

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael – Coiste Átha Cliath

COMHDHÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2024



DÉ LUAIN 9Ú NOLLAIG 2024

Tuarascáil An Rúnaí

Is mór an onóir dom tuarascáil mo Rúnaí Contae a thíolacadh. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le hOifigigh Bhord an Chontae agus leis na clubanna as a gcúnamh. Ba mhaith liom aitheantas a thabhairt don tacaíocht atá faighte agam dár gclubanna ar fad agus don fhoireann anseo i bPáirc Pharnell.

Football Review Committee

Firstly, I would like to commend Jim Gavin and the FRC for their all their work for the last number of months.

The expertise and experience of the Committee mean that the proposals that were put to, and passed by Special Congress this weekend have been well thought out and their impacts carefully considered. Decisions have been taken following a series of trial games and in the best interests of improving Gaelic football as a spectacle.

The Committee has shown that it is flexible in its approach and has been prepared to adapt and evolve on suggestions and ideas, or indeed even drop those which they consider would not enhance our game.

While not everyone will agree with all of the proposals, nobody should question the unstinting effort the Committee has put into their deliberations to get the proposals to this point and their astute attention to detail in delivering what will hopefully be key improvements to football.

There may be some further road to travel in refining, adapting or changing some proposals but the key thing is that the journey has started and has already travelled a long way down the road to delivering a better game.

Thankfully we are still experiencing many classic games, filled with excitement and drama. However, we have also witnessed many games that have not caught the imagination of the audience. Games that do nothing to inspire our potential future stars.

I believe the time is right for change. There is no escaping the fact that attendances at intercounty games have decreased noticeably in recent years and without change we may see a further decline in the levels of interest in Gaelic football.

I think the majority of people will accept that it is impossible to go back in time, nor should we. Gaelic football has evolved, the skill and fitness of our players is higher than ever, and match preparation and tactical analysis continues to advance.

To be clear, as has always been the case, the main motivation and aim of intercounty players and coaches is to try to win games and deliver success for their county. But we must do our utmost to ensure that our games are attractive to the future generations of players, and I believe the trial rules are a step in the right direction.

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I really look forward to seeing them in action in the National League next year. The positive changes will afford an opportunity to assess the impact on our game and should offer an invaluable insight into how the game may further improve and evolve in the coming time.

The changes will bring a fresh excitement to the League as we see how our coaches and players adapt to the rules and how they implement them in tandem with their own game plans and styles to deliver positive outcomes for their own teams.

I'm sure these new rules will lead to much debate up and down the country, but no judgement should be passed based on a single game. The year-long trial period will give players, coaches, spectators and indeed administrators the opportunity to evaluate these rules and consider the positive changes they bring and also to assess what might not be working so well and what might be further adapted, or maybe dispensed with.

I think that real consideration of their impact can only be made when seeing the changes in action in full competition mode. It is difficult to fully assess potential impacts under trial conditions so I expect that we will all learn a lot from the upcoming League campaign.

So, let's embrace this innovation with an open mind, and recognise the opportunity it offers to further enhance our game. The Committee and Central Council will monitor the performance and impact of the changes throughout the National League, and this will inform whether any changes or amendments are made ahead of our Championship.

Spawell

Our proposed cluster development at Spawell received a fantastic double boost last month when planning permission for the project was granted by South Dublin County Council. This news came just a few weeks after it was announced that the project will receive €7 million in funding under the latest round of the Government's Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF).

We hope to begin a phased development next year and when complete the proposed facility will have 3 full sized sand-based grass pitches and a synthetic pitch, all with floodlighting, an indoor training centre, skills wall, gym, sensory spaces and changing rooms. The pitches and other facilities will be made available for use by local clubs, schools and third level institutions.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed by Dublin GAA to the Board and development committee of the Spawell project, Sean Benton, Michael Hand, Brendan Waters, Mick Seavers, Sean Shanley, Jim Brogan, John Costello, Ken O'Sullivan, Elaine Dolan, Bernie McLaughlin and Gerry McGreevy. It has been a pleasure to work with this group and their time, expertise and dedication to the project is hugely appreciated and I now look forward to the next exciting steps.

Securing the LSSIF grant funding was in no small part down to the comprehensive application we submitted, and I would particularly like to thank John Costello, Tom McLoughlin, Ciarán Ó hÓbáin and Brendan Watters for their work in this regard.

I also want to acknowledge the ongoing support of Ard Stiúrthóir, Tom Ryan and the GAA's National Financing Management Council for our Spawell project.

Social Return on Investment Study

On the subject of funding, the recently published Social Return on Investment Study made very interesting reading. The report was commissioned by the GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association and carried out by Sheffield Hallam University's Sport Industry Research Group.

The study shows that for every one euro invested in Gaelic games, the benefit returned to society is at least €2.30 and could be as much as €3.96 and that the social value of Gaelic games is worth at least €2.87 billion to Irish society.

The report also found that 10,600 jobs are generated through Gaelic games activity and that the Government receives €192.6 million in direct and indirect taxation from Gaelic games.

With those kind of figures, I think it's fair to say that our Association delivers a very healthy return on any investment made and will hopefully continue to do so for the betterment of our communities for many years to come.

National Head of Hurling

In contrast to the perception of football, attendances and interest in hurling continues to rise and the game certainly appears to be in rude health. The quality and drama delivered during the Leinster and Munster Hurling Championships this year was outstanding.

So too the All-Ireland Series, culminating in a game for the ages between Cork and Clare in the All-Ireland final. Extra time was needed to separate these two teams in what was without doubt the game of the year. Indeed, it was unfair that either team had to lose, but such is the nature of sport. It may have been fairer for both to come back another day but that is a topic for next year's Congress.

However, if you are to assess hurling through a different lens it is very worrying that game at the top level is still confined to more or less the same limited parts of the country. While I am delighted that the game of hurling in Dublin has continued to grow not just in terms of participating numbers but also in terms of the standard of hurling, can we say the same about the game generally across the country? Unfortunately, I do not believe so.

As a people, and especially within the GAA, we are rightly proud of the game of hurling. A native game that was recognised by UNESCO "as an intrinsic part of Irish culture", a game that is a unique symbol of Ireland and our history. A game that is regularly featured to showcase our culture and history when foreign dignitaries visit Ireland. Indeed, with each passing year we have sizeable numbers of tourists attending our Championship games in Parnell Park.

And yet despite great efforts by many, we have struggled to grow the game outside certain traditional pockets. Clearly it is time for a new approach, and I hope that the imminent announcement of a new National Head of Hurling to oversee the strategic development of the game brings fresh direction and impetus to this challenge. I eagerly await this appointment and hope the successful candidate receives the support and backing required to fulfil this important mandate.

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Minor Footballers

Dublin were unable to bridge a gap dating back to the mid-1950s in completing a three in a row of Leinster Minor Football Championship titles when losing the decider to Longford, before succumbing to eventual All Ireland winners Derry at the quarter-final stage.

Dublin started their provincial campaign away to Laois and proved much too strong for the home side on a score of 5-13 to 1-11 at O'Moore Park on March 27.

Dublin opened the scoring through a Rían Doherty free, and the opening quarter was tightly contested until a goal from Senan Bolger set Dublin on their way.

In the final ten minutes of the first half Dublin extended their lead with goals from Fintan Lydon, Donach Magee and Josh Kennedy to secure a healthy half time advantage of 4-10 to 0-04.

The second half was far more evenly contested with Laois outscoring Dublin 1-07 to 1-03 and a second goal from Senan Bolger ensured a comfortable win for Dublin.

A week later Dublin were again on the road, this time with Longford providing the opposition. A tightly contested affair saw Dublin lose out by five points on a scoreline of 3-08 to 1-09.

Dublin had started brightly with the opening score from Donach Magee, but Longford came more into the game and were 1-03 to 0-05 ahead at the break.

The home side started much the brighter in the second half, scoring two goals in the opening 10 minutes and extending their lead to nine points.

Dublin continued to battle and a penalty from Hugh O'Neill reduced the deficit but ultimately the visitors were unable to claw back the sizeable Longford lead.

Qualification was assured before Dublin hosted Offaly in Parnell Park ten days later on April 13th. Conditions were difficult with a strong breeze playing down the field.

The opening quarter was very even, and Dublin had plenty of possession despite playing into the strong wind, but an early Offaly goal gave the visitors the advantage.

Dublin levelled the game through a fine Donach Magee score on 14 minutes, but Offaly quickly retook the lead with three unanswered points and a second goal meant they led by six approaching halftime.

A brilliant Rían Doherty goal just before the break cut the halftime deficit to three points on a scoreline of 2-04 to 1-04.

Dublin, backed by the strong breeze, were far more dominant in the second half and two quick frees reduced the gap to just a point.

Further scores from Eoghan O'Donovan, Finn McGinnis and Josh Kennedy powered Dublin into the lead and a final goal from Donach Magee copper-fastened a 2-15 to 2-05 win.

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A Leinster quarter final against Wexford on the May Bank Holiday in Parnell Park was next for the young Dubs, a game they won comfortably by 5-11 to 0-09.

A blistering first half from Dublin with goals from Cillian McCabe, Senan Bolger and Charlie Loughran provided the platform for Dublin to lead 3-07 to 0-04 at the break.

Second half goals from Fintan Lydon and Rían Doherty added to Dublin's advantage ensuring the home team progressed to the semi-final.

Dublin travelled to Hawkfield to take on neighbours Kildare in a thrilling semi-final, with Dublin securing the narrowest of wins, 2-10 to 1-12.

The home side had the better of the first half but were unable to capitalise on their opportunities and only lead 0-06 to 0-05 at halftime, with scores from play from Josh Kennedy, Ryan Ennis and Cian Gavin keeping Dublin in touch.

Dublin started the second half brightly with scores from Rían Doherty and a brace from Senan Bolger before a Kildare goal restored their advantage.

With time running out Dublin trailed by five points until two quick goals from Senan Bolger and Shane Devane gave the visitors a lifeline. Kildare equalised before a magnificent Hugh O'Neill point deep into injury time ensured a dramatic Dublin win.

A Leinster final in Tullamore was the next assignment for the young Dubs, a rematch against Longford in what was a tightly contested game from start to finish.

Dublin managed to have the better of the opening half, a Senan Bolger goal ensuring we led by 1-04 to 0-03 at the break.

Longford controlled the second half but still needed a score three minutes into added time to level the game and force extra time on a scoreline of 1-07 to 0-10.

Dublin started well in extra time with excellent scores from Finn Costello and Cillian McCabe helping us to a single point lead after ten minutes, 1-10 to 0-12.

Longford took control of the second period of extra time scoring three unanswered points to claim the Leinster title on a final score of 0-15 to 1-10.

An All-Ireland quarter-final against defending All-Ireland & back-to-back Ulster champions Derry in Breffni Park at the start of June was the next challenge facing Dublin.

Dublin played with the breeze in the first half and a Senan Bolger goal and some fine scores from Donach Magee and Finn McGinnis ensured Dublin were just one down at the break, 0-08 to 1-04.

An early second half goal from Donach Magee gave Dublin momentum but they were unable to capitalise on their lead and Derry were not to be denied. Four unanswered scores by the Oak Leaf ensured they finally prevailed despite a battling Dublin challenge to win by 0-18 to 2-10.

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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.

Minor Hurlers

Minor hurlers had a number of impressive performances throughout their campaign before losing to Kilkenny in a Leinster final, followed by defeat to Galway in the All-Ireland series.

A home opener against Wexford in the Leinster championship on a lovely sunny afternoon in Parnell Park, saw the team off to the best possible start.

Dublin were the more dominant force in the opening half with four points from Rory Flannery and three from Cathal Barrett ensuring Dublin had a healthy advantage at the break, leading 0-09 to 0-05.

While Wexford did everything they could to get back into contention, fine scores from Conaill O'Sullivan, Fionn Daly and Tommy Cullen ensured Dublin maintained their advantage to record a deserved victory on a score of 0-18 to 0-15.

Dublin played Galway in the next outing where the first half was a tightly contested affair with Dublin the more impressive team in the opening half. Scores from Conor Quinn, Fionn Daly and Rory Flannery had Dublin ahead, but the concession of a late goal ensured the sides were deadlocked at halftime, 0-08 to 1-05.

Galway started the second half strongly and aided by the advantage of the breeze made their possession count on the scoreboard. Dublin continued to fight and a 51st minute penalty from Rory Flannery and scores from Darragh Kilduff, James Norris and Eoghan Brennan gave Dublin a foothold in the game.

Despite Dublin's best efforts, Galway maintained a narrow lead before a late goal secured their victory by 2-16 to 1-14.

Dublin were on the road a week later to face Kilkenny in Nowlan Park. The sun was shining, and conditions were ideal for hurling on a day that ended with an impressive Dublin win.

A competitive first half, saw a more economical Dublin head into the break with a slender lead of 0-07 to 0-06 with first half scores from James Norris, Rory Flannery, Killian Costello and Cathal Barrett helping the visitors on their way.

Dublin were much more in control in the second half with further scores from Rory Flannery, and a fine late score from Ben O'Mahony ensuring we took the spoils and a place in the Leinster semi-final.

Wexford returned to Parnell Park for the Leinster semi-final and once again Dublin proved too strong for the Slaneysiders, prevailing by 1-17 to 2-10.

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Dublin were the better team in the opening half and started strongly, opening up a five-point lead helped by a goal from Darragh Kilduff. But the concession of two goals against the run of play meant Dublin trailed by a single point at halftime, 2-05 to 1-07.

The opening minutes of the second half saw both sides picking off scores and Wexford maintained their slender lead heading into the final quarter. But a couple of Rory Flannery frees and scores from Senan Bolger, Darragh Kilduff ensured that it was Dublin who progressed to the Leinster Final.

The final saw Dublin once again pitted against Kilkenny, this time in O'Moore Park. Dublin were hoping to claim our first Leinster Minor title in six years but unfortunately on the day Kilkenny were the better team and deservedly took the title.

Despite having beaten Kilkenny a few weeks before in their own backyard, Dublin were the far slower team to start and indeed Kilkenny were two ahead in the opening few minutes.

An excellent score by Tommy Cullen opened Dublin's account but Kilkenny were quick to respond and extend the lead to three points, but Dublin were playing their way into the game.

A lovely score from Killian Costello and a Rory Flannery free closed the gap, before an Eoghan Brennan goal propelled Dublin in front. Unfortunately for the young Dubs, it was Kilkenny who kicked on to lead at the break by 0-09 to 1-04.

The opening ten minutes of the second half saw Kilkenny extend their lead to five and the game appeared to be slipping away from Dublin. Dublin reduced the deficit to four with Darragh Kilduff grabbing Dublin's first score from play in the second half.

Dublin received another blow with twelve minutes left when conceding a goal, but our response was immediate, with Dublin clipping over three points in quick order from Cathal O'Flynn, Tommy Cullen and Rory Flannery to cancel out the goal.

Dublin pushed hard for a second goal, but it never materialised, and the final whistle saw us on the wrong side of a 1-13 to 1-09 scoreline.

The All-Ireland Series was next with a quarter final trip to Tipp and Semple Stadium to face a Galway side who had beaten Dublin by five points some weeks previously in the Leinster round robin.

Galway started better with most of the possession and this dominance was being reflected on the scoreboard with Galway registering the opening three scores all from frees. This was followed by the opening goal in the 5th minute for the Tribes.

Dublin responded well to the setback, settling into the game and fine scores from Cathal Barrett and Killian Costello reduced the deficit.

Both teams traded scores, with Cathal Barrett, wing back Tommy Cullen, Cathal O'Flynn and Tom Higgins all chipping in with scores for Dublin. But in the 23rd minute Galway's second goal was a real blow to Dublin.

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As they had shown all year, this team would fight and battle all day long and they were rewarded for their spirit in the 28th minute as a long Cathal O'Flynn effort found its way to the net. A Rory Flannery free just before the half saw Dublin trail by six points at the break, 2-10 to 1-7.

Dublin started the second half well and had cut the lead to a single point within the opening ten minutes thanks to a brace of frees from Rory Flannery, a nice Fiachra Codd score and a lovely Darragh Kilduff goal.

Unfortunately, that was as close as Dublin would come on the day. A third Galway goal followed by two more points again pushed their lead out to six points.

Two Conaill O'Sullivan scores from play, a Cathal O'Flynn point, and frees from Rory Flannery closed the gap to three but Dublin were unable to make further inroads, in the end falling to Galway on a score of 3-18 to 2-18 and thus ending their season.

Under-20 Footballers

A year that promised much in the opening games was to end with defeat at home to Louth in the Leinster semi-final and ultimately limited the team to just three competitive fixtures.

The campaign began on March 26 as the team travelled to Kinnegad to face Westmeath, coming away with a resounding 1-15 to 0-06 success.

A bright start from Dublin saw the visitors race into a five-point lead with scores coming from Karl Flynn, Mark McNally, Clyde Burke, Luke O'Boyle and Paul Reynolds Hand.

Westmeath registered a brace of scores before Dublin responded with a fine score from Jamie McCarville and then a Karl Flynn goal ensured Dublin enjoyed a healthy advantage. Dublin tacked on further scores from Dan Murphy and Clyde Burke to leave them leading by ten at the break, 1-9 to 0-02.

Next up was Meath in Parnell Park and Dublin were again victorious but this time in a much tighter affair, winning by 0-13 to 1-07.

Clyde Burke opened the scoring and scores from Luke O'Boyle and Jamie McCarville helped Dublin into an early lead. A lovely long-range score from Greg McEneaney helping us to a three-point lead at the break 0-6 to 0-3.

A Meath goal just minutes into the second half had the game level but Dublin responded well kicking two quick scores, first from Joe Quigley and then a Paul Reynolds Hand free, to push two ahead again.

Points from Greg McEneaney and Jamie McCarville pushed the lead to four before a Meath fightback reduced the deficit to just one. However, another lovely score by McEneaney and a point from Joe Quigley was enough to see Dublin record a six-point win.

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Dublin's reward for topping the group was a home semi-final against Louth in Parnell Park. The game started brightly for the home team with two quick scores, a Clyde Burke fisted point and a free from Paul Reynolds Hand.

Louth fought back to level the game before Dublin restored their lead with Clyde Burke and Mark McNally both scoring from distance. A fortunate Louth goal saw them take the lead and while Dublin again responded with two more scores from Mark McNally, it was Louth who closed out the half stronger to lead by two, 1-06 to 0-07.

At the start of the second half, Louth extended the lead to three before a Luke O'Boyle goal ten minutes in saw Dublin level. Louth dominated the next fifteen minutes and scored five unanswered points before frees from Joe Quigley and Karl Flynn cut the gap to three points.

Louth continued to dominate the middle of the field and a score in additional time ended Dublin's season and secured their Leinster final place on a scoreline of 1-13 to 1-09.

Under-20 Hurlers

Dublin's hopes of securing the Leinster under-20 Hurling Championship title were again dashed by Offaly, this time in the Leinster Final.

The year saw a lot of strong performances and the team improved and grew in confidence as the competition progressed.

Dublin opened their Leinster campaign at home to Offaly at the end of March in very trying conditions, losing by the narrowest of margins 1-18 to 2-14, with Offaly's winning score coming in injury time.

Offaly got into the stride quicker and scored the opening two points of the game before a couple of frees from Diarmaid Ó Dúlaing levelled the game. Dublin's opening score from play from Brendan Kenny ensured that the game remained level at the 20-minute mark.

The closing 10 minutes of the half saw Offaly take control of the game, outscoring Dublin 1-4 to a single point. Dublin managed to respond to Offaly's 29th minute goal with two scores in injury time, another free from Ó Dúlaing and a Jamie Conroy score from play, reducing the deficit to 1-09 to 0-07 at the break.

David Purcell grabbed the opening score of the second half for Dublin before Offaly extended the lead to eight points by the 40th minute. Dublin came back strongly into the game, first through an Ollie Gaffney goal before points from David Purcell and Eoin Keys reduced the lead to just three points.

Three unanswered frees for Offaly extended their advantage but the Dublin team continued to fight and were rewarded first with an Ollie Gaffney score and a wonderful David Purcell goal. Further scores from Jamie Conroy and Conn Rock levelled the game at the start of injury time before a late, late score secured the win for the visitors.

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Next up was a trip to Tullamore to face Galway who played with a strong wind in the opening half and took full advantage of the conditions by registering the two opening scores. Frees from Diarmaid Ó Dúlaing and a fine David Purcell score kept Dublin in touch.

The concession of a goal just before the 10th minute was a blow that the team struggled to recover from. Galway added to their lead before Jamie Conroy replied for Dublin with what proved to be our final score of the half.

Dublin conceded 1-3 in the five minutes before the break, leaving us trailing by 2-10 to 0-04 at halftime.

With the wind at our backs Dublin started to cut into the Galway lead through frees from Diarmaid Ó Dúlaing but were not able to substantially cut the deficit. The concession of a third goal midway through the half sealed the contest for Galway.

Substitutes Neil Hogan and Dylan Bannan both got on the scoreboard, but Dublin were unable to get back into the game. A late fourth goal from Galway completed a comfortable win for them and set us up to face Westmeath in a preliminary quarter final two weeks later.

Dublin travelled to Mullingar for the preliminary quarter final and looked much more assured in a game that they dominated from the start, scored the opening six points, all from play.

Other than conceding a goal against the run of play, Dublin were in control of game in the first half. We scored fifteen points in the first half - all from play. David Purcell, Brendan Kenny, Conal Ó Riain and Conn Rock were among the scorers in an interval lead of 0-15 to 1-06.

Westmeath started the second half brightly but Dublin scores from Diarmaid Ó Dúlaing, Neil Hogan and Jamie Conroy ensured that we remained in complete control of the game.

There were further scores from Ollie Gaffney and Dylan Brennan before a Ó Dúlaing goal in added time wrapped up the win for Dublin on a score of 1-31 to 1-14.

A home tie in Parnell Park against Wexford was the next task, a game which Dublin prevailed winning by 0-18 to 0-14 after a hard-fought encounter.

The opening half was a cagey affair with neither side able to take control of the game. Diarmaid Ó Dúlaing opened the scoring with a free from distance but Wexford responded quickly to level the game, and this set the tone for the half with neither team able to open a lead of more than a point at any time.

Neil Hogan contributed with three points from play, with David Purcell, Jamie Conroy and frees from Diarmaid Ó Dúlaing ensuring Dublin had a slight advantage at the break, 0-09 to 0-08.

An opening second half score from Wexford ensured the game was level before two fine scores from Jamie Conroy gave Dublin a two-point lead for the first time. Wexford again responded to level the game for the ninth time in all.

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This was the last time the game was level, three scores from Ó Dúlaing and an Ollie Gaffney point gave Dublin a four-point advantage with ten minutes to go. Despite Wexford's best efforts, Dublin refused to relinquish the lead with two fine scores from Brendan Kenny enough to ensure Dublin progressed on a scoreline of 0-18 to 0-14.

A rematch against Galway in a Leinster semi-final in Portlaoise was next on the agenda for the young hurlers. This time out it was Dublin who would score four goals, and this ensured Dublin reversed the nineteen-point loss from the group stage into a nine point victory.

A dream start for Dublin saw Diarmaid Ó Dúlaing netting the opening goal inside twenty seconds and this was followed by a 65' after a fine save prevented a second Dublin goal.

Galway got off the mark in the 6th minute, but this was quickly followed by Dublin's second goal of the game, a fantastic solo effort from David Purcell. Galway responded with two quick scores, but Jamie Conroy and a superb Conal Ó Riain effort maintained Dublin momentum.

A couple of frees from Ó Dúlaing and scores from Neil Hogan, O'Riain and Fionn Murphy was enough to ensure Dublin had a strong lead at the break, 2-10 to 0-10.

Galway tried valiantly to battle back into contention, but Dublin kept the scoreboard ticking over with scores from Conroy, Cathal Kennedy, Ó Dúlaing and Conor Dolan keeping the Tribesman at bay.

Late goals by Conor Newton and a second for Purcell were more than enough to see Dublin home by nine on the final whistle with a score of 4-17 to 0-20.

The Leinster final saw Dublin face off against Offaly, a team who had dispatched them from the competition the previous year and narrowly beat them in the round robin phase. The prize of both a Leinster title and a place in an All-Ireland final saw a large crowd gather in Portlaoise for the game.

The opening half saw Dublin playing with the advantage of a strong wind and after a frantic and scrappy opening few minutes we settled into the game well with Brendan Kenny and David Purcell grabbing the opening scores.

Neil Hogan was next to score for Dublin, restoring Dublin a two-point advantage after Offaly's opening score. Further points from Kenny, Neil Hogan and Diarmaid Ó Dúlaing helped extend Dublin's advantage to four points with Offaly scores coming from frees.

A goal against the run of play for Offaly in the 20th minute dented both Dublin's confidence and the momentum they had built. Offaly pushed on adding two frees and a score from play to take a three-point lead before a late Neil Hogan score reduce the arrears to 1-07 to 0-08 at halftime.

In the second half, aided by the wind, Offaly got the first two scores to double their lead before Conal Ó Riain responded. Dublin were awarded a penalty in the 38th minute but were unable to convert the opportunity. Instead, two converted 65's kept us in touch.

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Offaly continued to clip over scores and had established a six-point advantage in the closing minutes. Dublin continued to throw everything at the game and a Conn Rock goal in the closing moments offered some hope, but Offaly managed to see out the game to win by three, 1-18 to 1-15 and thwart Dublin once again.

Senior Hurlers

The Senior Hurlers were looking to build on the progress of last year and their ambitions were furthered by Chris Crummey's return to the panel.

Dublin opened the year in Parnell Park in the Walsh Cup with a convincing win over Westmeath on a score of 2-31 to 1-12, an ideal start to preparations for Micheál Donoghue's second year in charge.

On a day when fourteen different players contributed to the scoreboard, Dublin proved much too strong for the Lakesiders.

This encouraging start to the year was quickly followed by the visit of Antrim to Parnell Park in the second group game. Another 2-31 was scored and this was more than enough to collect two more Walsh Cup points with the visitors registering 1-20.

A Walsh Cup semi-final against Galway in Parnell Park was next up but the visitors proved too strong in what were challenging conditions. Galway prevailed on a scoreline of 1-24 to 0-17.

With the changes to the National Hurling League format for 2025 on the horizon, the opening league game and the league as a whole had a far more significant feel to it in 2024.

The first weekend of February saw Tipperary visit Parnell Park as both sides looked to get their respective league campaigns off to the best possible start.

Dublin played into the breeze in the opening half and opened their account inside the first few seconds with a lovely run and score from Brian Hayes. The optimism of that score didn't last long, as Tipperary took control of the game and were far more economical in their scoring and use of the ball.

Scores from Conor Burke, Jake Malone, Cian O'Sullivan were not enough to stem the tide and Dublin were trailing by eight by the 21st minute.

Two further points from O'Sullivan and a score each from Burke and Sean Currie added to Dublin's tally but Dublin still trailed by 0-17 to 0-9 at the break.

A fired-up Dublin started the second half brightly including a fine score from Diarmuid Ó Dúlaing, but any momentum was scuppered by concession of the first Tipperary goal in the 44th minute.

When Dublin needed a response, this was provided by an excellent score from Fergal Whitely, three frees from O'Sullivan and a Sean Currie point. Unfortunately for Dublin, the concession of a second goal in 58th minute left the game beyond them with Tipperary collecting the two points on a score of 2-27 to 0-22.

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A week later, Dublin travelled to a sunny Belfast to take on Antrim in Corrigan Park. A Colin Currie free gave Dublin an ideal start and we were on top in the opening exchanges. Scores from Paul Crummey and Conor Donohoe opened up a three point lead.

Antrim were heavily reliant on scores from placed balls in the opening period and scores from Diarmaid Ó Dúlaing, Conor Burke and Fergal Whitely were enough to maintain Dublin's three point advantage.

A purple patch for the hosts then saw them clip three points from play to level the game at 0-7 each before two Brian Hayes points and a Ronán Smith score restored Dublin's three-point advantage. This advantage was short lived however as a well-worked Antrim goal followed quickly by a point gave the hosts the lead for the first time.

Dublin responded well closing out the half with three unanswered points from Cian O'Sullivan and one each from the Currie brothers Sean and Colin, to ensure a two point lead at the interval.

Conor Burke registered the opening score of the second half but Antrim scored the next three points to tie the game. A fine save from Seán Brennan prevented a second Antrim goal but they converted the resultant 65' to retake the lead.

The closing 15 minutes saw neither team able to take control of the game but Antrim managed to carve a slender lead as the clock wound down. But a very late and fortuitous goal from Cian O'Sullivan propelled Dublin back in front and we were able to escape Belfast with two valuable League points after an evenly contested affair.

The four in a row All-Ireland champions Limerick were our next opponents, with Dublin looking to add to our League points tally on a Saturday evening in Croke Park.

A difficult task was made all the harder by the concession of a goal inside the first minute and by the fifth minute Dublin were trailing by 1-3 to 0-1, our score coming from Conor Burke.

Scores from Danny Sutcliffe, Ronan Hayes, Donal Burke and Cian O'Sullivan narrowed the gap as Dublin looked to play their way into the game. The progress was stalled by the concession of a second goal five minute before the break, leaving Limerick leading by eight, 2-13 to 0-11 at halftime.

Limerick added to their lead with the third goal of the game coming within five minutes of the restart. Dublin kept going and registered scores from Donal Burke, Cian O'Sullivan and Diarmaid Ó Dúlaing, as well as a goal from Sean Currie.

In the end Limerick were just too strong for Dublin and the All Ireland champions were worthy winners on a scoreline of 3-30 to 1-18.

Next up, Dublin travelled to Pearse Stadium to face Galway in round four of the League. Diarmaid Ó Dúlaing scored the first point of the game to give Dublin the lead but Galway responded with the next three scores despite playing into a breeze.

A Galway goal extended their lead before a Donal Burke penalty kick-started a Dublin comeback. The goal was followed with four unanswered points from Ronan Hayes, Conor

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Donohoe and a brace from Burke which gave Dublin a single point lead. Galway responded with three of their own scores to lead at the break by two points.

Scores from Burke and Cian O'Sullivan early in the half levelled the game before a second yellow card reduced Galway to 14 men. Both sides picked off scores in what was a tight second half. However after Dublin were also reduced to 14 men, Galway took control of the game and built a lead which they would hold to the end, winning by 1-23 to 1-15.

The final round of the National League saw Dublin welcome Westmeath to Parnell Park. For the most part the opening half was evenly balanced but Dublin took full advantage of the numerical advantage following the dismissal of a Westmeath player.

Dublin used the extra man well and some fine Dublin scores from Paul Crummey, Jake Malone, Donal Burke and others saw us head into the half time break with a five-point lead, 0-11 to 0-06.

While Westmeath started the second half brightly Dublin kept the scoreboard ticking over with points from Danny Sutcliffe and Brian Hayes. A goal midway through the half from Fergal Whitely effectively ended the contest.

Westmeath continued to battle and added to their tally but their good work was undone when Cian O'Sullivan raced clear to fire home our second goal. So Dublin wrapped up our League campaign with a convincing 2-22 to 0-15 win and now turned our attention to the Leinster Hurling Championship.

A trip to Chadwick's Wexford Park to face a much-fancied home team was Dublin's opening fixture in Leinster, on a day which delivered much drama including a late comeback that rescued a draw for the visitors.

From a Dublin perspective the opening was far from ideal with the concession of a penalty which was converted inside the opening minute. But Dublin were not rattled and responded with two Donal Burke frees before Wexford's next score.

The fightback continued with two frees from Cian O'Sullivan before a Paddy Doyle score gave Dublin the lead for the first time. Dublin were unable to push on and Wexford hit five points in a row before late scores from Burke and Danny Sutcliffe levelled the game at halftime, 0-11 to 1-08.

Scores in the third quarter from Mark Grogan, Sean Currie and Ronan Hayes managed to keep Dublin in the game before Wexford hit another purple patch to extend their lead to five with just over ten minutes remaining and looking set for the win.

But late goals from Danny Sutcliffe and then Cian O'Sullivan with the last play of the game delivered a draw for Dublin that seemed very unlikely only minutes before.

Dublin were again on the road in round two, travelling to Netwatch Cullen Park to take on Carlow and hoping to build on the Wexford game.

Carlow settled into the game well and by the end of the opening quarter had built a healthy six point lead, with our scores coming from Donal Burke, Cian O'Sullivan and Danny

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Sutcliffe. Further scores from Burke, Sutcliffe and a first from Sean Currie helped Dublin to reduce the deficit to four at the break 0-13 to 0-09.

Dublin were much improved after the break and far more clinical in front of goal. Conor Burke, Paddy Doyle and Daire Gray all added their names to the scoresheet and three further frees from Donal Burke gave Dublin a well-deserved lead.

But Carlow battled on and four scores from placed balls meant that the game was again level at 0-19 points apiece with just over ten minutes to go. Dublin eventually took control of the game finishing much the stronger and outscoring the hosts 1-05 to 0-03 to register our first win of the Leinster campaign.

A return to the home comforts of Parnell Park was next on the agenda as Antrim visited for round 3 of the Championship.

Dublin got off to a flyer with a Paul Crummey goal in the first minute, quickly followed by an excellent John Bellew point. Antrim responded with two points of their own but Dublin were clearly on top and further scores from Conor Donohoe, Seán Currie and Danny Sutcliffe helped extend our advantage to six, which was no more than we deserved.

Dublin pushed the lead to nine before an Antrim goal cut the lead back to six in the 28th minute. The teams swapped scores heading into the break leaving Dublin's lead at six points.

Antrim were now aided by a strong breeze and cut into the lead with two early scores. However, the hosts regained control with scores from Cian O'Sullivan, Donal Burke, Conor Burke and Fergal Whitely pushing Dublin further ahead.

A Brian Hayes goal after 58 minutes, followed by a Donal Burke goal five minutes later ended the game as a contest with Dublin running out winners 3-32 to 1-18.

Sitting on top of the table, Dublin welcomed Kilkenny to a sunny and packed Parnell Park a week later.

A nervous start from Dublin allowed Kilkenny to take control and they were ahead by three points after the opening ten minutes. Dublin responded well through Paul Crummey and Donal Burke on a day when Donal would score fourteen points in total. Kilkenny though were more efficient in front of goal and they continued to extend their lead as the half progressed.

Donal Burke's accuracy kept Dublin in touch and then just before the break a superb team goal was finished by Conor Burke bursting through the middle of the Kilkenny defence. This score sent the home side to the changing rooms filled with confidence and trailing by just one point after an up and down first half, 0-16 to 1-12.

Donal Burke continued his fine form converting a number of frees, with Danny Sutcliffe and Cian O'Sullivan also firing over and Dublin were deservedly level with fifteen minutes remaining. When Brian Hayes galloped down the heart of the Kilkenny defence to fire Dublin ahead by three, it looked like Dublin would kick for home.

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Unfortunately for Dublin, Kilkenny reeled off the next few scores to level the game and with time almost up, a Kilkenny goal delivered the win for the visitors. It was harsh on Dublin who had played so well and probably deserved more.

The final day of the Leinster Hurling Championship again delivered a day packed with drama and last up for Dublin was a trip to Pearse Stadium to face Galway. The group was so tight that Dublin entered the day with the possibility of earning a Leinster Final berth or exiting the Championship.

Dublin played into a very strong breeze and settled well into the game, an early Sean Currie goal and a Fergal Whitely point ensuring that the visitors were more than competitive in the early stages.

Galway however, used the strong wind well and were able to reel off seven points on the bounce to lead by four at the quarter-hour mark. Their momentum was initially halted by a Donal Burke free before being further dented by the dismissal of their midfielder for a high challenge.

Dublin used the numerical advantage well though Galway aided by the strong breeze were able to pick off points. Donal Burke hit some exquisite scores and Conor Burke, Brian Hayes and John Bellew also added to Dublin's tally.

A Donal Burke goal just before the break drew the game level but two late Galway scores regained the lead for them with the halftime scoreline reading, 0-19 to 2-11.

Dublin had a confident start to the second half and were level within two minutes. Now aided by a strong breeze and a numerical advantage Dublin quickly took control of the game, with Dara Purcell and Danny Sutcliffe setting us on our way.

Even with the concession of a late goal seven minutes from time, Dublin were always in control. Fine long-range scores from Paddy Smyth and Conor Donohoe helped ensure a good Dublin win and secure our progression to the Leinster Championship final, and a rematch against Kilkenny.

Croke Park can be an unforgiving venue for teams and unfortunately this was certainly the case for our hurlers in the Leinster Final. There was much optimism on the back of the Kilkenny and Galway games in the round robin series but unfortunately it wasn't to be Dublin's day.

An early goal for Kilkenny seemed to impact on Dublin's belief and Kilkenny were finding it much easier to get scores. Despite fine points from Chris Crummey and Conor Burke, Dublin trailed by nine by the mid-point of the first half.

Dublin were just unable to get a foothold in the game, with scores from Donal Burke and Dara Purcell offering only brief respite before the concession of a second Kilkenny goal which was quickly followed by three points from play. At halftime Dublin were adrift by fifteen points, 2-18 to 0-09.

The second half was much more competitive but no matter how hard Dublin tried, there was no way back into the game and the result was never really in any doubt. A Mark Grogan goal

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following some good work by Donal Burke and nice scores from John Bellew were the highlights for Dublin, as Kilkenny ran out deserving winners, 3-28 to 1-18.

An All-Ireland quarter final against Cork in Semple Stadium, was to be the last game of the year for our hurlers.

Dublin dealt well with the Cork attack, particularly in the opening half, but we were unable to convert enough of our chances. The opening stages saw the teams trade scores, with Conor Burke getting an excellent score for Dublin.

However, as the half-progressed Cork were converting more of their chances and opened up an initial two-point gap despite scores from Sean Currie and another good score from Conor Burke. Dublin hit a barren spell of ten minutes, and this allowed Cork to extend the gap to five at halftime, 0-15 to 0-10.

The start of the second half was much the same, Dublin unable to convert chances which allowed Cork to widen the gap to nine. To Dublin's credit, we kept pushing and fine scores from Chris Crummey in particular helped trim the gap to five. But Dublin were unable to find the goal we badly needed and it was Cork who would progress.

Dublin certainly looked much improved as the year progressed and hopefully this progress will continue next year.

After a year which saw mixed results but again confirmed that Dublin can on our day compete with the top teams, Micheal Donoghue and his management team depart.

We are delighted to have Niall Ó Ceallacháin and his selectors David Curtin, Donal McGovern and Nigel O'Hara onboard for the coming years. All have been very successful within Dublin club hurling and are very passionate about Dublin hurling. We look forward to supporting them and the team next year.

Senior Footballers

The O'Byrne Cup again provided an opportunity for Dessie Farrell and his management team to blood new players ahead of the league and Dublin used 27 players over the course of the three games.

Our opener saw us defeat Offaly by a point, 0-11 to 0-10, in Gracefield before we went on to defeat Wexford in the semi-final. Sean Lowry scored three goals and Luke Breathnach grabbed 1-04 on a day when we triumphed by 5-17 to 1-11. In the final Longford proved too strong for Dublin, winning by 1-12 to 0-09, with Killian McGinnis top scoring for us with three points.

And so on to the National League. Dublin were back in the top division after winning Division 2 and started the campaign against Monaghan in Croke Park. The evening started well with an early Cormac Costello goal but the concession of two first half goals ensured the teams were level at the break on a score of 1-05 to 2-02.

Dublin regained the lead as Ross McGarry converted a 'mark' within two minutes of the restart but on the first night out were understandably lacking a degree of fluency up front. A

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Cian Murphy score doubled the lead, but Monaghan hit back with two scores of their own to level the game by the 48th minute.

Two scores by substitute Colm Basquel and a free from Cormac Costello suggest that the hosts might just pull away in the closing ten minutes or so, but a third Monaghan goal put paid to that notion. After the goal it was Monaghan who kicked on to lead by two. Dublin drew level through scores from frees by Cormac Costello and goalkeeper David O'Hanlon but it was Monaghan who secured the opening two League points with a late winner.

A week later, the Dubs were again on the wrong side of a one-point game, this time losing to Mayo in Castlebar with a last gasp point. Dublin started better and by the midpoint of the first half enjoyed a three-point lead with scores from Brian Fenton, Con O'Callaghan and Jack McCaffrey helping them on their way.

Mayo were the better team in the second quarter and though Dublin added scores from Greg McEaney and Sean Bugler, the home side kept the scoreboard ticking over and the half finished with both teams on 0-08 points each.

Dublin again started the second half brightly and frees from Paddy Small and O'Hanlon were added to by Cormac Costello and again Dublin looked primed to push on. However, a Mayo goal very much against the run of play with less than twenty minutes to play offered the home team a lifeline.

Both sides traded scores down the stretch, and both had chances to win but it was Mayo who dug out that vital score to claim the spoils in McHale Park.

Dublin's first League win arrived the next time out in Croke Park against Roscommon, on a very poignant evening followed the untimely passing of Shane O'Hanlon earlier that week. An early Ross McGarry point set Dublin on their way, with Lee Gannon adding another shortly after. A brace from Con O'Callaghan had Dublin ahead by three before two quick Roscommon scores cut the deficit to one.

The half ended with scores from John Small, a David O'Hanlon free, Ciaran Kilkenny and Brian Fenton but these were cancelled out by Roscommon and Dublin headed into the half time break with a slender lead, 0-08 to 0-07.

Dublin started the second half strongly and within the opening ten minutes had opened a four-point gap, thanks in part to scores from Sean Bugler and McGarry. A 55th minute goal for Niall Scully following good work by Bugler sealed the game for Dublin.

Roscommon did manage to raise a green flag in the 64th minute but Dublin responded through Con O'Callaghan and Brian Fenton to secure a win on a scoreline of 1-19 to 1-12.

Kerry were next up for Dublin under lights in Croke Park and two quick scores from Sean Bugler and Ross McGarry set the tone for the evening. Kerry did respond with a score but from the kickout Dublin move the ball swiftly down the field for Con O'Callaghan to fire home his first goal of the night.

Two scores from Kerry looked to settle the visitors, but a converted Con O'Callaghan penalty added to their woes. Dublin were moving well and quickly extended their lead to nine points

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by the 20th minute with scores from O'Callaghan, Ciaran Kilkenny and Paddy Small. The teams traded scores to the break with Dublin leading 2-11 to 0-08.

Kerry got off to a good start in the second half scoring 1-02 without reply in the opening seven minutes to cut the lead to just four. Another Kilkenny score pushed our lead to five, but Kerry chipped away at the lead until scores from Small and Lee Gannon kept the gap at three. Further scores from Brian Howard and Tom Lahiff left Dublin five in front with ten to play and any thoughts of a Kerry revival were then put to bed when Con O'Callaghan's third goal of the evening extended the lead to eight. Brian Fenton and Bugler added scores to see out the match and leave a final scoreline of 3-18 to 1-14.

Next up was a repeat of the 2023 Division 2 Final when Dublin travelled to Derry with growing confidence and another fine performance saw us extend our winning run to three League games on the bounce.

Early scores from Ciaran Kilkenny and Con O'Callaghan settled Dublin into the game with Derry responding through frees. Paddy Small then extended Dublin's lead but a well worked Derry goal brought them right back into the game.

Brian Fenton and Sean Bugler got on the scoresheet to respond for Dublin and keep us ahead at the break, leading 0-09 to 1-04.

Dublin were the more dominant team again in the second half and had much more of the ball. Scores were difficult to come by but another Kilkenny point and a score from Ross McGarry helped extend the Dublin advantage.

A clinical finish from Cormac Costello sealed the game for Dublin and late scores from Lee Gannon and Brian Fenton ensured there was no possibility of a late scare for Dublin who ran out 1-16 to 1-11 winners.

Dublin's winning run was extended to four two weeks later when collecting two more League points following an away trip to Galway. A string of six points in the space of ten minutes left Dublin well placed by the end of the first quarter and we retained our dominance enjoying a healthy 0-10 to 0-6 interval lead, including three points from Con O'Callaghan and two each for Sean Bugler and Killian McGinnis.

Dublin's patience in possession ensured we stayed in control against a home team that was missing a considerable number of players through injury. We outscored Galway by twelve points to eight in the second half through further scores from O'Callaghan, Ciaran Kilkenny and Tom Lahiff to earn another two League points.

The last round of the League saw Dublin needing a win over Tyrone to secure a final berth, a scenario which seemed unlikely following our losses in the opening two rounds. First half goals by Colm Basquel and Niall Scully were just reward for Dublin's supremacy against a weakened Tyrone team who in truth had little to play for. Dublin were comfortably ahead by 2-11 to 0-06 at the half.

Three further goals from Cian Murphy, Colm Basquel and Lorcan O'Dell left a final score of 5-18 to 0-12, adding two more league points to our tally and ensuring a place in the League final.

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A rematch of the previous year's Division 2 final saw Derry winning on penalties after extra time in Croke Park and securing for them the Division 1 League title for 2024.

Derry started well but were unable to establish a meaningful advantage on the scoreboard. A Colm Basquel goal gave Dublin an early lead which was extended with scores from Sean Bugler and Cian Murphy. Derry stayed well in contention with some lovely scores and the game was level at the break, 1-07 to 0-10.

Dublin resumed on the front foot through points by Niall Scully and Killian McGinnis, but that early momentum was stalled in the 40th minute as Derry converted a penalty. That score was the start of Derry's dominance and looked to have won the game for the Ulster men but two late scores from Sean McMahon and Ross McGarry brought the game to extra time.

The teams scored two points each in the first period of extra time, with both Dublin scores coming from Killian O'Gara. Three unanswered Derry scores look to have sealed the win for the Oak Leaf but a Greg McEaney goal deep into extra-time gave Dublin a reprieve and took the Final game to penalties for the first time ever. The Derry men proved more accurate from the spot prevailing on a score of 3-1 to claim the League title.

Dublin's opening game in the Leinster Championship was against Meath in Croke Park. A Sean Bugler goal and scores from Paul Mannion, Ciaran Kilkenny and Colm Basquel gave Dublin a half time lead of five points, 1-08 to 0-06.

Two second half goals, one each for Paul Mannion and Con O'Callaghan added to Dublin's tally and ensured our safe passage to a Leinster semi-final meeting against Offaly on a final score of 3-19 to 0-12.

A goal from Con O'Callaghan midway through the first half was the highlight of the opening 30 minutes where Dublin were always in control, registering 1-10 to Offaly's 0-04.

Dublin were similarly efficient in front of goal in the second half and goals from Niall Scully and Colm Basquel extended the margin of victory with the game ending 3-22 to 0-11.

Louth came to Croke Park led by a familiar face in Ger Brennan. They clearly came with the intention of denying Dublin space and to a point the plan was successful.

Despite playing with the breeze Dublin were unable to break down Louth for long periods and the Wee County were able to capitalise on the break when given the opportunity. Scores were hard to come by in the first half and two Brian Fenton points, a nice Colm Basquel score were the highlights for Dublin as Louth took a 0-7 to 0-6 half time lead.

The Dubs resumed on the front foot through early points from Paul Mannion and a Cormac Costello free. A Ciaran Kilkenny point in the 40th minute pushed Dublin into the lead, but a well worked Louth goal gave the Wee County and their support hopes of a famous upset.

However, Dublin's response to this blow was impressive as we kicked two points in as many minutes through Con O'Callaghan and Cormac Costello. A Dublin goal then arrived in the 55th minute through Jack McCaffrey and suddenly we looked comfortable. O'Callaghan, Costello and Paddy Small put further distance between the teams before Louth gained reward for their efforts in injury time with a late goal to narrow the margin.

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It was not enough however as Dublin ran out winners on a scoreline of 1-19 to 2-12 and extended our Leinster record by winning a 13th title in a row – a phenomenal achievement.

The All-Ireland robin-robin series again saw Dublin open against Roscommon in Croke Park. The game in 2023 finished as a draw but Dublin were able to claim the win this time around.

Dublin led by 0-10 to 0-9 at the break with Brian Fenton, Ross McGarry, Paul Mannion and Con O'Callaghan all scoring two points apiece but Roscommon's inside-forward line looked equally sharp as they accounted for all of their team's scores.

The game remained close through the first 15 minutes of the second half with scores from John Small, Niall Scully and Tom Lahiff being cancelled out by three Roscommon scores.

However, Dublin were much more dominant in the closing 20 minutes of the game, first with a fine Sean Bugler score quickly followed by another from Con O'Callaghan. Two goals in the final five minutes of the game from Colm Basquel and O'Callaghan added a gloss to the final score of 2-19 to 0-13.

Dublin completed our second successive victory in Group 2 of the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship series as we comfortably accounted for Cavan at Breffni Park. Two first half goals from Cormac Costello and Paddy Small ensured a healthy Dublin half time lead, 2-9 to 0-7 in a game that we never looked in any trouble.

Three more goals followed in the second half from Killian McGinnis, Sean Bugler and a penalty from Cormac Costello, who would contribute 2-05 to the Dublin cause. The winning margin was 5-17 to 0-13 and left us looking forward to a final group game against Mayo.

With both teams on 4 points after two games Dublin and Mayo were assured of safe passage from the group. The worst case scenario was a home preliminary quarter final but the incentive for both teams was a win and direct progress to the All-Ireland quarter final.

Hyde Park is a wonderful venue and a large contingent of Dublin fans made their way west on a day when the weather thankfully behaved. A tightly fought contest saw both defences on top in the first half. Dublin managed to get slightly the better of it at least on scoreboard, leading at the half by 0-07 to 0-06, with Cormac Costello responsible for four of Dublin's first half scores.

As cagey as the opening-half was, the second half was the complete opposite in a refreshingly open affair that saw Dublin resume on the front foot through early scores by Seán Bugler, Cormac Costello and Colm Basquel.

However, Mayo were equally bright in attack and kicked three unanswered points to leave the contest on level terms by the 45th minute. Dublin again managed to forge a couple of points ahead with scores from Jack McCaffrey and Eoin Murchan, but Mayo once again reeled us back in.

A Mayo free looked to have won the game before another McCaffrey burst, following a brilliant catch by Kilkenny, found Costello well placed and he had sufficient composure to fist over, giving a draw and a suitably dramatic conclusion to a hugely entertaining contest.

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Dublin with the better score difference in the group would progress directly to the All-Ireland quarter final.

This late June fixture saw us pitted against Connacht champions Galway. The Tribesmen opened the scoring, but Paul Mannion quickly levelled for Dublin. Further scores from Con O'Callaghan, Brian Fenton, Ciaran Kilkenny, Cormac Costello and Sean Bugler helped Dublin into a four-point lead by the midpoint of the first half ... six scores from six different players.

Dublin were dominant in the opening half and in truth deserved to be further ahead at the break. But a few missed opportunities and the concession of late scores kept the game closer than it should have been with Dublin leading 0-11 to 0-07 at the break.

Galway started the second half with great intent and scored within thirty seconds. A Ciaran Kilkenny score pushed the gap back to four but two further scores from Galway had the deficit back to two points by the 46th minute.

An excellent Con O'Callaghan score pushed Dublin three clear by the 58th minute but a resilient Galway kept eating into the arrears. Three Galway points in a row left the teams deadlocked at 0-14 apiece by the 62nd minute.

On 63 minutes Ross Mc Garry pointed Dublin ahead, but Galway's Dylan McHugh tied the game again two minutes later.

Galway register the next two scores to leave Dublin in deep trouble. A late Con O'Callaghan point reduces the arrears to a single point, but we are unable to find a score to take the game to extra time. Our season finishes disappointingly but congrats to Galway.

It is not too long ago that the commentary in certain quarters spoke of juggernauts and 10 in a row. Talked pejoratively about financial doping and other such nonsense. That talk all seems a bit silly now.

The funding Dublin received was all about growing participation in our games in the city. It was wisely spent in partnership with our clubs in getting local boys and girls through their gates and instilling a love of Gaelic games in the children. We still have a job of work to do on this. There are still vast areas of our city where the numbers playing our games are very low.

Indeed, with so many election promises being made by various parties to fund soccer it is more important than ever that significant investment in our national games continues at grassroots level. Dublin County Board and our clubs recognise the importance of increasing participation in our games and that is why we consistently invested approx. 1.5 times the monies received with our own funding. We will continue to work with our schools and our clubs and continue to invest in our youth and make sure that our revenue continues to be wisely spent, and for the benefit of our members.

Ironically the commentary around our current Senior team now is that we are in a period of great transition. That many players are in the latter stages of their careers and that Dublin will spend a period in the wilderness. It's hard to keep up sometimes!

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What is true is that in recent times a couple of the finest players to ever wear the Dublin blue called it a day after magnificent service to the county. James McCarthy and Brian Fenton will be fondly remembered by everyone in Dublin GAA for their countless epic performances on the greatest days.

Results

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

Walsh Cup

04/01/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	2-31	Westmeath	1-12
14/01/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	2-31	Antrim	1-20
20/01/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	0-17	Galway	1-24

National Hurling League

03/02/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	0-22	Tipperary	2-27
11/02/24	Belfast	Dublin	1-20	Antrim	1-19
24/02/24	Croke Park	Dublin	1-18	Limerick	3-30
10/03/24	Galway	Dublin	1-15	Galway	1-23
16/03/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	2-22	Westmeath	0-15

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship

21/04/24	Wexford	Dublin	2-18	Wexford	1-21
27/04/24	Carlow	Dublin	1-24	Carlow	0-22
11/05/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	3-32	Antrim	1-18
18/05/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	2-23	Kilkenny	1-28
26/05/24	Galway	Dublin	2-27	Galway	1-24
08/06/24	Croke Park	Dublin	1-18	Kilkenny	3-28

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship

22/06/24	Thurles	Dublin	0-21	Cork	0-26
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O'Byrne Cup

06/01/24	Gracefield	Dublin	0-11	Offaly	0-10
13/01/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	5-17	Wexford	1-11

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20/01/24	Portlaoise	Dublin	0-09	Longford	1-12
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National Football League

27/01/24	Croke Park	Dublin	1-14	Monaghan	3-09
03/02/24	Castlebar	Dublin	0-14	Mayo	1-12
17/02/24	Croke Park	Dublin	1-19	Roscommon	1-12
24/02/24	Croke Park	Dublin	3-18	Kerry	1-14
02/03/24	Derry	Dublin	1-16	Derry	1-11
16/03/24	Galway	Dublin	0-22	Galway	0-14
24/03/24	Croke Park	Dublin	5-18	Tyrone	0-12
31/03/24	Croke Park	Dublin	2-21	Derry	3-18*

* After extra time. Dublin lost on penalties 3-1.

Leinster Senior Football Championship

14/04/24	Croke Park	Dublin	3-19	Meath	0-12
28/04/24	Croke Park	Dublin	3-22	Offaly	0-11
12/05/24	Croke Park	Dublin	1-19	Louth	2-12

All-Ireland Senior Football Championship

25/05/24	Croke Park	Dublin	2-19	Roscommon	0-13
01/06/24	Cavan	Dublin	5-17	Cavan	0-13
16/06/24	Roscommon	Dublin	0-17	Mayo	0-17
29/06/24	Croke Park	Dublin	0-16	Galway	0-17

Leinster Minor Football Championship

27/03/24	Portlaoise	Dublin	5-13	Laois	1-11
03/04/24	Clonguish	Dublin	1-09	Longford	3-08
13/04/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	2-15	Offaly	2-05
01/05/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	5-11	Wexford	0-09
07/05/24	Hawkfield	Dublin	2-10	Kildare	1-12
20/05/24	Tullamore	Dublin	1-10	Longford	0-15 (AET)

All-Ireland Minor Football Championship

08/06/24	Cavan	Dublin	2-10	Derry	0-18
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Leinster Minor Hurling Championship

20/04/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	0-18	Wexford	0-15
27/04/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	1-14	Galway	2-16
05/05/24	Kilkenny	Dublin	0-17	Kilkenny	0-12
18/05/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	1-17	Wexford	2-10
25/05/24	Portlaoise	Dublin	1-09	Kilkenny	1-13

All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship

03/06/24	Thurles	Dublin	2-18	Galway	3-18
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Leinster U20 Hurling Championship

30/03/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	2-14	Offaly	1-18
13/04/24	Tullamore	Dublin	0-10	Galway	4-14
28/04/24	Mullingar	Dublin	1-31	Westmeath	1-14
08/05/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	0-18	Wexford	0-14
15/05/24	Portlaoise	Dublin	4-17	Galway	0-20
22/05/24	Portlaoise	Dublin	1-15	Offaly	1-18

Leinster U20 Football Championship

26/03/24	Kinnegad	Dublin	1-15	Westmeath	0-06
09/04/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	0-13	Meath	1-07
23/04/24	Parnell Park	Dublin	1-09	Louth	1-13

Intercounty Structures

Our intercounty structures have evolved more significantly in the last 25 years than in the previous 100 years combined and more change is potentially coming to the Senior Football Championship in 2026, added to the removal of pre-season competitions for 2025.

The removal of these competitions for 2025 is both surprising and disappointing, especially when set in the context of the trial rules. I would have thought that these competitions offered teams and management an excellent opportunity to experience the rules in a competitive environment. In addition, they would have afforded spectators an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the rules ahead of the National Leagues.

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The pre-season games also presented many players with their first opportunity to wear the county jersey and offered players on the extended county panels a chance to stake a claim for a place in the main competitions.

The biggest regret is that the various funds for players and ex-players undergoing hardship will no longer benefit from these pre-season games.

The competitions will be replaced with an increase in behind closed doors challenges, leaving an increase in costs to counties and a reduction in income to Provincial Councils and depriving supporters of an opportunity to watch these games.

I appreciate we are asking a lot of our games programme. We want a schedule that allows counties to organise a meaningful games programme for club players – with opportunities for both them and the intercounty players to represent their clubs and communities. A schedule that delivers for our intercounty players, giving them frequent games and an opportunity for players and teams to grow and improve at club and county level. We want a schedule that showcases and promotes our games at elite level, delivering quality competitive games - games full of excitement and drama to be enjoyed by members and spectators whether that be in our grounds or at home. Our games need to have their place among other sports – their place to shine. Their place to inspire and captivate the next generation of stars.

We must continue to progress and improve - to ensure that when we propose change, we always consider how the change impacts both intercounty and club players. We must never forget that this is a games-based amateur organisation and the playing of games and those that play them must always be our central focus.

The split season has now been in place for a few years, and I believe that on balance it has been a success. I'm not sure it is possible to ever get to a point where we will keep everybody happy, but the current schedule delivers a lot for many – even if it is not without its own challenges.

There are now more intercounty games than ever and the window in which they are played has been condensed. Dublin intercounty teams - minor, U20 & senior played 55 games across 25 weeks. While the increase in games, especially for those at the underage grades has been much needed, we cannot continue to shorten the window and add games.

I think it would be best if after Congress this year, we refrain from further tweaks to calendar for the following three years to allow the full impact of the split season be evident to all. Following this we should again conduct a detailed review on the calendar, in much the same way the FRC have done with the rules, balancing the needs of club and intercounty players.

Club Championships

Looking back on what was a very enjoyable Dublin Club Championship programme, I would like to thank the Competitions Control Committee for again compiling a comprehensive and engaging games programme across all grades and codes.

This year's Go-Ahead Ireland Senior Football Championship delivered a first ever Senior Football title for Cuala. The Dalkey men defeated 3 in a row Dublin and Leinster champions Kilmacud Crokes by the narrowest of margins, 0-14 to 1-10, with a Cuala score in additional time securing a famous and deserved win.

While I'm sure the championship win was much celebrated and savoured in Cuala, they have maintained their focus and have now added a Leinster title to their Dublin title, beating St Mary's of Ardee by 1-14 to 2-10. We are looking forward to supporting them as they continue their quest to claim an All-Ireland Club title, matching those won by Cuala in hurling in 2016 and 2017.

The Go-Ahead Ireland Senior 2 final was just as exciting with Whitehall Colmcilles overcoming a fine Templeogue Synge Street side on a scoreline of 0-12 to 1-08, again the winning point coming deep into additional time.

Naomh Mearnóg are the Go-Ahead Ireland Intermediate champions after beating Clanna Gael Fontenoy on a score of 2-9 to 0-6. As Dublin representatives they fared well in Leinster, making a Leinster final, beaten on the day by Caragh on a score of 0-13 to 0-8.

Craobh Chiaráin were the winners of the Go-Ahead Ireland Junior 1 final, they were much too strong for Ranelagh Gaels on the day, winning by 2-16 to 1-07. Craobh were subsequently unlucky to lose to Kilcavan of Laois by a point in the Leinster Junior club competition.

On the hurling side, it was more joy for Na Fianna who successful defended their first ever Go-Ahead Ireland Senior 1 title, again overcoming a Kilmacud Crokes side. All present in Parnell on the night or watching at home were rewarded with an enthralling contest with Na Fianna needing a last second goal to win by a single point, 3-16 to 2-18. It was more heartbreak for Kilmacud who lost both Go-Ahead Ireland Senior 1 finals by a point, with the winning scores coming deep into added time.

Fresh off their second ever senior hurling title, Na Fianna navigated their way through the Leinster Championship back to another Leinster Final, managing to go one better this year and adding a Leinster title to their Dublin title overcoming Kilcormac-Killoughey from Offaly by 2-22 to 2-16, adding to the Leinster Football title the club won in 1999. Cuala and Na Fianna now share the distinction of being the first Leinster Clubs to win Senior Provincial Club titles in both codes.

The Go-Ahead Ireland Senior 2 final winners were Naomh Barróg, beating St Oliver Plunkett/Eoghan Ruadh by eight points in the final 0-20 to 0-12 to claim the title and both teams will look forward to playing top tier hurling next year.

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Commercials claimed the Go-Ahead Ireland Intermediate Championship after beating Naomh Ólaf by three points, 1-19 to 2-13. Commercials went on to represent Dublin in the Leinster competition with a tough assignment in Wexford against Rathnure. An excellent contest and performance by the Dublin club was not enough as the home team prevailed by seven points.

Crumlin triumphed over St Peregrines in the Go-Ahead Ireland Ireland Dublin Junior 'A' Hurling Championship final, winning on a scoreline of 0-13 to 0-08. Crumlin lost out to a strong St Lachtain's of Kilkenny in the quarter final of the Leinster Junior competition.

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

Our game programme is the envy of all other counties and none of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the Competitions Control Committee (CCC). 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 Molony, Mel Farrell, Aidan Shields and Michael Errity. I would also like to thank John McNicholas and Carol Monahan for the professional and efficient manner in which they support the games programme.

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 programmes for players, avoiding clashes where possible with the intercounty programme. The plan allows players, coaches and clubs to plan for the year ahead and to arrange training schedules accordingly.

However, it is the co-operation and support of the clubs that is the key to ensuring our games programme delivers for our clubs' players. I would like to thank all the adult and juvenile games coordinators and club secretaries for their ongoing support and help in ensuring the smooth running of our competitions.

Multimedia

Dublin GAA's online presence allows us to connect with members and supporters across the county and beyond, while also providing us with an opportunity to show and promote our games to new audiences all over the world.

This year, Dublin GAA streamed 38 games from the Go-Ahead Ireland Ireland Dublin Club Championships free-to-air on DubsTV across our digital channels - YouTube, X & Facebook.

These streamed games were viewed almost 1 million times across all platforms, allowing us to give our local games and talented players exposure 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 bring the games to life.

Shorter highlights and score clips from our club championship live streams were also posted on our channels, garnering millions of views which again helps us to promote our games to as

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wide an audience as possible. We have received very positive feedback on this content from viewers.

Dublin GAA is very active on social media, and we have over 410,000 followers across our platforms, an increase of almost 14% since last year. These platforms are hugely valuable as we continue to engage with our supporters and members to promote our games, post GAA news, scores and match reports and share club/county initiatives and activities.

We are also always looking to grow and improve our digital content, with “behind the scenes” footage from games an addition to our output this year. In the coming weeks DubsTV will also broadcast a short documentary on the 1974 All-Ireland-winning Dublin team, celebrating the 50th anniversary of that famous victory.

Our website, Dublingaa.ie, continues to be the primary source for Dublin GAA news, fixtures and information. In the first quarter of 2025, we will launch our new official website in partnership with the Dublin LGFA and Dublin Camogie. This will be the first website of its kind which will combine all three associations' county websites under the one URL, as we continue to move towards integration of the associations in the coming time.

The introduction of FM104 as Dublin GAA's official media partner has also been an exciting addition to the promotion our Go-Ahead Ireland Ireland Dublin Club Championship games. We look forward to working with FM104 in 2025 and identifying other avenues and opportunities to engage with our clubs, members and supporters.

None of this important work could be done without our brilliant team of volunteers who provide photography, match previews, match reports, video content and interviews for distribution on our official channels. These volunteers form the backbone of our output, and we are very thankful to everyone who gives up their time to help promote GAA in Dublin – either with the County Board or with their clubs. A special thanks to Derek and James who lead the teams in the County Board.

Refereeing

Coiste na Réiteoirí are responsible for the recruitment and training of referees as well as 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, Barry Tiernan, Paddy Kiernan, Paddy Power, John Rutherford and Kevin Roche.

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

I also want to thank all of our club referees, from our juvenile Go-Games referees all the way to those who handled our Championship finals, with a special word of thanks to Sean Stack and Sean McCarthy who handled our Senior Championship Finals.

Dublin are well represented on the National and Provincial panels with Thomas Gleeson, Chris Mooney and Sean Stack on the National Panel of Hurling Referees and Barry Tiernan

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on the National Panel of Football Referees. Mark Ryan, Rory Hanley, Ian Howley, Seamus Farrelly and Dan Stynes are officiating at Provincial Level.

Special mention to Barry Tiernan and Thomas Gleeson who refereed the All-Ireland Minor A Football and Hurling finals and to Chris Mooney who was fourth official in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final.

The simple truth is the games at all levels would not be possible without our referees. With the new split season, it has been a particularly busy few months for our referees and I commend them for their ongoing dedication to our games.

Commercial Partners

I wish to thank Tomás Quinn for his outstanding work in the area of sponsorship and marketing. His judicious stewardship in managing our commercial partnerships ensures that there is a productive platform for our partners while our games are also promoted effectively.

I would like to thank Staycity, as our primary commercial partner for their support. Thanks to CEO Tom Walsh and his team and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the years to come. Their support helps facilitate our coaching and games programme within Dublin to improve participation rates among juveniles and assist our clubs in their work.

Go-Ahead Ireland Ireland continued their sponsorship of our adult club leagues and championships. They are an excellent fit for our club competitions and their partnership greatly assists our games programme 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, Britvic, Bytek, FM104, Danone and Peugeot who all provide valuable support to Dublin GAA. We value our partnerships with the corporate sector and look forward to another fruitful year, working to our mutual benefit.

Cumann na mBunscol / Second Level Schools

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

Earlier this year I was privileged to attend their finals in Croke Park on what was a very enjoyable day. The quality of the games was impressive and I'm sure it is a memory that the young players and indeed their parents can treasure for many years.

Teachers play such an important a role in the lives of our children, helping them to realise their potential every day. It is hugely appreciated that so many of them give of their own time after school to the children, allowing them to play and enjoy our games.

County Grounds

The stadium, dressing rooms and administration building in Parnell Park were re-opened in 1995, meaning they will be 30 years old this coming year. The ground has received continuous maintenance and repairs to this point but in the last number of years, some more significant works have been required and further substantial work is likely to be needed in the coming years.

This year we completed another phase in the upgrading of Parnell Park with the retrofitting of our floodlights, when all new LED lights were installed ahead of the Club Championship season. The new lights have improved the quality and performance of the lighting and are also far more energy efficient, helping to further reduce our carbon footprint.

The revamped heating system at Parnell Park in tandem with the installation of solar panels has greatly reduced our energy consumption and we are even supplying excess energy to the national grid at off peak times.

We will continue to look for ways to improve our Stadium with a keen eye on the environmental impact of all works. The next phase will see the replacement of the scoreboard at the Craobh Chiaráin end of the ground. This will be installed in the coming weeks and will be available for games from the beginning of next year.

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 also wish to thank Luke Lawlor for his assistance at O'Toole Park.

A significant amount of time is required for the essential preparation and planning for games staged in Parnell Park. This involves liaising with all relevant statutory agencies to ensure the safety of all our patrons. I am 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 add greatly to the enjoyment of our games. It is of course essential that all clubs using the facilities co-operate with the stewards and abide by any requests from them.

I want to take this opportunity to appeal to clubs to canvass their members to volunteer to help at Parnell Park on match days.

A special word of thanks to Nora Leonard and Bríd Tolster and their colleagues who raise considerable funds for St. Francis Hospice by distributing the team sheets at our championship matches.

Cuimhne na Marbh

Sadly, during the past year, we as a GAA community have lost a number of our friends and clubmates. The GAA is only as strong as our members, and we are indebted to so many people who always gave so freely of their time and expertise. These people will continue to be remembered by our clubs and our members long after they have left us. To all our members who suffered bereavements, I want to convey my sincere sympathy.

I would like to remember two people who I knew personally and gave such distinguished service to their clubs and the county, Shane O'Hanlon (St Vincents) and Denis Carr (St Oliver Plunkett Eoghan Ruadh).

Shane O'Hanlon, a proud St Vincent's man gave so much to his club and Dublin through his involvement with teams over the years. An All-Ireland winning selector with Jim Gavin and Dessie Farrell, Shane was involved in Dublin teams for over a decade and his passing earlier this year left a huge void.

We also recently lost Denis Carr. The St Oliver Plunkett/ Eoghan Ruadh clubman was a dedicated and passionate GAA man, giving great service to club and county. The sitting President of the Dublin County Board, Denis was an iconic Dublin GAA character who gave his life to Gaelic games in the capital.

Buíochas

Our Chairman, Mick Seavers has now completed his five-year term. I would like to personally thank him for his support to me in my role as County Secretary. Mick has been available to help and assist with any task behind the scenes and works tirelessly for the benefit of Dublin GAA and our clubs. He has been key to the revamping of our championship structures as well as the retrofitting and upgrade of our grounds. 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. Their willingness to represent our county in all matters, attend fixtures or meetings as required is greatly appreciated.

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 to coaching made by the board and our clubs.

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

I would like to thank all the staff in Parnell Park for the professionalism and dedication to Dublin GAA. I would like to acknowledge the administrative team in Parnell - Lorraine, Sharon, Shauna and Fiona.

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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.

I would like to thank the Árd Stiúrthóir, Tom Ryan and all the staff in Croke Park for their 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 whenever 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, Ciaran Maguire, Mick Behan, 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 efforts of Declan O'Leary, Damian Murphy, Declan Coulter, Maura Ryan and Anne O'Dea of Coiste na nÓg. Their hard work and leadership is invaluable in delivering a comprehensive juvenile games programme.

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 myself and the county board. The value of this support and assistance cannot be overstated.

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

