

## **Cumann Lúthchleas Gael - Coiste Átha Cliath**

### **Comhairle na nÓg**

#### **Comhdháil Bhliantúil**

#### **Páirc Parnell**

**12ú Nollaig, 2018**

### **An Clár**

1. Minutes of last AGM
2. Adoption of Standing Orders
3. Secretary's Report
4. Chairman's Address
5. Appointment of Tellers

#### **Standing Orders for Convention**

1. The Proposer of a Resolution or Amendment thereto, may speak for 5 minutes but not longer.
2. A Delegate speaking to a Resolution, or amendment, shall not exceed 3 minutes.
3. The Proposer of a Resolution, or Amendment, may speak a second time for 5 minutes, before a vote is taken, but no other Delegate may speak a second time to any Resolution or Amendment.
4. The Chairman shall, at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed, call on the Proposer to reply, after which a vote will 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.

## The following people served on committees in 2018

### **Bord na nÓg (County Youth Management Committee)**

- Cathaoirleach - Bean Uí Lochlainn ( Bernie MacLaughlin) Na Cloigthí C. /Round Towers Clondalkin
- Leas Rúnaí - Mícheál Ó hÁinle ( Mike Hanley) Na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin / Lucan Sarsfields
- Ball / Member – Áine Ó Deá (Anne O'Dea ) Na Fianna
- Ball / Member - Déaglán Ó Laoire ( Declan O'Leary) Na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin / Lucan Sarsfields
- Ball / Member – Máirtín Ó Coinín ( Martin Rabbitt) Primary Schools Representative
- Ball / Member – Tomás Ó Dónaill ( Tom O'Donnell) Secondary Schools Representative
- Ball / Member – Caoimhín Ó Seachnasaigh (Kevin O'Shaughnessy ) County Coaching and Games Administration Officer
- Ball / Member – Dara Ó Gliasáin ( Dara Gleeson ) County Children's Officer

### **CCC1 (County Youth Competitions Control Committee One)**

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

### **CCC2 (County Youth Competitions Control Committee Two)**

- Cathaoirleach - Déaglán Ó Laoire ( Declan O'Leary) Na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin / Lucan Sarsfields
- Leas Cathaoirleach - Déaglán Ó Coltair ( Declan Coulter ) Naomh Barróg
- Ball / Member - Daibhéid de Hearfort ( Dave Harford ) Baile Buadain Naomh Éanna / Ballyboden St Enda's
- Ball / Member - Aodhán Ó Scolaí (Aidan Scully ) Fine Ghallainn / Fingallians
- Ball / Member - Néill Ó Ceallaigh (Neil Kelly ) Rath Éanna / Raheny

### **Coiste Eisteachta na nÓg (County Youth Hearings Committee)**

- Cathaoirleach - Ailin Conchur ( Alan O Connor) Naomh Uinsionn / St Vincents
- Ball / Member - Liam Mac Mathúna ( Liam McMahon ) Croimlinn / Crumlin
- Ball / Member - Tomás Ó Flannabhra ( Tommy Flannery) Na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin / Lucan Sarsfields

## **Tuarascáil An Rúnaí**

### **Introduction**

This is my tenth annual report and later I will talk about the changes in the activity levels over the last decade. The purpose is not to identify the most successful clubs in either Hurling or Football but to demonstrate that Coiste na nÓg continues to achieve one of its key objectives, to increase the number of children playing hurling and football.

From the beginning I saw my role as ensuring the smooth running of our games by taking cognisance of the many varying needs ranging from the elite Under 16 players to the Under 8 Football mentor about to go out into the world of Go Games.

In addition to supporting the voluntary officers of Bord na nÓg, CCC1, CCC2 and Juvenile Hearings Committees, who give up so much of their time to the county, it is also my function to give assistance to all Club Juvenile Chairpersons & Secretaries, Delegates, Mentors & Parents in all matters including explaining and advising in regard to any decisions taken by our various Officers.

### **CCC1 Go Games Programme (U8 to U12)**

The CCC1 season commenced on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February with U12 Football and all five age groups were in action from Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February while the Hurling season started on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Year on Year we saw a 6% increase in both Football and Hurling playing numbers.

For the 2018 season CCC1 issued over 11,500 fixtures. This was achieved by the committee setting 27 dates to play both codes (with the summer Camaint at U11& U12 giving those age group 32 dates).

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

At the outset I mentioned this was my tenth annual report so I would like to take this opportunity to review the last 10 years of activity levels at CCC1.

CCC1 covering games scheduled for the age groups U8, U9, U10, U11 & U12 take place each Saturday morning throughout the county between 10am and 1pm. Played under the Go Game model over 11,500 fixtures issued in 2018 split evenly this year between Hurling and Football.

- The increase in Football numbers versus 2013 and 2008 is +29% and +58%
- The equivalent Hurling numbers are +33% versus 2013 and +98% compared to 2008.
- This year for every 100 children who join a Club to start playing Football 85 will also play Hurling.
- The comparable figures in 2013 and 2008 are 82 children and 68 children respectively.

Clubs with CCC1 Football activity **> 150% since 2008** include:

1. Beann Eadair +350%
2. Geraldine P.Moran +206%
3. St Finians N. +200%
4. St Finians S. +203%
5. St Judes +193%
6. St Peters ( Ballyboughal & Clann Mhuire) +167%
7. Stars of Erin +771%

Clubs with CCC1 Football activity **> 50% since 2013** include:

1. Ballinteer St Johns +69%
2. Beann Eadair +104%
3. Fingal Ravens +53%
4. Man O War +69%
5. Na Dubh Ghall +82%
6. Nh OP/ER +53%
7. O'Dwyers +52%
8. Round Towers C. +54%
9. St Brigids +66%
10. St Finians N. +200%
11. St Finians S. +51%
12. St Judes +113%
13. St Kevins Killians +239%
14. St Margarets +93%
15. St Marys S. +102%
16. Stars of Erin +205%
17. Trinity Gaels +113%
18. Wanderers +52%

The following Clubs didn't have Football teams entered in 2008 and / or 2013\*\*\*

- Na Gaeil Óga \*\*\*
- Ranelagh Gaels\*\*\*
- Shankill \*\*\*
- St Kevins Killians
- Tyrrelstown
- St Brendans\*\*\*

Clubs with CCC1 Hurling activity > 150% since 2008 include:

1. Ballinteer St Johns +335%
2. Beann Eadair +1186%
3. Clanna Gael Fontenoy +165%
4. Commercials +213%
5. O'Dwyers +189%
6. Parnells +286%
7. Round Towers C. +216%
8. St Brigids +158%
9. St Finians S. +158%
10. St Judes +165%
11. St Patricks P. +373%
12. St Sylvesters +238%

Clubs with CCC1 Hurling activity > 50% since 2013 include:

1. Ballinteer St Johns +68%
2. Beann Eadair +109%
3. Clanna Gael Fontenoy +59%
4. Kevin HC +89%
5. Na Fianna +55%
6. Nh OP/ER +91%
7. Round Towers C. +68%
8. St Brigids +82%
9. St Finians S. +58%
10. St Judes +127%
11. St Sylvesters +93%
12. Stars of Erin +205%
13. Thomas Davis +114%
14. Trinity Gaels +113%
15. Westmanstown Gaels +85%

The following Clubs didn't have Hurling teams entered in 2008 and / or 2013\*\*\*

- Geraldine P.Moran \*\*\*
- Na Gaeil Óga \*\*\*
- Ranelagh Gaels\*\*\*
- Shankill \*\*\*
- St Annes
- St James Gaels\*\*\*
- St Kevins Killians\*\*\*
- St Patricks D. \*\*\*
- Stars of Erin
- Tyrrelstown
- Wanderers
- Tyrrelstown
- St Brendans\*\*\*
- Westmanstown Gaels

As stated earlier the purpose of the above statistics is not to identify the most successful clubs in either Hurling or Football but to show the work which is happening on the ground with a reference point to the years 2008 & 2013. There is also data to show Clubs who have regressed or not been able to take advantage of the overall increase in playing numbers due to several reasons including demographics so it is incumbent on us to work with these Clubs at this very important age group Under 8 to Under 12.

### **CCC2 Programme (U13 to U16)**

The 2018 season commenced with U15 Football starting on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February and U13, U14 & U16 Football starting on Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup>. The full programme of Hurling had a throw in on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. CCC2 has organised and run 125 competitions this year and issued over 4,100 fixtures.

The programme provides our young players with the following activity plan:

- U/13 Football 19 games & Hurling 15 games
- U/14 Football 15 dates & Hurling 15 dates
- U/15 Football ( 16-18) games & Hurling ( 16-18) games
- U/16 Football ( 13-15) games & Hurling ( 13-15) games

All of our competitions have been completed. This is a great achievement bearing in mind the number of games we lost at the start of season due to bad weather and the fact that when Teams finish with equal points in deciding 1st or 2nd place for all U16 and younger age grade League competitions a Play Off must take place... head to head results or score difference cannot be used.

The introduction of U13 Hurling grading has been successful. To recap , CCC2 felt the need to mirror U13 Football as it was becoming too difficult to grade teams properly for competitive games ( B teams in particular) based on Go Games performance at U12 the previous year.

The U16 programme was amended this year to take account of the fact that a sizeable number of our U16 players could be part of the extended Dublin Hurling & Football Minor U17 County panels at the start of the year.

The U16 Football Championship was moved from the Spring to the Autumn to ensure all U16 players are available to play Championship for their Clubs, with the U15 Football Championship switching to the Spring.

The reduced number of U16 Leagues fixtures was offset by a revamped U16 Championship involving groups of four teams with the Top 2 moving to Championship Quarter Finals and the Bottom 2 taking part in a Shield Quarter Final competition. While U16 Leagues were open to players born from 01/01/02 onwards, the U16 Championships was be open to players born from 31/12/01 onwards. The extra day allowed CCC2 to use "head to head" and score difference if required to determine places in each group if teams are tied ( as it turned out , this ability was most definitely needed).

I strongly believe these changes were successful.

Cathaoirleach CCC2, Declan O'Leary, has more detail on the programme later in this report and I fully support his comments.

CCC2 games covering the age groups U13, U14 & U16 are played on Saturday afternoons with U15s scheduled for Sunday mornings.

Below is a look at the number of teams participating in Leagues for the years 2018, 2013 & 2008 in both codes

- Football 284 (C'18) 244 (C'13) 216 (C'08) [C'18 v C'13 +16%] [ C'18 v C'08 +31%]
- Hurling 205 (C'18) 163 (C'13) 129 (C'08) [C'18 v C'13 +26%] [C'18 v C'08 +59%]

Another interesting observation is the increase in the number of clubs fielding “B” and “C” teams.

- Football 95 (C’18) 58 (C’13) 49 (C’08)
- Hurling 54 (C’18) 26 (C’13) 11 (C’08)

In the coming years CCC2 needs to build on the increased CCC1 participation rates and make sure these numbers come through and are reflected in increased U13 , U14 , U15 & U16 team numbers.

## **Child Welfare and Protection**

### Juvenile Racial Abuse

While the number of alleged breaches reported to and dealt with by CCC1 & CCC2 under Disciplinary Rules this year is only 2, it would be misleading to think we don’t have an issue. Based on the mandatory requirement to return Referee reports by CCC2 in particular, I am also satisfied that Referees are aware of the role they play and are reporting racial abuse if they come across it.

Talking to the County Children’s Officer Dara Gleeson, he has dealt with 10 cases this year and is aware of another 20 issues that took place but were handled at club level. Of the 30 incidents that took place , 10 were players alleged to have made remarks on the field of play and 20 were bystanders / parents making remarks from the sideline.

### WhatsApp and communication with teams

Email and texting are the only forms of communication sanctioned by the GAA. WhatsApp and other communication apps are not approved by the GAA as they do not hold data in the event of legal actions.

So if using WhatsApp, Mentors should note the following guidelines:

- Do not communicate directly with juveniles
- The information must only be about training or match related times, dates, locations etc.
- No one must send remarks, videos, jokes etc to these groups
- Also parents are not required to accept WhatsApp as the sole form on communicating and Clubs must provide either email or text.

## GDPR

We have to be careful how we photograph players/teams and events. Clubs must have written permission from parents to use the child's image in photos including in public areas. At the very least clubs need to be seen to make efforts to protect the identity of children.

Finally, all our mentors who work with children in our Clubs must meet three mandatory requirements:

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

## UNESCO

Recently Hurling and Camogie has been awarded the prestigious Intangible Cultural Heritage recognition by UNESCO . "There are few things in Irish life that can lay a claim to the same sort of history and heritage and tradition as hurling. .... Nobody owns hurling. It is a gift that we have to treasure and nurture so that we can pass it on to the next generation", GAA Ard Stiúrthóir Tom Ryan. "Hurling is more than a sport. It is a national treasure, an ancient tradition that connects us to our Celtic past and a part of our DNA", GAA Uachtaran John Horan

Dublin GAA knows full well what hurling has to offer and has responded by not merely paying lip service but by putting in place the supports needed to develop the game. Dublin's first Senior All Ireland title was in Hurling by Kickhams in 1889 ( Football 1892) . Our last All Ireland Final appearance was a 1 point loss in 1961 to Tipperary. While All Ireland success has eluded us, our hurlers have never lost faith and DCB through new structures and the voluntary commitment of dedicated enthusiasts have turned the tide in recent years with a National Hurling League title in 2011, Leinster Championship title in 2013 followed by Cuala winning the last two All Ireland Senior Club titles.

At under age Dublin is now a force in all competitions they enter winning numerous provincial Minor and U21 titles in recent years. It is also hugely encouraging to see the large numbers of players on these teams from non-traditional Hurling Clubs. From a Coiste na nÓg perspective, we have been at the forefront of this new environment for Dublin hurling through our games programme. For every 100 children playing Go Games Football , 86 of them are also playing hurling. In the last 10 years the hurling Go games numbers have increased by 98% (football 58%).

## **10 Reasons why Winning and Losing are Important for Children**

### **Winning:**

- Winning increase a child's self esteem
- Makes a child feel proud about themselves
- Helps Children to think more strategically
- Winning can boost your child's confidence
- Encourages children to try their best

### **Losing:**

- Losing can teach children a number of key life lessons
- Losing can help to develop your child's empathy skills
- It helps to build resilience
- Helps children to learn from mistakes and develop coping strategies
- Teaches children self-control

## **Mentor Ego !!**

It has been well documented that mentor ego is a primary cause in the breakdown of teamwork. The bigger the ego, the greater the anger, which in turn leads to a breakdown in relationships.

There are plenty of mentors who you will associate with the following scenarios: The team below will not support the team above, mentors abusing referees because a decision goes against them, mentors being dismissive and contemptuous towards certain players and/or opposition. All are forms of anger that are generally ego related (my team syndrome to put a name on it).

As mentors it is incumbent on you to lead by example, and remember that you are dealing with children in their formative years. And while an awful lot of the situations that you will encounter during your tenure will be extremely frustrating, it is important to remember that your primary role is to assist children to transition towards adulthood and to do so by leading by good example, as your behaviour will have an impact on your charges.

Behaviour towards all will be watched, this includes opposition, referees, parents, your young players & all members of the greater GAA community. It is preferable you treat them as you would wish to be treated by them, rather than angry confrontation.

Mentors need to be reminded to always put their players first and not their own ambitions. If as a mentor of a juvenile team, it's all about your self-esteem or self-image then the hours you give are misplaced. To quote Buddhist teacher - Thich Nhat Hanh "To love our enemy is impossible. The moment we understand our enemy, we feel compassion towards him, and he is no longer our enemy."

### **Playing and Winning versus Skills Development**

Your priority should always be skills development. Our Go Games noncompetitive environment in small sided games are designed to maximise touches and contact with the ball which positively promotes skills development.

The challenge from under 12 on-wards with the introduction of competitive games is to make sure that we don't focus too much on the playing and winning of games and fail to make sure the long term growth of players is covered by allocating enough time to continue the actual development of their skills.

We should never focus on results over development. I believe our program pursues a child-friendly environment and we should always aim to get our young players to master the fundamentals of hurling and football. The reality is that if coaches focus on skills development for all their players, the long term outcome will be a winning team.

### **Our Referees**

"People just think that they can do what they want at GAA matches and they can speak to referees whatever way they want. The kids hear this from their managers and selectors and parents, so the thought process of the young lads growing up is they think it's the normal thing to do." Four-time All-Ireland hurling final referee Brian Gavin recently in a newspaper article I came across.

We (players, mentors, parents, supporters) all routinely undermine referees in various forms. I read there are many psychological explanations for this behaviour. It's nearly always justified as being "in the heat of the moment". What I can't get my head around is why this behaviour from mostly parents can even happen in Go Games fixtures which are noncompetitive with no results or league tables in place.

Clubs need to always make parents aware of their role in creating a sense of respect for all involved in the playing of our games. Elsewhere in this report I have outlined the huge growth in juvenile activity in recent years. As we all know this has been driven by many people who are new to GAA affairs. It is important that all involved in juvenile affairs set the right tone and make sure we do things properly from the very beginning to ensure misbehaviour and violence are removed from our games and show respect for our referees in order to safeguard the integrity of hurling and football.

I can confirm that the Cathaoirligh of both CCC1 & CCC2 and their respective committees will and do issue sanctions without fear or favour which they hope will act as a deterrent. If unacceptable conduct sufficiently disadvantages those responsible, it stops. If the penalty bites, indiscipline becomes a liability and behaviour changes.

### **Growing Up and Burnout**

The most critical time for youth exiting sport is during the onset of adolescence. By that point they have gained perception of their own competence on the pitch, and have determined if any joy remains. The number one reason young athletes leave sport is that it simply stops being fun.

We introduce competitive games at under 12 which ties into the belief that young players only begin to pay attention to wins and losses at about 13. Therefore putting players under competitive situations before that by placing excessive importance on results not only stifles enjoyment but puts their future participation at risk.

In many cases parents and coaches, not the player, can demand levels of performance that lead to a negative experience which is the opposite of the positive experience we all agree children get from sport and the associated social skills.

Burnout is a symptom of chronic stress brought about by factors like, year round training, focusing on a single sport and over emphasis on winning which can lead to performance anxiety. Our young players should always be empowered to make their own decisions. I really think the fact we organise a juvenile games programme that promotes both hurling and football but also tries to minimise the playing up of players on other teams helps our young players to follow their own sporting desires.

According to a recent report, more than one-third of 16-year-old girls and nearly half of 16-year-old boys in Ireland are so unfit that they are already at risk of poor heart health. We all as coaches, parents and administrators need to constantly offer encouragement to our young players, regardless of their skill level, and always stressing the importance of respect for coaches and teamwork, and ensuring a balance through participation in hurling / football and other activities.

## **Discipline**

The juvenile programme in 2018 was responsible for the setting of over 15,600 fixtures. As I write this report there are six referee reports still not fully processed. Already in this report I have spoken about juvenile racial abuse and unacceptable behaviour towards our referees by mentors, players & supporters.

- 265 Disciplinary Notices issued (CCC1 – 8 & CCC2 - 257)
- 188 Straight Red Cards issued (CCC1 – 7 & CCC2 – 181)
- 14 Clubs issued with Fines - € 5,000 (+ €3,300 on 2017)
- 7 Clubs put in Bond - € 1,750 (€ 2,050 less than 2017)
- 26 Clubs issued with warnings on future behaviour

Compared to last year there has been a 16% decrease in disciplinary notices issued. Part of this reduction is driven by the fact that starting in 2017 and reinforced this year is the requirement by CCC2 that Referees must return match reports. This knowledge I believe has changed mentor and sideline behaviour – if you misbehave, it will be reported and action will be taken.

In last year's report I made the point that Clubs would be fined in 2018 if Team Mentors failed to wear a Bib to indicate their position. I also said CCC2 would fine Clubs who failed to supply the Referee with Team Lists with GAA Registration Numbers. These requirements are in our Regulations and the sanctions generated € 725 (Bibs) and € 1860 (Registration). No such fines have yet been paid and this is a matter I will take up with the incoming committees in 2019.

## **Thanks**

I wish to thank all the officers of Bord na nÓg, CCC1, CCC2, Juvenile Hearings Committee & County Hearings Committee for all their assistance and support during the year. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the help and guidance from Bernie MacLaughlin, Cathaoirleach Coiste na nÓg and Anne O'Dea, Cathaoirleach CCC1. I would like to congratulate Declan O'Leary in his first year as Cathaoirleach CCC2 in how he handled the amended CCC2 programme operated this year. A big thank you to Danny Harrington in how he took to the role of assigning over 4,000 Referees for CCC2 this year by fully utilising our website ( [www.dublingaa.ie](http://www.dublingaa.ie) ) and thereby keeping all parties informed in a timely manner. I know that Derek Doran has also been a great help to Danny in doing this job.

I would like to thank all my work colleagues in Parnell Park, in particular County Secretary, John Costello, John McNicholas, Ger O'Connor and County Chairman Sean Shanley. I also want to thank Charlie Canavan, Noel Brady, Tony O'Shea and all the stewards who assist with our juvenile finals in Parnell Park. I would like to acknowledge and thank Kevin O'Shaughnessy for all his work over the last 15 years as the Strategic Programme Manager with the DCB. Kevin has been at the centre of implementing the coaching structures which Coiste na nÓg has greatly benefited. I wish Kevin all the best as he retires this month.

A big thank you to St Peregrines and Paul Beecher for providing their excellent facilities for hosting our finals in Blakestown Road. I would like to thank South Dublin County Council for giving us access to Tallaght Stadium to host our Féile finals which included Hurling for the first time.

A special thanks to Kathleen McPoland for her continued help, guidance and assistance throughout the year and to Anne O'Dea for her support in 2018.

### **Conclusion**

The overall growth in the population of our national capital continues to present significant challenges to DCB in general but allied with the increasing popularity of our games it presents particular challenges at juvenile level. This can be best illustrated by a review of the population of male children at 2013, 2018 and projected levels at 2023.

In 2013 the population of males in the under 8 to under 12 demographic was 39,500 and this had risen to 44,200 in 2018 representing a 12% increase. The corresponding increase in the numbers playing Go Games football was 29%. This speaks highly for the work done within our clubs to achieve this.

This same population segment is expected to grow to 47,400 in 2023 representing a further growth of 7% over the 2018 figure or 20% over the 2013 figure. While the growth in our participation levels will undoubtedly plateau at some stage if we were to continue to outperform the population growth by the same levels as the previous five years we would have a further growth of 18% on our 2018 level or 50% on our 2013 levels.

In simple terms by 2023 we will have 1 extra team for every two teams we had in 2013. So as you can see we have major logistical challenges ahead for our clubs. Already we have issues regarding access to pitches for games and training.

I hope those reading this report will appreciate were the money invested in Dublin GAA over the past 10 - 15 years has gone. DCB identified the potential and acted. Clubs needed assistance and the money has gone towards Club Games Promotion Officers in tandem with the groundwork by volunteers.

As I complete my tenth year as Secretary to Coiste na nÓg I continue to be surprised by the time and effort put in by so many people. Each week hundreds of people give of their personal time to coach teams with the sole ambition to have as many children play hurling and football in order to have a joyous experience. They are backed up by parents who help with travel arrangements each match day and who provide refreshments for visiting teams on our many blitz days among a list of chores. Then we have those dedicated club members who maintain club facilities, look after pitch maintenance and those people who are constantly looking at opportunities to fundraise for their club. Every week we see these Olympian attitudes, values and philosophies in how our games are played and through the enormous goodwill and positive feedback in all our activities. At Juvenile level in Dublin this is something we should all be very proud of.

Damian Ó Murchú  
Rúnaí  
Coiste na nÓg

## **Chairperson CCC1 Annual Report**

CCC1 fixtures began on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and the last match was played on 10<sup>th</sup> November. That's nine months of fixtures! A total of 856 football and 746 hurling teams were entered by clubs at the start of the year. These numbers of teams need an army of people behind them to make it all possible, so I'd like to thank all the mentors, parents, club officials, referees, referee coordinators who make all this possible week in week out.

Why do we do it? In my case, I believe that the comradery, enjoyment, skills and development as both a player and a person that my children have experienced over the years are invaluable and I have not seen it being replicated in any other sports that they've played. The bonds that they form at an early age in the nursery, remain with them through their school and college lives. The GAA community is always very welcoming and inclusive – both at home and abroad.

As a committee, we feel that the year went well and the feedback from the delegate meetings would concur with this. But there is always room for improvement. A couple of issues of concern to delegates were blitz activity in May for U9s and the perennial challenge of clubs not having enough players to fulfil a 2 or 3 team fixture and not letting the opposition know in advance.

On the first one, we will be rescheduling the U9 football blitz to June to avoid any clashes.

The second issue is more difficult to fix. Once again, we ask clubs to only enter teams for particular age groups, if they have sufficient numbers available to do so. Communication between mentors in different clubs is vital. Please contact your opposition early in the week and let them know what numbers you will have available – nothing is more annoying than having 8/9 young players idle on the side line on a cold, wet day.

Our main summer activity again this year was U11 and U12 camaint, which was played over four weeks in July. The U11 finals were held in Parnell Park on Friday evening and Saturday (17<sup>th</sup> /18<sup>th</sup> August) and U12 finals took place in Abbotstown on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. The skills levels were a joy to watch and special thanks to the mentors and also to the stewards in Parnell Park for giving up their time to make sure everything ran smoothly. Thanks also to Abbotstown for their help. Not forgetting the referees at all the finals who added to the occasion with their positive encouragement towards the players throughout the games. Once again, I want to acknowledge the assistance given by my colleagues on CCC1 and CCC2 Committees for their help over the 3 days. It wouldn't have been possible without them.

Many thanks are also due to the clubs and mentors who facilitated both football and hurling blitzes throughout the year. Getting host clubs can sometimes be difficult, as it

involves extra work for the club mentors – collecting medals, setting up extra pitches and liaising with additional teams - but some clubs are always willing to help out. We really appreciate you giving of your time and resources.

One of the most disappointing things of this year is writing again about the number of disciplinary incidents being reported by referees at CCC1 level. This was a feature in my previous reports and I had hoped to see an improvement this year. Some of the incidents involving mentors and supporters have occurred at U10 and U11 matches. These games are being looked after by home referees so there may be other cases that we are not aware of – as referees might be reluctant to report their home mentors.

The idea of an adult shouting abuse from the side-line at a juvenile, or entering the field to shout at the referee, is totally unacceptable and we will continue to sanction the club or the individual for any offences. However it is not solely the responsibility of the Dublin County Board to police abusive behaviour. As a mentor or member of a club, you have a duty of care towards all juveniles and should not stay silent, or hide, while witnessing such incidents. Most of the CCC1 matches are refereed by juvenile aged between 14 and 16.

To those of you who will be taking teams into U12 grading blitzes in February - your first competitive matches following 4 years of go-games training - I hope you enjoy it and remember to keep things in perspective. They are still the same players that you have nurtured since nursery and remember that your demeanour should not change, just because you're playing a competitive match.

I'd like to conclude by thanking Damian Murphy for his ongoing support of all our juvenile games. The work he carries out on our behalf is immense and invaluable. To County Secretary, John Costello for his continuing support of our youth and to Kathleen for all her help. To the referee co-ordinators who work in the background ensuring that all matches have referees – both at home and in neighbouring clubs for U12s. Last but not least to Robert, Paul and Conor my colleagues on CCC1 for all their work through the year.

Here's to next year, with the same amount of games and sunshine and less discipline issues!

Is mise le meas  
Cathaoirleach CCC1  
Áine Ní Dhea

## **Chairperson CCC2 Annual Report**

At the time of writing the season was due to be completed on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> December, unfortunately a little later than intended, but driven by the need for playoffs in some leagues.

### **Discipline**

Once again clubs in the main have accepted the proposed disciplinary notices, so the number of hearings requested is on a par with 2017. Unfortunately mentors and partisans being reported for abusive language / behaviour continues to be the main issue. In light of ongoing media coverage, there are societal issues underlying this behaviour that is beyond these few words to frame, but suffice to say that CCC2 will not tolerate any abuse directed at players or officials alike, and will continue to have no qualms about issuing sanctions against either the person or the club or both. A club is responsible for all partisans under Treoirí Oifigiúil, and we would ask that you remind your members as such. I would hope that clubs continue in the main to accept our decisions rather than attempt to hide behind the technicalities of the rule book. Clubs attempting to hide behind technicalities is quite infuriating and in the main irrelevant as CCC2 has the right to issue sanctions under rule, on the probability that the offence more likely occurred than not.

### **Competitions**

Congratulations to all teams who won a championship or league at any grade; winning a county title at any age or grade is a great achievement. I would also like to congratulate all clubs who represented Dublin in the National, Regional & Provincial Feile Tournaments.

CCC2 ran 60 football competitions and 44 hurling competitions. (excluding grading leagues). We believe the calendar operated well in the main, but have amended the proposed calendar for 2019 with as much of the feedback received at delegate meetings as we could. We will again utilise the bank holiday weekends for back matches, should the weather turn against us, but have kept most free of games exceptions being St Patricks and the May Bank Holiday (incl Feile Football) The most up-to-date information on fixtures, referees, back matches and revised dates are on [www.dublingaa.ie](http://www.dublingaa.ie), so please advise your mentors, to be aware of this, as games once fixed are play or concede.

## **Weather Impact**

The little matter of the Beast from the east led to a blanket of snow and the postponement of all games on the weekend of 3rd and 4th of March. There was some knock on affects on the following weekend, but CCC2 re-fixed all cancelled games and thanks to all clubs , all leagues were back on target by mid June.

## **Leagues**

The leagues remain the cornerstone of our competitions by offering regular games to our players and from that point of view they are essential. CCC2 would again ask clubs to really assess if they are capable of fulfilling a full campaign, we had 273 fixtures cancelled due to withdrawals in 2018; it not only affects your own players but also the opposition, who end up having to wait a month between fixtures. Our calendar is formulated to facilitate the dual player, and will continue to be. But based on the increased numbers playing hurling, it would appear that in the main the majority of our players play both codes, so in reality this should not create too many issues. Grading leagues were introduced at under 13 hurling in 2018 and we will expand the grading games in U13 Football for 2019.

In total , CCC2 fixed over 4000 games in 2018, but there are some worrying trends on concessions/walk-overs. Overall we saw 7% of fixtures conceded, but this number increases to 17% in July and 11% in August. We also note that approx 45% of the conceded fixtures are Midweek games – with worse case 80% of the July concessions in midweek games. CCC2 urges teams to plan ahead and utilise the ability to refix games in advance (all year) and after the fixed dates per the summer regulations once both clubs agree.

## **Championships**

The main change in 2018 was the introduction of the round robin championships at under 16 (under 16 & 1 Day, to permit score difference & head to head). The feedback received from club delegates etc has been unanimously positive and this format will be retained for 2019.

The U15 championships was ran off in a straight knock out format , with the football played in spring and hurling in autumn. CCC2 plan to stay with this format for 2019 as well. A big thank you to Paul Beecher and all in St Peregrines for their continued support in hosting of our finals. I wish to thank the staff in Parnell Park and O'Toole for their hosting of Championship Finals throughout the year.

## Feile

The Dublin Feile competitions ran off on their respective weekends, I want to thank all the venue co-ordinators for giving up their time to ensure the smooth running of our Feile competitions. Feile is a festival for our games and it is the spirit of *meitheal* that ensures that these blitz's run off so well.

I wish to thank the staff in Parnell Park, the executive Committee of St. Peregrines for hosting Finals. This is the second year that we have hosted Feile Finals in Tallaght Stadium , with this year the first time we have hosted hurling finals at the venue. A big thank you to all in South Dublin CC for providing the facilities and we look forward to continuing this arrangement for next year.

## Development and County Squads

We wish to thank the Coaching and Games Department for their understanding that the clubs must take priority at this level. We have not had any problems in relation to clashes between our fixtures and development squad fixtures; much credit is due to the Football and Hurling officers of the county for their willingness to engage with us, both in advance of the calendar and throughout the course of the season. We will continue to allocate whatever time we can to the squads in order to ensure they get a decent amount of competition in the year.

This was the first year that Inter-County Minor was at U17 - while we did have some feedback on the impact this was having on U16 teams, on the whole the re-organisation of the U16 Leagues and Championships appears to have alleviated any major concerns.

## Referees

On a given weekend , CCC2 will set upto 150 games taking into consideration what resources are available i.e. pitches and referees. I use the word resource , as without either , the success of our games program is impacted and both resources need to be managed. While clubs are on the whole good at minding the pitches ,CCC2 would again remind clubs that they are responsible for the behaviour of mentors, players & partisans, unfortunately once again this year some sidelines seem to be under the misconception that referees are fair game. As stated earlier CCC2 will not tolerate this and sanctions will always be issued when reported to us.

I would like to thank all of the referees who served us this year. I would like to particularly thank Danny Harrington for managing the allocation of referees , his work is indispensable to the smooth working of our competitions . Additionally a big thanks for Derek Doran, who looks after replacement referees for late changes.

CCC2 cannot endorse enough the importance of mentors contacting the appointed referee well in advance of their fixtures, to give us ample time to find a replacement if required. Likewise it is important that referee's let us know if they are not available, as soon as possible and the new systems implemented this year have improved referee management massively.

### **Communications**

I would ask all clubs to ensure that their U13 lead mentor attend the grading meeting in 2019. This is where they will be instructed on the workings of CCC 2 and in particular the regulations we operate under. The majority of issues around misunderstanding of the League regulations were from U13 mentors in 2018 , leading to games being awarded to the opposition or games voided.

We have seen an improvement in the numbers of results being returned shortly after the completion of games, but still have to chase clubs regularly. There are many reasons why this may be the case so I would ask all clubs to ensure that the contact list is checked on receipt, and any amendments required are informed to us to allow us issue accurate information. Clubs are asked to remind mentors that all weekend results should be returned before 12.00 Monday and midweek games the following day.

### **Thanks**

My thanks to our Runai, Damian Murphy, without whom none of this would happen.

Thanks to my fellow committee members Dave Harford, Declan Coulter, Neil Kelly and Aidan Scully, for their assistance and time. Thanks to County Chairman Sean Shanley and County Secretary John Costello for their unstinting support and to Leas Runai Kathleen McPoland for her continued work on behalf of the committee.

A big thank you to Anne O'Dea (Chair of CCC1) and Bernie McLaughlin (Chair of Bord na nÓg ) for all their help and advice this year.

I would like to use this report to acknowledge the work of John Larkin in the previous years in setting up and consolidating the games program that we have today.

I would like to thank all delegates for their attendance and input at the meetings this year, and the clubs for assisting us by hosting various group stages of our competitions.

Nollaig Shona agus an rud is fearr don bhliain nua

**Deaglain O'Laoire**  
**Cathaoirleach CCC2**

### **Coiste Eisteachta na nOg – Juvenile Hearings Committee Report -2018**

The Juvenile Hearings Committee met on just one occasion this year. In some ways this is a very good thing. Clearly the penalties imposed by CCC2 for red cards and other offences were seen as reasonable and proportionate. It may well be that clubs also decided against what may well have been frivolous attempts to excuse their bad behavior.

We did have a number of requests for hearings that had to be deemed out of order. It should be noted that all requests for hearings must be submitted in accordance with the Official Guide. In particular clubs should note that any aggrieved party has three days from receipt of a notice of disciplinary action to submit a request for a hearing. If a request is received outside that time frame it has to be ruled out of order. There is no doubt that some clubs may well have done themselves out of an opportunity to present a case that might have resulted in a lesser penalty or indeed no penalty at all.

I'd like to thank fellow committee members Liam McMahon (CLG Croimghlinn) and Tommy Flannery (Na Sáirséalaigh Leamhcáin ).

The committee could do with some more members so I would ask anyone interested on serving on the committee in 2019 to please give their names to Damian. The work is not onerous but it is enjoyable and it is also a crucial part of the disciplinary process of the GAA.

**Alan O'Connor (Naomh Uinsionn.)**  
**Cathaoirlach Coiste Eisteachta na nOg,**

<b>Roll of Honour 2018</b>		
<b>FOOTBALL</b>		
<b>GRADE</b>	<b>WINNERS</b>	<b>RUNNERS UP</b>
U12 Division 1	Kilmacud Crokes 1	Erins Isle 1
U12 Division 2	Lucan Sarsfields 1	Ballinteer St John 1
U12 Division 3	Craobh Chiaráin	Skerries Harps 1
U12 Division 4	Naomh OP/ER 1	Liffey Gaels
U12 Division 5	Fingal Ravens 1	St Sylvesters 2
U12 Division 6	Man O War	Ballyboden St Enda 3
U12 Division 7	O'Dwyers	Scoil Ui Chonaill
U12 Division 8	St Brigids 2	Fingal Ravens 2
U12 Division 9	Na Fianna 3	St Vincents 4
U12 Division 10	Castleknock 3	St Sylvesters 3
U13 Division 1	Kilmacud Crokes A	Thomas Davis A
U13 Division 2	St Patricks Donabate A	Cuala A
U13 Division 3	Erins Isle A	Ballymun Kickhams
U13 Division 4	St Brigids A	Fingallians A
U13 Division 5	Beann Eadair A	St Finians S.
U13 Division 6	Parnells	Round Towers Lusk
U13 Division 7	Craobh Chiaráin	St Patricks Donabate B
U13 Division 8	St James Gaels/An Caislean	St Marks
U13 Division 9	St Marys Saggart B	St Peters B
U13 Division 10	Erins Isle B	Castleknock C
U14 Division 1	Lucan Sarsfields A	Kilmacud Crokes A
U14 Division 2	Naomh Barróg A	St Patricks Donabate A
U14 Division 3	Templeogue Syngé Street A	Skerries Harps
U14 Division 4	St Peters	O'Dwyers A
U14 Division 5	St Catherines	Good Counsel
U14 Division 6	Parnells	Clontarf B
U14 Division 7	Ballyboden St Enda C	Robert Emmets
U14 Division 8	St Finians Newcastle	Naomh Barróg B
U14 Division 9	Beann Éadair	Templeogue Syngé Street B
U14 Division 10	St Judes C	Pine Forest Gaels

U15 Division 1	Kilmacud Crokes A	St Vincents A
U15 Division 2	Erins Isle A	Clontarf A
U15 Division 3	Lucan Sarsfields A	Cuala A
U15 Division 4	Nh OP/ER	Ballyboden St Enda B
U15 Division 5	Robert Emmets	St Catherines
U15 Division 6	Lucan Sarsfields B	St Patricks Palmerstown
U15 Division 7	Fingal Ravens	Castleknock B
U15 Division 8	Templeogue Synge Street B	St Brigids B
U16 Division 1	Castleknock A	Naomh OP/ER
U16 Division 2	Fingal Ravens	Thomas Davis
U16 Division 3	Ballymun Kickhams	Whitehall Colmcille
U16 Division 4	Templeogue Synge Street	Castleknock B
U16 Division 5	Man O War	St Finians S
U16 Division 6	Skerries Harps B	Beann Eadair
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.1	Kilmacud Crokes A	
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.2	St Patricks Donabate A	
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.3	Thomas Davis A	
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.4	St Catherines	
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.5	Craobh Chiaráin	
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.6	St Judes B	
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.7	Ballyfermot DLS	
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.8	Trinity Gaels	
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.9	Templeogue S/St B	
Feile Peil na nÓg Div.10	St Judes C	
U15 "A" Championship	Kilmacud Crokes A	St Vincents A
U15 "B" Championship	St Brigids A	Naomh Olaf A
U15 "C" Championship	Craobh Chiaráin	St Mary Saggart
U15 "D" Championship	Naomh Olaf B	Ballinteer St John B
U15 "A" Shield	St Judes A	Templeogue Synge Street A
U15 "B" Shield	Naomh Mearnóg	St Maurs
U15 "C" Shield	Trinity Gaels	Robert Emmets
U15 "D" Shield	Na Fianna B	Templeogue Synge Street B

U16 "A" Championship	Ballinteer St John A	Kilmacud Crokes A
U16 "B" Championship	Naomh Olaf	Clontarf A
U16 "C" Championship	Parnells	St Judes
U16 "D" Championship	Castleknock C	Cuala B
U16 "A" Shield	Lucan Sarsfields A	Ballymun Kickhams
U16 "B" Shield	Fingallians	Whitehall Colmcille
U16 "C" Shield	Round Towers Lusk	Ros-Brigin
U16 "D" Shield	St Finians Newcastle	St Sylvesters B

## Roll of Honour 2018

### HURLING

GRADE	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
U12 Division 1	Kilmacud Crokes 1	St Vincents 1
U12 Division 2	Thomas Davis 1	Erins Isle 1
U12 Division 3	Clontarf 1	Fingallians 1
U12 Division 4	Craobh Chiaráin	Naomh OP/ER 1
U12 Division 5	Na Fianna 2	Commercials
U12 Division 6	Lucan Sarfields 2	Beann Éadair
U12 Division 7	Kevins H.C.	Crumlin
U12 Division 8	Scoil Ui Chonaill	Round Tower C 2
U12 Division 9	Clontarf 2	Ballyboden St Endas 4
U12 Division 10	St Sylvesters 2	Ballinteer St John 3
U12 Camaint Div.1 Cup	Castleknock	
U12 Camaint Div.1 Shield	Naas	
U12 Camaint Div.2 Cup	Na Fianna	
U12 Camaint Div.2 Shield	Craobh Chiaráin	
U12 Camaint Div.3 Cup	St Marks/Liffey Gaels	
U12 Camaint Div.3 Shield	Kevins H.C.	
U12 Camaint Div.4 Cup	Crumlin	

U13 Division 1	Kilmacud Crokes A	Faughs A
U13 Division 2	Whitehall Colmcille A	Raheny A
U13 Division 3	Round Tower Clondalkin	Skerries Harps A
U13 Division 4	Craobh Chiaráin	St Maurs
U13 Division 5	Counsel Gaels (GC & LG)	St Marks
U13 Division 6	Skerries Harps B	Trinity Gaels
U14 Division 1	Lucan Sarsfields A	Kilmacud Crokes A
U14 Division 2	St Judes A	Faughs
U14 Division 3	Commercials	Erins Isle
U14 Division 4	Craobh Chiaráin	Round Tower C
U14 Division 5	Round Towers Lusk	Fingal Gaels (SFS & WG)
U14 Division 6	Beann Éadair	Lucan Sarsfields B
U15 Division 1	Faughs A	Ballyboden St Enda A
U15 Division 2	Naomh Barróg	Fingallians A
U15 Division 3	Naomh OP/ER	St Maurs
U15 Division 4	Kevins H.C.	Counsel Gaels (GC & LG)
U15 Division 5	Ballyboden St Enda B	Bray Emmets
U15 Division 6	Faughs B	Cuala B
U16 Division 1	Ballyboden St Enda A	Lucan Sarsfields A
U16 Division 2	Raheny	Naomh Mearnóg
U16 Division 3	Round Tower C	O'Tooles
U16 Division 4	Clanna Gael Fontenoy	Ballyboden St Endas B
PJ Troy Div.1	Ballyboden St Enda	
PJ Troy Div.2	Skerries Harps	

Feile na nGael Div.1	Lucan Sarsfields A	
Feile na nGael Div.2	St Judes A	
Feile na nGael Div.3	Commercials	
Feile na nGael Div.4	Erins Isle	
Feile na nGael Div.5	Round Tower Clondalkin	
Feile na nGael Div.6	Round Towers Lusk	
Feile na nGael Div.7	Beann Éadair	

U15 "A" Championship	Na Fianna A	Faughs A
U15 "B" Championship	Commercials	Raheny
U15 "C" Championship	Erins Isle	Naomh Mearnóg
U15 "D" Championship	Na Fianna B	Fingallians B
U15 "A" Shield	Ballyboden St enda A	St Judes A
U15 "B" Shield	Craobh Chiaráin	Skerries Harps
U15 "C" Shield	St Sylvesters	St Patricks Palmerstown
U15 "D" Shield	Cuala B	St Judes B
U16 "A" Championship	Castleknock A	Thomas Davis
U16 "B" Championship	Cuala	Naomh Barróg
U16 "C" Championship	Faughs	Clanna Gael Fontenoy
U16 "A" Shield	Ballyboden St Enda A	Naomh OP/ER
U16 "B" Shield	Commercials	Naomh Mearnóg
U16 "C" Shield	Ballyboden St Enda B	Castleknock B

## **Motions**

No motions received from Clubs

## **Recommendations**

No recommendations received from Clubs