paddy Curry netting in the fourth minute and they took control of matters in the second half with Noah Byrne's excellent goal within three minutes of the resumption leading to a period of dominance.

A string of four unanswered points towards the end of the third quarter, including two excellent efforts from midfielder Senan Ryan, were crucial in giving Dublin a buffer to withstand some late home pressure.

Dublin claimed top spot in Group 2 of the round-robin section and a semi-final berth in the process on April 26 when they eased past Westmeath by 4-19 to 2-13 at Parnell Park.

First-half goals from Lenny Cahill and Paddy Curry saw Dublin 2-11 to 1-4 ahead by the turnaround and the duo repeated the trick after the break with Lenny Cahill (2-10) and Senan Ryan (0-5) catching the eye.

Lenny concluded the entire championship as the competition's second top-scorer (behind Monaghan's Max McGinnity) while Lenny and Paddy finished as the competition's joint-second highest scorers from play alone.

Dublin's reward was a semi-final meeting with Offaly in O'Connor Park and they delivered an exceptional display in defeating the hosts by 6-15 to 1-8.

The young boys in blue set the tone by crashing home two goals in the opening two minutes, and any hopes that Offaly might have entertained of pulling off an upset were dashed late in the first half when another quickfire brace meant they trailed by 11 points (4-4 to 1-2) at half-time.

A soccer-style finish from Paddy Curry and a powerful low drive from Harry Curley got Dublin off to a dream start with goals before the break from Noah Byrne and Paddy Curry enhancing Dublin's position.

A Cillian Murray penalty save added to Offaly's woes while second-half goals from Harry Curley and Luke O'Boyle enhanced Dublin's dominance.

Dublin's performance in the ensuing Leinster final against Kildare in Portlaoise was encouraging. While they didn't find the net, they largely dominated enroute to a 0-19 to 2-8 success.

In doing so, Dublin secured their 35th provincial title at this grade and they proved worthy winners as they played the more consistent and cohesive football throughout.

On a night when ten players contributed on the scoreboard, Lenny Cahill took the scoring honours for Dublin with 0-7 while both Cillian Emmett and Eoghan Costello offered great assurance in the central defensive positions.

Dublin led by 0-9 to 0-3 at the break with Cahill's four points in as many minutes before the break proving pivotal and while the Lilies scored second-half goals, late points from Shane Mullarkey and Lenny Cahill saw Dublin home.

Dublin's bravery and refusal to accept their fate was evident as they faced Cork in their All-Ireland quarter-final at Nowlan Park as they delivered a storming final quarter in edging the Rebels by 1-18 to 2-12.

Dublin looked in deep peril as they trailed by six points by the 42nd minute but refused to accept their perceived fate as they drew level deep into added time through an exceptional free from Shane Mullarkey.

There was further drama to follow as Cork lost their way trying to work the ball out of defence and Paddy Curry showed great foresight to intercept and fire home from an acute angle for the game's defining score.

A 13th-minute Denis O'Mullane goal saw Cork enter the break with a deserved five-point advantage with Dublin showing well upon the restart through scores from Joshua Young, Shane Mullarkey and Lenny Cahill.

However, their efforts appeared to be in vain as Sean Coakley converted a penalty in the 42nd minute but tellingly, that proved Cork's final score with Dublin gradually reducing their deficit before overtaking their opponents on the line.

Unfortunately, there was no miraculous comeback in their All-Ireland semi-final clash with an excellent Derry team as Dublin spurned some glorious early goal chances before falling by 3-11 to 1-8 at the Athletic Grounds in Armagh.

There was no doubting Derry's supremacy on the day, particularly given they played the entire second-half with 14 players, but Dublin were left to rue some errant finishing, especially in the opening period.

Dublin trailed by 0-7 to 0-4 at the break but with Derry reduced to 14 players at half-time, a goal from Shane Mullarkey in the 37th minute brought the teams level. However, Derry made light of their numerical disadvantage as they scored goals through James Sargent, Luke Grant and Cahir Spiers to complete a deserved win.

Minor hurlers

Dublin delivered a string of encouraging performances before bowing out at the Leinster semi-final stage.

A strong start and an even stronger finish proved pivotal as Dublin got their Leinster Minor Hurling Championship Group 1 Tier 1 campaign off on a winning note when overcoming Offaly by 4-18 to 0-19 at Parnell Park on March 25.

Dublin cruised into the break with a healthy 12-point lead but their opponents showed their battling qualities to dominate possession in the second half, reducing their arrears to just three points by the 53rd minute.

Crucially, Dublin didn't concede a goal during Offaly's supremacy and had enough in the tank to finish the game on a high, courtesy of two well-taken goals in injury time from Darragh Kilduff and Conor Newton.

David Purcell was in sparkling form throughout for Dublin with the Kilmacud Crokes player accounting for 2-9 of our tally.

Dublin were not so free-scoring the following week in Wexford Park as they succumbed to Wexford by 1-9 to 1-8 in terrible playing conditions.

Dublin found themselves six points in arrears in the early stages but an excellent Conor Newton goal revived their challenge as they entered the break trailing by 1-5 to 1-3. Dublin brought the gap down to the minimum in the closing stages through scores from Fiach Lupton and David Purcell, but the levelling score proved elusive.

Dublin were on the road again on Good Friday as they faced Kerry in their concluding group match in Portlaoise. Manager Collie Maher made a number of changes to the starting line-up as Dublin opened up brightly with Jack Kennedy and Gearóid Flannery among their scorers. A goal from Callum Graham put Dublin 1-12 to 0-6 ahead by the break and his second goal after the break confirmed a comfortable 2-23 to 0-11 victory.

O'Moore Park was the venue once again with Laois providing the opposition in the provincial quarter-final on April 24 with Dublin doing just enough to prevail.

After a tricky opening, Dublin managed to settle through a 17th-minute goal from Callum Graham and they maintained marginal control to lead by two points at the interval. Crucially, Dublin preserved that advantage on the scoreboard for the bulk of the second half, despite the dismissal of a Dublin player in the 49th minute, and pulled away in the closing stages as Laois saw themselves reduced to 13 players by the final whistle.

The free-taking of Dublin's David Purcell and Laois' Eoghan Murphy was a feature of the contest with both players finishing the game with 11 points to their names as Dublin claimed a 1-20 to 0-17 success.

A week later, Dublin headed to O'Connor Park, Tullamore to meet a highly-regarded Galway team at the Leinster semi-final stage with the damage done in the first half as they suffered a 3-22 to 0-13 reverse.

Goals for Galway from Jason Rabbitte and Mikey Fallon along with a nine-point haul from Aaron Niland were central to building an unassailable 2-16 to 0-3 interval lead. David Purcell was Dublin's leading light with three of his seven points coming from play, while Gearóid Flannery took over the free-taking duties and scored three.

Under-20 footballers

It proved another tale of provincial final heartache for Dublin's under-20 footballers, this time after extra-time, as they reached the Leinster decider before succumbing to Kildare for the second year in succession.

Their campaign began on March 21 as they travelled to Baltinglass to face Wicklow, coming away with a nervy 1-14 to 3-6 success. An early goal from Dan O'Leary helped Dublin settle into the tie with full-forward Luke Breathnach kicking four points to help mitigate against the concession of three second-half goals.

Parnell Park was the venue the following week as Dublin enjoyed a far more routine success, beating Louth by 2-16 to 0-7. The hosts took their time to settle in the first quarter, requiring a fair degree of patience to punch holes in the heavily-manned Louth defence, but they gradually seized control in what was an efficient and dominant display.

Dublin led by 0-9 to 0-3 at the break thanks to the scoring contributions of Tom Brennan, Luke Breathnach, Joe Quigley and Darragh Dempsey. A Joe Quigley penalty in the 41st minute extended Dublin's lead and a goal from substitute Caelum Moriarty in added time completed the 15 point win.

It proved far tighter in their concluding Group 2 contest as Dublin were forced to dig deep before accounting for Offaly by 1-15 to 1-9 at O'Connor Park. In doing so, Dublin confirmed a semi-final place with a strong start and powerful conclusion seeing them to victory.

That bright start was reflected in early points from Conor Dolan, Ross Keogh and Luke Ward with Dublin's Greg McEaney and Offaly's John Furlong trading goals to see Dublin 1-6 to 1-4 ahead at half-time. The hosts kicked four points on the bounce to take the lead after the break but Dublin managed a quartet of unanswered scores through Luke Ward, Luke Breathnach, Darragh Dempsey and Ross Keogh to regain the initiative.

They maintained that momentum until the final whistle as two frees by Ross Keogh and further points from Luke Breathnach and Darragh Dempsey helped ensure their spot in the last four in Leinster.

Their semi-final took place on April 18 in Páirc Tailteann with Dublin delivering a mature display in defeating their hosts, Meath, by 0-14 to 0-10. Having played with the stiff breeze in the first-half, Dublin led by just two points at the break with an injury to key attacker Luke

Breathnach causing potential concern to the visitors. This was an injury that arguably cost Dublin dearly with his absence, and that of a couple of other team-mates through injury, for the provincial final.

Dublin took complete control of matters upon the resumption with the introduction of substitutes Michael McDonald and Séamus Smith having the desired effect as they eased into a final meeting with Kildare.

Dublin led by 0-7 to 0-5 at half-time with substitute Joe Quigley kicking three points after replacing Luke Breathnach in the 17th minute with Ross Keogh and Conor Dolan adding to their tally.

After the break, Dublin kicked into gear with Michael McDonald providing a strong anchor around the middle third while Séamus Smith secured and recycled possession to telling effect. This allowed Ross Keogh the space to kick an excellent point from play in the 40th minute and three points on the bounce through Séamus Smith, Ethan Dunne and Ross Keogh (free), were just reward for the control they exerted.

The provincial final took place in Netwatch Cullen Park a week later as Kildare took control in extra-time to secure a 0-16 to 0-13 victory.

Dublin had one hand on the trophy as they led by a single point in injury-time of normal time but Kildare raised one final attack with Colm Dalton splitting the posts to ensure they seized the initiative with extra-time pending.

Subsequently, Kildare built a healthy four-point lead before Ross Keogh kicked a free to leave a goal between the sides, but that levelling goal proved elusive as time ran out on their challenge.

There was little to separate the teams throughout with Ryan Sinkey's three points for Kildare cancelled out by Luke Ward, Ross Keogh and Joe Quigley as Dublin entered the break with a two-point lead.

An Adam Fanning point in the 48th minute edged the Lilies in front but Dublin managed to regroup superbly as they drew level thanks to a well-worked team point from Bill Costello.

A Joe Quigley free in the 58th minute looked like it might prove decisive but Colm Dalton proved Kildare's saviour with another composed score from distance to ensure an 0-11 apiece stalemate after 60 minutes with Kildare the dominant side in extra-time.

Under-20 hurlers

Dublin's hopes of securing the Leinster under-20 Hurling Championship title were dashed at the last four stage as they succumbed to eventual provincial winners Offaly.

The year had promised so much with the team registering some excellent wins en route to the semi-final, starting with a hugely encouraging 1-19 to 1-17 comeback victory over Galway in their Tier 1 Group1 encounter in Birr on April 8.

Dublin trailed by nine points at one stage as their opponents threatened to 'run riot' in the opening half but some crucial scores into the breeze approaching the break helped whittle their arrears to a more manageable six points by half-time.

With the elements in their favour in the second half, Dublin slowly but surely narrowed the gap further and with the sides deadlocked entering the closing stages, they finished on the front foot through points from Ollie Gaffney and influential substitute Jamie Conroy.

Jamie Conroy's impact was instant as he pounced for a goal within four minutes of his introduction and three further points from play by the Cuala attacker went a long way to deciding the outcome in Dublin's favour.

Events were slightly more straightforward the following week as Dublin registered their second successive win with a comfortable 1-20 to 0-15 victory over Wexford at Parnell Park. Dublin led by three points (0-10 to 0-7) at the interval with Conal Ó Riain hitting two superb points from wing-back and they put greater distance between the teams thanks to a brace of Brendan Kenny points early in the second half. Diarmuid Ó Dúlaing and Ollie Gaffney added to Dublin's lead and they were well set for victory as Jamie Conroy gathered a long delivery from Seán Gallagher before coolly firing home.

Next up was a trip to Nowlan Park on April 22 as Kilkenny did just enough to secure a 1-21 to 2-16 success with both sides making numerous changes to their respective line-ups given they had both qualified for the last four.

The teams were level at 1-9 apiece at the interval but Kilkenny took control in the final quarter and while Liam Garrigan's goal in added time offered Dublin hope of salvaging a draw, Gearóid Dunne converted a late free to ensure his team's third win in succession.

Dublin's goal from Jamie Conroy, his third in as many matches, handed Dublin the early initiative with Diarmuid Ó Dúlaing, Ollie Gaffney and James O'Brien adding to the visitors' tally.

However, the hosts improved after the breakthrough two points apiece from Gearóid Dunne and substitute Denis Walsh as Dublin turned their attentions to a semi-final meeting with Offaly.

The meeting in O'Connor Park proved a hugely disappointing one for the visitors, who failed to show their true form as they succumbed by 1-19 to 2-12.

Dublin would have been optimistic of overturning a five-point interval deficit, given the strength of the breeze at their backs for the second period, but Offaly controlled matters for the greater part to complete a deserved success.

The hosts raced into an early 0-5 to 0-1 lead but an Ollie Gaffney goal and points from James O'Brien, Diarmuid Ó Dúlaing and Neil Clerkin saw Dublin enter the break trailing by a more manageable 0-12 to 1-4.

Dublin resumed in a determined fashion and had whittled their deficit back to just two points by the 34th minute thanks to scores by Ollie Gaffney, Diarmuid Ó Dúlaing and Jamie Conroy. However, the decisive score arrived in the 39th minute as Charlie Mitchell swept home from close range following a strong run down the middle from Cormac Egan.

Dublin managed to string four points on the bounce through Seán Gallagher, Neil Hogan and two Diarmuid Ó Dúlaing frees but Offaly regained their control through scores in injury time by Dan Bourke and two by match-winner Charlie Mitchell. Conn Rock managed a consolation goal in the dying seconds but it was never likely to spare Dublin their fate as Offaly advanced to a Leinster final meeting with Wexford.

Senior hurlers

Dublin's senior hurlers began their year under new manager Mícheál Donoghue as early as January 7 as they hosted Antrim in the Walsh Cup at Parnell Park, securing a 3-26 to 2-22 victory.

It was a year in which Dublin were shorn of a number of very experienced players who elected to take a year away from the game. The difficulty presented new players with opportunity and the new management team were certainly not afraid to give fresh faces game-time over the course of the Walsh Cup and National League.

A loss to Galway by 1-21 to 0-15 in the next round of the Walsh Cup ended their interest as they finished the group stages in Cusack Park, Mullingar with a 1-20 to 0-15 win against Westmeath.

The more serious action began with the commencement of Division 1 Group B of the National Hurling League on the first weekend of February with Dublin making an encouraging start as they drew with Waterford by 3-16 to 2-19 at Fraher Field.

Dublin overcame a difficult start as they trailed by 1-5 to 0-0 by the end of the first quarter but a brace of Cian O'Sullivan goals saw the teams deadlocked at half-time. The hosts were reduced to 13 in a dramatic conclusion, with Donal Burke's penalty bringing Dublin back into contention and the Na Fianna player ensured a share of the spoils when converting a free deep into injury-time.

A week later, Dublin faced Antrim in Parnell Park, completing a deserved 0-28 to 2-19 victory. Donal Burke's ten points over the duration went a long way in helping Dublin over the line with half of Burke's scores coming from open play but two Antrim goals after the break ensured our opponents remained in touch right up until the final whistle.

Dublin hurlers' first taste of Croke Park this year arrived on February 25 with the concession of two second-half goals proving their undoing as they were out-scored 2-23 to 0-24 by Tipperary.

Donal Burke once again highlighted his importance with a personal tally of 0-15, eight of which came from open play, but Conor Bowe and Jason Forde found the Dublin net in the third quarter to confirm Dublin's first loss of the league.

A second reverse arrived in their next fixture on March 12, as another slow start proved telling as we lost to Kilkenny by 2-25 to 1-17 at Nowlan Park. Dublin trailed by 0-17 to 0-8 at the interval with Paul Crummey's goal and ten points in total from Donal Burke proving insufficient by the end.

Dublin wrapped up their league campaign on a positive note with Alex Considine's first-half goal and another ten points from Donal Burke saw them past Laois by 1-29 to 0-20 at Parnell Park.

Dublin faced a five-week break before eventually getting their Leinster Championship campaign up and running and once again, they started off with a share of the spoils as they drew with Antrim, 1-19 apiece, at Corrigan Park.

Dublin trailed for the large part and looked in a perilous position as they faced a deficit of six points at the end of the third quarter but they battled back well with a goal from Donal Burke edging them in front in the 67th minute.

The hosts replied well to that setback in scoring the next two points but the lively Cian O'Sullivan was on hand to show good sharpness as he split the posts to leave an equitable conclusion to the entertaining clash.

Dublin registered their first win of the Championship when accounting for Westmeath by 2-23 to 1-14 at Parnell Park on April 29. The hosts took their time to find their stride but a Donal Burke goal towards the end of the first half and a Cian Boland goal midway through the second half were enough to maintain Dublin's unbeaten start.

That promising start continued the following week as a more clinical Dublin availed of some Wexford profligacy as they completed a narrow 1-22 to 0-23 win at Croke Park.

The visitors racked up 19 wides to Dublin's six, with Cian O'Sullivan's first-half goal and a brace of late frees from Donal Burke, who finished with 0-13 to his name, seeing Dublin over the line.

That unbeaten start finally came to an end at Nowlan Park on May 20 as Kilkenny finished both halves strongly to register a 0-27 to 0-21 victory. There were some encouraging signs

throughout for Dublin, who started both halves on the front foot, but the hosts gradually pulled away to claim a hard-earned but deserved success.

The visitors will rue Kilkenny scoring bursts in either half with the Cats hitting six points on the bounce on two occasions, effectively taking the game away from Dublin in the process. Donal Burke scored ten points with Mark Grogan, Danny Sutcliffe and Dara Purcell chipping in with two points apiece.

The final group game took place on the final Sunday of May with Dublin's hopes of a Leinster Final appearance dashed as they played out a thrilling 2-22 to 1-25 draw with Galway in their Round 5 encounter at Croke Park.

Dublin played exceptionally well in the opening half, dictating matters from the outset, with goals from Cian O'Sullivan and Danny Sutcliffe prompting a more than healthy ten-point interval advantage.

However, with the increasingly strong wind at their backs, Galway fought their way back into contention, eroding their deficit completely before edging in front in injury time before Donal Burke calmly converted a late free to earn a deserved share of the spoils. That draw left Dublin in third spot in the table, ensuring an All-Ireland preliminary quarter-final against Carlow on June 17, with Dublin dominating after the break en route to a comfortable 2-25 to 0-21 victory at Netwatch Cullen Park.

Dublin trailed by a point at the interval but goals at either end of the second half from Mark Grogan and Cian O'Sullivan proved too much for a Carlow side heavily reliant on Marty Kavanagh for scores. Chris O'Leary and Danny Sutcliffe struck three points apiece while Donal Bure landed eight frees to complete a routine win.

Their reward was a quarter-final encounter with Clare at the Gaelic Grounds a week later with the Banner proving too strong as they claimed a 5-26 to 2-17 success.

The concession of four first-half goals proved too much for a spirited Dublin side that battled until the final whistle but they had to concede second best to a Clare side that sparkled up front through Tony Kelly and Mark Rodgers.

An early injury to Donal Burke proved a massive blow to Dublin and while Cian O'Sullivan recorded 11 points and Darragh Power and Alex Considine chipped in with goals, it proved a disappointing conclusion to the year.

Senior footballers

Last year's report to Convention included a quote from legendary American football coach Vince Lombardi ... it read: "The greatest accomplishment is not in never failing, but in rising again after you fall."

Well how well did Dublin embrace the challenge of climbing back to the summit in 2023?

In both 2021 and 2022 our senior footballers fell narrowly short in their respective semi-finals against Mayo and Kerry. It was judged by many to be the end of the road for this great team. The team's hunger, application, and will to win was questioned in some quarters but once again they proved their greatness by concluding the season just gone as All-Ireland champions. The Redeem Team you might say.

Dublin's footballers over the past decade or so have continued to set new standards and break old records at both All-Ireland and provincial level. This year three players - Stephen Cluxton, James McCarthy, and Michael Fitzsimons - etched their names ever deeper into the history books by becoming the first male players to win nine All-Ireland medals.

And what a display of iron will the team gave in the All-Ireland decider against Kerry.

Played in very tricky conditions Dublin timed their run to victory to perfection with the role of the bench once again playing their part in a huge team effort which drove Dublin over the line to glory.

The emotion expressed by the players after the game spoke volumes for what it means to them to both represent their county and do so at the highest level, and for so long.

Their testimonies paint a more vivid and exact picture than my words can do justice to ...

Team captain James McCarthy: "I have no doubt in saying that it was the most special All-Ireland I've ever won. To come back after being knocked down twice and a few people ruling you out and thinking the time has passed, but I knew we were still good enough to win it."

Brian Fenton: "The way we've performed over the last few years was disappointing. Got relegated from the league, disappointing results at the end of championships in '21 and '22, a lot of people writing us off. So, genuinely, it just helps to build the motivation and, look, we were massively helped this year by the return of the lads. It genuinely feels - I'm lucky enough to say I've seven All-Irelands now - and it is the best, the sweetest of them all, without doubt."

Dean Rock: "So you're just trying to do what you can for the group, because you're born with one family and then with life and experiences, particularly sport, you grow another family. And that's what it feels like for me. And that's why it was massive for Dublin GAA, as a whole, to win one more, particularly with that group of players that we have."

While being relegated at the end of the 2022 was not part of the plan Dublin's management under Dessie Farrell turned difficulty into opportunity by simultaneously getting game-time into some of the more experienced players, with a view to the Championship ahead, and deepening the football education for the less experienced.

This year Dublin used 56 players over the course of their O'Byrne Cup, League and Championship campaigns. In fact 75 different players have seen action over the past two seasons and Dublin's management tried to identify the winning mix.

Dublin finished their Division 2 campaign with victory in the final against Derry before embarking on the Championship road.

Wins over Laois and Kildare saw Dublin meet Louth in the Leinster SFC final and with the victory they captured a record 13th provincial title in a row.

Roscommon proved a very difficult assignment in our opening game of the round-robin group stage where a draw (1-11 to 0-14) was an accurate reflection of the game.

Over the course of the next two games in the group - Kildare and Sligo - many of the less experienced players really 'stepped up to the plate' resulting in two convincing victories and encouraging team displays. It was down to the knock-out stage.

I can't remember if the team emerged for the second half first or second - these things seem to be of great concern to some - but anyway the team made a huge statement of intent in the early part of the second half on their way to a 2-17 to 0-11 victory. Two steps to sporting heaven left.

In a tactical battle against Monaghan, Dublin came strong at the finish with Dean Rock's late goal putting a bit of gloss on a 1-17 to 0-13 success. Now for the final.

Defensive play was to the fore on both sides in the decider with Dublin's counter-attack play central to our victory.

Once again it was that will to win in the dying stages which was crucial to see Dublin claim their 31st All-Ireland SFC title.

Results

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

Walsh Cup

07/01/23	Parnell Park	Dublin	3-26	Antrim	2-22
14/01/23	Parnell Park	Dublin	0-15	Galway	1-21
22/01/23	Kinnegad	Dublin	1-20	Westmeath	0-15

National Hurling League

05/02/23	Dungarvan	Dublin	3-16	Waterford	2-19
12/02/23	Parnell Park	Dublin	0-28	Antrim	2-19
25/02/23	Croke Park	Dublin	0-24	Tipperary	2-23
12/03/23	Kilkenny	Dublin	1-17	Kilkenny	2-25
19/03/23	Parnell Park	Dublin	1-29	Laois	0-20

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship

22/04/23	Belfast	Dublin	1-19	Antrim	1-19
29/04/23	Parnell Park	Dublin	2-23	Westmeath	1-14
06/05/23	Croke Park	Dublin	1-22	Wexford	0-23
20/05/23	Kilkenny	Dublin	0-21	Kilkenny	0-27
28/05/23	Croke Park	Dublin	2-22	Galway	1-25

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship

17/06/23	Carlow	Dublin	2-25	Carlow	0-21
24/06/23	Limerick	Dublin	2-17	Clare	5-26

O'Byrne Cup

04/01/23	Baltinglass	Dublin	2-15	Wicklow	0-09
11/01/23	Parnell Park	Dublin	0-08	Offaly	0-11

National Football League

28/01/23	Croke Park	Dublin	1-11	Kildare	0-13
05/02/23	Limerick	Dublin	2-17	Limerick	1-11
19/02/23	Cork	Dublin	0-18	Cork	2-10
25/02/23	Croke Park	Dublin	0-16	Clare	1-12
04/03/23	Derry	Dublin	0-13	Derry	1-11
18/03/23	Navan	Dublin	2-19	Meath	1-11
26/03/23	Croke Park	Dublin	0-16	Louth	1-06
02/04/23	Croke Park	Dublin	4-06	Derry	0-11

Leinster Senior Football Championship

23/04/23	Portlaoise	Dublin	4-30	Laois	2-09
30/04/23	Croke Park	Dublin	0-14	Kildare	0-12
14/05/23	Croke Park	Dublin	5-21	Louth	0-15

All-Ireland Senior Football Championship

28/05/23	Croke Park	Dublin	1-11	Roscommon	0-14
03/06/23	Kilkenny	Dublin	0-22	Kildare	0-13
18/06/23	Cavan	Dublin	3-23	Sligo	0-08
02/07/23	Croke Park	Dublin	2-17	Mayo	0-11
15/07/23	Croke Park	Dublin	1-17	Monaghan	0-13
30/07/23	Croke Park	Dublin	1-15	Kerry	1-13

Leinster Minor Football Championship

05/04/23	Parnell Park	Dublin	1-15	Louth	1-10
12/04/23	Navan	Dublin	2-09	Meath	0-11
26/04/23	Parnell Park	Dublin	4-19	Westmeath	2-12
24/05/23	Tullamore	Dublin	6-15	Offaly	1-08
31/05/23	Portlaoise	Dublin	0-19	Kildare	2-08

All-Ireland Minor Football Championship

10/06/23	Kilkenny	Dublin	1-18	Cork	2-12
25/06/23	Armagh	Dublin	1-08	Derry	3-11

Leinster Minor Hurling Championship

25/03/23	Parnell Park	Dublin	4-18	Offaly	0-19
01/04/23	Wexford	Dublin	1-08	Wexford	1-09
07/04/23	Portlaoise	Dublin	2-23	Kerry	0-11
24/04/23	Portlaoise	Dublin	1-20	Laois	0-17
01/05/23	Tullamore	Dublin	0-13	Galway	3-22

Leinster U20 Hurling Championship

08/04/23	Birr	Dublin	1-19	Galway	1-17
15/04/23	Parnell Park	Dublin	1-20	Wexford	0-15
22/04/23	Kilkenny	Dublin	2-16	Kilkenny	1-21
10/05/23	Tullamore	Dublin	2-12	Offaly	1-19

Leinster U20 Football Championship

21/03/23	Baltinglass	Dublin	1-14	Wicklow	3-06
28/03/23	Parnell Park	Dublin	2-16	Louth	0-07
04/04/23	Tullamore	Dublin	1-15	Offaly	1-09
18/04/23	Navan	Dublin	0-14	Meath	0-10
25/04/23	Carlow (AET)	Dublin	0-13	Kildare	0-16

Intercounty Structures

The new structure for 2023 All-Ireland senior football championship, and its tier two counterpart has been viewed by most as a success and I would support these comments. By in large the competition delivered meaningful, exciting and competitive games and an increase in intercounty activity and a guarantee of at least 4 championship games to all counties. Like the split season, which is still in its infancy, I think we would be well advised to reserved judgement and allow these structures to continue for 2 or 3 more years before we reassess them.

The coming year will see a significant change in the structure for Minor football. Minor football and hurling are development grades and as such it is important that our structures deliver a comprehensive games program to all counties. Thankfully the idea of one and done has been put behind us and our minor footballers are guaranteed at least 4 championship games between Leinster and the 3 tier All Ireland series. This should help reduce the training to matches ratio and help deliver a meaningful games program that is needed to support player development.

Similarly, our minor hurlers will have a minimum of 4 games all within Leinster and the opportunity to progress to the All-Ireland series by reaching the Leinster semi-final stage.

In Under 20 Football, the introduction of B All Ireland, similar to that in hurling will again provide for more competitive games for counties (albeit that Dublin are not eligible) and these changes should be welcomed.

As an organisation we should never be afraid of having open and honest discussion on structures and competitions, however we need to accept that we are a diverse organisation. Catering for the needs of players across codes, age grades, clubs and counties will lead to differing views and needs. Such views should not be marginalised, for example those oppose to the split season are not “anti-player”, all views and opinions need to be considered and as an organisation we will agree the best way forward.

Our diversity is our strength, we are not merely club players, intercounty players, coaches, referees, club volunteers or administrators, in fact often, we are or have been held many of these roles, importantly we are all GAA members. We all want what is best for our clubs, our counties and the GAA and this will only be achieved together.

Child Safeguarding Audit

The main focus of Dublin GAA is to increase participation in our games, or as Bord na nÓg say it “As many as possible, as long as possible, in the best environment possible”. To achieve this, “Above all else we must continue to ensure that children who play Gaelic Games do so in a safe and enjoyable environment”.

GAA National Children’s Office performed a risk assessment audit in April 2023, this audit is part of the best practice adopted by the GAA and sister organisations. The audit is carried out across Ireland and Britain.

The report highlights “we should recognise with appreciation that much has been achieved at Club and County level in recent years”. For that we thank the clubs and especially the Children’s Officers who play such a vital role within our clubs.

There is much to be proud of including, Dublin clubs have recruited over 1,300 new coaches in 2022, coaches who had not previously been involved with the club. Over 1,700 coaches completed the Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games (ICGG) in Dublin in this year. The focus of all these courses is ensuring we are providing the right environment for juvenile members.

Unfortunately, the report highlights some areas where we can improve further. While I want to be clear, the level of alleged issues reported is not high in context to the levels of activity, we must continue to strive for improvements. A single issue is one more than we must strive for.

The report provides statistics at a national and provincial level, but we can be confident that this learning can be applied within Dublin.

Some clubs have not established their Club Code of Behaviour (Underage) Hearings Committee or do not do so until this committee is needed. It is important that clubs ensure the structures are in place to deal effectively with any complaints prior to them arising and I would urge Clubs to ensure this structure is in place for 2024, workshops can be arranged to support clubs if required.

The most common complaint brought to the attention of the Club Children’s Officer was complaints by parents over lack of playing time for their children, this accounted for 30% of the most common cause of complaints. Of these complaints nearly one in five occurred at U-13 level, the first competitive grade nationally. Our Code of Behaviour (Underage) states “playing a player occasionally as a substitute in the concluding minutes of a game, would not constitute meaningful playing time”. International studies have shown the correlation between playing time and enjoyment and indeed skills development. To retain our juveniles, we must ensure appropriate game time for all, we can do better, and we need to.

The other key takeaway from the report is that adults are far more likely to be the source of a complaint than juveniles. Alleged breaches of Code of Behaviour, by adults is 33%

(Parents/Supporters 19% & Coaches 14%) compared with 15% for players. As adults we are in a position of responsibility, and we need to ensure we are contributing to a safe and fun environment for all juvenile club members.

Club Championships

As we reflect on the second full year of the split season and its impact on our club competition structures, I would like to thank the Competitions Control Committee for again compiling a comprehensive and engaging games program across all grades and codes.

The preparation and rollout of the annual master fixture plan takes considerable time and effort from the committee, trying to ensure that we maximise our games programs for players, avoiding clashes where possible with the intercounty program to deliver for our club players. The plan allows players, coaches and clubs to plan for the year ahead and to arrange training schedules accordingly.

I must also commend the clubs, without their assistance and support the games program would simply not work. Clubs are required to play most league games without intercounty players, this can be especially challenging when Senio and U-20 in both codes are in full swing.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the members of CCC for their contributions and in particular Chairperson Elaine Dolan, committee members Ken O'Sullivan, John O'Brien, Colm Crowley, Tom Rock, Gerry Rowley, Denis Malony, Mel Farrell, Aidan Shields and Michael Errity. I would also like to thank John McNicholas and Carol Monahan for the professional manner in which they support the games program.

This year's Go-Ahead Senior Football Championship, delivered another county title to Kilmacud Crokes, completing a 3 in a row of senior football championship titles, a first for the Stillorgan club. On the day Kilmacud Crokes were much the better team and were impressive winners over Ballyboden St Endas, on a score of 1-14 to 0-09.

Kilmacud Crokes quest for back to back club All Irelands continues and I congratulate them on completing 3 in a row wins in the Leinster Senior Football Club Championship, the first time any Club has managed to achieve this feat. I wish them every success as they continue in the defence of their All Ireland Club title.

Congratulations also to the Go-Ahead Senior 2 football winners Clontarf, who narrowly beat Fingallians, getting across the line by a single point 0-12 to 1-8. Scoil Úi Chonaill won the Go-Ahead Intermediate Football Championship beating Parnells also by a single point 0-14 to 0-13. Scoil Úi Chonaill progressed to the Leinster Intermediate Club Final, unfortunately they were unable to become the second Dublin Club to win this competition. Man O War won the Go-Ahead Junior Football Championship beating near neighbours O'Dwyers. They equipped themselves well in Leinster and were narrowly beaten in the Leinster Semi Final.

Turning to the Go-Ahead Hurling Championships, Na Fianna managed to put the heartbreak of the last two years behind them to claim a first ever Go-Ahead Hurling Senior A Championship title. Success on the day brought great joy to the Molbhi Road supporters and they proved much too strong on the day for Ballyboden St Endas winning by 2-19 to 0-09.

Na Fianna continued their Dublin Club form all the way to the Leinster Senior Hurling Club final where they faced an impressive O'Loughlin Gaels side who proved just too strong for them on the day.

The Go-Ahead Hurling Senior B Championship was won by Craobh Chiaráin who overcame St Judes by 0-19 to 0-15 and the Go-Ahead Hurling Senior C Championship was won by Naomh Mearnóg beating Raheny 1-14 to 0-14. Naomh Mearnóg represented Dublin in Leinster Intermediate Hurling and were beaten at semi final stage. Go-Ahead Hurling Intermediate champions were Fingallians who overcame St Vincents on a score of 4-17 to 3-10 and Good Counsel Liffey Gaels were the Go-Ahead Hurling Junior champions overcoming St Marks 2-19 to 3-13.

Congratulations also to all other clubs who won leagues and championships at all grades.

Multimedia

Dublin GAA is active across a range of platforms, this provides us with an opportunity to connect with members, supporters across all demographics within the county and beyond.

This year saw us stream 39 Go Ahead Dublin Club Championship games free to air, via our DubsTV digital channels across YouTube, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook and for the first time TikTok. These streamed games were viewed over 1 million times across all the platforms.

This represents over 50% increase over the prior year. We were delighted to be able to promote our local games and talented players to a national and global online audience. Thanks to all the team behind the scenes for making this happen and especially our commentary teams who really brought the games to life.

In addition to streaming games, these platforms allow us to produce content to promote upcoming club and intercounty games, share match highlights, post GAA news and match reports as well as sharing club/county initiatives and activities. We have over 360,000 followers across the platforms, an increase in just over 12% for the year.

Our official website continues to deliver news, information on our club fixtures and helps promote our games. In the current year our website received on average over 1.25 million visitors per month, this is an increase of about 30% per month.

None of this could be done without the team of volunteers that provide photography, match updates and produce and edit content for distribution on our official channels. A special thanks to Derek & Sophie who lead the teams.

Refereeing

My thanks to all our club referees, from our juvenile Go-Games referees all the way to those who handled our Senior Championship finals. The simple truth is the games at all levels are not possible without our referees. With the new split season, it has been a very busy few months for our referees and I must commend them for their dedication.

Coiste na Réiteoirí are responsible for the recruitment and training of referees in the county. They are also responsible for the administration and development of refereeing in the county, including the assessment and classification of referees. My thanks to the committee, Aidan Shiels (Chair), Sean McCarthy, Finbar Gaffney, Paddy Kiernan, Paddy Power and Kevin Roche.

My thanks also to Paddy Kiernan, who filled the role of adult games referee coordinator replacing Frank Brady after many years. Also to Danny Harrington who fills the role at juvenile level.

Dublin referees continue to handle games with distinction at Provincial and National Levels. Thomas Gleeson, Chris Mooney and Sean Stack are on the National Panel of Hurling Referees. Barry Tiernan continues to represent the County on the National Panel of Football Referees. Mark Ryan, Rory Hanley, Ian Howley, Seamus Farrelly and Dan Stynes are officiating at Provincial Level.

Sponsorship

I wish to thank Tomás for his outstanding work in the area of sponsorship and marketing. Under Tomás's stewardship our sponsorship portfolio continues to develop and the outstanding performance from our teams make us an attractive marketing platform for brands and organisations.

We are delighted to welcome Staycity, as our new primary sponsor and are looking forward to working with CEO Tom Walsh and his team over the coming years. Their support will allow us to continue to invest in coaching and games within Dublin to improve participation rates among juveniles and assist our clubs in their work.

This year saw the end of our 10 year partnership with AIG. I would like to thank Aidan Connaughton and all of his colleagues for their sponsorship and support over the 10 years.

Go-Ahead Ireland continued their sponsorship of our adult club leagues and championships. They are an excellent fit for our club competitions and their partnership will assist our games program at grassroots level. Our thanks to CEO Dervla McKay and her colleagues for their support.

I would like to thank our family of partners including O'Neills, Intersport Elverys, Britvic, Bytek and Peugeot who all provide valuable support to Dublin GAA. We value our partnerships with the corporate sector and look forward to another year working to our mutual benefit.

Cumann na mBunscol / Second Level Schools

I would like to acknowledge the work our Cumann na mBunscol and the second level schools in the role they play in developing our underage players, bring our games to new players and for helping to promote and grow our games.

To the teachers who give help organise and train teams for these competitions, I sincerely thank you. As teachers you are already fulfilling one of the most important roles in society and that so many of you have chosen to go further and get involve in running school team should be commended.

For those fortunate enough to get to finals played in Croke Park, it is a memory that they and indeed their parents can treasure for many years.

County Grounds

The majority of our senior championship games were played in our county grounds, and they were in excellent condition considering the volume of activity. I am indebted to our groundsman, Noel Brady, for his efforts. A special word of gratitude goes to Paddy Moloney for his commitment and attention to Parnell Park. I wish to thank Luke Lawlor for his assistance with O'Toole 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 Noel Murphy, Paul Tobin and their 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.

A special word of thanks to Nora Leonard and Bríd Tolster and their colleagues who fundraise for St. Francis Hospice annually by distributing the team sheets at our championship matches. I would appeal to clubs to provide additional stewards for Parnell Park and to co-operate with requests from stewards.

Cuimhne na Marbh

Sadly, during the past year, a number of our friends and colleagues have moved to their final resting places. The GAA is indebted to so many people who gave so freely of their time and expertise and these people will continue to be remembered by our clubs and our members long after they have left us. I'd like to specifically mention a number of people that I knew personally who have passed away in the last year, who gave some much to Dublin GAA— Patsy Kiernan (Parnells), Jimmy Gray, Donal Hickey (Na Fianna), Larry McVeigh (Scoil Úi Chonaill), Frank

Brady (St Annes) and Donie Kerin (Ballyboden St Edna's). To all our members who suffered bereavements, I want to convey my sincere sympathy.

Buíochas

I wish to thank our Chairman, Mick Seevers, for his support to me as County Secretary but also during my time as Treasurer. Mick's dedication and commitment to Dublin GAA is outstanding. He works tirelessly behind the scenes for the benefit of Dublin GAA and our clubs. He is always willing to take on any task or attend any meetings throughout the year. Along with the management committee he is passionate about Gaelic Games and ensuring our games are enjoyed widely within our Capital.

Thanks also to Vice Chair Ken O'Sullivan and Jim Roche for their help and assistance. I appreciate their willingness to represent our county and attend fixtures or meetings as required.

Thanks to Bernie MacLaughlin for chairing the Coaching and Games Oversight Committee and for the committee members endeavour and hard work in overseeing the massive commitment in coaching made by the board and our clubs.

The work of Gerard O'Connor, Director of Coaching and Club Development, and the Coaching & Games Development Staff and the GPOs is greatly appreciated. They do outstanding work in raising the standards of coaching within the county and to continue to increase the participation rates at CCC1 and CCC2 level.

I would like to thank all the staff in Parnell Park for the professionalism and the support and welcome they have afforded me. I would like to give a special mention to Gabrielle as she nears retirement but also acknowledge the rest of the administrative team in Parnell, Lorraine, Sharon and Fiona.

I wish to thank our Central and Leinster council delegates, Dick Butler, Mel Farrell (Leinster) and Jim Roche (Central) who ensure Dublin are effectively represented at both Provincial and National level.

The progress to date on the Hollystown and Spawell projects would not have been possible with the support and assistance from some many people but in particular I would like to

acknowledge and thank Sean Benton, Michael Hand, Brendan Waters, Mick Seevers, Sean Shanley, Jim Brogan, John Costello and Gerry McGreevy.

I would like to thank the Árd Stiúrthóir, Tom Ryan and all the staff in Croke Park for the support and assistance throughout the year. In addition, Michael Reynolds and his colleagues at Áras Laighean are always on hand to give assistance or advice when called upon.

A special word of thanks to the members of the CCC for their work in scheduling and implementing a games programme for our players. Also, the members of Coiste Éisteachta Chair Derek Keogh, David Faherty, Matt Dunne, Dave Feeney, Timmy McCarthy, Sinead O'Brien, Dermot Sheridan and Secretary Tom O'Shea 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 compliment the work of Declan O'Leary, Damian Murphy, Declan Coulter, Maura Ryan, and Anne O'Dea of Coiste na nÓg. Having recently attended their AGM, it is clear to see that the future of Juveniles games program is in safe hands.

A special word of thanks also to all the board officers, committee members, board delegates and club officials for their dedication and co-operation with me and the county board. The value of this support and assistance cannot be overstated. I would also like to thank them for the welcome I have received and the countless offers of support and assistance, which is greatly appreciated.

I must again express my appreciation for the commitment of time and expertise by the many voluntary administrators at club and county level. Our games and clubs cannot function without them. Likewise, to the army of coaches and mentors who give so generously of their time to ensure Dublin GAA continues to thrive.

Fionnbarra Ó Mathúna

Rúnaí