



Comhdháil Coiste Chontae Shligigh 2022



Dé Máirt 6ú Nollaig, 2022
Clayton Hotel, Sligo
Tosnú: 7.30pm



Coiste Chontae Shligigh

Clár

- Achoimhriu an Comhdail Nollaig 2021
- Adoption of Standing orders
- Na Tuarascáil
- Cuntas an Chisteoir agus tuarascáil Iniúchóirí
- Oraid an Uachtáran
- Oraid an Cathaoirleach
- Togadh na h-Oifigi
- Na Ruin
- Adoption of Bye-laws
- Aon ghnó eile

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Booklet compiled by Eamonn McMunn, County Board Administrator

Cumainn Shligigh 2022

Cuil Aine/Mullach na Bréine

Calraigh/Naomh Iósaf

Tobar an Choire

C.P. Naomh Eoin

Cluain na Cúile

Naomh Eoin

Tuarloistreáin

Droim Chliabh/Ros Ceite

Curraigh

Gaeil Naomh Molaise

Bun an Fheadáin

Naomh Pádraig

Baile an Mhóta

Naomh Fearnain

Gaobhach

Iascaigh

Naomh Mícheál

Inis Eascra Abhann/Cill Molaise

Gaeil na Seamroige

Caisleán Uí Conchubhair

Cláirsigh an Oirthear

Gaeil an Iarthar

Gaeil na hAbhann Mhóire

Cúil Irra/Leathros

Naomh Mhuire



Comhdháil 2021

Permission to record meeting Proposed Sarah Jones, 2nd John Murphy

Cathaoirleach opened meeting

Apologies Cumann na mbunscol – Patricia Hunt
Joe Queenan

Cathaoirleach welcomed all to meeting

Guidelines already circulated
Roll call completed as delegates logged in

Minutes 2020

Proposed Joe Brady
2nd Mary Finn

Adoption of standing orders

Proposed Stephen carty
2nd Deirdre Gethins

Reports

Secretary Report - Bearnáirdín NícShamhráin
Proposed: Thomas Walsh, 2nd Sarah Jones

Secretary thanked all the Clubs for their support over 2021 which was another challenging year, thanked colleagues on Executive and sub committees. She thanked those who looked after gates and the new ticketing system, especially Joe Taaffe, Richard Brennan, Eamonn McMunn. Thanked fixtures & finance committees
Thanked Cathaoirleach Seán Carroll for his support during the year. Wished all the best for 2022

Coiste na Nóg Report – Deirdre Gethins
Proposed: Proposed C McGovern 2nd Mary Finn

Deirdre thanked all Clubs & wished all a Happy Christmas see in new year

Cultural officer report – Joe Brady
Proposed Keith Henry, 2nd Gerry O'Connor

Joe said it was a challenging year mostly all a carry on from 2020 hoping 2022 would be better

Coaching & Games Report - Peadar Niland
Proposed Noel Gallagher 2nd Padraig Clancy

Peadar thanked all for support all year & happy Christmas to all

Urban committee

Proposed Mary Finn, 2nd Stephen Carty

PRO Report - Bart Barrins

Proposed: Terence Marren, 2nd Eugene Carroll

Bart thanked Eamonn McMunn, Media, Club PROs & Western Gaels for nomination.

Planning physical & Safety Committee – Stephen Carty, Richard Brennan

Proposed Mary Finn, 2nd Noel Gallagher

Stephen thanked Committee & Executive. Special Congress two new committees will be formed for this office and wished all the best for 2022

(Richard Brennan to join meeting later)

COE Scarden Report - Pdraig Clancy

Proposed Dermot Gannon, 2nd Mary Finn

Thank all Clubs for co-operation during 2021, hope to keep pitches in shape for coming year

CCC - Dermot Gannon

Proposed; Deirdre Gethins, 2nd John Murphy

Dermot thanked the Committee especially secretary Fergus. He thanked Clubs for use of pitches, Markievicz Park Committee, Eamonn McMunn and John Gilmartin for co-ordinating all games Thank Deirdre Gethins & Pat Conway for their assistance

Thanked all on CCC committee. Games Played Adult 285 Underage 419

Handball Report

Proposed Keith Henry, 2nd Sarah Jones

Markievicz park Report

Proposed Sean Reynolds, 2nd Deirdre Gethins

Hurling report – Seán Reynolds

Bill O'Kelly Lynch, 2nd Bart Barrins

Sean asked all to read the comprehensive report & thanks Coiste na Nóg.

Congratulation Gerard O' Kelly Lynch making all - star team for outside Liam McCarthy

Reappointment of Pdraig Mannion Senior Hurling Team Manager

New coach Fergal Flannery

Integration & inclusion – Tim Hynes

Proposed Pdraig Clancy, 2nd Terence Marren

Thank all for help with events, Thanked Bart Barrins for assistance with Markievicz Park booklet, St. Pats assistance with Jubilee celebrations & Curry GAA who assisted with inclusion training.

Health & Wellbeing – Trevor Coen

Proposed Eugene Carroll, 2nd Barry Gallagher

Well done to clubs for their efforts over 2021, Trevor Thanked Administrator Eamonn & Co Board.

Childrens Officer – Terence Marren
Proposed Keith Henry, Barry Gallagher

Terence thanked clubs & well done on their work, thanked Secretary, Eamonn McMunn & Liam Óg Gormley the face to face workshops should be back in 2022

Referee report – John Gilmartin
Proposed Barry Gallagher, 2nd Conor Conway

John thanked the referees & the CCC, Pat Conway, he thanked Sean Carroll for his full backing and support throughout the year

Finance – Cormac Kearns (Slide presentation)

Cormac thanked Peter Greene for help & guidance with hand-over.
A lot of uncertainty with funding difficult to forecast but in a strong position at the end of the year.
Statements were distributed & No questions submitted.
Financial year now changed to 30th September
All sponsors are now on board
Cormac thanked all Clubs for support with new Club Sligo initiative
Cashless ticketing system thanks extended to Eamonn McMunn
Volunteers who looked after the gates and embraced new technology
Expenditure suppressed with condensed season
Streaming a great success & thanked Richard Brennan for sponsorship, Rory O'Brien & Ocean FM
Audit & Risk Committee to be set up in 2022
Thanked Clubs for supported throughout the year, Eamonn McMunn, Seán Carroll & Executive.

Seán Mulhern Auditor gave presentation, commended Cormac on his first year & endorsed Sligo GAA accounts for 2021.

Proposed Deirdre Gethins, 2nd Laurie Quinn

Barry Gallagher asked if there was a business plan in place? Cormac said currently working on budgets, difficult 12 months for income, not sure of funding levels from Croke Park.
Club Sligo model needs to change.
No business plan in place but work in progress.
Barry Gallagher looking towards funding ideas for New York trip and look all avenues for funding

Declan Rouse said 70% of income is promoting county teams Clubs should bear this in mind
Lauri Quinn congratulation Cormac on his first year. Work with Clubs in New York but they also need to do funding themselves.

Óráid an Uachtaráin CLG Shligigh – Micheál Kearns (Could not attend, Cathaoirleach read email)

Uachtaráin extended good wishes to the Senior & Minor Football teams the very best for 2022. Well done to Sligo Minors on 2021 & proud of all achievements. Wishing all teams the very best for 2022.
Cathaoirleach extended good wishes to Barnes Murphy Leas Uachtarán & John Leyden Pátrún.

Óráid an Cathaoirleach SLG Shligigh – Seán ÓCearbhaill

Cathaoirleach welcomed all to Convention 2021. He 12 months ago he was afforded the great honour of been elected Cathaoirleach CLG Shligigh. The year that followed was action packed and contained many highs & lows all details contained in reports.

Cathaoirleach referred to the story of the Minor team's success in 2021, he extended thanks to players, their parents, Management and Paul Henry for what was a most memorable occasion for Sligo supporters. He referred & commended the consistent hard work of our Academy and underage systems, this year's Minor title a welcome reward for those efforts. He referred to the setting up of u19 development squad which will be managed by Paul Henry will continue with the development of our young players.

U20 & Senior Football perhaps unhappy with results but both squads gave tremendous commitment to the Sligo jersey this season. Lessons have been learned and improvements will be made for the new season.

Cathaoirleach referred to the new football structures Proposal B didn't get support at Special Congress, a new Committee put in place by President CLG Larry McCarthy to look at structures again.

On Hurling another National Title and visit of Offaly to Markievicz Park some of the highlights of 2021. U20 & u17 teams also performed very well.

Very good Year for Club activity. The split season was passed at Congress last year and was revolutionary, it has many advantages but also challenges that we must overcome.

Cathaoirleach looking forward to the next couple of weeks as we set our course for 2022

The changes to the underage grades have also presented issues which also needs to be addressed.

The performances of our County Champions in Connacht Competitions in recent weeks has also been excellent extended good wishes to all & hopefully bring home silverware to their communities

Last year Cathaoirleach had outlined objectives & priorities for 2022. Considerable success with these objectives for example more time dedicated to discuss football & hurling, structured reporting for committees, reduction of financial burden on Clubs.

Governance review with Croke Park has help identify key areas which will be addressed in the coming months.

Cathaoirleach was delighted to be involved the the reshaping of our Honorary Officer positions. The appointment of All Stars Micheál Kearns as Uachtaráin & Barnes Murphy Leas Uachtaráin together with former County Chairperson John Leyden as Pátrún was very, very appropriate. He extend good wishes for 2022.

Cathaoirleach extended thanks to all involved with Sligo GAA over 2021, in Clubs, delegates, committee members, stewards, those who prepare pitches, the players, coaches & referees.

Cathaoirleach thanked colleagues on Management Committee for work & support throughout 2021 and many others who have helped in various ways.

Special word of thanks to outgoing PRO Bart Barrins for his contribution over the years.

Sympathies to all who suffered bereavements in 2021 for those we lost in 2021 who made massive contribution to both Club & County.

Sligo GAA has many strengths we don't give ourselves enough credit, realize and maximize our strengths. The successes we've had this year is a taste of what we can achieve.

Cathaoirleach said he is looking forward to playing his part in pushing Sligo GAA forward. Full filling the role of Cathaoirleach last year has been one of the greatest privileges & is delighted to do so again for 2022.

Election of Officers – postal vote Padraig O’Grady returning officer

Asst Treasurer – David Cummins – 73 votes
John Watters – 21 votes

David Cummins Elected

Connacht Council Representative; Padraig Clancy- 38 votes
Dermot Gannon – 34 votes
Keith Henry – 28 votes

Padraig Clancy & Dermot Gannon elected

Delegates to National Congress: Joe Brady – 37 votes
Gerry O’Connor – 32 votes
Joe Queenan – 30 votes

Joe Brady & Gerry O’Connor elected

Padraig thanked Eamonn McMunn & Mulhern Accountants for assistance & commended all on the postal voting system;

Positions Ratified

- Cathaoirleach Seán Carroll – Proposed Ronan Hennessy, 2nd Sean Reynolds
- Leas Cathaoirleach – Declan Rouse – Proposed Noel Gallagher 2nd Sarah Jones
- Runaí – Bearnáirdín NícShamhráin – Proposed Deirdre Gethins, 2nd Mary Finn
- Treasurer – Cormac Kearns – Proposed Conor Conway, 2nd Laurie Quinn
- Asst. Secretary – Mary Finn – Proposed Deirdre Gethins, 2nd Padraig Clancy
- Asst. Treasurer – David Cummins – Proposed Eugene Carroll, 2nd David Bailey
- Planning & Training Officer Stephen Carty – (Nominated by outgoing Committee) – Proposed Ronan Hennessey, 2nd Deirdre Gethins.
- Coaching Officer – Peadar Niland – Proposed Bill Ó’Kelly/Lynch, 2nd Padraig Clancy
- Irish Cultural Officer – Joe Brady – Proposed David Bailey, 2nd Bill Ó’Kelly/Lynch
- Children’s Officer – Terence Marren (nominated by outgoing Committee – Proposed Bart Barrins, 2nd Barry Gallagher.
- PRO – Padraig McKeon – Proposed Laurie Quinn, 2nd Thomas Walsh
- Connacht Council – Padraig Clancy & Dermot Gannon – Proposed Laurie Quinn, 2nd Ronan Hennessey
- Ard Comhairle – Joe Taaffe- Proposed Deirdre Gethins, 2nd Noel Gallagher

- National Congress – Joe Brady, Gerry O’Connor – Proposed Pádraig Clancy, 2nd Barry Gallagher

Successful candidates expressed their thanks especially their Clubs for nomination.

Keith Henry expressed that it was difficult to get elected when the President of Connacht Council worked against him and canvassed for others. Uachtarán of Council John Murphy in response said he took exception to Keith Henry’s remarks and that he is President of Connacht Council and he did canvass for the Tubbercurry candidate, he was entitled to and was proud to do so. He asked that Keith Henry to withdraw his remarks. No further response from Keith Henry.

Motions Comhdháil 2021

Bunninadden Motions 1 & 2 – Keith Henry

Bunninadden

1. At a meeting of the Club Executive of Bunninadden Club held on 9th November it was resolved to propose the following as an amendment to Sligo GAA County Bye Law 2 “The County Committee shall consist of the Officers elected/appointed at County Convention including the Central and Connacht Council representatives (who shall be ex-officio members), the Chairperson of Coiste na nÓg, **two** named representatives of each affiliated club, the County Referee’s Administrator, a named representative of each of the following committees; County Primary Schools (Cumann na mBunscoil, County Post-Primary Schools, County Handball, the Chairpersons of the County Hurling Committee and the Planning, Physical Development and Safety Committee and the named representatives of the Countess Markievicz Park Committee (without voting rights). The County Administrator may attend in a non-voting capacity and may contribute to discussions on the invitation of the Chairperson.”

Motion Defeated - 66 responses 48% yes 52% no

2. At a meeting of the Club Executive of Bunninadden Club held on 9th November it was resolved to propose the following as an amendment to Sligo GAA County Bye Law 3 (ii) “Competitions Control Committee (CCC): It shall consist of **nine** members, including a named representative of the Hurling Committee, a named representative of Coiste na nÓg, one member of the Fixtures’ Analyst Sub-Committee, and the County Referee’s Administrator (who shall be entitled to vote only on the appointment of referees). **Each of the Divisional Board catchment areas shall have at least one representative on the committee. There shall be a Secretary for Fixture matters and a Secretary for Disciplinary matters and the County’s Assistant Secretary shall be appointed to one of these roles.** Except in matters pertaining to the grading of Clubs and Players which shall be governed by Rule 6.20 Official Guide 2021, it shall have plenary powers i.e appeals against its decision shall be made to Connacht Council.

Motion Defeated – 67 responses 40% yes 60% no

Curry - Barry Gallagher

3. Bye laws. We would like an amendment to be added to the county bye laws. Under rule 3.11 of the official guide, 3.17 of county bye laws and 3.20 of the sub-committee / functions. Where a county committee appoints to sub-committees a person appointed to the CCC or Hearings can only hold one position on either the CCC or the Hearings committee per club. A Club should not be allowed have a delegate on each of the committees. I.e. Curry delegate / club person as secretary of the CCC and a Curry delegate / club person as Chair of the hearings committee should not be happening.

Motion Defeated 64 responses 33% yes 67% no

St Molaise Gaels – John Watters

4. That the Intercounty u20 Championship be played on an open draw basis with all Counties guaranteed two games.

Motion Carried 59 responses 61% yes 39% no

John Watters thanked all for accepting this motion

St. Patrick's – Gerry O'Connor

- 5) An Coiste Chontae Shligigh; Cumann Naomh Pádraig; **Glacagh ag Cruinniú 28 – 10– 2021**

That at least two members of each sub-committee appointed by the County Committee following annual convention shall be male and at least two shall be female.

Rules affected; 3.18; 3.19; 3.20; (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi) (vii) (viii) (ix) (x) (xi) (xii) (xiii) (xiv) 3.21(iv)

Motion Defeated 55 responses 47% yes 53% no

Coiste Chontae Shligigh - Bye Laws 2022

1. Subject to Rule 3.11 Official Guide 2021; the annual County Convention shall elect the following Officers of the County Committee: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant-Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant-Treasurer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture and Public Relations Officer and shall appoint a **Planning and Training Officer** and a Children's Officer recommended by the outgoing County Committee. It shall further elect: Two representatives on Connacht Council and one representative on Central Council.

Subject to Election/Appointment annually at County Convention, the terms of Office of the Treasurer and the Children's Officer shall not be limited by the provisions of Rule 3.11(b) Official Guide 2021.

Proposed: Rose Davis, 2nd Padraig Clancy

2. The County Committee shall consist of the Officers elected/appointed at County Convention including Central and Connacht Council representatives (who shall be ex-officio members), the Chairperson of Coiste na nÓg, a named representative of each affiliated club, the County Referees' Administrator, **County Safety and Facilities Officer**, a named representative of each of the following committees: County Primary Schools (Cumann na mBunscoil), County Post-Primary Schools, County Handball, the Chairperson of the County Hurling Committee and the named representatives of the Countess Markievicz Park Committee (without voting rights). The County Committee Administrator may attend in a non-voting capacity and may contribute to discussions on the invitation of the Chairperson.

Proposed: Joe Taaffe, 2nd Deirdre Gethins

3. The County Committee shall appoint the following Sub-Committees whose membership, duties and functions shall be as set out in the Official Guide 2021 Rule 3.20 and in these Bye-Laws. All members of sub-committees shall be named.
- (i) Management Committee:** It shall consist of the Officers and Representatives elected/appointed at Annual County Convention, the Chairperson of Coiste na nÓg and the Chairpersons of the County Hurling Committee and the **County Safety and Facilities Officer**. The County Committee Administrator may attend in a non-voting capacity.
- (ii) Competitions Control Committee (CCC):** It shall consist of seven members. Including a named representative of the Hurling committee and of Coiste na nÓg. It shall include one member of the Fixtures Analysts Sub-Committee and the County Referees' Administrator (who shall be entitled to vote only on the appointment of referees). Except in matters appertaining to grading of Clubs and Players which shall be governed by Rule 6.20 Official Guide 2021, it shall have plenary powers i.e. appeals against its decisions shall be made to Connacht Council.
- (iii) Fixtures Analysts:** The County Management Committee shall nominate for appointment one Fixtures Analyst with responsibilities as outlined in Rule 3.20 (iii), Official Guide 2021, Part 1.
- (iv) Hearings Committee:** It shall consist of seven members none of whom shall be members of the CCC of the Post-Primary Schools' Committee, the County Management Committee or the CCC of any other sub-committee of the County Committee.
- (v) Safety and Facilities Committee:** It shall have six members including County Safety and Facilities Officer who shall be Chairperson, a Qualified Event Controller. The remaining members, nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee, should be suitably qualified in areas relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee as outlined in R. 3.20 (v) T.O. 2021.
- (vi) Referees' Administration Committee** shall have six members. The County Referees' Administrator shall be Chairperson of this Committee. It shall also include a Referees' Tutors and a Referees' Assessors representative.
- (vii) Coaching and Games Development Committee** shall have ten members. The County Committee Coaching Officer shall be Chairperson of this Committee. The County Games Development Manager shall be its Secretary. The Committee shall include named representatives of Cumann na mBunscol, Post-Primary Schools, Third Level Colleges, Hurling Committee and Youth Committee.
- (viii) Cultural Committee** shall have six members. The County Committee Officer for Irish Language and Culture shall be Chairperson of this Committee.
- (ix) Public Relations/Marketing Committee** shall have 11 members. The County Committee P.R.O. shall be Chairperson of this Committee. The County Committee Treasurer and Assistant-Treasurer shall be members of this committee.
- (x) Coiste na n-Óg (Youth Committee)** shall have a Chairperson (Nominated by the Cathaoirleach of County Committee) and five members. It shall be responsible for the initiation and coordination of all youth activities within the County.
- (xi) Finance Sub-Committee** shall have 10 members. The County Committee Treasurer shall be Chairperson of this Sub-Committee. The Assistant-Treasurer of the County Committee shall also be a member.
- (xii) Information Technology Committee** shall have three members.
- (xiii) County Teams' Management and Panels' Sub-Committee.** The membership of this Sub-Committee shall be detailed in the Charter for County Committee/Player Relationships (players' charter) as approved by Central Council. A County player-welfare mentor shall also be appointed.
- (xiv) Health and Wellbeing Committee** shall have four members. It shall have responsibility for all health-related matters referred to it by the County and /or the Management Committees.

(xv) Planning and Training Committee shall consist of five members, the Chairperson of which shall be the County Planning and Training Officer. All members shall, upon appointment, complete the necessary training as prescribed by The National Officer Development Committee and Club and County Planning Committee.

(xvi) Audit and Risk Committee shall consist of no more than five named members including a Chairperson nominated by the Management Committee and approved by the Provincial Audit and Risk Committee and up to four members nominated by the Management Committee. The Treasurer shall not be a member.

Proposed: Mary Finn, 2nd Stephen Carty

4. **(i) Post-Primary Schools' Committee.** It shall consist of (i) an Officer of the County Management Committee (who may act as Chairperson), (ii) a named representative of each affiliated Post-Primary School, (iii) a named representative of the County Coaching and Games Development Committee, (iv) a named representative of the County Hurling Committee and (v) a named representative of the County Youth Committee. A CCC shall be appointed by the County Committee from the members of the Post-Primary Schools' Committee. Requests for a Hearing and Appeals against decisions of this committee will be heard by the County Hearings Committee. The Post-Primary Schools' Committee shall be responsible for the planning, organisation and monitoring of all Post Primary competitions within the county. It shall liaise with and support the Connacht Council in planning and implementing a fixtures programme as well as supporting the GAA Coaching-Programme in the county.

(ii) Coiste Iomána (Hurling Committee) shall have 16 members. Subject to the overall control of the County Committee it shall have control of all hurling affairs other than those functions reserved for the County Hearings Committee. The County CCC is also the CCC of this Committee and requests for a Hearing be heard by the County Hearings Committee.

Chairperson shall be nominated for appointment by the Cathaoirleach of the County Committee.

Coiste Iomána shall include a named member from each of the following affiliated Clubs; Cuil Irra-Leathros, Calraigh-Naomh Iosef, Naomh Eoin (Iomáint), Gael an Iarthair, Tuarloistreáin, Caisleain Uí Conchubhair, Droim Cliabh-Ros Ceite, Iascaigh, Tobar an Choire agus Gaeil Naomh Molaise. It shall also have a named representative from Cumann na mBunscol.

A Club which does not take part in a Junior, Intermediate or Senior Hurling Championship, either as an individual Unit, or as part of a Group Senior or intermediate team allowed under Rule 3.19(m) Official Guide 2021 in a given year shall not be entitled to vote on any matter at any meeting of the Hurling Committee in the year immediately following such non-participation.

(iii) Sligo Urban Committee shall consist of nine members. The function of the Urban Committee is to work for the development of the GAA in Sligo City and environs, in co-operation with, and subject to the overall authority of the County Committee. An Officer of the County Committee shall be appointed Chairperson of the Urban Committee by the County Committee. The Urban Committee shall include a named representative of each of the following clubs: Calraigh-Naomh Iosaf, Droim Chliabh-Ros Ceite, Cúl Irra-Leathros, Cumann Peil Naomh Eoin, Naomh Eoin agus Naomh Muire. The committee shall also consist of one named member representing Handball and one named member representing Cumann na mBunscol in Sligo.

(iv) Countess Markievicz Park Committee shall consist of 12 members. Subject to the overall control of the County Committee it shall have responsibility for the day to day running, match day arrangements, maintenance, development and security of Countess Markievicz Park. It shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, P.R.O. and include the County Committee P.R.O.

Proposed: Thomas Walsh, 2nd Stephen Carty

5. **Playing Restrictions (Club)** – Rule 6.8 Official Guide 2021.
For the purposes of Rule 6.8 (C) a Player of a Club without a team in an Adult Competition may play Hurling with one Club and Football with another Club within the County subject to the Player notifying the County Committee of his intention to do so not later than the 1st June each year and the County Committee being satisfied that his Own Club is not fielding a team in the exact same Competition of the given year. Having notified the County Committee in accordance with the provisions of this Bye-Law, a Player shall not, in the same calendar year, be entitled to indicate his intention to play with any another Club.
6. **Transfers within County.**
Applications for Transfers shall be submitted in writing to the County Secretary not later than 1st March each year. Applications shall be processed in accordance with Rule 6.5 Official Guide 2021. The Competitions Control Committee shall have regard to Rule 6.1 Official Guide 2021 and Bye Law 7 hereunder when considering applications. A Transfer shall not be granted unless the Competitions Control Committee is satisfied that the Player has moved Permanent Residence from the catchment area of his Own Club to the catchment area of the Club to which he is seeking a transfer.
7. **‘Permanent Residence’.**
Permanent Residence, for the purposes of these Bye Laws shall be as defined in Rule 6.3 Official Guide 2021 Permanent residence of both adults and juveniles shall be established by reference to up to-date documentary evidence. Acceptable documents are at the discretion of the County Competitions Control Committee and may include: current Passport, current Driving Licence, current Register of Electors or current Utility Bill. Weekend, college, Summer or holiday residences are not permanent residence.
8. **Attachment to First Club.** A person seeking to become a member of the Association shall be limited to applying only to a Club in the catchment area of his Permanent Residence.

Motions 5, 6, 7, 8, (in block) Proposed Seamus Cronin, 2nd Mary Finn

9. **Grading;**
(a) Teams relegated from any championship, under the Championship Regulations approved by the County Committee, shall be re-graded to play in the next lower Championship grade for the following year.

(b) At least 4 weeks prior to the club championships commencing each year, clubs with two or more adult championship teams, must submit a list or lists of players to the Secretary of the Competitions Control Committee to determine the grading of players for that championship year as follows:

The list shall contain the Championship status, of each player, at the end of the previous Championship year and their proposed status for the current year.

The list shall name a minimum of 18 players for the highest grade of Championship and a minimum of 15 for each subsequent grade, excluding the Club's lowest grade. The names for each grade of championship must comply with Riail 6.19 T.O. 2021.

In order for players to be officially regraded to a lower level, they must be named at that level. Each Clubs list is subject to examination by the Competitions Control Committee, who may at their discretion make additions or amendments to the names listed.

In Accordance with Rule 6.20 (b) T.O 2021 a Player aggrieved by a decision on his application for Regrading shall have the right of appeal to the County Hearings Committee whose decision shall be final.

(c) A player whose championship status is ""Junior B"" at the commencement of the Championship season may, on one occasion only, play at a higher championship grade and regain his lower championship grading. The player's club must notify the Secretary of the Competitions Control Committee of this intention.

Proposed Michael Conway 2nd Declan Rouse

Vote on Bye law 9 – Grading adopted 56 responses 80% yes 20% no

Cathaoirleach closed meeting & thanked all for attending for their contributions & great discussions on motions. Cathaoirleach congratulated those who were elected and commiserated with those who were unsuccessful. Looking forward to seeing everyone in 2022 & a successful year for Clubs.

Bearnáirdín NícShamhráin
Runaí
CLG Shligígh

CONVENTION STANDING ORDERS 2022

1. Those entitled to vote at a Convention of An Coiste Chontae Shligigh are the Officers and members of the current County Committee and two delegates from each club that competed in a Junior or higher-grade championship in 2022.
2. Delegates are requested to sign in on entering the Convention Hall.
3. All motions must be formally proposed and seconded. Any delegate may propose or second a motion.
4. The proposer of a motion must do so in less than three minutes but will have the right of reply for not more than two minutes at the end of the discussion.
5. No delegate, other than the proposer, may speak more than once on any motion.
6. All speakers to motions, other than the proposer, must limit themselves to not more than two minutes.
7. Only one delegate from any club may speak on a motion.
8. Voting on motions, if applicable, may be conducted by way of a show of voting cards or by secret ballot.
9. Delegates leaving Convention before its conclusion must return their voting cards to the tellers. Ballot papers cannot be removed from the voting area.



Tuarscáil an Runaí

Comhdháil 2022



A Chairde go léir, Is cúis mhór áthais dom é mo thuarascáil dheiridh a chur i láthair ar gach gníomhaíocht GAA do Cumann Lúthcleas Gael Shligigh don bhliain 2022.

It gives me great pleasure to present my final Secretary Report on all GAA activity in Sligo for 2022. For me 2022 was an exceptional year in many ways, we had many highs on & off the field but sadly we also colleagues & loved ones.



The year began with an historic victory for our senior footballers in the FBD League v Leitrim in the NUIG Connacht GAA Dome. The first of its kind to be played in such an arena. Great individual displays by this Sligo panel which brought hope for the year ahead.

Sligo bowed out of the competition with a defeat against Roscommon, Galway becoming outright winners of the competition for 2022.

Next up was the Allianz National Football League. Sligo had a good league campaign winning 5 out of 7 games. Just two points behind league table toppers Cavan & narrowly missing out on promotion to Division 3.



The 2022 Senior football Championship opened for Sligo with a win v New York in Gaelic Park. A hard fought & tight game in which Sligo came out winners at the end. As usual our friends & colleagues from Sligo & Sligo GAA New York left no stone unturned to ensure all had a most memorable trip. Sligo's next game a defeat against Roscommon brought us to the inaugural

Tailteann Cup Competition. Sligo's first game in Tailteann Cup was a win against London GAA at home.

Sligo's next game was away to Leitrim. An exciting game and a great display of Football by both sides. Sligo won on penalties which brought us to the Tailteann Cup Semi – Final v Cavan at Croke Park. It was delightful to see the Black & White back in Croke Park.



Sligo came close, very close with Cavan winning out just by 3 points. Sligo 1-14 Cavan 0-20. Sligo Senior Footballers & Management can be extremely proud of their achievements in this competition. A great and memorable occasion for both players and supporters. Congratulations to all & especially to Seán Carrabine, Evan Lyons & Aidan Devaney who received deserved All Star Awards.

Sligo Legend Pat Hughes last game was with us in Croke Park. A great servant to Sligo GAA I wish to extend the very best to Pat for the future.





Sligo's exit from The Tailteann Cup brought us to the end of a great & memorable season. It was a privilege to be on sideline for all games. I congratulate & thank the squad and management for their commitment to the black & white over my time as Co. Secretary. We are very fortunate in Sligo to have players of such calibre on our panels.

I extend best wishes to the squad Tony, Joe, Noel and Paul & backroom team for 2023.



Sligo Football All Stars 2022



Sligo U20 Footballers

An historic occasion for our U20 footballers clinching the Connacht u20 Title on home soil in Markievicz Park beating Mayo on a scoreline of.

Sligo 4.04 Mayo 1.12

The win dedicated to Red Óg and an inspirational speech by Captain Jack Lavin filled Sligo supporters with pride and emotional scenes which hadn't been seen in the County for some time. Congratulations to Dessie, Eamonn and backroom Management on creating history. Best wishes to Paul Henry as he moves from his Minor success to take over as U20 Manager.



Sligo Minors defence of their Connacht Title opened with a defeat against Galway on May 3rd but regained a win on May 13th defeating Leitrim 4.18 to 2.15. Sligo Minors placed 3rd in Connacht.

Sligos u16s retain Manning Cup defeating Wexford in Final 2.12 to 2.05. Great credit & thanks must go to all involved with underage football in the County. Best wishes to Peadar, Liamóg, Brendan & all at this level for 2023



Sligo Hurlers didn't progress this year in Christy Ring Cup but a well deserved All Star was awarded to Andrew Kilcullen. Congratulations to Celtic Challenge winners.

Well done to Padraig Mannion & best wishes for 2023.



Congratulations to County Féile winners 2022. Calry/St. Joseph's in Football & Western Gaels in Hurling. Both teams did Sligo proud at the Féile Finals in Meath

Comhghairdeas !!!



Healthy Clubs.....

Well done to Coolera/Strandhill, Easkey, & St. Mary's launching Healthy Clubs initiatives this year.



Scór Shligigh had a successful year with St. John's GAA crowned Connacht Champions in Scór na Nóg reaching the All-Ireland Final in the Novelty Act Competition.



A successful launch at the Clayton hotel Sligo was followed by Scór Sinisir County Final hosted by St. Michael's GAA.



Owenmore Gaels GAA progressed to the Tráth na gCeist All -Ireland while Edwin Mullane, St Molaise Gaels won the Connacht Title after playing in the Sligo Hurling Co. Final.

Catherine Gallagher was honoured by Scór Náisiúnta with a well deserved long service award.

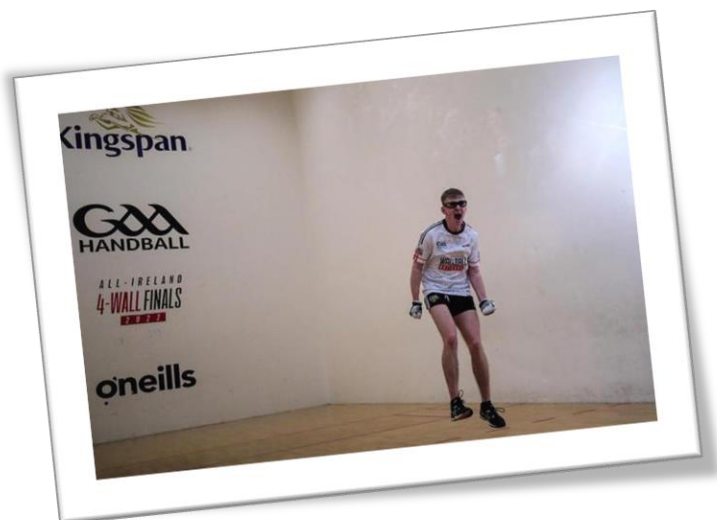


Comhghairdeas to all & best wishes for 2023

Handball ... An exceptional year for Sligo & Cormac Finn

Sligo Handball created history this year as Ballymote's Cormac Finn was the first player from Sligo to ever win the Four Wall minor championship. Conor had wins over Galway Roscommon and Armagh before he brought Minor Title back to Sligo for the first time. In September Cormac followed up his success in the small court by claiming the Big Alley Minor Title in another thrilling tie break win also against Kilkenny, s Kyle Jordan to bridge a 58 year gap since the title was last one by Ballymote's Marcus Henry.

Sligo's Juvenile Handball also had a successful year winning 7 Connacht Titles



County Championship & League Finals 2022.....

Well done to both Coiste Na Nóg & Sligo CCC Committees for steering Sligo GAA through a very smooth season of games in both the Leagues & Championship.

Gates were up & streaming of games again proved to be a great success.

Special mention & thank you to Rory O'Brien & the panel on Sligo GAA TV. PRO Sligo GAA Padraig McKeon. Richard Brennan Agri who sponsored the streaming of games.

Joe Taaffe, Richard Brennan, Anthony Willis, Mary Finn & all the stewards on gates in Markievicz Park, COE Scarden & venues throughout the County.

John Gilmartin & all the officials who gave great service be having all games covered ensuring competitions were played to completion.

To all Clubs who hosted games and the Markievicz Park & COE Scarden Committees a sincere thanks.

Congratulations to all winners in Finals & wishing all the very best for 2023.



Sligo GAA New York – New York Co. Champions 2022

On Sunday October 9th Sligo GAA New York were crowned New York Senior County Football Champions. Congratulations to all the players and Management on this great achievement. Gerry McGwyne, Declan Henry, John Marren, Thomas Queenan.

Special shout out to the Calry men involved in this success, Darragh McConnon & Gerry McGwyne.



To all our Colleagues & loved ones who have passed during 2022, I extend deepest sympathies to all.

Go mbeannaí a n-anamacha faoi shíocháin



“You had the footballer’s skill

*With the strength of arm and speed of limb
The unerring eye for the flying ball*

You had courage to match them whatever befall

Your aim was steady - your kick was true

Your actions brave - Your misses few

*And no matter what way the game did go
You parted in friendship with every foe”,*

SLIGO COUNTY BOARD ARE ASKING SLIGO PEOPLE WORLDWIDE TO SUPPORT THE FURTHER GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF GAA IN SLIGO

SLIGUEACH



Club Sligo
Supporting Club,
Supporting County

Join Club Sligo 2021-2023
www.sligogaa.ie/clubslogo
#ClubSligo



10 Monthly Draws: 1st Prize €500, Five x €100 Prizes
2 Super Monthly Draws (December & June):
1st prize €5000, 2nd prize €500, 5 x €100 prizes

GAA

First Monthly Draw-Monday 26th July



I extend to sincere thanks to Cormac Kearns & David Cummins on maintaining Sligo GAA finances. Club Sligo still proves to be of vital support to the County. I thank all individuals & Clubs who have supported over the years and ask you to continue this support into the future.

Slán & Buíochas!

A Chairde, as I approach my final days as Runaí Chontae & 14 years as part of Sligo Management Committee, I wish to acknowledge & extend thanks for the support I received & the privilege of being part of Sligo's journey over these years.

I thank Joe Gonley, Chairperson of Calry/St. Joseph's GAA who nominated me for the position of County Irish & Cultural Officer back in 2008, I replaced Mairead Gonley who was the first female to have a role on Sligo GAA Management Committee.

I am delighted to see Joe back again as Chairperson of Calry/St. Joseph's GAA Club.

I sincerely thank Joe Queenan, for his support & encouragement over the years. I extend thanks also to Joe Taaffe & Richard Brennan.

Cathaoirleach Seán Carroll I commend for his courage, leadership & support to myself, I wish Seán the very best for the rest of his term.

Sincere thanks to Eamonn McMunn for his help & support over the years & our colleagues in Connacht GAA, John Prenty, John Murphy and Adrian Hassett.



To all my colleagues on Management Committee I wish you well as you continue in your term, my female colleagues who were also of tremendous support to me, sincere thanks to Sarah McNamara, Mary Finn & two ladies I know longer that the GAA itself, !! Jacqueline Kennedy & Ursula Lyons.

I had the privilege of working on a number of Committees, I'd like to mention Secondary Schools Committee with Liam óg Gormley & Barry Convey, Irish & Cultural Committee with Catherine & Hugh Gallagher, GAA Games for All Committee alongside Terence Marren and three of my Club Colleagues Tim Hynes (Chairperson), Seamus Cummins & Gerry Tuohy. As a member of this Committee I had the honour of meeting many former Sligo GAA Stars, who were honoured on Jubilee Teams on County Final days. The Markievicz Park Committee I suppose I considered my second family especially working alongside my father (Chairperson) & brother, the Markievicz Park Stadium also became a second home for me !

The drama of the side-line was the best part of this role as Co. Secretary. I wish to thank Marty Duffy, John Gilmartin & Sean Martin for their help and support with all sideline paperwork. Thanks also to the kitmen who kept all under control !!

New York for many of us is a home away from home. I acknowledge & thank those members of Sligo GAA New York who have been generous hosts to Sligo GAA & its supporters over the years. This year 2022 was no exception. I want to extend sincere thanks to fellow Calry Man & close friend Gerry McGwyne who organised accommodation, transport, fundraising, & other activities for the Team and travelling party. I extend this gratitude also to David Henry (Curry) who along with Gerry was of great help & support to us all. I wish to acknowledge another Calry Man Darragh McConnon who along with Thomas Queenan (Enniscrone) John Marren (Curry) were great hosts to us & continue to keep the "black & white" alive & well in New York .

To all the Clubs sincere thanks for your support & allowing me the privilege of being the first female Sligo County Secretary.

The players at all grades & codes thank you for your commitment to your Club & County and wish you success on and off the field in the years ahead.

It has been an incredible journey!!!!!!!!!!!!!!





Míle, Míle, Buíochas.....

*Bearnáirdín NicShamhráin
Runaí
CLG Shligigh*



Coiste na nÓg Chontae Shligigh C.L.G.

Tuarascáil chun Coinbhinsiún 2022

Ba mhaith lenár gCoiste ár dtuarascáil a chur i láthair duit don séasúr faoi aois 2022.

Comhaltaí an Choiste:

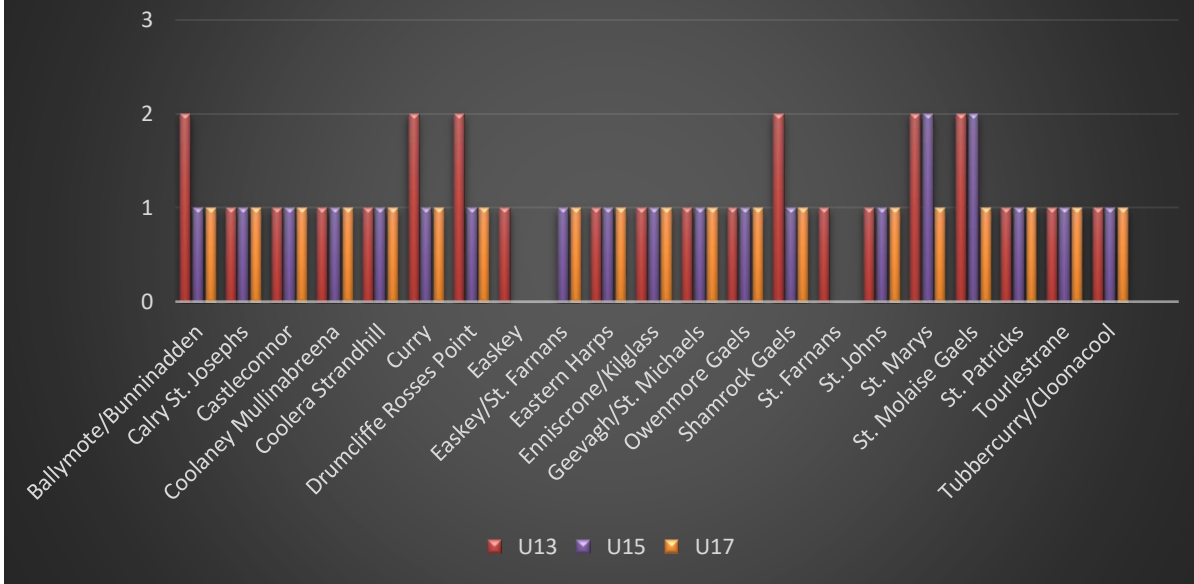
- Deirdre MagEiteagain - Oifigeach Óige
- Nicole Breathnach - Runaí
- Damian Mac Samhrain – Comhordaitheoir Daingneáin
- Pádraig Ó Chonmhaí – comhordaitheoir réiteora
- Diarmaid de Brún - A ionadaíonn an roinn thiar

Coiste na nÓg would like to present our report for the 2022 Underage Season.

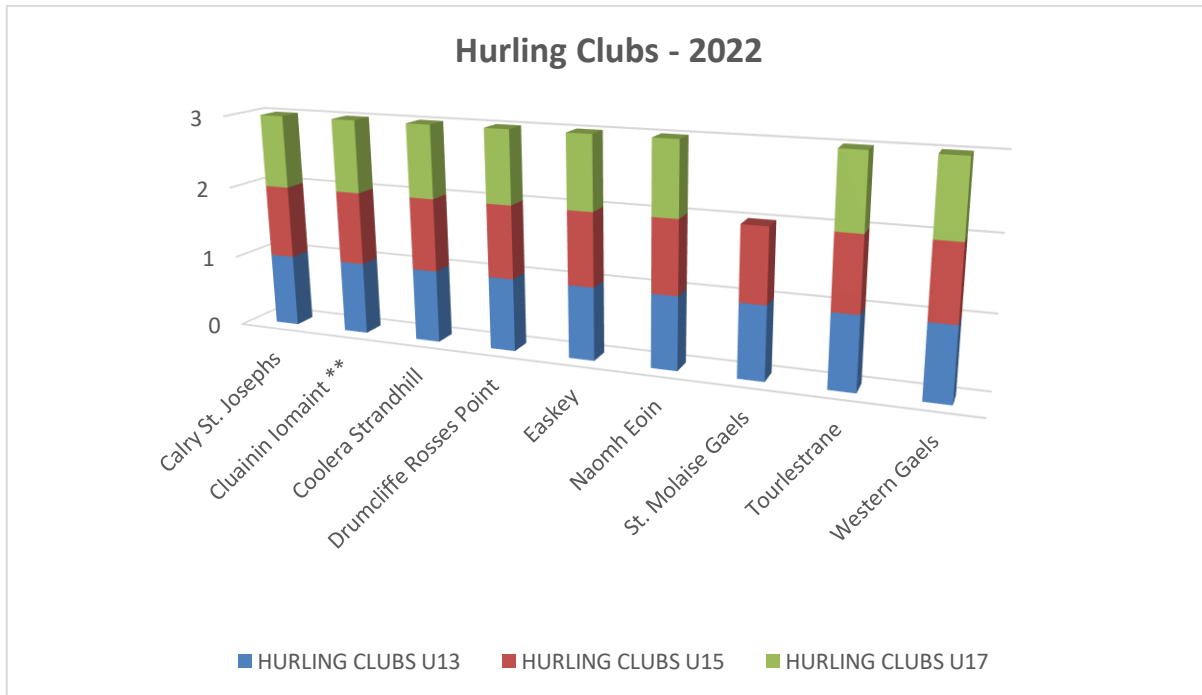
The 2022 season commenced on March 20th and ended on October 23rd and saw a welcome end to Covid restrictions albeit the virus was still lingering in the background. A total of 561 underage fixtures was organised and concluded in this period up from 419 in 2021 and spread over twenty-six different competitions in both codes football and hurling. A breakdown of teams entered for League and Championship is set out in graphs below:



Football Championship Teams 2022

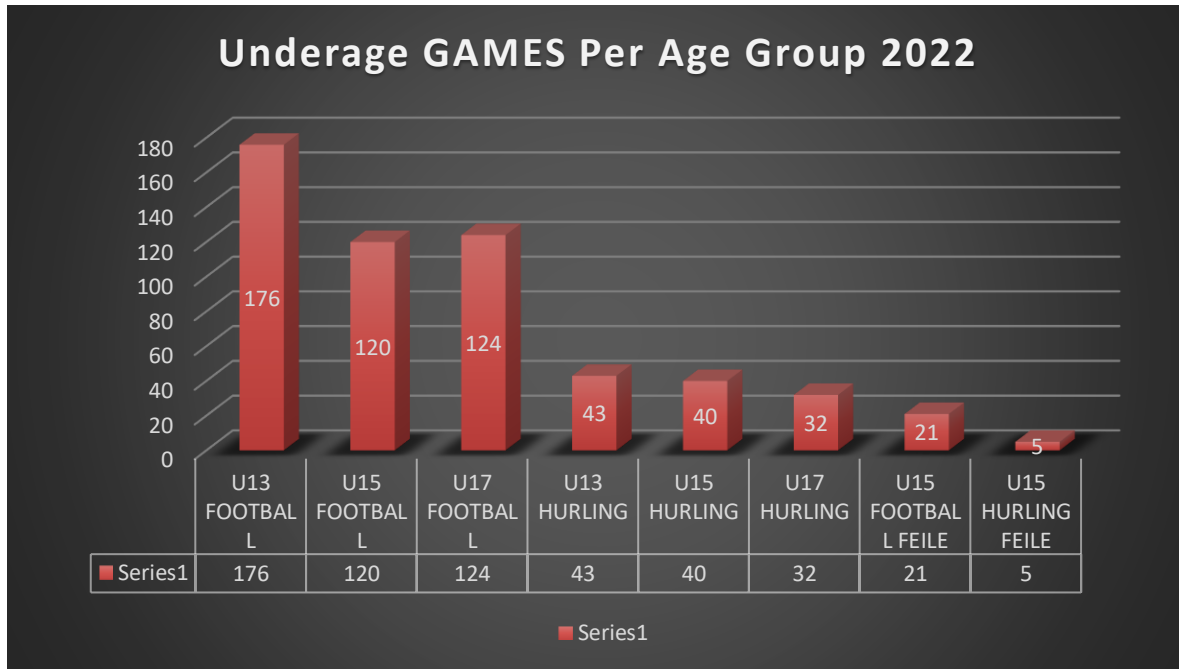


In hurling, Cluainin Iomaint (Glencar/Manorhamilton) again requested and were allowed to participate in our hurling league competitions at U13 and U15 and U17 level. Clubs participating in Tain Óg also saw extra hurling for the 2022 season.



** League Participation only

Games organised per age group for the 2022 season is set out below:



Thank you to the clubs, their coaches and the players for entering, competing and helping to fulfil our first full fixture calendar post COVID.

It is encouraging to see more clubs enter two teams at beginning at U13 level and this year we have seen this emerging at U15 level also. We hope to see this progression at all underage levels in future years which will only bode well for better competition also. However, we do caution that clubs need to ensure adequate management is in place to facilitate each team when they enter two teams at a specific age group as it may mean that teams play at two different venues on the same night. If clubs endeavour to employ their best coaches at underage level they will reap the rewards in future years.

Unfortunately, again this year we have seen an increasing number of game concessions over all underage groups and codes. With some forward planning we feel clubs and management should be able to reduce this concession rate. Concessions only deny our youth of game time and development in the sport.

The 10-day Rule was devised to facilitate fixture changes within a 10-day window and this means that games can be brought forward or back within a 10-day period. Coiste na nÓg have created this “Underage Refixture Form” for this purpose. This form is emailed to all club secretaries when fixtures are circulated at the beginning of the year so we encourage all clubs to utilize them when necessary. However, we would encourage clubs to keep refixtures to a minimum as much as possible to ensure that competitions are completed in a timely manner.

Underage Honours – 2022

Football and Hurling League Honours 2022		
Grade & Code	Cup	Shield
U13A Football	St. Johns	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point
U13B Football	Geevagh/St. Michaels	Curry
U13C Football	St. Mary's	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point
U13 Hurling	Western Gaels	St. Molaise Gaels
U15A Football	St. Mary's	
U15B Football	Enniscrone/Kilglass	Geevagh/St. Michaels
U15C Football	St. Pat's	
U15 Hurling	Western Gaels	St. Molaise Gaels
U17A Football	St. Mary's	
U17B Football	Easkey/St. Farnans	Tourlestrane
U17 Hurling	Naomh Eoin	Easkey

Football and Hurling Championship Honours 2022			
Team	Cup	Shield	Plate
U13A Football	St. John's	Shamrock Gaels	
U13B Football	Coolera/Strandhill	Tubbercurry/Cloonacool	
U13C Football	Coolera/Strandhill	Tourlestrane	
U13 Hurling	Tourlestrane	St. Molaise Gaels	
U15A Football	St. Mary's	Eastern Harps	
U15B Football	Geevagh/St. Michaels	Easkey/St. Farnans	
U15C Football	Shamrock Gaels		
U15 Hurling	Western Gaels	Coolera/Strandhill	
U17A Football	St. Mary's	St. Molaise Gaels	
U17B Football	Coolera/Strandhill	Curry	St. Pat's
U17 Hurling	Western Gaels	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point	

Féile

U15 Féile Football – Div. A	Calry/St. Joseph's
U15 Féile Football – Div. B	Enniscrone/Kilglass
U15 Féile Football – Div. C	Easkey/St. Farnans
U15 Feile Hurling	Western Gaels
U15 Feile Hurling – Runners Up	Easkey

Congratulations to Western Gaels who represented the county at Féile na nGael and Calry/St. Joseph's who represented the county at Féile Peile na nÓg in 2022. Easkey represented Sligo in the Regional Hurling Day. We are sure the clubs and teams involved will cherish the memories they have taken from this competition.

Underage County Teams

Underage county honours this year goes Sligo's U17 Hurlers and U16 Footballers.

Sligo minor hurlers captured the All-Ireland Under 17 Celtic Challenge Title which saw them lift the Micheal Feery Cup in Markievicz Park on June 4th, 2022. They defeated Mayo on a scoreline of 1-11 to 2-7 to regain the title last won in 2018. Congratulations to the team and management on your great achievement.

Sligo's U16 footballers who regained the Fr. Manning Cup, a trophy that they had last won in 2019. They overcame Wexford in the final and produced a strong seven-point win, 2-12 to 2-5. Congratulations to the team and management on your proud achievement.

Referees

We thank most sincerely all the referees who have officiated at underage level throughout 2022. This year our committee have struggled at times to ensure we had match officials at all fixtures. Indeed, without the cooperation of referees in officiating at two fixtures on the same date we would not have been able to fulfil all fixtures. We note that some clubs do not have any referee and this needs to be rectified by the clubs concerned.

A special thanks to Pat Conway our committee member who ensured the addition of six new referees in 2022 (three football and three hurling).

Venues

Our sincere thanks to all who provided venues for underage fixtures this year and especially those who allowed us to showcase our underage finals.

To the Markievicz Park committee and the Sligo Centre of Excellence who provided their grounds whenever possible. We truly appreciate your help in facilitating us throughout the year.

The entertainment and competitiveness provided at our underage finals this year was a delight to witness with a number of semi-finals and finals going to replays.

Acknowledgements

Coiste na nÓg wish to acknowledge all who have supported and assisted us throughout the year.

To the executive committee who have provided assistance and guidance when needed we express our sincere thanks.

Thank you to Eamonn McMunn for the coverage of our youth fixtures whenever possible. From photography, printing programmes to ensuring the winning trophies are at hand when needed we could always rely on his trusted help. This year he was aided in programme preparation by Padraig McKeon our PRO and we thank Padraig too for his help this year.

To the media and newspapers for the promotion and coverage of our youth fixtures we appreciate your help.

A sincere word of thanks to my own Coiste na nÓg committee. This year we welcomed two new members, Nicole as secretary and Dermot who represented the western region to replace personnel that departed due to other commitments. It has been an honour to work with each of you. This committee worked tirelessly to provide competitive club fixtures throughout the year organising competitions, grading teams, inputting fixtures, liaising with clubs, assigning referees and making themselves available for presentations throughout the year and all of this on a voluntary capacity. The professionalism, transparency and open manner in which this committee carried out their work can never be questioned. My sincere gratitude to each and every one of you. A new committee will be formed in 2023 as some personnel have expressed their intention to pursue other avenues. However, a clear template is there to follow and develop further in the years ahead.

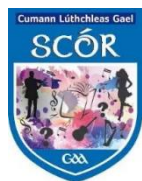
And finally, it would be remiss to conclude without offering our sincere condolences to all who have suffered bereavements throughout the year. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

To those who are ill or in hospital we wish you a speedy recovery and a return to full health very soon.

Thank you all for a successful 2022 season and we look forward with optimism to 2023 and the years ahead.

Críochnaíonn sé seo an tuarascáil do 2022 ó Choiste na nÓg.

Deirdre MagEiteagain
Oifigeach Óige



Tuarisc Cultúr agus Teanga 2022

Tá an Ghaeilge agus an cultúr Gaelach mar chuidríthábhachtach d'oidhreacht bheo ár Stáit agus trínár gcurchun cinn ar Scór na nÓg, Scór na bPhaiste agus an Scórsinsir déanaimid ár ndícheall an meath ar an nGaeilge inársochaí a athrú.

Scór is a GAA competition that combines all the colour and rivalry of Gaelic Games with the social/fun element of Ireland's traditional pastimes. The competition was established by the GAA in 1969 with the aim of promoting Ireland's traditional pastimes and culture while offering club members the chance to meet up, have fun and represent their club during winter months while Football and Hurling had ceased.

Scór

The Scór nÓg finals were held in Ballintogher Hall on the 12th February 2022. The following were the Sligo winners who represented their county in the Connacht Finals.

Tráth Na gCeisreanna Castleconnor Darrach Mac Stibhín ; Eoghan O Duarcáin; Padraig O Gáibhín;
Críostóir de Siún;
Amhránaíocht Aonair. St Johns. Rachel Ní Fhinneadha;
Nuachleas. St Johns. Eimhín Ó Finneadha; Holly Elliot; Anna Carhart; Jennifer
Breathnach; Rachel Ní Fhinneadha; Ella Ní Chéirín; Bobby O Céirín; Darrach Cathart;
Ceol Uirlise. Shamrock Gaels

ST Johns were successful and represent Connacht in the All Ireland Scór nÓg finals in Killarney where they finished runners- up just two points behind the winners.

Scór Sinsir

The county senior Scór Finals were held in Ballintogher Hall on Saturday 7th October. The following were the winners.

Tráth Na gCeisteanna Owenmore Gaels
Amhránaíocht Aonair Eastern Harps Sarah Snee;
Aithriseoireacht Scealaíocht St Molaise Gaels Edwin Mullane;

Owenmore Gaels quiz team and Edwin Mullane from St Molaise Gaels were successful and went on to represent Connacht in the All Ireland Scór Sinir Finals in the TF Royal Castlebar.

Gaeilge

Unfortunately, due to COVID Colaiste Na bhFiann made a decision not to open for 2022. This was entirely understandable as they could not guarantee the safety of the students. Sligo looks forward to working with Colaistáistena bhFiann in 2023.

As ever Sligo GAA greatly appreciates the generosity of Colaiste Na bhFiann for their continuation of the Gaeltacht Scholarships grants for Sligo students wishing to develop their exposure to gaeilge.

Coláiste na bhFiann has over 50 years' experience running Gaeilge Summer Courses, through the medium of music, sport, drama, art, dance, etc. Coláiste na bhFiann courses provides students the opportunity to follow their own specific interests through the medium of Gaeilge. The principle aim of the organisation is to provide a platform for young people to speak Gaeilge in a welcoming environment that encourages a positive attitude towards the language.

Is

é misean Choláiste na bhFiann an Ghaeilge a chur chuncinn i dtimpeallacht spreagúil trí dheiseanna a chur ar fail chun an Ghaeilge a úsáid mar theanga bheo i suíomh sóisialta.

While it was great to see the return of Scór it was very disappointing the number of clubs who did not participate this year.

A huge word of thanks to the ever-present volunteers across the county, whose dedication in promotion and organisation continue to be the cornerstone in the running of Scór in Sligo. Sincere gratitude again goes to the excellent committee of Catherine Gallagher, Teresa McCormack, Aoife Connolly Bernadine McGauran, Gerry O Connor, Hugh Gallagher, Peter Farrell, and Seamus McCormack.

Finally, on behalf of our committee, I extend good health, peace and joy to you and your families for the holiday season and look forward to seeing all our competitors and patrons of Scór be given the chance to exhibit their amazing talent and admirable passion for our games.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Seosamh Ó Bhrádaigh

Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Cultur Coíste Chontae Shligigh

Coaching and Games Report 2022

Coaching

Development Squads

Our 2022 Sligo Minors reached the Connacht Minor Semi Final after wins over Leitrim and Roscommon and defeats by Mayo and Galway in the round robin phase. Our team were comfortably beaten by eventual All Ireland winners Galway in the Connacht Semi Final.

Our 2023 Fr Manning Cup U16 continued our excellent track record in this competition in recent years with a comfortable victory over Wicklow in this year's final. The move of this competition to Summer has left a void in games for this group in the latter half of the year which is harder to fill for smaller counties but the preparations for 2023 Connacht Minor Championship continue.

Our U17 hurlers won their Celtic Challenge National Competition and the quality of the hurling seen now in the county at underage level is a testament to the work done by the clubs ably supported by Darragh Cox.

The undoubted highlight of the 2022 Sligo year was the fantastic success of our U20 team in winning the Connacht Championship. Great credit to our Management Team and Players for this historic success. Coaching and Games Committee have held the view that u20 is the key area group to be successful to bridge the gap from our recent continuous performances at u17 to senior level. Our 2022 team was backboned by our 2019 Minor team who won 3 out of 4 of the Connacht Round Robin series, our 2020 minors who reached the Connacht Final and our 2021 minors who won the provincial championship. Despite the quality of the players involved, it was clear to see that the professionalism, work rate and quality of the management team throughout the year was the cornerstone of our success and giving Dessie more than the traditional 1 year helped mould the group to the force it became in 2022. The key now is the integration of this group and forthcoming groups into the senior set up,

A change in emphasis in how we coach u13 to U15 Development Squads was central to our 2022 plan. These is strictly developmental with a programme drawn up by Stephen Henry. Our aim will be to develop the skillset of the players, develop a culture within the groups and a desire for all players to play at their highest possible level. This has been an outstanding success mixing player development of all our players but yet maintaining our competitiveness in all matches.

Sligo GAA are currently in a period of sustained national competitiveness for our development squads showcased by our Minor Squads. This success is due to a number of reasons and now is the time to continue to strengthen rather than to grow complacent.

- Strategic thinking by the Governance /Coaching and Games Committee set up in 2018 and having an Overview Committee has been central to our progress.
- The Culture of constant improvement and huge appetite for work that all coaches have brought and bought into has created a standard of excellence across the Coaching Game Development Squad Programme.
- The strength of the school's programme and tie in with Secondary Schools by our full-time staff is huge and needs to be constant.
- The stepping stone programme from U17 for those players who are not immediately ready for County U20 programme

- We need to ensure that the club games programme for all age groups is appropriate for the development for players of all abilities and the gap between u17 and U21 is bridged. I was delighted with success of the u19 competition mid-summer and the quantity of entries to the U21 competition recently played was noteworthy
- We need to strengthen relationships with 3rd level colleges and particularly strategically maximise having a third level college in ATU Sligo within our county.
- We need clubs to encourage their best coaches to work with Development Squads. With the aforementioned culture now within the group and the learning opportunities, it will be a win/ win for both club and county.

Staffing

It has been a busy year for Coaching and Games Full Time Staff who had to endure continuing to work within the Covid parameters across all their schools programme and of course across Cul Camps. It is very noteworthy that the Sligo ran such successful Cul Camps again in 2022. I saw at first hand the meticulous preparation that went in to giving the children of Sligo some normality this summer and we are so lucky in Sligo to have coaches and people of the calibre of Liam, Pat, Cian, Stephen, Darragh, Sean and Aran ably assisted by Padraic and Eamonn running our programme.

In 2022, two of our staff left their positions.

Stephen Henry has been a stalwart of Sligo GAA and is a huge loss to us in Coaching and Games. His professionalism, ability to interact with children of all ages, relationship with schools, parents and clubs and a dedication above and beyond what was expected in the role means it's a huge void for Sligo GAA to fill. By observing Stephen, you can see why he personally has been so successful with his thoroughness, attention to detail, his culture and simply his decency that equally embodies his club. His role in developing our U14 and U15 programmes will stand the test of time and we know Stephen will not be lost to Sligo GAA underage.

Cian O Connor had replaced Ross Donovan on a temporary contract in 2021 and we were fortunate to have someone of Cian's quality in Sligo for the last year until his departure for a job closer to his native Cork.

We expect two positions to be filled before Christmas and a full compliment of staff to be in place by January.

Games Programme and Schools Programme

In 2022, Coaching and Games ran U11 and U9 matches for all clubs along with some U7 Blitzes. These are an excellent introduction to GAA and were greatly supported by clubs and parents.

It was great to see Cumann na Bunscoil Competitions back in 2022 and great credit to the teachers for their support for Gaelic Games.

Also in 2022, a full programme of Secondary Schools Provincial Matches has recommenced. The lack of competition for our schools at those key u13 to u15 age groups were felt even more in a small county like Sligo and again showcase how important they are. It is also noteworthy the success of the Sligo /Leitrim Schools competitions this Autumn and that will become a competition entrenched in the school calendar going forward.

Club Development Officer

Connacht GAA are trialling the role of Club Development Officer in 2023. Whilst this is a role clubs will have to pay for, I am certain that it will pay dividends for those clubs. Alongside this, we will be meeting clubs in the next few months to work with them on their requirement for full time staff in 2023 and how they best want to assign the hours that each full-time staff spends in each club. This, we think, is the best way to utilise the full-time staff hours within clubs and use them to help each club maximise their potential.

As Coaching Officer, I would like to thank all Club Coaching Officers for their support all year. Their thirst to develop club coaches is so evident in the huge response Coaching and Games get to all their Coach Education events. Club Coaching Officers are an integral part of Club executives and makes full time staff and my job much easier.

I wish to extend an invitation to all clubs to avail of my offer to travel to each club in Sligo to discuss their unique situation and how Sligo GAA and in particular Sligo Coaching and Games can use our resources to help them.

Peadar Niland

14th November 2022



Sligo Urban Committee Report 2022

Games Programme

The 2022 Games programme from early September whereby the Urban committee continued the Sligo Urban Games at U11 and U9.

Club School Link

This was a great initiative in 2022 whereby under the auspices of their regional GPO, Clubs developed links with their local schools with the aim of recruiting players and upskilling players in their schools in their catchment areas. Both programmes were particularly relevant in the Urban catchment whereby the link between the School and Club is probably at its weakest and delighted the uptake and success of the programme for the Urban Clubs.

Planning

Sligo Urban Committee have the following ongoing priorities

Summerhill Leagues

Setting up first year leagues in Summerhill once their new pitch is complete with the aim to extend to other years after the first year one beds in.

Urban Coach

Aim here is to secure a full-time coach for urban area. Whilst they would be engaged in Summerhill Programme, Cul Camps, Coach Education, Primary Schools in area, looking at committing a certain amount of time specifically to clubs rather than been a general support.

Summerhill New Pitch

Once their 4G pitch is completed, ensure that the Sligo Urban Committee are organised to get bookings that will mean clubs can extend their programmes beyond the summer months.

Peadar Niland

14 November 2022

PRO Report 2022

This year was a return to a more 'normal' season with a full return of spectators to games and a full schedule across the season. We did however have the experience of the split season between club and county activity for the first time, which in many respects also shaped the work of the PRO role with the first half of the year substantially focussed on intercountry affairs and the second half on club activity.

Inter county activity

Activity started on the 2 January with the playing of the FBD sponsored Connacht preseason competitions in the NUIG Dome at the Connacht Centre of Excellence when Sligo had the honour of being the first team to win a competitive indoor game indoors.

The Leagues started four weeks later, and it was continuous intercounty activity from then until mid-June with senior football and hurling league, minor league and championship, U20 football development league and then championship, Christy Ring Cup, Connacht senior football championship and then Tailteann Cup running week on week.

From a communication point of view the objective was to provide 'live' coverage in as much as was possible for all those games on social media, have full reports afterwards on the Sligo GAA website with photography where possible. This was achieved for the most part but the condensed season has identified the need for a greater spread of people doing that reporting, something that will be a work in progress for 2023.

Among the intercounty teams, we had a number of big occasions that created good opportunities to profile some of our teams and create a bit of public excitement, both within the county and beyond about Sligo football and hurling.

The highlight of the year was the U20 Connacht championship victory achieved on our own grounds with national TV coverage. The occasion will be remembered in communications terms for team captain Jack Lavin's excellent 'We are Sligo' interview delivered literally seconds after the end of the game. The subsequent All Ireland semi-final was a great occasion for Sligo and one that created great exposure for our team on the day and also for the three 20 under 20 all stars- Jack Lavin, Canice Mulligan and Joe Keane - and the Connacht U20 player of the season award for Joe Keane that followed.

The Senior football team's victory in New York and the subsequent run in the Tailteann Cup with the penalties victory over Leitrim and the visit to Croke Park to play Cavan also garnered great exposure for the county with live television and extensive national print media coverage in advance, something that hasn't come Sligo's way in some time. This too was followed by Tailteann All Star Awards for Aidan Devaney, Evan Lyons and Sean Carrabine, bringing further positive headlines for Sligo football both locally and nationally.

The senior hurling team reached the Div 2B League final – another very significant achievement and again the profile of Sligo county hurling was significantly boosted by the selection of Andrew Kilcullen on the Ring/Rackard /Meagher team of the year.

While the profile of our teams and some of the individual players is now higher than it was a year ago, there is a lot of work to be done to follow that on. This will require the recruitment of a team of volunteers to ensure a more consistent presence at games in all grades and codes so that there is a greater frequency and consistency in output about all of our teams.

Adult Club activity

We had started to put a new focus on reporting the championship in 2021 so this year the objective was to pick up from there on promotional activity for the club scene.

The adult club season started off this year with the preseason leagues run on a regional basis and it did get the clubs up and running on promotional activity, particularly in the use of social media

That continued through the senior league competition, and we have seen more use of photography and graphic imagery in promoting clubs games for which great credit must go to club PROs.

We have also seen an increased use of score reporting apps like What's the Scór that enable real time updates from different grounds.

For the championship again, after a successful launch photocall event with team captains at Homeland Stores, the objective was to have live score and social media updates from each game, photography and a report on every Senior and Intermediate and Junior A game each week on the Sligo GAA website by the Monday evening of games finishing.

To facilitate that it was decided to offer a pass to those games for up to three people order top ensure more reporting. It is pleasing to report more activity on all fronts with more social media activity in advance of and during games, greater use of live score update apps and more photography.

There were 61 games across those three championships, and we managed to get over 50 reports published to the website, reports that can of course also be published on various social media channels – both of Sligo GAA and the clubs involved – and shared with local media.

This outcome reflects a huge effort on the part of club PROs and their club colleagues and is greatly appreciated.

We looked again at the production of programmes for those games as despite the many digital media available to them, the programme in hand remains popular with spectators. Financially we could not recover the cost of producing a 'full book' match programme for most games so instead sheet programmes were produced inhouse for all games up to the final stage.

We also delivered two games each weekend to streaming which proved very popular. While streaming was introduced out of necessity during the pandemic, it has proved to be entirely sustainable since, without impacting negatively on match attendances.

Underage Club activity

The promotional effort at underage level was for the most part centred on the coverage of Féile, and of the Leagues and championship finals and the production of programmes and photography for these games.

As was pointed out by my predecessor in each of the past two reports it is a challenge to cover all of the games and locations involved across the juvenile games space and we do need to look at how we provide coverage for this work on a more planned basis

Promoting Sligo GAA generally

In addition to the work of promoting and providing coverage of games, the PRO function has an obligation to support the work of the county board in providing a governance structure for our games, in its development and commercial activity and in respect of non-sporting initiatives like Scór and Healthy Club.

During 2022 this included

- Communication around the granting of Sports Capital development grants
- Media relations around the awarding of Health Clubs designation to five Sligo GAA clubs
- The launch of a Women's Leadership initiative that is now being developed with the Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership
- The launch of a Smoke Free policy in Sligo's GAA grounds

We also dealt with a range of unplanned issues where a strong response was required including

- The issue of parking around Markievicz Park and
- The fixing of the Connacht U20 final at the Connacht Centre of Excellence rather than in Markievicz Park

Building communications capacity

The success of any PRO in the modern media environment is down to building some capacity to provide reports and updates on the part of every unit that they are dealing with – every club and every team at county level.

While it is very early days, some good progress was made in that regard this year. Particularly among clubs where the natural enthusiasm to show the best side of friends and colleagues shines through.

A number of clubs have brought in extra volunteers in this area and we have now initiated the first of a series of planning and training workshops that will take place in the November to March time when there are no games to manage.

This work is THE most important part of the PRO role which is no longer about finding someone with a capacity to rewrite and create copy. That skill is still needed but the primary skills required of the modern PRO are those of organisation and co-ordination. Most weekends, I am much better employed at a desk with a range of screens in front of me where I can see individual updates coming in from different locations and either share them out immediately or script updates that can then be posted on whatever is the relevant media platform.

Looking to the future

As this was my first year in the role, there was a lot to be learned from the inside out.

The core challenge for improving communications lies in capacity. If we want to get the best coverage that we can of each team representing the county, present a regular quality report on our club games – adult and juvenile – and support the work of the county committee effectively, we must engage more people with the work of communications.

To enable them to do their job, we must support them with access and training.

The work plan for 2023 therefore will be to

- create a discrete communications plan for each county team, each club competition, the marquee nonsporting initiatives (Scór and Healthy Club) and each major initiative of the County Committee

- Recruit support volunteers at both county and club level to support that work
- Create and deliver training for those volunteers
- Maintain a strong co-ordinating role over that work to ensure that coverage of our games and activities is optimised.

We also need to complete the long-discussed revamp of the website. This is about rearranging the presentation of the site, reorganising content and making it more dynamic. This will be done working off the existing platform as the scale of change of resources required for a more elaborate revamp are not available and could not be justified.

Appreciations

This role could not be fulfilled without the input of a great many people.

I would like to express my thanks to the players and the management of all our teams for their courtesy and patience throughout the year in setting up – interviews, zoom calls and photography during the year.

A very special thanks goes to all the Club PROs for their input week in week out and also to those that they have working with them doing score updates, social media, match reporting and photography – all important roles.

I want in particular to thank the club secretaries whose work around championship time in getting team sheets in a timely fashion is much appreciated but who are also invariably the go-to person for random enquiries.

Thank you also to the stewards and officials who man the gates at grounds across the county for championship games and for intercounty games at Markievicz Park.

Thank to Joanne O’Grady and the team at Jalmia who maintain the website at no cost to Sligo GAA – a significant contribution.

As I mentioned streaming is now an important part of the Sligo GAA story and we are very fortunate to have the expertise and the continuing goodwill of Rory O’Brien as a producer which provides a superb service with support from James Conlon and Seamus Burns and roster of great commentators including Rian Bailey, Colm McGee, Donal Ryan and Paddy Henry.

While the world of media has expanded greatly, we still rely greatly on the print and broadcast media for coverage of our games, and I would like to express our sincere thanks to Austin O’Callaghan, Liam Maloney, Emma Gallagher, Gavin Cawley, Gerry McLoughlin and Jessica Farry over the course of the year.

Photography is also now hugely important and to that end I must think the professional photographers of the media – Alan Finn, Donal Hackett and Carl Brennan for their continued support and great work. We are very fortunate also to have their work of Eamonn McMunn on photography which has created a reservoir of great shorts of club and county action and I will make a special mention of Christine Kilcullen for her photography of the Senior hurling team.

Finally I want to express a special thank you to Eamonn McMunn who backs out all out the work of the PRO from the Scarden base. His support in photography, printing, information gathering and input to social media is invaluable and much appreciated.

Thank you all,

Mise le meas,

Padraig McKeon

Safety and facilities Committee

Report 2022

The Safety and facilities committee is a new committee formed in 2022 due to a rule change which was part of the previous Planning & Physical Development committee. The Committee has responsibility for Grounds and physical development, Club development and Grounds safety.

Members of the 2022 committee were: Richard Brennan (County safety and facilities officer), Eamonn McMunn (Secretary), Joe Taaffe, Pdraig Clancy, Michael Jacob and Ronan Higgins.

In February the announcement of Sports Capital grants was made with Sligo GAA successful in its application for a 5G training area and Ball wall at the Centre of Excellence. A grant of €101,000 was received. Thanks to Thomas Walsh for his help in making the submission.

The following works and improvements were carried out during the Year;

Markievicz Park

- New Fertilizer spreader purchased
- Resodding of Goalmouths and large squares
- Barrier testing (25% of barriers tested)
- Health & Safety statement updated

Additional details on usage and upkeep of Markievicz Park can be found in the Markievicz Park Committee report

Sligo GAA Centre of Excellence

- New Verti Drainer purchased
- Sanded and over-seeded Pitch 3 and half of Pitch 2
- New Stop ball nets at one end of Pitch 1 and Pitch 2 with repairs carried out to other nets.
- Goal nets replaced
- Repairs to floor in Dressing room showers
- Health & Safety statement updated

Additional details on usage and upkeep of Scarden can be found in the Scarden COE report

Clubs

Six Clubs attended a seminar on Corporate Trustee in the Connacht Centre.

Surveys carried out by Committee on 14 Club grounds who had expressed an interest in hosting Club Championship matches.

Eight Clubs were successful in receiving "Small improvement grants" from Connacht GAA.

County

The Committee are at an early stage of planning for the conversion of Pitch 1 in the Centre of Excellence to a floodlit Astro pitch.

An application was made for a GAA County Capital Infrastructure Grant and Sligo was successful in obtaining €125,000 towards the upgrade of press facilities and other works at Markievicz Park. Thanks to Treasurer Cormac Kearns for his assistance in submitting the application and John Murphy and Peter Greene for their help and advice.

Scoreboard

We would like to acknowledge John & Pat Clifford for their sponsorship of a new electronic scoreboard in Markievicz Park this year. The Clifford family have a long association with Markievicz Park and Sligo GAA and their sponsorship of the Scoreboard at Markievicz Park over the years and into the future is greatly appreciated.



Acknowledgements:

Thanks to John Prenty and Adrian Hassett from Connacht GAA for their support during the year. Thanks to all on this committee for all their efforts during the year and to the members of the Sligo GAA Management Committee for their support. Finally a big thanks to all the Clubs for their continued hard work and co-operation in 2022. Wishing you all a very safe and healthy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

Risteard Ó Braonin (Richard Brennan)

Safety & Facilities Officer





Sligo GAA Centre of Excellence Maintenance 2022

	Pitch 1	Pitch 2	Pitch 3
Cut Pitches (no of times)	22	20	19
Fertilize Pitches	6	6	6
	Soil renew x 18 bags 10 bags of Nitrogen	Soil renew x 17 bags 11 Bags of Nitrogen	24 bags of 18-6-12
Verti drained	4	4	4
Pitches Lined	17	14	13
Sand and over seed		1	1
Sand and seed Goalmouths		1	1

Grass Banks Cut 9 times

Pitch Usage

Pitch 1-62 games (101 hours)

Pitch 2- 324 hours

Pitch 3 239 hours

Centre of Excellence Usage Report

	Gym	Training	Games	Meetings
Senior Football	90	60		6
U20 Football	36	72	4	12
Minor/U17	30	52	2	14
Development Squads	36	79	17	5
Senior Hurling	6	48		
Hurling Dev Squads	9	48	6	3
Secondary Schools		17	20	
Adult Clubs	42	7	11	
Underage Clubs			45	
Ladies Football		14	32	
Masters Football		5		
Totals	249	402	137	40

Cúl Camps 11 Days

Development squad medical clinic 14

Meetings 117

Abbvie Family Day 1

Workshops 12

Car park for Coney Island festival 1

Underage Regional Hurling Blitz 12

Garda Training Days 6

Cumann na nBunscól 17 games

U7/9/11 Blitzes 14

Padraig Clancy



MARKIEVICZ PARK

PITCH USAGE 08/01/2022 TO 05/11/2022

1. County Teams Training	14 Sessions
2. Hurling Club and County	8 Games
3. Football U/12, U/13, U/15 and Minor	10 Games
4. Football Club and County	44 Games
5. Football Club (Ladies)	4 Games
6. Football Cumann na Bunscoil Finals	13 Games

Summary of Above:

Total Training Sessions	14
Total Games Football/Hurling	<u>79</u>
Total Events:	<u>93</u>

Pitch Maintenance:

Roll Pitch	4 Occasions
Verte Drain (Spike) to improve drainage	5 Occasions
Grass Cutting	59 Occasions
Fertilised	6 Occasions
Apply grass seed & fertiliser to damaged areas of pitch	4 Occasions

Pitch Repairs:

Carry out sodding to damaged areas at goals and other areas of pitch.
Repair and fill in divets throughout pitch after training sessions and games.

Signed: _____

TOM GALLEN

INTERCOUNTY GAMES PLAYED IN MARKIEVICZ PARK 2022

FOOTBALL

Senior	Donegal V Mayo	NFL
	Sligo V Carlow	NFL
	Sligo V Cavan	NFL
	Sligo V London	NFL
	Sligo V Leitrim	NFL
	Sligo V Roscommon	CFC Semi Final
	Sligo V London	Tailteann Cup
Minor	Sligo V Leitrim	CFC
	Sligo V Galway	CFC
U/20	Sligo V Tyrone	Challenge
	Sligo V Roscommon	CFC
	Sligo V Roscommon	CFC Final
Hurling	Sligo V Donegal	NHL
	Sligo V Derry	Christy Ring Cup
	Sligo v Wicklow	Christy Ring Cup
	Sligo V Meath	
U/15	Sligo V Mayo	All Ireland Final
U/20	Sligo V Leitrim	
Football		
Connacht Club Final	St. Pat's Sligo V Kilmeena Mayo	
Hurling		
Connacht Club Semi Final	Easkey Sligo V St. Mary's Carrick-on-Shannon	

Above Games included on page 1 report

MARKIEVICZ PARK ACCOUNTS

19/11/2021 TO 10/11/2022

Income	€	Expenditure	€
Carried Forward	501	Clear Drains in Dug out	30
		Disc Cutter	12
		Phone	26
		Gas Torch	9.50
		2 Stroke Oil & Petrol for Lawn Mower	46.50
		Flourscent Tube	5
		Petrol - 2 Stroke for Blower, Telephone, Misc., Fittings	60
Total	€501		€189
		Excess Income over Expenditure	<u>€312</u>

All other expenses paid by the County Board.

Signed:

John A. McAndrew
Treasurer,
Markievicz Park Committee

Date: 15/11/2022

Planning and Training Committee

Outlined below is a summary of activities completed in 2022 as part of the Planning and Training Committee.

Club & County Officer Training

A number of training courses/webinars were held throughout 2022, including:

- Getting started as Club Chairperson
- Getting started as Club Secretary
- Getting started as Club PRO
- Finance & Governance for Club Treasurers
- Leading, Managing & Governing your club.
- Digital Communication
- Fundraising, Commercial & Sponsorship
- Using IT to simplify Club administration
- Operating effectively as One Club
- County Management Induction
- The Corporate Trustee Model explained
- Healthy Club Officer
- Running the Club AGM
- Strategic Funding for Clubs and Counties

Overall participation in these courses was quite good, with members from over 20 clubs enrolling and attending the courses above.

All training can be accessed online at <https://learning.gaa.ie/officertrainingcalendar> and the committee strongly encourages all club members to avail of these excellent training modules.

County Planning

A number of workshops were held with members of the Planning and Training Committee and Sligo GAA Management Committee to outline the Goals and Objectives for a new Sligo GAA Strategic Plan. These workshops were supported and facilitated by members of Connacht GAA, and high-level targets were considered in a number of Key Focus Areas, including: Coaching & Games Development, Finance & Fundraising, Games Programs, GAA Infrastructure, Club Development, PR & Marketing.

There is still a significant body of work and consultation to be completed in order to finish out the County Strategic Planning process and finalise a thorough and practical plan to bring Sligo GAA forward over the next 5-10 years. I know this will be a priority for the new Management Committee.

I would like to thank my committee members - Thomas Kerins, Eugene Carroll and Mark Boland, for their work and efforts throughout the year, as well as John Prenty and Adrian Hassett from Connacht GAA and Ruairi Harvey and Jack McCarney from Croke Park for all their support and advice. I am not seeking to be re-appointed to the role of Planning and Training Officer for 2023, so I would like to sincerely thank all members of the Sligo GAA Management committee for their support in 2022. I wish the new Planning and Training Officer the very best of luck in their new role, and the new Sligo GAA Management Committee every success in the years ahead. Wishing you all a very safe and healthy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

Stiofán Ó Carthaigh (Stephen Carty)

Chair Planning & Training Committee

Coiste Cheannais na gComortaisí (C.C.C.) Report

Coiste Cheannais na gComortaisí (C.C.C.) Report 2022

The CCC Committee members for 2022 were Dermot Gannon (Chairman), Fergus Leonard (Secretary), Seán Reynolds (Chairman Sligo Hurling Board), John Gilmartin (Referees Administrator), Trevor Sweeney, Brendan Kilgannon and Richard Brennan.

Overview

The CCC had our first meeting on the 11th of February of January 2022. The outline of the season discussed. Eventually after a few further meetings a draft calendar was agreed. The following competitions were agreed and a proposed calendar for all competitions agreed by the CCC. In total 25 competitions were played between adult, under 21 and under 19 levels in football and hurling.

- South Division Spring League
- West Division Spring League
- North Division Spring League
- East Division Spring League
- North East Junior Spring League
- South West Junior Spring League
- Fureys Coaches Division 1
- Fureys Coaches Division 2
- Fureys Coaches Division 3
- Fureys Coaches Division 4A
- Fureys Coaches Division 4B
- Fureys Coaches Division 4C
- Homeland Senior Football Championship
- Connacht Gold Intermediate Football Championship
- Connacht Gold Junior A Football Championship
- Connacht Gold Junior B Football Championship
- Senior Hurling Championship
- Dermot Molloy Hurling League
- Donal Kirby U19 Memorial Cup
- Martin Brennan Cup -To be completed.
- Under 19A Championship
- Under 19B Championship
- Under 19C Championship
- Under 21 A Championship
- Under 21 B Championship

A total of 442 games were played this year between hurling and football at adult level. This includes the under 19 and under 21 football championships and the Donal Kirby under 19 hurling tournament. There is one game yet to

play at the time of writing, the Under 21B championship final between Curry and Tubbercurry/Cloonacool. There was a total of 41 walkovers in all competitions. There were 44 date changes agreed between clubs and 36 postponements of games for a variety of reasons.

The CCC met 17 times in 2022, 12 times in person and 5 times online. These were fixture planning meetings and dealing with infractions reported in referees' reports and processing requests for transfers within the county.

Fixtures and Competitions

2022 seen a welcome return to normality as the country and the world at large emerged from the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic. This allowed the CCC to run a full set of competitions for the first time in three years.

2022 was the first year of the 'split season' in the GAA. Given the condensed nature of the intercounty fixtures this year, it essentially meant intercounty footballers would not be available to clubs while involved in intercounty competitions. The CCC created six new warmup competitions in football with the senior and junior divisional spring leagues. This gave meaningful games to clubs at the start of the year running in parallel with the intercounty fixtures. The divisional warmup leagues in football began on the weekend of 2/3rd of April while the Dermot Molloy hurling league threw in a week earlier on the weekend of the 26/27th of March.

A full league program in football went ahead this year. Divisions 1, 2 and 3 were nine team single round leagues. Division 4 was also run on a single round league basis split into divisions 4A, 4B and 4C. The championship format for the last two years was retained. Two groups of five in intermediate and senior championship with the top two in each group progressing to the semifinals. In Junior A there were two groups of five with the top two in each group progressing to the semifinals. In Junior B there were three groups of four and one group of five with the top two in each group progressing to the quarter finals.

The aim of the CCC was to provide as many games as possible for the club player throughout the year. The divisional warmup competitions were well received by players and clubs and provided good competition at the start of the year. The addition of the Under 19 competition in the summer months worked well in general and produced some very good well contested games. This is important to keep our young and up and coming players active and playing games. There are some improvements to be made to the calendar and competitions for next year.

Well done to all clubs who were winners in their various competitions.

Discipline

The CCC commenced disciplinary action 155 times on receiving and reviewing the referees' reports:

Category I and Ia: 54 (60) Category I (Player two yellows) Category Ia (Team Official Sent Off)

Category IIa: 9 (5) Category IIa (Verbal abuse to officials from Team Official)

Category III: 71 (45) Category III (Straight red card)

Category IV: 5 (8)

Category V: 0 (2)

Figures for 2021 in brackets

Other infractions (Rule 7.2 (d) (e)): 1 (6)

Black card offences (Category II) not reported here.

The CCC was represented at 15 hearings with Sligo Hearings Committee where a member or unit requested a hearing arising from disciplinary action.

Infractions in general were down in 2022 from 2021. The raw numbers were generally higher but there were 66% more game in 2022 than 2021 as we completed a full schedule. As was the case last year, abusive language towards referees and officials was sadly a regular occurrence at our games throughout the year. As we did last year the CCC would appeal to players, team officials and supporters to show respect to our referees. If we have no referees, we will have no game.

Thanks

The CCC would like to thank all clubs for their co-operation throughout the year. This was a very busy year on the playing fields especially so for dual players and clubs. Almost all competitions were completed on time and all clubs must be commended for this.

The CCC would like to thank clubs again for the use of their excellent facilities for club championships. The facilities available in many clubs are a credit to the clubs and will serve to increase the numbers attending our games. The CCC would like to thank all stewards and Gate controllers who stand for hours at gates for Championship games. The CCC would like to thank the Markievicz Park Committee for the use and presentation of the Markievicz Park for most adult finals in hurling and football and during the group stages of the Senior and Intermediate Football Championships. The CCC would like to thank County Administrator Eamonn McMunn for his tireless work in the administration and promotion of the games during the year.

The CCC would like to thank the referees and officials who officiate at our games. Every single game was played and at no stage was there a game postponed due to a shortage of referees.

The CCC would like to congratulate all competition winners this year. A great deal of credit must go to the CCC committee for their hard work during the year. Special mention must go to Chairman Dermot Gannon who led the committee acting as a liaison between the committee and the County Committee.

Special mention must also go to Referees Administrator John Gilmartin whose experience and hard work ensured all games were refereed to the highest standards. The CCC dealt with a large volume of fixture changes. This caused a great deal of extra work on the committee to rearrange referees, venues, times and update the games online. Despite this the CCC tried where possible to accommodate clubs where they requested fixture changes. In a minority of cases, we were not able to re-fix games due to circumstances beyond our control. The CCC would like to thank all our competition sponsors Connacht Gold, Homeland and Fureys Coaches.

Finally, I wish all in Sligo GAA a happy and peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year and all the best for 2023.

Ferghus Ó Loinín Runaí C.C.C. 13ú Samhain 2022

Competition Winners 2022

Competition	Winner	Runner up
West Division Spring League	St. Farnans	Enniscrone/Kilglass
South Division Spring League	Tourlestrane	Tubbercurry
North Division Spring League	Coolera/Strandhill	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point
East Division Spring League	Shamrock Gaels	Eastern Harps
South West Division Jun Spring League	Tourlestrane	Tubbercurry
North East Division Jun Spring League	St. Marys	Eastern Harps
Division 1	Coolera/Strandhill	Tourlestrane
Division 2	Curry	Bunninadden
Division 3	Castleconnor	St. Michaels
Division 4A	Eastern Harps	Curry
Division 4B	St. Patricks	Tubbercurry
Division 4C	Ballymote	Shamrock Gaels
SFC	Tourlestrane	St. Marys
IFC	St. Molaise Gaels	Easkey
J AFC	Shamrock Gaels	St. Molaise Gaels
J BFC	Eastern Harps	Tubbercurry
Donal Kirby U19 Memorial Cup	Western Gaels	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point
Dermot Molloy Hurling League	Easkey	Naomh Eoin
Martin Brennan Cup	To be completed.	
SHC	Easkey	Naomh Eoin
Under 21A	Ballymote/Bunninadden	St. Molaise Gaels
Under 21B	To be completed.	
Under 19A	Eastern Harps	St. Marys
Under 19B	Shamrock Gaels	Tubbercurry/Cloonacool
Under 19C	Calry/St. Josephs	Coolaney/Mullinabreena

Games Played 2022

Competition	Games Played	Walkover	To be played
West Division Spring League	16	0	0
South Division Spring League	11	0	0
North Division Spring League	14	2	0
East Division Spring League	15	1	0
South West Division Jun Spring League	9	2	0
North East Division Jun Spring League	11	0	0
Division 1	37	0	0
Division 2	37	0	0
Division 3	35	1	0
Division 4A	18	4	0
Division 4B	13	3	0
Division 4C	12	4	0
SFC	26	0	0
IFC	26	0	0
JAFC	16	0	0
JBFC	29	6	0
Dermot Molloy Hurling League	13	3	0
Donal Kirby U19 Memorial Cup	4	0	0
Martin Brennan Cup	0	0	1
SHC	12	3	0
Under 21A	5	0	0
Under 21B	7	0	1
Under 19A	12	6	0
Under 19B	9	4	0
Under 19C	12	0	0



Sligo GAA Handball Report 2022

County Board 2022

2022 has been a very successful and historic year for Sligo Handball Ballymote's Cormac Finn created history in March by becoming the first player from Sligo to ever win the Four Wall minor championship. On his way to the title he had wins over Galway Roscommon and Armagh before his epic showdown with Kilkenny's Kyle Jordan in Kingscourt Cavan. In an epic game Cormac prevailed in a thrilling tie break win to bring the minor title back to Sligo for the first time. In September Cormac followed up his success in the small court by claiming the Big Alley Minor Title in another thrilling tie break win also against Kilkenny's Kyle Jordan to bridge a 58 year gap since the title was last one by Ballymote's Marcus Henry.



Sligo's Juveniles also had great success this year winning 7 Connacht titles. Ballymote, Drumcliffe, Castleconnor and Collooney Handball Clubs were all successful in bringing back

Juvenile Titles to the County. Colin Finn (Ballymote) and Travis Gibbons (Collooney) were defeated in the U.14 All Ireland Juvenile Semi Finals while Oran McNulty and Andoni Oskoz (Drumcliffe) were defeated in the U.15 Semi Final. In Schools Handball, Marc Percy had great success in the Cumman na Mbunscol series claiming the u.11 Connacht Title.



Karly Cooney and Daragh Bourke (Castleconnor) also had an outstanding year in the small court with Karly Cooney reaching the girls u.17 All Ireland Final and Daragh Bourke claiming the boys 17&UB national title.

In the adult grades Josian Oskoz and Clieve Slevin won the Connacht masters B title, while Laura Finn won the ladies B small alley Connacht Title and reached the All Ireland Intermediate Big Alley Final. Laura also represented Sligo in the Senior Big Alley Championship losing out in the quarter final stage.



In March of this year the Sligo Handball community were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden and untimely passing of our friend Gerry Coleman.

Gerry had given so much of his time to handball in County Sligo. He was to the fore of organising and promoting handball in the county and province, regularly organising tournaments for both adults and juveniles. He always had an encouraging word or comment and was always willing to help anyone. He will continue to bring a smile to all Handball players and sports people when he is thought of or his name crops up in conversation.

As a tribute to Gerry, The Gerry Coleman Memorial tournament was held in glorious sunshine in August at Cully Handball alley with 38 players from 7 counties taking part a fitting tribute to the man. The inaugural winners were the pairing of Cormac Finn and Drumcliffe's Oran McNulty.

We would like to thank Sligo Gaa, all the various local social media pages, Ocean FM and the local newspapers for their continued support.

COISTE IOMÁNA

Ronan Watters Slán agus buíochas

Every year brings changes, and our first duty is to say goodbye and thank you to old friends. Dónal Tully made a significant contribution to Sligo hurling as coach for three seasons. His meticulous attention to detail in preparing and executing drills is acknowledged as well as his ability to listen to players' own ideas. Lee Sherlock spent a similar length of time with the panel and apart from his professional duties as Physio, Lee too became involved in drills, particularly the warmup and physical fitness aspects. We wish both men the best as they take different paths and acknowledge their contribution.

Pádraig Mannion has the task of creating a new team around him for the coming season while dealing with the inevitable changes that every year brings to any panel.

Once again, the County Committee were very supportive of hurling and the code is becoming increasingly popular and some kid's first choice. Easkey has won three in a row but the efforts at underage are sowing the seeds for future king makers with Western Gaels one to watch for the future. The success of the Summerhill College team this year is encouraging.

Former Senior Panel member Edwin Mullane has won a Connacht medal in Scor sinsir with a bilingual poem penned and delivered by himself.

Sligo Senior hurlers maintained Christy Ring status despite some inconsistent performances. The team is encountering stiffer opposition by reason of their own success over recent years with the commitment required greater with each passing season.

Sligo Senior Hurling Championship

Final: Easkey 3-18, Naomh Eoin 1-10 (October 23)

Easkey hit new heights when a powerfully collective display gave them a 14-point win, 3-18 to 1-10, in last Sunday's Sligo Senior Hurling Championship final. Naomh Eoin, beaten for the third successive decider by this stunning collection of talented hurlers from west Sligo neighbours Easkey and St Farnan's, will hope that they never again underperform as they unexpectedly did at Markievicz Park.

In what was their fifth consecutive county final, Naomh Eoin will yearn for a return of the pizzazz they exuded in 2019 when they were champions for the first and so far only time (beating Easkey by three points). At no stage did they look like dethroning the champions here, with Easkey inspired by the finishing of inside forwards Andrew Kilcullen and Thomas

Cawley, scorers of 2-7 and 1-5 respectively. In many ways this felt as bad as last year's setback for Naomh Eoin, whose defeat in the 2021 decider was by a margin of 20 points.

Easkey's Andrew Kilcullen, who scored a goal in each half, as well as deftly pointing from a sideline ball, displayed all the acumen that earned him a place on this year's GAA Christy Ring, Nickey Rackard & Lory Meagher Team of the Year. Easkey knew that if they got a return from Kilcullen then they'd be in business. But they weren't solely reliant on the Sligo hurler – Thomas Cawley was just as menacing. Dónall Hanley, part of an ultra-industrious half-back line along with Fionn Connolly and Eoghan Rua McGowan, chipped in with two points, as did centre-forward Rory McHugh, who had a goal chance on target in the first-half. Hanley, later named Player of the Match, helped create Easkey's opening goal – the final ball over the top from Joe McHugh found its way to Andrew Kilcullen, whose deadly shot made it 1-7 to 0-2 after 23 minutes.



Easkey were at full throttle now against a Naomh Eoin side who never got out of first gear. A brace of pointed frees from Tony O'Kelly-Lynch – Naomh Eoin's best player and top scorer on the day – had the finalists within a point of Easkey, 0-3 to 0-2, by the 11th minute. This was the closest that Naomh Eoin got, with the Sligo town outfit fortunate that Easkey's Joe McHugh fizzed a goal shot wide in the opening minutes. A fine point from Dónall Hanley was the first of unanswered nine scores from the champions, who landed 2-7 to be 14 points up, 2-10 to 0-2, with 30 minutes on the clock. Easkey's second goal came after 27 minutes. Andrew Kilcullen's point attempt came off the upright and Thomas Cawley reacted sharply as any corner-forward should – he picked up the loose ball and went through to finish expertly.

In first-half stoppage time, Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch's only score – a point from play – and a third free from his brother, Tony, providing a fleeting respite for a besieged Naomh Eoin. Easkey were fiercely ferocious in all sectors – for example the midfield

partnership of Finnian Cawley and Niall Kilcullen and Mikey Gordon at wing-forward. Defensively, the likes of team captain Bernard Feeney and Gavin Connolly were setting the tone with big interceptions and assured clearances. Naomh Eoin had nowhere to go and no-one to turn to.

Given the interval score line, there was a subdued atmosphere when the game resumed. Tony O'Kelly-Lynch fired over the opening score of the second half – another pointed free – but Easkey remained in total control and clipped over good points from Thomas Cawley and Dónall Hanley.

A good point from Naomh Eoin's Darragh Cawley was lost in the gloom that had already surrounded their terrible day at the office. Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch, now at full-forward, kept toiling and winning frees and Tony O'Kelly-Lynch was taking what scores he could. But it was all in vain. Easkey's third goal only served to enhance Naomh Eoin's misery. Rory McHugh's goal shot was only parried by Naomh Eoin goalkeeper Kevan Brennan and the rebound was popped into the net by a pouncing Andrew Kilcullen.

A fourth Easkey goal was prevented when Kevan Brennan brilliantly turned Thomas Cawley's goal bound piledriver over for what was the winners' 16th point. The Sea Blues tacked on further points through Andrew Kilcullen and Rory McHugh. Naomh Eoin, who should welcome a fifth O'Kelly-Lynch, Robert, into their senior team next year, found a measure of consolation at the end when they scored 1-1. Tony O'Kelly-Lynch converted a '65' for his eighth point and substitute Edwin Mullane, who is also a Trojan worker on behalf of St Molaise Gaels GAA Club, netted a close-range goal.

Later on Sunday evening, Mullane won the recitation/storytelling category at Connacht GAA's Scór Sinsir competition. But one great story had already been told – Easkey's latest hurling success.

Player of the Match: Dónall Hanley

Easkey: Jimmy Gordon, Bernard Feeney, Gavin Connolly, Daniel Rolston, Fionn Connolly, Eoghain Rua McGowan, Dónall Hanley (0-2), Finnian Cawley (0-1), Niall Kilcullen, Mikey Gordon (0-1), Rory McHugh (0-2), James Weir, Thomas Cawley (1-5), Andrew Kilcullen (2-7, 4f, 1 sideline), Joe McHugh

Subs used: Shane Molloy, Ronan Molloy, Fionn Moylan, Hayden Gilroy, Harry O'Donnell

Naomh Eoin: Kevan Brennan, Arthur Wall, Cathal Jordan, Donal Keaveny, Fergal O'Kelly-Lynch, Niall Feehily, Donal Fidgeon, Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch (0-1), Darragh Cawley (0-1), Tony O'Kelly-Lynch (0-8, 7f, 1 '65'), Ryan Feehily, Paul O'Brien, Liam O'Kelly-Lynch, Paul Kilcoyne, Joe Carroll

Subs used: Michael Munnely, Ethan Scully, Edwin Mullane (1-0), Thomas Davis

Referee: Gus Chapman

MINOR

Sligo's U17 hurlers regained the Michael Feery trophy that they last won in 2018 when a late Robert O'Kelly Lynch point was enough to edge out Mayo in a thrilling finale at Markievicz Park.

Sligo: Thomas Hargadon, Eoghan Durkan, Conor White, Corey O'Dowd, Diarmaid Dunleavy, Neil Kelly, Michael Costigan, Michael Carroll, Conor Lang, Patrick Walsh (0-2), Robert O'Kelly Lynch (0-1), Jack Feeney, Adam Rolston (0-3), Ciarán Keenan (0-4f), Donnchadh O'Brien (1-1)

Subs used: Thomas Sheridan, Oisín Henessy, Joseph Mc Caughey, Matthew Percy .

Panel players: Cathal Hughes, Oisín Whelan, Marc Gray, Shane O'Loughlin, Cormac Vereker, Jack Mc Daniel, Rory Connellan, Harry Cawley, Shane Mc Donagh, Daniel Tiernan, Adam Kearns, Tadhg Doggett, Thomas Kinane.



AHL Division 2B

Round One: Derry 2-14, Sligo 1-14 (February 5)

IT TURNS out that Division 2B of the Allianz Hurling League isn't that mysterious after all. Just like Division 3B and Division 3A, sections that Sligo's Senior hurlers won in the last two years, if you play well, you usually win and if you make mistakes you'll be punished. Sligo lost their Division 2B opener last Saturday at Celtic Park, Derry, but ought not to have. In difficult weather conditions and on a tricky playing surface, Sligo fell by three points, 2-14 to 1-14, with hosts Derry just doing enough. The winners were helped enormously by a brace of goals that came against the run of play and from sluggish Sligo defending.

It also helped that they had a lethal free-taker, Cormac O'Doherty, who supplied a solid 0-8. The visitors, who struggled in the second period after sparkling to varying degrees during a wind-assisted first half, were facing a six-point reversal as second-half stoppage time was almost elapsed. Then an infringement on second-half substitute Tony O'Kelly-Lynch saw Sligo awarded a penalty and a black card issued to Derry centre-back Richie Mullan. Tony's brother Gerard zipped the penalty into Derry's net for his 13th score. Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch ended up with 1-12 – a dozen converted frees and that polished penalty conversion. The centre-forward was one of only two scorers for Sligo at a venue that is close to Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium, home of Derry City. Sligo's other scorer was Andrew Kilcullen, who landed a point from play in each half.

Of the five counties they'll take on this year in Division 2B, Derry were the one side that Sligo had prior knowledge of – they met last July in the semi-final of the Christy Ring Cup. Ten of Sligo's starting XV at Celtic Park featured in that fixture, one that Derry won, with Derry's team last Saturday including eight players who started against Sligo in 2021.

Despite bolstered by first-hand knowledge of what Derry would be like, Sligo had to deal with various factors outside their control. An ankle injury ruled full-back Niall Feehily out – it is expected that he won't be available for another few weeks – the defence was further weakened by wing-back Gavin Connolly being unavailable.

Then there was the atrocious weather – conditions so bad at times that you wouldn't put your dog out in, although one Sligo supporter, Michael Gordon, was at the venue with his two dogs, although they had stand to take shelter in. Wind-assisted for the first-half, perhaps Sligo took a gamble by playing with the elements in the first period.

Then again, with Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch landing a brace of early frees and Andy Kilcullen pointing neatly from play after getting Conor Hannify's pass, Sligo seemed hungry and resolute. There was also meticulous defending from Rory McHugh and Michael Munnely to squeeze a Derry attack in the opening five minutes. Giving away a goal after eight minute was a real kick. Derry full-forward Gerald Bradley exploited a defensive lapse to erase the deficit.

That goal was followed by a Cormac O'Doherty free that put Derry in front, 1-1 to 0-3. Sligo regained their composure, Mark Hannify was getting more assured at full-back and a fifth pointed free from Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch put Sligo a point up, 0-6 to

1-2, by the 17th minute. It was worrying that Sligo had five wides with 21 minutes played as they needed daylight between themselves and their opponents with the wind against them in the second-half.

Then Derry netted again. For a Sligo perspective it was scrappy and frustrating, from Derry's viewpoint it was a nice goal by Tiarnan McHugh. Derry then found themselves three points clear, 2-3 to 0-6, after Gerald Bradley pointed from play. At least Sligo got their act together for the remainder of the half and four points without reply – all frees scored by Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch – gave them a one-point lead, 0-10 to 2-3, before the interval.

Considering their first-half possession, scoring chances created and the fact that they were wind-assisted, this slim lead was inadequate. Derry, delighted to have been let off the hook, went for the jugular. Wing-back Micheál McGrath's point within 60 seconds of the restart set the tone.

Another point from Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch – his 10th – brought Sligo level, 0-11 to 2-5, by the 43rd minute. This was the last time that Sligo would be level and, indeed, they were never in front during a second-half that saw them outscored, 0-11 to 1-4. Derry pulled five points clear by the 52nd minute, 2-10 to 0-11, after a series of unanswered scores. The Celtic Park floodlights were switched on at this stage, just as Sligo's collective light was dimming fast.

Sligo were struggling, in terms of shape and purpose, although Andrew Kilcullen had a goal shot blocked after substitute Tony O'Kelly-Lynch created the chance. With 10 minutes of normal time left Sligo landed a 13th point. Ironically, it was probably their finest move – a combination Patrick Foley's work, Kevin Gilmartin's flick and Andrew Kilcullen's finish. But this was a rare spark in an otherwise flat second-half.

In the wind and rain it got worse as Derry's advantage increased to six points. Sligo, who have Donegal to face this Sunday at Markievicz Park, took the edge off Derry's lead when Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch goaled from a penalty deep into stoppage time.

All things considered, Sligo should have done more.

Sligo (v Derry): Matthew Davey, Niall Kilcullen, Mark Hannify, Kevin O'Kennedy, Finnian Cawley, Rory McHugh, Fionn Connolly, Michael Munnely, Patrick Foley, Eoin Comerford, Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch (1-12, 12f, 1-0 pen), Conor Hannify, Joe McHugh, Andrew Kilcullen (0-2), Kevin Gilmartin

Subs used: Tony O'Kelly-Lynch, Thomas Cawley, Liam O'Kelly-Lynch

Round Two: Sligo 2-14, Donegal 1-19 (February 13)

FOR the second week in succession Sligo's senior hurlers came up short in an Allianz Hurling League fixture. After losing by three points away to Derry – a game they could have won – Sligo fell by two points at home to Donegal last Sunday, falling by 1-19 to 2-14 in difficult weather conditions at Markievicz Park. Once again, Sligo should have done better. Despite the boost of a goal after two minutes from top scorer Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch, who would end up shooting 1-6, with Michael Munnelly netting in the 14th minute, Sligo trailed by two points at half-time, 1-12 to 2-7.

Donegal finished with 13 players because of red cards in the last 10 minutes for Sean McVeigh and Declan Coulter but it was the game's other red card that turned matters. Sligo midfielder Patrick Foley, generally quiet here as he had been in Derry, was shown a straight red in the 40th minute.

The home side were five points down when Foley made the lonely walk, 1-15 to 2-7, and the gap later increased to six as Donegal replied strongly after Sligo wing back Fionn Connolly, who was excellent throughout, briefly lifted the siege with a fine score. Sligo kept battling, however, and Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch slotted over four frees. A second booking for Sean McVeigh left Donegal at 14 players and Sligo squeezed the deficit with a pointed free by substitute Kieran Prior.

Sligo, who will regret 12 wides, eight of which came in the second half, at least made matters competitive for much of the second period. Donegal were 1-17 to 2-8 in front after 50 minutes but could only muster two further points.

The sides cancelled each other out for large sections of the first half. Sligo goaled twice through Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch, who punished an error from Donegal goalkeeper Luke White, and Michael Munnelly, whose finish came from a rebound after a shot by team captain Finnian Cawley was saved. Donegal's best phase in the opening period was when they reacted to conceding an early goal – a response that included points from Limerick native Richie Ryan and a goal by Ronan McDermott, their leading scorer on the day.

Sligo, who got a much-needed point from distance by Rory McHugh, almost netted for a third time in the first-half. It would have been a class score, too, with Kevin Gilmartin sending a flick goalwards after a neat exchange of passes with Andrew Kilcullen. But Gilmartin's effort went over the crossbar, instead of under, and Donegal breathed a little easier.

Sligo (v Donegal): Matt Davey, Niall Kilcullen, Mark Hanniffy, Kevin O'Kennedy, Gavin Connolly (0-1), Rory McHugh (0-1), Fionn Connolly (0-1), Finnian Cawley, Patrick Foley, Michael Munnelly (1-0), Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch (1-6, 6f), Conor Hanniffy, Joe McHugh (0-1), Andrew Kilcullen (0-1), Kevin Gilmartin (0-2)

Subs used: Thomas Cawley, Tony O'Kelly-Lynch, Kieran Prior (0-1, 1f)

Round Three: Sligo 1-24, London 1-15 (February 27)

IT TOOK them three games but Sligo's senior hurlers finally gave a display to remind us why they are competing at this level. Boosted by another typical scoring burst from Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch, who scored 0-10 here to bring his tally after three fixtures to 2-28, with Rory McHugh also masterful at centre-back and Thomas Cawley finding his form with a memorable tally of 1-4, Sligo merited their 1-24 to 1-15 win over London on Sunday last.

In an Allianz Hurling League Division 2B fixture that was moved from Markievicz Park to the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence at Began, Sligo redeemed themselves for those losses away to Derry and at home to Donegal. Sadly, these were games that Sligo could have won. Sligo were hungrier, feistier and more productive – there were five new scorers and, with five of the six starting forwards on target, as well as the two midfielders, the reliance on top scorer Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch (called 'Gerry' by some of the Sligo subs) was lessened.

Aside from the classy contributions from Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch, Rory McHugh and Thomas Cawley, there were other notable performers, including Mark Hanniffy, Fionn Connolly and Joe McHugh.

There were two considerable moments, one in each half, that decided a contest which produced four red cards – three for London and one for Sligo. Firstly, the 23rd minute red card for London livewire Ronan Crowley, who was punished for an off the ball challenge on Sligo's Michael Munnely, removed one of the visitors' major influences. At that stage Ronan Crowley had already bagged 0-6 and was proving the key performer for London, whose midfielder Jack Goulding was also excellent.

London were 0-8 to 0-5 up when corner-forward Ronan Crowley left the fray. They ended the first-half just two points up, 0-12 to 0-10, after a wind-assisted opening period. Secondly, Sligo's goal – a 49th minute score – put the eventual winners firmly in the driving seat during a second period when they were backed by the wind.

This decisive moment stemmed from a long-range free by Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch. The ball came off the upright and Thomas Cawley, an alert, sniping presence, swept home the rebound. That goal, one of four second-half scores that the number 15 supplied, put Sligo five points up, 1-16 to 0-14. Within 60 seconds a neatly taken point from Rory McHugh further settled Sligo.

A red card after 53 minutes for Sligo defender Niall Kilcullen, with London's Brendan McCarry also being dismissed because of his involvement in the same off the ball incident, threatened to impact Sligo's growing control. Brendan McCarry was another of London's better forwards and so the Exiles were additionally hampered.

Although 14-man Sligo increased their lead against London's 13 men, there was still a flutter of panic when London wing-back Richard Lombard rumbled through for a goal that cut the difference to five points, 1-20 to 1-15, with four minutes of normal time left. Sligo's reponse was to shoot four unanswered points, including a big score from midfielder Finnian Cawley, and an excellent effort by Ruairi Brennan, one of five substitutes used in the second half.

London finished with 12 players because of a second booking for substitute Mark Lawless in stoppage time. Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch then wrapped up his, Sligo's and the game's scoring with his 10th point when he converted a '65'. Sligo, who were never in front during the first half, were a tad fortunate that London were profligate during that opening period, shooting nine wides.

There were a couple of goalmouth scrambles that were potentially dangerous, too. Goalkeeper Jimmy Gordon, making his first start of this AFL campaign, was required to tidy up after Fiachra O'Keeffe attempt to get a touch on a delivery from Jack Goulding. Ten minutes later there was more trouble – London centre-forward Mark Dwyer was through on goal and unleashed a shot that was blocked by Joe McHugh, who was briefly an attacker-turned-defender.

Sligo, who overturned the interval deficit to go ahead for the first time, 0-14 to 0-13, in the 42nd minute, almost goaled spectacularly in each half. Andrew Kilcullen's adroit pass set up Joe McHugh for a shot that Stephen Bardon, London's goalkeeper, saved. Late in the second-half it was Andrew Kilcullen's turn to smash a shot goalwards – Thomas Cawley with the pass – but Kilcullen's goal intent was thwarted by Stephen Bardon's brilliant stop.

Sligo (v London): Jimmy Gordon, Niall Kilcullen, Mark Hannify, Kevin O'Kennedy, Gavin Connolly, Rory McHugh (0-1), Fionn Connolly, Finnian Cawley (0-3), Tony O'Kelly-Lynch (0-2), Michael Munnely, Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch (0-10, 8f, 1 '65'), Fionn Moylan (0-1), Joe McHugh (0-1), Andrew Kilcullen (0-1), Thomas Cawley (1-4)

Subs used: Kieran Prior, Eoin Comerford, Liam O'Kelly-Lynch, Eoghan Rua McGowan, Ruairi Brennan (0-1)

Round Four: Mayo 0-19, Sligo 4-13 (March 6)

SPARKED into life by that defeat of London, Sligo's senior hurlers have found their groove again.

Last Sunday's six-point away defeat of Mayo at the home of Ballina Stephenites wasn't just a second win in four games for Pdraig Mannion's men, this was the victory that keeps Sligo in Division 2B of the Allianz Hurling League for another 12 months. Not only that, depending on round five results, but a place in the semi-final could also beckon – not bad for a side who lost their opening two games against Derry and Donegal. Central to last Sunday's important win was the two-goal contribution of substitute Tony O'Kelly-Lynch, whose brother Gerard was typically assured with an input of 1-6.

Sligo, who welcomed back Patrick Foley following his suspension, didn't have it their own way, however, as they were 0-7 to 0-2 down by the 22nd minute. Although three points from west Sligo hurlers Andrew Kilcullen, Joe McHugh and Thomas Calwey kept Sligo in touch, they needed something more impactful against last year's Nicky Rackard Cup champions.

The match-turning scores were goals from Tony O'Kelly-Lynch, who had been summoned from the bench, and Eoin Comerford. Sligo were two points clear at half-time, 2-6 to 0-10, and were thankful for goalkeeper Jimmy Gordon's smart save to deny a Mayo goal effort before the break. Patrick Foley got on the scoresheet within minutes of the restart – he pointed twice – as Sligo were gradually taking control.

By the 54th minute the winners were five points in front, 2-11 to 0-12, following further scores – this time team captain Finnian Cawley and Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch were on target. Mayo kept in touch through points from Shane Boland and Keith Higgins, the former Mayo Gaelic football ace, but a third Sligo goal – Tony O'Kelly-Lynch with his second of the day – gave Sligo room to breathe.

Going into the last 10 minutes of normal time Sligo, who were without the suspended Niall Kilcullen, who was red-carded against London, had established a seven-point advantage. Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch and Shane Boland traded points in the closing stages. Mayo briefly rallied via three points without reply, two of these came from Keith Higgins. Sligo, though, wrapped up this victory – one that they thoroughly merited – when Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch goaled.

Mayo finished with 14 players due to a red card for Paul Kirwan, who was dismissed for an off the ball incident.

Sligo (v Mayo): Jimmy Gordon, Niall Feehily, Mark Hannify, Kevin O'Kennedy, Gavin Connolly, Rory McHugh, Fionn Connolly, Finnian Cawley (0-1), Patrick Foley (0-2), Michael Munnely, Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch (1-6, 6f), Joe McHugh (0-1), Thomas Cawley (0-1), Andrew Kilcullen (0-2), Eoin Comerford (1-0)

Subs used: Tony O'Kelly-Lynch (2-0), Kevin Gilmartin, Ruairi Brennan, Liam O'Kelly-Lynch, Ronan Molloy

Round Five: Wicklow 3-17, Sligo 3-17 (March 20)

ALTHOUGH they were held to a draw last Sunday by relegation-threatened Wicklow, Sligo hurlers have qualified for this weekend's Allianz Hurling League Division 2B semi-final. Saturday's showdown away to Donegal gives Pdraig Mannion's men an opportunity for redemption – and a place in the decider against Derry – as they lost to Donegal last month.

Sligo went to Aughrim knowing that they had to better London's result – London, as it turned out, were blitzed by Derry, who won 0-25 to 0-9 – meaning that a draw was sufficient. Easkey's Andrew Kilcullen led the way for Sligo, scoring 1-10, but it was Wicklow who secured a share of the spoils with an equalising goal in stoppage time from Kieran Conway. Energised by their recent wins over London and Mayo, a purposeful Sligo zoomed out in front and were 1-3 to 0-0 ahead inside the opening five minutes. Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch, the team's top scorer in this year's Allianz Hurling League, scored Sligo's early goal.

Sligo later stretched their lead to six points – with Andrew Kilcullen landing a couple of frees – but a good spell from Wicklow, one that delivered three unanswered points, kept Sligo on their toes. The visitors then took over and scored 1-5 without reply – full-forward Andrew Kilcullen was responsible for 1-4 – to lead by 11 points, 2-10 to 0-5, with half an hour played.

A third goal for Sligo, thanks to team captain Finnian Cawley, put Sligo in a strong position at half-time. With their interval lead at 11 points, 3-10 to 0-8, Sligo's management opted to take off Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch and Patrick Foley. A point after the restart from Ruairi Brennan extended the gap to 12 points but this one just one of seven scores that Sligo would manage in the second period.

Wicklow revived themselves when Kieran Conway goaled and they got more involved as the second-half progressed and scored a second goal through John Toomey. Rory McHugh was among Sligo's scorers in the second half. Andrew Kilcullen's 10th point left four points between the teams, 3-17 to 2-16, but Wicklow would shoot the last two scores – a point from John Doyle and Kieran Conway's goal, his second, to level things up.

Sligo (v Wicklow): Jimmy Gordon, Niall Kilcullen, Mark Hannify, Kevin O'Kennedy, Gavin Connolly, Rory McHugh (0-2), Niall Feehily, Finnian Cawley (1-1), Patrick Foley, Tony O'Kelly-Lynch, Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch (1-0), Joe McHugh, Ruairi Brennan (0-1), Andrew Kilcullen (1-10, 5f, 1 '65'), Thomas Cawley (0-2)

Subs used: Michael Munnely, Conor Hannify (0-1), Fionn Connolly, Eoin Comerford

Semi-final: Donegal 1-19, Sligo 1-20 (March 26)

IN GRADUALLY turning Sligo into a hurling county, Sligo's senior hurlers are putting their fans through the wringer. Their latest dramatic one-point win was last Saturday's 1-20 to 1-19 defeat of Donegal in an Allianz Hurling League Division 2B semi-final at Letterkenny's O'Donnell Park.

For sheer edge-of-the-seat unbearable tension, this fixture was up there with those tightrope one-point victories over Armagh (in the 2019 Nicky Rackard Cup final) and Roscommon (last year's Christy Ring Cup quarter-final). A brilliant second-half recovery in Letterkenny, with the Padraig Mannion-managed Sligo overturning an interval deficit of six points, 1-10 to 0-7, has propelled the county into a fourth successive Allianz Hurling League final.

Beaten finalists and then champions of Division 3B, followed by silverware in Division 3A and now a Division 2B decider, this is a team on the up. Add in Lory Meagher Cup and Nicky Rackard Cup triumphs, this is wonderful progress. Still, Sligo played in the first-half as if they had forgotten how to hurl and how to perform. Bossed in the midfield, Sligo were guilty of cheap turnovers, hesitancy and losing breaks.

Instead of a fast-paced game where they needed to move the ball wide and direct – into the lethal Andrew Kilcullen – Sligo often got bogged down in the clutter, therefore playing into the hands of the physically imposing Donegal. Sligo were missing chances, too, and missed the potential influence of midfielder Patrick Foley, absent through injury.

Donegal weren't all brawn – inside forwards Daire Ó Maoileidigh and Davin Flynn were particularly elusive – and an adroit goal from Ó Maoileidigh was the catalyst for the home side's first-half control. Sligo, who were thankful for an inspirational score from team captain Finnian Cawley during Donegal's strongest spell, were eight points down coming into the closing stages of the first-half. They outscored Donegal 0-3 to 0-1 thanks to points from Thomas Cawley, Ruairí Brennan and Rory McHugh.

To say that Sligo were transformed in the second half would be an understatement. Rory McHugh began to impose himself, so too Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch, corner-back Niall Kilcullen grew into proceedings and substitute Conor Hanniffy, who scored three points, made an invaluable contribution. Sligo's mighty turnaround might have come sooner if a bullet from Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch found Donegal's net instead of fizzing inches wide.

Improving Sligo, who outscored their opponents in that second period, 1-13 to 0-9, brought the margin down to a point but three unanswered points from the hosts left five between them with 10 minutes remaining. With the players that Sligo have, there's always hope, however. Conor Hanniffy deserved a goal after a storming run but his effort was well-saved by Donegal goalkeeper Luke White.

But the rebound was gobbled up by Andrew Kilcullen, whose goal turned the tide. Points from Conor Hanniffy and Andrew Kilcullen (2) then put Sligo in front for the first time in the second-half. They were previously ahead after two minutes – it was a long 65 minutes until the advantage was regained. Davin Flynn's equaliser for Donegal – his eighth point – kept matters in the balance as it was now 1-18 apiece. Conor Hanniffy's third point and Joe McHugh's wonder score put Sligo two points clear and despite another point from Donegal, their 19th, Sligo done enough.

Sligo (v Donegal): Jimmy Gordon, Niall Kilcullen, Mark Hanniffy, Kevin O'Kennedy, Gavin Connolly, Rory McHugh (0-1), Niall Feehily, Finnian Cawley (0-1), Fionn Connolly, Joe McHugh (0-2), Gerard O'Kelly Lynch (0-1, 1f), Kevin Gilmartin (0-1), Ruairi Brennan (0-1), Andrew Kilcullen (1-6, 3f), Thomas Cawley (0-3)

Subs used: Tony O'Kelly Lynch (0-1), Conor Hanniffy (0-3), Michael Munnelly

Final: Derry 1-23, Sligo 2-15 (April 2)

Are DERRY becoming Sligo's bogey team? Sligo had already lost twice in the last year to the Ulster county and last Saturday's clash – the Allianz Hurling League Division 2B final – followed a similar vein. Sligo were competitive, as determined as ever, but there were only fleeting moments when one felt that Padraig Mannion's men might get the better of the team in red. Having deservedly risen up through the Allianz Hurling League levels, with back-to-back promotions prior to this year's debut in Division 2B, Sligo had inflicted their fast, silky-skilled game on others.

Here, the venue being Ederney in Co. Fermanagh, they were bossed around. Derry's goal inside the opening five minutes – full-forward Odhran McKeever with an unstoppable shot – was the game's telling score. Furthermore, the winners were never once behind. The only time they looked a little panicky was in the final minutes of the first half when a mini-revival from Sligo, the highlight of which was a simply brilliant goal from Niall wing-back Feehily, helped make it a one-point game at half-time, 1-8 to 1-7. Derry still ahead, of course.



At one stage in the second-half Derry extended their lead to seven points, 1-17 to 1-10, and appeared in cruised control – until Sligo found a way back, with Patrick Foley's introduction a major help. Although losing by five points, 1-23 to 2-15, Sligo might have made it a closer finish or, indeed, forced extra-time had they goaled from a penalty in the second minute of added time.

Revived through Joe McHugh's superb goal – the Easkey man was a potent force in the second-half and scored 1-3 in all – Sligo still looked to have left it too late. Then a foul on Joe McHugh led to a goal chance for substitute Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch, who fizzed the penalty over Derry's crossbar for Sligo's 15th point and their 17th score.

Talisman Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch, who is carrying an injury, wasn't deemed fit enough to start. Minus the Naomh Eoin star, Sligo looked to Andrew Kilcullen, who smoothly delivered half a dozen points, while Conor Hanniffy, selected at centre-forward in place of Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch, and Joe McHugh eventually stood up to the furnace. But three of Sligo's starting forwards failed to score and three substitutes brought on as attackers didn't do any better.

Finnian Cawley got through an awful amount of graft in midfield. Defensively Sligo did OK, with Rory McHugh and Mark Hanniffy the standout performers. Still, it is strange to think that Sligo conceded 24 scores – eight of which were placed balls from midfielder Cormac O'Doherty – and might have taken something from this game.

Honestly, it could have been a hiding – Derry had 16 wides and would have had two more goals but for a brace of wonder saves from Sligo goalkeeper Jimmy Gordon. Sligo have every right to consider what a fully fit Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch might have brought to this particular party, with him starting, and Patrick Foley in from the start would also change things. Sligo's shooting was awry, too. They missed 11 chances.

Lots to improve upon ahead of the Christy Ring Cup campaign where, you've guessed it, they'll meet Derry – the bogeymen are coming to Markievicz Park on Saturday week, April 16.

Sligo (v Derry): Jimmy Gordon, Niall Kilcullen, Mark Hanniffy, Kevin O'Kennedy, Gavin Connolly, Rory McHugh (0-1), Niall Feehily (1-0), Finnian Cawley (0-1), Fionn Connolly, Joe McHugh (1-3), Conor Hanniffy (0-3), Kevin Gilmartin, Ruairi Brennan, Andy Kilcullen (0-6, 4f), Thomas Cawley

Subs used: Tony O'Kelly-Lynch, Michael Munnelly, Patrick Foley, Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch (0-1, pen), Eoin Comerford

Christy Ring Cup

Round One: London 0-26, Sligo 0-21 (April 9)

SLIGO hurlers will reflect on this game as a result that got away. The Allianz Hurling League 2B finalists were in London last Saturday, looking to get their Christy Ring Cup campaign off to a winning start. Backed by the wind in the first-half and having twice established a nine-point lead, 0-12 to 0-3 and 0-14 to 0-5, things were looking especially good for Padraig Mannion's charges. But matters turned spectacularly against the visitors as they found their advantage eroded although they still merited an interval advantage of five points, 0-15 to 0-10.

They ended up losing by five points, 0-26 to 0-21, despite full-forward Andrew Kilcullen giving another exhibition of accuracy – this time his contribution was 0-10, following on from recent tallies of 1-10, 1-6 and 0-6 in his last three Allianz Hurling League appearances. The alarm bells were ringing, however, and Sligo goalkeeper Jimmy Gordon's stop of London talisman Ronan Crowley's penalty – a fine save – should have been the catalyst for Sligo to push on. But it was London who reeled off

a series of points in the closing minutes of the first half. London, who last played in this competition in 2019, having been unable to participate because of Covid-19 restrictions, were also glad that Sligo struck seven wides in the opening period.

The home side were transformed in the second half as Ronan Crowley emerged as their main threat – he supplied a dozen points in all. London edged in front inside the first 15 minutes of the second half. Andrew Kilcullen's scores brought Sligo level, but London rediscovered their gallop in the final minutes. Of course, Sligo knew that London would be capable opponents, although winners by nine points when the sides met in February at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence – that Allianz Hurling League fixture turning once Ronan Crowley was red-carded after 23 minutes.

Sligo, for whom Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch and Thomas Cawley were also on target with fine scores in England's capital, can't wallow following this loss – they welcome Derry to Markievicz Park this Sunday (2pm). Sligo have already played Derry on two occasions this year, both clashes in the Allianz Hurling League, and both victories for the Ulster County. On the Saturday before last Sligo lost to Derry in the AHL Division 2B decider.

Sligo (v London): Jimmy Gordon, Niall Kilcullen, Mark Hanniffy, Kevin O'Kennedy, Gavin Connolly, Rory McHugh (0-1), Niall Feehily, Finnian Cawley, Fionn Connolly, Patrick Foley (0-1), Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch (0-4, 1f, 1 '65'), Conor Hanniffy (0-2), Joe McHugh, Andrew Kilcullen (0-10, 8f), Thomas Cawley (0-3)

Subs used: Michael Munnely, Ruairi Brennan, Kevin Gilmartin

Round Two: Sligo 0-11, Derry 2-20 (April 17)

NOT since last July's hammering at the hands of Offaly have Sligo looked this out of sorts.

Last Sunday's 2-20 to 0-11 humbling against Derry, in a second round Christy Ring Cup fixture at Markievicz Park, was all about Sligo's surprising and worrying second-half collapse. Sligo, who lost to Derry by five points on April 2 in the Allianz Hurling League Division 2B decider, only managed three points in the second period and conceded 14 scores (1-13) against opponents who are favourites to contest the Christy Ring Cup final along with Kildare. While Derry never looked like getting close to that frightening tally of 2-39 that Offaly, the former Liam MacCarthy Cup winners, managed at Markievicz Park in 2021, the Ulster County were almost unstoppable in the second-half here.

Derry's awesome second period was triggered by a goal on the stroke of half-time when Gerard Bradley zipped a goal – from Odhran McKeever's pass – to put the visitors 1-7 to 0-8 ahead. They didn't even deserve to be in front, having played second fiddle to Sligo throughout the well-contested first-half, and Derry remained ahead for the entire second half.

Before Derry's goal came following a controversial decision at the other end when a long-range shot from Conor Hanniffy looked to have split the posts. The umpires didn't agree, despite referee Caymon Flynn double-checking with them, and it was waved wide.

This was one of eight first-half wides for Sligo, who were similarly punished for being profligate the weekend before when they shot seven first-half wides away to London. The first-half saw both sides miss chances and being guilty of giving up possession. Sligo, breeze-assisted, were industrious all over the pitch and this work-rate was eventually transferred to the scoreboard.

Derry twice led in the opening stages, 0-1 to 0-0 and 0-2 to 0-1, and almost worked a goal when Richie Mullan set up Gerard Bradley, only for Sligo full-back Mark Hanniffy to defuse the potential explosion in the goalmouth by flicking the ball clear.

With 22 minutes gone, excellent points from the Cawley brothers, Thomas and Finnian, had Sligo 0-6 to 0-4 ahead. The hosts' tally also included converted frees from Andrew Kilcullen and Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch as well as Joe McHugh's tidy point from play. Sligo needed to be further ahead but, considering they had lost to Derry on three occasions since July of last year, having any sort of lead against the team in red was a positive.

Derry were still a threat but Sligo were still in front, 0-8 to 0-7, with matters just past the half-hour mark – Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch had tacked on a further two points, including a nice effort from play after getting a pass from Andrew Kilcullen. Derry's goal threw a spanner into the works but within five minutes of the restart Sligo were just a point behind, 1-8 to 0-10, after scores from Andrew Kilcullen and Michael Munnelly.

Then Sligo's machine began to splutter and grind to a halt. Their recent schedule has been relentless – this was their fifth game in five weeks – and, although this is a debate for another day, their squad depth is being exposed by such a punishing sequence of big games. Derry turned up the heat – Richie Mullan lashed over a goal shot and Deaghlan Foley's goalbound effort was kept out by Sligo goalkeeper Jimmy Gordon. Derry's second goal – Odhran McKeever's booming 57th minute shot from Deaghlan Foley's clever assist – put 12 points between the teams, 2-16 to 0-10.

Sadly it was all over, even with 13 minutes of normal time remaining. A clear sign of Sligo struggles was the substitution of the usually magical full-forward Andrew Kilcullen. The Easkey man, who bagged 2-32 in his four previous appearances, failed to score from play and only managed 0-2 in all (both frees).

Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch had to try for a goal with a late free from close-range – Derry's defenders deflected the effort for a '65' – and Sligo's 11th point, a good score from Michael Munnelly, came 34 minutes after their 10th, also scored by Munnelly. It was just one of those awful days.

Sligo (v Derry): Jimmy Gordon, Niall Kilcullen, Mark Hanniffy, Kevin O'Kennedy, Gavin Connolly, Rory McHugh, Niall Feehily, Finnian Cawley (c) (0-1), Michael Munnelly (0-2), Patrick Foley, Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch (0-4, 3f), Conor Hanniffy, Joe McHugh (0-1), Andy Kilcullen (0-2, 2f), Thomas Cawley (0-1)

Subs used: Tony O'Kelly-Lynch, Eoin Comerford, Kevin Gilmartin, Ronan Forkin, Fionn Connolly, Eoghan Rua McGowan

Round Three: Sligo 4-24, Wicklow 1-14 (April 23)

A HINT of how well last Saturday went for Sligo's senior hurlers is that 17 minutes into their 4-24 to 1-14 hammering of Wicklow they had 1-9 on the scoreboard. For the entirety of their 70+ minutes against Derry the previous weekend, Sligo only managed 11 points. Here, against a weak Wicklow, they were on fire, which was a welcome sight after those disappointing losses in their two opening games when they fell to London and Derry. Andrew Kilcullen landed 2-8, including two first-half goals that formed part of Sligo's 2-14 to 0-5 interval lead, while Conor Hanniffy's superb contribution of eight points was another reason why Sligo were coasting.

Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch supplied five points, a typical contribution, while there were second-half goals from Joe McHugh and substitute Ruairi Brennan. If Sligo's attack clicked it was because they were given the platform to do so – Sligo were strong at midfield, where Finnian Cawley and Patrick Foley impressed, while, defensively, Mark Hanniffy, Gavin Connolly, Rory McHugh, Kevin O'Kennedy and Niall Feehily stood out.



Sligo needed this result against their fellow strugglers because they've only two games left – away to both Mayo and Kildare – in order to avoid finishing bottom and being relegated to next year's Nicky Rackard Cup. Last Saturday's victory was also Sligo's first in four games (in all competitions) as they had lost their three previous fixtures. But beating Wicklow by a margin of 19 points must be put into context – this doesn't necessarily mean that Sligo are reborn after their struggles against Derry,

Wicklow were quite poor and had to be put away. Wicklow, like Sligo, had lost their opening two games, with Derry and Mayo proving too strong for the Leinster County.

Sligo, breeze-assisted, took the game to Wicklow, clearly anxious to show that the listlessness against Derry was a one-off. Within the opening 12 minutes Sligo had scored 0-8, with no answer from Wicklow, a series of scores that began after 32 seconds when Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch converted a free. Thomas Cawley's excellent point after six minutes – from Rory McHugh's pass – was the best of Sligo's early scores, with midfielder Patrick Foley landing a similarly notable score.

Wicklow's opening score – a 15th minute free from John Doyle, the first of his six points – was only a footnote, with the first of Andrew Kilcullen's goals coming two minutes later. Niall Feehily foraged upfield, harking back to his attacking roots as a forward in his younger years with Naomh Eoin, and the ball was moved to Andrew Kilcullen, who drove the ball sweetly past Cian Staunton. Sligo, now with an 11-point lead, 1-9 to 0-1, were firmly in the driving seat.

Such was Sligo's dominance that there was a shout for 'HawkEye' from the home support when a 28th minute shot from Gerard O'Kelly was deemed wide by the umpires. This was the hosts' sixth wide. The winners' second goal wrapped up this result with 33 minutes gone. A poor puck-out was seized on Thomas Cawley, who transferred possession to Andrew Kilcullen, whose rasping finish was a delight.

Sligo tacked on two further points before the break, Conor Hanniffy with a lovely strike and goalscorer Andrew Kilcullen with a pointed free, to leave them 15 points up at half-time, 2-14 to 0-5. With no indication of a potential Wicklow revival, even if the Leinster County would be backed by the breeze in the second-half, Sligo remained in a ruthless mood. Joe McHugh zipped home a 42nd minute shot for Sligo's third goal, with Conor Hanniffy having set up the score.

Then Joe's brother Rory embarked on a mazy run, expertly balancing the sliothar on the end of the hurl as he slalomed past three opponents. He was fouled and Andrew Kilcullen converted the subsequent free. There was still a bit of a fight in Wicklow and full-forward Seanie Germaine took it upon himself to right the wrongs of his teammates. He fired one ferocious shot over the crossbar, getting a point instead of a goal, and when he did get his bearings right, he was thwarted by Sligo goalkeeper Jimmy Gordon, whose instinctive save drew a roar of approval from his dad, Michael, who was watching from the stand.

Conor Hanniffy's points kept getting better, but there was a moment of worry for Sligo when injury forced the enterprising Michael Munnelly to leave the fray. Wicklow's Germaine finally got the goal he was looking for. He belted a close-range free to the net with five minutes left. There was another goal chance for the visitors but Mark Murphy's shot, which went too high, ended up being a point.

Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch was involved in Sligo's final flourish in stoppage time. He created a goal chance that was smoothly converted by substitute Ruairi Brennan and the centre-forward then clipped over a free for Sligo's 24th point and their 28th score in all.

Sligo (v Wicklow): Jimmy Gordon, Niall Kilcullen, Mark Hanniffy, Kevin O'Kennedy, Gavin Connolly, Rory McHugh, Niall Feehily, Finnian Cawley, Patrick Foley (0-2), Michael Munnely, Gearad O'Kelly-Lynch (0-5, 4f), Conor Hanniffy (0-8), Joe McHugh, Andrew Kilcullen (2-8, 7f), Thomas Cawley (0-1)

Subs used: Kevin Gilmartin, Eoghan Rua McGowan, Ruairi Brennan (1-0), Fionn Connolly, Tony O'Kelly-Lynch

Round Four: Mayo 2-24, Sligo 1-20 (May 7)

WHILE Sligo's senior hurlers lost away to Mayo in last Saturday's Christy Ring Cup round four fixture – a third defeat in four games for Pdraig Mannion's charges – the county's Christy Ring Cup status for 2023 is more than likely safe. Wicklow are still bottom of the six-team group and favourites to be relegated to next year's Nicky Rackard Cup. But Sligo are up against table-toppers Kildare this coming Saturday – with the Christy Ring Cup finalists averaging 38 points from each of their four wins so far.

Sligo must avoid a heavy defeat in Newbridge (1pm) so that they continue to have a better score difference compared to Wicklow and London – should Wicklow win against London in Ruislip. A Wicklow win at McGovern Park would leave them level on points with Sligo and London (two each), meaning score difference would decide who makes the drop.

Had Sligo won at James Stephens Park, Ballina, however, there would be no worries going into the last round, instead they fell by seven points, 2-24 to 1-20. Thanks to the excellent accuracy of top scorer Andrew Kilcullen and Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch, with Kilcullen supplying 10 of Sligo's 20 points, Sligo were ahead at the break, 0-13 to 0-12. Indeed, they deserved to be much further in front. But they couldn't build on this advantage in the second half and were outscored, 2-12 to 1-7.

Conor Hanniffy's goal – from a Mayo defensive error – restored Sligo's lead early in the second-half. But Mayo, for whom Shane Boland scored 0-13, reacted by switching Keith Higgins to full-forward. His impact turned the game for Mayo – Higgins goaled and then created a chance for Kenny Feeney, who struck sliothar into the net. These goals rattled Sligo who were still capable of firing over points through Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch and Andrew Kilcullen, with the latter denied a goal by Mayo goalkeeper Bobby Douglas.

Sligo were left to consider what this Saturday will bring and what sort of combination of results/scores elsewhere might prove awkward. Sligo's score different is currently minus compared, much better than London (-28) and Wicklow (-61). This

win puts Mayo in the frame for the Christy Ring Cup final – they are in Castlebar for a clash with Derry on Saturday and the winner goes through to the decider.

Sligo (v Mayo): Jimmy Gordon, Niall Kilcullen, Niall Feehily, Kevin O'Kennedy, Gavin Connolly, Rory McHugh, Fionn Connolly, Finnian Cawley, Patrick Foley, Tony O'Kelly-Lynch, Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch (0-6, 3f, 1 '65'), Conor Hanniffy (1-1), Joe McHugh (0-2), Andrew Kilcullen (0-10, 8f), Thomas Cawley (0-1)

Subs used: Eoghan Rua McGowan, Kevin Gilmartin, Ruairi Brennan, Ronan Redmond, Ronan Molloy

Round Five: Kildare 2-23, Sligo 2-14 (May 14)

KILDARE didn't need to win and, as, it turned out, neither did Sligo. There was a sense of anti-climax about Sligo's fifth and final round fixture in this season's Christy Ring Cup because Wicklow's ongoing woes – they lost for a fifth time last weekend – condemned the Leinster County to next year's Nicky Rackard Cup. While Sligo will be disappointed with this 2-23 to 2-14 loss, their fourth reversal in this year's competition, they played reasonably well against finalists Kildare and there's also the bigger picture of still having Christy Ring Cup status for 2023.

With Kildare already in the final (they'll meet Mayo this Saturday), the hosts could afford to make changes to their starting XV for a fixture at St Conleth's Park, Newbridge. Sligo, without full-back Mark Hanniffy for the second successive fixture, were seven points down at half-time, 1-12 to 0-8.

Mark Delaney's goal gave Kildare an edge against a Sligo side that relied on Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch and Andrew Kilcullen for scores. Sligo remained competitive in the second half. Goals from Thomas Cawley and Andrew Kilcullen, with the latter's score coming from a move that involved the O'Kelly-Lynch brothers, Tony and Gerard, meant Sligo were just four points behind, 1-19 to 2-12, with 10 minutes of normal time left.

But a black card for Sligo corner-back Kevin O'Kennedy as Kildare took advantage – adding a further 1-2 to go nine points clear, 2-21 to 2-12. The winners would add to more points to their tally, with Andrew Kilcullen wrapping up Sligo's haul with another two points. This loss means that Sligo have been beaten in this year's Christy Ring Cup by London, Derry (who failed to make the decider), Mayo and Kildare.

Sligo (v Kildare): Matthew Davey, Niall Kilcullen, Niall Feehily, Kevin O'Kennedy, Gavin Connolly, Rory McHugh, Fionn Connolly, Finnian Cawley (c), Tony O'Kelly-Lynch, Kevin Gilmartin, Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch (0-4), Conor Hanniffy, Joe McHugh, Andrew Kilcullen (1-10), Thomas Cawley (1-0)

Subs used: Liam O'Kelly-Lynch, Eoghan Rua McGowan, Ronan Redmond, Donal Keaveny

Match reports courtesy Liam Maloney; Sligo weekender

ALL STARS

2021 GPA All Star Gerard O’Kelly-Lynch

2022 Andy Kilcullen featured on the Ring, Rackard, Meagher All Star team at No.11.

Team of the week – Sligo players

March 28th Andy Kilcullen

April 4th Jimmy Gordon



2022 Sligo 'G.A.A. Games for All' Report for Sligo G.A.A. Convention'

GAA Games FOR ALL.

The first line of the GAA Official Guide spells out how the GAA reaches into every corner of Ireland and many communities around the globe. In doing this, the GAA is fully committed to the principles of inclusion and diversity at all levels.

Our aim: To offer an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming environment for everyone.

GAA Diversity and Inclusion officer Ger McTavish explains:

“Inclusion is about making a difference. Inclusivity is a movement, a move to include. Being truly inclusive is living our GAA motto, ‘Where we all Belong’.

“This work takes many forms. It ranges from ensuring that our policies and practices support the cultural integration and social inclusion of people from across Ireland’s diverse ethnic population, to making sure that all Gaelic games are adapted for people with different abilities.”

Wheelchair Hurling / Camogie update 2022. The first round of the 2022 Martin Donnelly Wheelchair Hurling/Camogie Inter-Provincial leagues was held on – Mar 12th In Omagh Leisure complex, Co. Tyrone- Connacht team won 2 & lost 1. Second –Rd 2 – July 2nd in MIC Limerick -Connacht won 2 & lost 1. – Third -Rd 3 – on July 30th in Sacred Heart School, Tullamore- Connacht won 1 & lost 2. Fourth Rd- held in Banada Hall, Sligo on Sat 27th Aug - Connacht won 1 & lost 2. The Connacht team finished second in the league behind Munster. Thanks to Barnacarroll Sports Hall and Charlestown CBD complex for making their fine facilities available for training.

Martin Donnelly Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling Championship finals will be held in Handball Centre, Croke Park, on Sun 20th Nov. 22.

The Connacht GAA round of the M. Donnelly GAA Wheelchair Hurling / Camogie Interprovincial League Round Four was held in Banada Hall, Tourlestrane, Co. Sligo on Sat 27th August 22.

This festival of hurling started off with the four provincial wheelchair hurling teams – Munster, Leinster, Ulster & Connacht- entering the hall via a guard of honour of young camogie and hurling players to welcome them into the hall.

The Tourlestrane underage hurlers formed a guard of honour, and each team was led in by Team Ambassadors who carried the Provincial flag along with the National flag.

The event started with opening addresses by Denis O’Boyle (Connacht Chairperson of GAA Games for All) and by Séan Carroll (Chairperson of Sligo GAA) and the National Anthem was beautifully sung by Molly Kennedy.

The scene was set for the first game at 10.50am between Connacht and Munster, and the teams did not disappoint as they played with passion and commitment, and the game ebbed and flowed throughout, and in the last minutes Connacht laid siege on the Munster goal area but could not get the score to level the game. . .

In the next game Ulster overcame Leinster in a titanic struggle with a score of 2 gls to 1gls-1pt.

Then Connacht and Leinster went head-to-head, and for the first half the home team gave as good as they got with possession fiercely contested and scores at a premium. In the second half Leinster scored 6gls -1pt to Connacht 1 gl-2pts.

In the fourth game Ulster had a very narrow victory over Munster on a score of 4 gls to 3 gls-1pt.

In the fifth game Munster put in a tremendous performance against Leinster and won by 4gls-1pt to 1gl.

In the final game Connacht put in a powerful performance in a game full of intensity, excitement and marvellous hurling and brilliant scores and edged out Ulster by 4gls to 2gls -1pt.

Munster won the league and Connacht were in second place.

M. Donnelly GAA Wheelchair Hurling / Camogie Interprovincial league Table.

Team	P	W	D	L	Total Pts
Munster	12	10	0	2	52
Connacht	12	6	0	6	36
Leinster	12	5	0	7	32
Ulster	12	3	0	9	24

This was the final action in a thrilled packed festival of remarkable hurling where all players did their best for their Province. Players and supporters left the venue uplifted and with a smile in their face after a fantastic day of very competitive wheelchair hurling.

Wheelchair hurling / camogie is going from strength to strength and playing the League games in Sports Halls across the Country ensures that our great games can be enjoyed by both able bodied and people with different abilities, alike. The idea of wheelchair hurling is to incorporate people with different abilities into an environment that is fun and provides both a mental and physical fitness. While not everyone likes sport, the application of sporting ethos can be applied to everyday life: - teamwork, commitment, leadership and the ability to learn from failures and success.

The following people need to be thanked and complimented for their attention to detail in ensuring these finals ran smoothly.

First sincere thanks to the Tourlestrane GAA club for making their fine facilities of Banada Hall available for these Wheelchair hurling games, and especially to Dermot Walsh and Pat Carty who welcomed the Sligo & National GAA Games for All members for the launch and made sure everything was prepared and ready on time. There was a youth disco in the hall the night before the games, and Dermot along with other club members made sure the hall was washed and cleaned in the early hours of the morning and in good condition for the games.

Next genuine thanks to National Games for All committee Brian Armitage (National Chair of Games for All), Tony Watene (National coordinator of Games for All), Denis O'Boyle (Connacht Chair of Games for All), who inspected the Hall on 3rd August and gave it the green light.

Special thanks to SSRP (Sligo Sports & Recreation Partnership) Deirdre Lavin and Shane Hayes who supported these finals and are partners with Sligo GAA to make the occasion memorable and enjoyable for all participants.



Special thanks to Sligo Games for All committee and especially our diligent Secretary Terence Marren who has left no stone unturned to ensure a successful event. Thanks also to the Sligo GAA Co Board and especially chairman Séan Carroll and Secretary Bernardine McGauran who have supported us all the way. Also, thanks to Connacht Council for their encouragement and support and particularly John Prenty Secretary and John Murphy President.

Sincere thanks to the young Tourlestrane hurlers who formed the guard of honour and their mentors Jerome Quinn and Kevin Harrington. Thanks to the four Provincial Team ambassadors and the National flag carriers who did a fantastic job – Aoibheánn Harrington, Aoibheánn Mulholland, Orla Monaghan, Ciara Walsh, and Holly Surlis.

Genuine thanks to Molly Kennedy who gave a rousing rendition of Amhrán na bhFiann.

Genuine thank you to all the volunteers who welcomed and helped the visiting wheelchair hurlers and supporters, especially the coordinators Seamus Cummins, Leo Gaughan, Gerry Tuohy, Leonore Regan, and Cyril Feehily

A special thanks to the referee David Sweeney who made his decisions impartially and fairly.

Also, thanks to the local media who gave great coverage to this National event- Sligo Champion, Sligo Weekender, Western People and Ocean FM.

Thanks also to the Emergency Services and Murray Ambulance for their cooperation and help. Thanks to photographer Eamonn Mc Munn, and to the caterers "Eileen's Kitchen Table" Eileen Kirrane" who provided quality refreshments and lunches.

Finally, and most importantly a real thanks to the players who came from the four corners of the Country and did their best for their Provincial teams and enjoyed this marvellous sporting occasion in “The Yeats County”. Thanks to all managers, coaches and helpers with the teams, and the parents and supporters who came out and encouraged the players. The Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling /camogie team: Pat Carty Cpt (Tourlestrane - Sligo), Aidan Hynes (Calry - Sligo), Stephen Melvin (Owenmore Gaels - Sligo), Elaine O’Halloran (Strandhill, Sligo), Shane Curran (Moycullen - Galway), Liam O’Boyle (Knockmore - Mayo), Peter Egan (Kilmovee - Mayo), Padraig Keogh, (Knock, Mayo), John Blake (Athenry, Galway), Niall Dempsey (Athenry, Galway), Sarah Cregg (Western Gaels, Roscommon), Tom Fleming (Charlestown - Mayo). Managers: Tim Hynes & Pat Carty.

INCLUSIVE CÚL CAMPS.

Camps 4 All/ Cúl Eile Camps.

Kellogg’s GAA Cúl Camps provide boys and girls – between the ages of 6 and 13 – with an action-packed and fun-filled week of activity during the summer holidays which revolves around maximizing enjoyment and sustaining participant involvement in Gaelic Games. Activities are player centred, with a Games Based approach with a strong emphasis being placed on personal development and well-being. Activities are also organised in an age-appropriate manner with a view optimizing learning, enhancing friendships, improving physical & psychological well-being, promoting school and club links. Special thanks to Liam Óg Gormley and his team of coaches who organise and deliver the coaching.

Cúl Éile Camps –First ever in Sligo. Maggie Heylin & in partnership with Leonore Regan organised a Cúl Eile camp in St Marys pitch from Wed 3rd to Fri 5th Aug.

This was a partnership between Curry and St Marys GAA Clubs. It was an overwhelming success with 29 children with different abilities and needs, and 26 enthusiastic coaches who connected very well with the children. There was great fun and enjoyment and children who became a bit stressed had the safety of a fully functioning Sensory Safe Space - Pop-up blackout space filled with lots of calming Sensory lights and toys to support children to help them self-regulate. After a time in this space the children got fully involved with coaches and other children.

On Wed 3rd Aug Tony Watene (National coordinator of Games for All), Brian Armitage (National Chair of Games for All), Denis O’Boyle (Connacht Chair of Games for All), called to St Marys and were amazed with the enthusiasm and fun on view and visited the Sensory space.

St. Mary’s special coaching: -There was a very successful St Marys All-stars special coaching for the month of September. There were approx. 20 children attending.

The club are to organise a one-day Halloween Cúl Éile (All Stars) Camp from 10am to 12.30 on Thursday 4th November

All-stars Inclusive teams’ blitzes day. – held on Mon 22nd Aug in Croke Park- Curry (8 Children) and St Marys (10 Children) and parents attended this marvellous All Stars Day which was very positive. It was a tremendous success. Sports Minister Jack Chambers attended.

The Curry GAA Healthy Club under the expert leadership of Leonore Regan organised two six-week programmes of special coaching for children of different abilities, May/ June and Sept / Oct 2021. There are smiles all around when the children with special needs are being coached GAA skills by a dedicated group of coaches. Children from all clubs are invited to come and try.

This is a great initiative and is aligned to being truly inclusive and living our GAA motto, ‘Where we all Belong’.

Special thanks to the Curry GAA Club & St. Mary’s GAA Club for planning and organising these special coaching sessions, and also to Shane Hayes (Sligo Sport & Recreation Partnership) and Liam Óg Gormley (Sligo GAA Games Manager) for their support and help.

ISSSC: Irish Special Schools Sports Council: – Calry St Josephs G.A.A. Club organised two coaching programmes of six weeks in May/ June and Sept / Oct 2021 periods with one and a half hours coaching each Wed for a total of twelve weeks, in Calry St. Josephs pitch Ballinode.

This was organised by the Club's "Inclusion GAA Games for All" Officer Gerry Tuohy. This coaching programme was supported by Shane Hayes from SSRP, and Liam Óg Gormley, Aran McGowan and Cian O'Connor from the Sligo Coaching and Development Committee.

The Club wishes to thank the school principal Carmel Wynne and the staff for their cooperation and support in making this coaching project a reality for the twenty-four very enthusiastic pupils. Thanks also to Calry St Josephs G.A.A. Club for the use of their pitch.

Sincere thanks to the coaches who gave willingly of their valuable time to ensure this initiative was a success, namely, Gerry Tuohy, Pat Stenson and Tim Hynes. This is a great initiative - reaching out to people with a different ability and including them in our G.A.A. games.

On Wed 25th May 2022 there was a combined coaching and games session in Scarden. About 30 players from Special Schools in Letterkenny, Castlebar, Ballina and Ballytivnan attending.

Thanks to Pdraig Clancy and Liam Óg Gormley for organising venue and coaching and for giving pupils a warm welcome. Thanks to coaches from Mayo, Eoin Sweeney and Martin Costello.

The Martin Donnelly GAA "Football for All" Interprovincial Finals in Croke Park were deferred to 2023 as available dates were too late in year.

Beyond Limits event was held in Knocknarea Arena ATU Sligo on Sat 1st Oct. This event was organised by the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) to empower young people with disabilities, - showing them the opportunities open to them, talking about the issues they want to talk about, highlighting inclusiveness, talking about the role of technology This was a marvellous inclusive occasion with all sports demonstrated.

Special thanks to Liam Óg Gormley, Pat Kilcoyne and Darragh Cox who demonstrated gaelic football and hurling to enthusiastic children and parents.

Give Respect Get Respect: The GAA Give Respect – Get Respect initiative promotes the rights, dignity and worth of each person regardless of ability, age, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religious belief.

The essence of Give Respect Get Respect philosophy is that we respect each other on and off the playing fields, we operate with integrity at all levels, and we listen and respect the views of all. It is G.A.A. policy that all G.A.A. Clubs have "Give Respect Get Respect" signs erected and visible in their Club Grounds in English or Irish or both.

The **GAA Respect Initiative** aims to promote positive behaviour and to ensure that an enriching environment is provided for the promotion and development of Gaelic Games. This includes respect for and from all participants on and around the field.

Rounders:- GAA Rounders is one of the four official GAA sports included in the original GAA charter back in 1884 along with Gaelic Football, Hurling and Handball. Rounders is a bat and ball game and is not that dis-similar to baseball. Indeed, it is now generally accepted that Baseball is derived from Rounders in some form or other, as it has been played on this island for a couple of hundred years now and was probably brought over to America by the early settlers.

Rounders can be played by all age groups from Primary School children all the way up to and including senior level. There are mixed teams where boys and girls, men and women can play on the one team. As G.A.A. Rounders is a limited contact sport it is perfect for both recreational and competitive play and it also develops good hand eye coordination. Rounders is a true integration sport as it can be played by children up to grandparents in the same team. Rounders is progressing in Sligo through Cumann na mBunscoil (Aine Mc Grath), Summer coaching camps and especially in the Easkey G.A.A. Club, and Cornageeha and Rosses Point and Shamrock Gaels.

The GAA Social Initiative:-

The mission of the GAA Social Initiative is to make clubs more age-friendly, by increasing the participation of older members of society, through events specifically designed to enrich their lives and respect the important contribution they have made and can continue to make to community life.

The GAA's mission statement states: "The GAA is a community-based volunteer organisation promoting Gaelic Games, culture and lifelong participation".

The reality is that many fall away from their GAA club and the connection with what once was an integral part of their lives dwindles. This can in turn lead to less engagement with their community. The GAA is committed to reversing this trend through the Social Initiative.

Hopefully in 2022 Clubs will have the opportunity to organise trips to interesting places for their valued past members.

National Inclusive Fitness Day.

The **GAA National Inclusive Fitness Day was held** on the week of the 23rd of September 2022, and clubs were invited to open their doors to the wider community.

The theme for 2022 was "GAA Healthy Families". #GAAClann.

The event occurred during the European Week of Sport (23rd – 30th Sept) with aims to promote sport, physical and healthy lifestyle activity for everyone regardless of age, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, nationality, ability, or fitness level. It is a week for all the family and the community to get to see what the GAA can offer. It creates an intergenerational event at you club. Sharing stories, making new friends, getting to take park.

Curry club provided a variety of sports to include something for every age group in the Community. The week started with two entertaining games provided by Mothers and Others & Dads and Lads teams playing Swinford and Moy Davitts from Mayo. Later in the week taster classes were organised in karate, athletics, handball, swimming, hurling and camogie. The weekly running and walking groups started. The GAA For All children also had guest appearances from Raff Cretaro, Alan Reilly & Brian Byrne and were given goodie bags with sporting gear to honour the week.

The Curry 1972 Senior GAA Team- Golden Jubilee Commemoration.-

Curry and Enniscrone reached the Final of the County Championship when they beat Tourlestrane (2-9 to 2-6) and Mullinabreena (3-7 to 1-7), respectively, in the semi-finals.

The Final was played on September 10th at Markievicz Park. It was a one-sided game with Curry being on top for most of the hour.



Curry :— Tommy Duffy, Padraic Colleary, Paddy Joe Doohan (RIP), Michael Colleary, Anthony Brennan, James Giblin, Aidan Colleran, Tom Colleary, John Stenson (RIP), Aidan Colleary, Jim Colleary, Donal Brennan, Colm Brennan, Owen Henry(RIP), Michael Marren. Subs.: Bernie Colleran(RIP), , Seamus Brett, Eddie Giblin (RIP), Edward Colleran, Bernie Kilcoyne, Bernard Brennan,(Lambpark), Bernard Brennan (Curry), Mattie Brennan, Michael Durcan (RIP), Paraic Kelleher, Martin Howley, Chris Wynne,

N.B. — Five Colleary brothers featured on this team.

Enniscrone :— M. Jacob, P. McManus, A. Caffrey, E. Murphy, P. O'Brien, L. Caffrey, E. Harte, K. Kilcawley, P. J. Kavanagh, P. Tighe, B. Murphy (Capt.), B. Flynn, E. O'Dowd, J. McManus, J. Fleming. Subs.: R. Beglin, P. J. Hallinan, B. Burke.

Referee: Padraig Lang

Thanks to Sligo GAA for honouring the 1972 Curry senior football team and presenting them to the crowd at the County Senior Football Final in Markievicz Park on Sunday 16th October 2022, as part of their Golden Jubilee Commemoration. They were greeted by Séan Carroll (Chairperson Co Board) and Raymond Carden (Chairperson LGFA),

Special thanks to Terence Marren for organising the team.

Finally, sincere thanks to members of Sligo GAA Games for All committee- Seamus Cummins, Terence Marren, Gerry Tuohy, Leonore Regan, Maggie Heylin, and Trevor Coen, and also thanks to Bernardine McGauran and Eamonn McMunn for their support.

Signed Tim Hynes- Chairperson Sligo G.A.A. Games for All.



Sligo GAA Health & Wellbeing Update 2022

Sligo GAA Health & Wellbeing committee as part of the wider GAA Community and Health effort continues to encourage clubs to take action in promoting, creating and sustaining the health of their members and local communities. Healthy Club Officer training has now moved fully online and the last training was held on October 4th. All clubs are encouraged to have a critical incident response plan (cirp) and training for this specifically is planned for January 2023. The county critical incident response plan has been updated recently. A meeting for all clubs related to Health & wellbeing was hosted by the county health & wellbeing committee (CHWC) in Scarden on 16th November. Clubs participating in the Healthy club project attended the Irish Life GAA Healthy Club Conference on Saturday November 12th in Croke Park. CHWC members attended the National Forum in Croke Park on 26th November.

Sligo GAA followed the lead from some Healthy clubs and partnered with the HSE and Healthy Ireland to designate areas of the Scarden centre of excellence and Markievicz park smoke free. Signage has been put in place at the venues and communicated in championship match programmes. Special thanks to our PRO and Secretary for championing this initiative.

Stuart Moloney has recently been appointed as regional Community and Health coordinator for the Connacht / Munster region. Stuart aims to support the sustainable growth of all areas of work that flow from the Community & Health department across Connacht and Munster. Sligo CHWC are liaising with Sligo Igfa to identify Health & wellbeing areas in which we can work together.

Sligo clubs continued to build on their health promoting initiatives in 2022 motivating the entire community to be active and healthy by increased membership and the establishment of more recreational events and improved facilities. On Thursday the 15th of September Tubbercurry GAA Healthy Club initiative launched in Kilcoyne Park.

Clubs are also encouraged to engage with the GAA social initiative, aimed at making clubs more age - friendly, by increasing the participation of older members of society. Social Initiative events are specifically designed with the intention of enriching their lives and respecting the important contribution they have made and can continue to make to community life. The aim is to re-engage members back into their GAA club and community. We aspire to have a Social Initiative in every club, for older members who have dedicated years of service to their GAA club and community. Regular social interaction, the forming of relationships and connecting within social networks generates higher levels of physical and mental wellbeing in older people.

Samaritans continue their support - There for everyone Round the Clock If you're feeling down or lonely, you don't need to suffer in silence. Samaritan volunteers are well trained to listen while you talk about whatever is distressing you - in confidence - and they will not judge. Try the Freecall number 116123, or email:

jo@samaritans.org. Frank Considine of Samaritans Outreach has provided all weather signage to several clubs.

All clubs are invited to appoint and support a Healthy Clubs Officer (previously known as the Club Health and Wellbeing officer), have a vision and set targets for your club, give health and wellbeing more attention, better presence on your website and social media and create a club critical incident plan. Encourage club members to do volunteering, pay attention to their health and wellbeing, take action to set healthy lifestyle goals such as maintaining social connections, keeping a healthy diet, exercising regularly and practising good sleep habits. Where feasible run bootcamps and other events to increase physical activity and provide facilities such as walking tracks to encourage physical activity and social initiatives to take place. Active ageing and social inclusion initiatives are also important in bringing the benefits of feeling part of a community and combating loneliness, one of the greatest challenges we face as a society.

To contact the committee for support, please email chair.hwc.sligo@gaa.ie



Children's Officer Report 2022

2022 was a very busy year for clubs and their Children's Officers. We organised a total of thirty-two child protection courses which were very well attended, thank you to everyone who participated or helped to facilitate these courses over the year. A special Thank You to Charlie Jordan our tutor and to Michelle Harte of Croke Park for organising virtual courses for us. I would also like to thank Bernadine McGauran and Liam Óg Gormley for all their assistance during the year, I couldn't have done it without ye. I would like to compliment all clubs in the county, especially their Children's Officers for their work and effort in ensuring that all coaches had completed a child protection course and Garda vetting. Huge work is being done in clubs behind the scenes to ensure the safety of our children who are the future of Sligo GAA. I would like to wish all clubs the very best for the future.

Yours in sport,
TURLOUGH O'MEARAIN

Referees Administrator Report for 2022

I would like to express my thanks to all Referees, Umpires and Mentors for their support over the past year, I cannot thank enough the referees who gave up their time and energy to referee games. Congratulations to Barry Judge on being part to the national league panel for 2022, along with myself and to Marty Duffy as Referees Administrator for Connaught and his seat on the Referees committee in Croke Park. I would like to thank Sligo County Board, Treasurer Mr Cormac Kearns and all the clubs in the County for the funding for the referee expenses for the year. I have acquired extra funding for 2022 to cover Referees expenses as promised and I would like to thank our chairperson Mr Sean Carroll for all his support on this matter.

A total of 580 Underage Games and 444 Adult Games have been played this year. As we all know too well refereeing is not an easy job but if we don't have referees, we will have no games. There are still a number of clubs who don't have a senior referee in the county despite numerous appeals. I have requested the last four years that all clubs in the county and especially those clubs that have no referee to put forward at least two new recruits, this has repeatedly fallen on deaf ears so this year I am proposing that Tourlestrane , Tubbercurry , Coolaney/Mullinabreena , Geevagh and St Johns Clubs must put forward at least two people to complete the referees course which will be commencing in February and officiate in at least 10 games in the 2023 season . Failing to comply with this will mean forfeiting home advantage for Junior , Intermediate and Senior league games. We had three new Referee added to our panel for 2022 and we must continue to recruit new referees.

I must compliment Sligo County Board Chairperson Sean Carroll, Chairperson of the CCC, Dermot Gannon and the Secretary Fergus Leonard for their backing in disciplinary issues throughout the year. The Chairperson of the hearings committee Lauri Quinn and secretary Bill Carty for dealing with disciplinary issues involving abuse to referees . We have all heard in the past the verbal abuse directed at our referees both on the pitch and from outside, this is not acceptable. In the past, players, managers and spectators who breached the rules in regards to verbally and physically abusing officials would appeal the decision and the majority of the time get the decision overturned, that thankfully has changed. Abuse to referees must not and will not continue.

I would like to express my thanks to Damien McGovern and Pat Conway for their continued assistance and for looking after the appointment of referees at underage level. I would also like to thank Eamonn McMunn for his assistance throughout the year.

I am announcing Today my decision to step down from my position as Referees Co-Ordinator in Sligo. It has been a privilege to fulfill this role for my home County and I truly wish my successor all the best in their new role. I want to sincerely thank Sean Carroll for enabling me to take this role. This experience will be invaluable to me going forward.

Mise le Meas,
Sean Mac Giolla Mhartain

Riarthóir Réiteora

Ainmiucáin na gClubanna don bhliain 2023 (Club Nominations for the Year 2023)

*****(denotes completion of five-year term)**

OIFIG (OFFICE)	Duine í Seilbh (Outgoing)	Ainmiucáin (Nomination)
Cathaoirleach (Chairperson)	SEÁN Ó CEARBHAILL	SEÁN Ó CEARBHAILL
Leas Cathaoirleach (Vice Chairperson)	DEAGLÁN RÚIS	DEAGLÁN RÚIS
Runaí (Secretary) ***	BEARNÁIRDÍN NÍC SHAMHRÁIN	DEIDRE NÍ EITEAGAIN
Cisteoir (Treasurer)	CORMAC Ó CIARÁIN	CORMAC Ó CIARÁIN
Leas Runaí (Asst. Secretary)	MÁIRE Ó FIONN	MÁIRE Ó FIONN
Cisteoir Cunta (Asst Treasurer)	DÁITHÍ O COIMÍN	DÁITHÍ O COIMÍN
Oifigeach Pleanáil agus Oiluíint (Planning & Training Officer)	STIOFÁN Ó CARTHAIGH	(Shall be appointed (not elected) at the Annual Co. Convention on the recommendation of the outgoing Coiste Chontae)
Oifigeach Oiliuna (Coaching Officer)	PEADAR Ó NIALLÁIN	PEADAR Ó NIALLÁIN
Oifigeach Cultura/Gaeilge (Irish Cultural & Language Officer)	SEOSAMH Ó BRÁDAIGH	SEOSAMH Ó BRÁDAIGH
Oifigeach na bPaistí (Children's Officer)	TOIREALACH Ó MEARÁIN	(Shall be appointed (not elected) at the Annual Co. Convention on the recommendation of the outgoing Coiste Chontae)
Oifigeach Caidrimh Poiblí (PRO)	PADRAIG MAC EOGHAIN	PADRAIG MAC EOGHAIN
Baill Comhairle Chonnachta (2) (Connacht Council Rep)	DIARMUID MAG FHIONNÁIN PÁDRAIG MAC LANNCHAIDE	DIARMUID MAG FHIONNÁIN PÁDRAIG MAC LANNCHAIDE
Baill den Ard-Comhairle (Ard Comhairle rep)	SEOSAMH Ó TÁIFT	SEOSAMH Ó TÁIFT
Ionadai ag Comhdháil Comhairle Chonnachta 2022 (4) (Reps to Connacht Convention 2023)		Cathaoirleach Runaí
Ionadai ag Comhdháil Náisiunta 2023 (4 including Cathaoirleach & Runaí) (Reps to Annual Congress 2023)		Cathaoirleach Runaí BEARNÁIRDÍN NÍC SHAMHRÁIN LABHRÁS Ó COINNE

Rúin – Comhdháil 2022

- (1)** That rule 7.2 (b) Category IV (x) ‘An act by Deed, Word or Gesture of a Racist, Sectarian or Anti-Inclusion/Diversity nature on an opponent or Match Official’ page 131 GAA Official Guide Part 1 be deleted.

Rule 7.2 (b) Category V, page 133 GAA Official Guide Part 1, to be amended to include part (iv) ‘An act by Deed, Word or Gesture of a Racist, Sectarian or Anti-Inclusion/Diversity nature on an opponent or Match Official’

The rest of the rule to remain unchanged.

Cluain Na Cuile

- (2)** That rule 7.2 (b) Category III part (vii), page 130 GAA Official Guide Part 1, ‘Abusive language towards a Referee, Umpire, Linesman or Sideline Official’ be deleted.

Rule 7.2 (b) Category IV to be amended to include part (xi), page 131 GAA Official Guide Part 1, ‘Abusive language towards a Referee, Umpire, Linesman or Sideline Official’.

The rest of the rule to be unchanged.

Cluain Na Cuile

- (3)** That rule 7.2 (c) Category IIa part (i), page 135 GAA Official Guide Part 1, ‘Abusive language towards a Referee, Umpire, Linesman or Sideline Official’ be deleted.

Rule 7.2 (c) Category IIIa to be amended to include part (iii), page 136 GAA Official Guide Part 1, ‘Abusive language towards a Referee, Umpire, Linesman or Sideline Official’.

The rest of the rule to be unchanged.

Date of Meeting Motion(s) Approved: 7th November 2022

Cluain Na Cuile

- (4)** Motion: Reinstate U17 Minor Club Football Provincial championships competition. Winners of A & B County championships to represent their county in a provincial competition.

Purpose: To give U17 players the opportunity to represent their club in a provincial competition.

Date of Meeting Motion(s) Approved: Club Executive meeting held on the 7th of November 2022

Cláirsigh an Oithear

Coiste Chontae Shligigh-Bye Laws 2023

10. Subject to Rule 3.11 Official Guide 2022; the annual County Convention shall elect the following Officers of the County Committee: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant-Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant-Treasurer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture and Public Relations Officer and shall appoint a Planning and Training Officer and a Children's Officer recommended by the outgoing County Committee. It shall further elect: Two representatives on Connacht Council and one representative on Central Council.

Subject to Election/Appointment annually at County Convention, the terms of Office of the Treasurer and the Children's Officer shall not be limited by the provisions of Rule 3.11(b) Official Guide 2022.

11. The County Committee shall consist of the Officers elected/appointed at County Convention including Central and Connacht Council representatives (who shall be ex-officio members), the Chairperson of Coiste na nÓg, a named representative of each affiliated club, the County Referees' Administrator, County Safety and Facilities Officer, a named representative of each of the following committees: County Primary Schools (Cumann na mBunscoil), County Post-Primary Schools, County Handball, the Chairperson of the County Hurling Committee and the named representatives of the Countess Markievicz Park Committee (without voting rights). The County Committee Administrator may attend in a non-voting capacity and may contribute to discussions on the invitation of the Chairperson.
12. The County Committee shall appoint the following Sub-Committees whose membership, duties and functions shall be as set out in the Official Guide 2022 Rule 3.20 and in these Byelaws. All members of sub-committees shall be named.
 - (i) Management Committee:** It shall consist of the Officers and Representatives elected/appointed at Annual County Convention, the Chairperson of Coiste na nÓg and the Chairpersons of the County Hurling Committee and the County Safety and Facilities Officer. The County Committee Administrator may attend in a non-voting capacity.
 - (ii) Competitions Control Committee (CCC):** It shall consist of seven members. Including a named representative of the Hurling committee and of Coiste na nÓg. It shall include one member of the Fixtures Analysts Sub-Committee and the County Referees' Administrator (who shall be entitled to vote only on the appointment of referees). Except in matters appertaining to grading of Clubs and Players which shall be governed by Rule 6.20 Official Guide 2022, it shall have plenary powers i.e., appeals against its decisions shall be made to Connacht Council.
 - (iii) Fixtures Analysts:** The County Management Committee shall nominate for appointment one Fixtures Analyst with responsibilities as outlined in Rule 3.20 (iii), Official Guide 2022, Part 1.
 - (iv) Hearings Committee:** It shall consist of seven members none of whom shall be members of the CCC of the Post-Primary Schools' Committee, the County Management Committee or the CCC of any other sub-committee of the County Committee.
 - (v) Safety and Facilities Committee:** It shall have six members including County Safety and Facilities Officer who shall be Chairperson, a Qualified Event Controller. The remaining members, nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee, should be suitably qualified in areas relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee as outlined in R. 3.20 (v) T.O. 2022.
 - (vi) Referees' Administration Committee** shall have six members. The County Referees' Administrator shall be Chairperson of this Committee. It shall also include a Referees' Tutors and a Referees' Assessors representative.
 - (vii) Coaching and Games Development Committee** shall have ten members. The County Committee Coaching Officer shall be Chairperson of this Committee. The County Games Development Manager shall be its Secretary.

The Committee shall include named representatives of Cumann na mBunscol, Post-Primary Schools, Third Level Colleges, Hurling Committee and Youth Committee.

(viii) Cultural Committee shall have six members. The County Committee Officer for Irish Language and Culture shall be Chairperson of this Committee.

(ix) Public Relations/Marketing Committee shall have 11 members. The County Committee P.R.O. shall be Chairperson of this Committee. The County Committee Treasurer and Assistant-Treasurer shall be members of this committee.

(x) Coiste na n-Óg (Youth Committee) shall have a Chairperson (Nominated by the Cathaoirleach of County Committee) and five members. It shall be responsible for the initiation and coordination of all youth activities within the County.

(xi) Finance Sub-Committee shall have 10 members. The County Committee Treasurer shall be Chairperson of this Sub-Committee. The Assistant-Treasurer of the County Committee shall also be a member.

(xii) Information Technology Committee shall have three members.

(xiii) County Teams' Management and Panels' Sub-Committee. The membership of this Sub-Committee shall be detailed in the Charter for County Committee/Player Relationships (players' charter) as approved by Central Council. A County player-welfare mentor shall also be appointed.

(xiv) Health and Wellbeing Committee shall have four members. It shall have responsibility for all health-related matters referred to it by the County and /or the Management Committees.

(xv) Planning and Training Committee shall consist of five members, the Chairperson of which shall be the County Planning and Training Officer. All members shall, upon appointment, complete the necessary training as prescribed by The National Officer Development Committee and Club and County Planning Committee.

(xvi) Audit and Risk Committee shall consist of no more than five named members including a Chairperson nominated by the Management Committee and approved by the Provincial Audit and Risk Committee and up to four members nominated by the Management Committee. The Treasurer shall not be a member.

13. **(i) Post-Primary Schools' Committee.** It shall consist of (i) an Officer of the County Management Committee (who may act as Chairperson), (ii) a named representative of each affiliated Post-Primary School, (iii) a named representative of the County Coaching and Games Development Committee, (iv) a named representative of the County Hurling Committee and (v) a named representative of the County Youth Committee. A CCC shall be appointed by the County Committee from the members of the Post-Primary Schools' Committee. Requests for a Hearing and Appeals against decisions of this committee will be heard by the County Hearings Committee. The Post-Primary Schools' Committee shall be responsible for the planning, organisation and monitoring of all Post Primary competitions within the county. It shall liaise with and support the Connacht Council in planning and implementing a fixtures programme as well as supporting the GAA Coaching-Programme in the county.

(ii) Coiste Iomána (Hurling Committee) shall have 16 members. Subject to the overall control of the County Committee it shall have control of all hurling affairs other than those functions reserved for the County Hearings Committee. The County CCC is also the CCC of this Committee and requests for a Hearing be heard by the County Hearings Committee.

Chairperson shall be nominated for appointment by the Cathaoirleach of the County Committee.

Coiste Iomána shall include a named member from each of the following affiliated Clubs; Cuil Irra-Leathros, Calraigh-Naomh Iosef, Naomh Eoin (Iomáint), Gael an Iarthair, Tuarloistreáin, Caisleain Uí Conchubhair, Droim Cliabh-Ros Ceite, Iascaigh, Tobar an Choire agus Gaeil Naomh Molaise. It shall also have a named representative from Cumann na mBunscol.

A Club which does not take part in a Junior, Intermediate or Senior Hurling Championship, either as an individual Unit, or as part of a Group Senior or intermediate team allowed under Rule 3.19(m) Official Guide 2022 in a given year shall not be entitled to vote on any matter at any meeting of the Hurling Committee in the year immediately following such non-participation.

(iii) Sligo Urban Committee shall consist of nine members. The function of the Urban Committee is to work for the development of the GAA in Sligo City and environs, in co-operation with, and subject to the overall authority of the County Committee. An Officer of the County Committee shall be appointed Chairperson of the Urban Committee by the County Committee. The Urban Committee shall include a named representative of each of the following clubs: Calraigh-Naomh Iosaf, Droim Chliabh-Ros Ceite, Cúl Irra-Leathros, Cumann Peil Naomh Eoin, Naomh Eoin agus Naomh Muire. The committee shall also consist of one named member representing Handball and one named member representing Cumann na mBunscol in Sligo.

(iv) Countess Markievicz Park Committee shall consist of 12 members. Subject to the overall control of the County Committee it shall have responsibility for the day to day running, match day arrangements, maintenance, development and security of Countess Markievicz Park. It shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, P.R.O. and include the County Committee P.R.O.

14. Playing Restrictions (Club) – Rule 6.8 Official Guide 2022.

For the purposes of Rule 6.8 (C) a Player of a Club without a team in an Adult Competition may play Hurling with one Club and Football with another Club within the County subject to the Player notifying the County Committee of his intention to do so not later than the 1st of June each year and the County Committee being satisfied that his Own Club is not fielding a team in the exact same Competition of the given year. Having notified the County Committee in accordance with the provisions of this Byelaw, a Player shall not, in the same calendar year, be entitled to indicate his intention to play with any another Club.

15. Transfers within County.

Applications for Transfers shall be submitted in writing to the County Secretary not later than 1st March each year. Applications shall be processed in accordance with Rule 6.5 Official Guide 2022. The Competitions Control Committee shall have regard to Rule 6.1 Official Guide 2022 and Bye Law 7 hereunder when considering applications. A Transfer shall not be granted unless the Competitions Control Committee is satisfied that the Player has moved Permanent Residence from the catchment area of his Own Club to the catchment area of the Club to which he is seeking a transfer.

16. 'Permanent Residence'.

Permanent Residence, for the purposes of these Bye Laws shall be as defined in Rule 6.3 Official Guide 2022 Permanent residence of both adults and juveniles shall be established by reference to up to-date documentary evidence. Acceptable documents are at the discretion of the County Competitions Control Committee and may include: current Passport, current Driving Licence, current Register of Electors or current Utility Bill. Weekend, college, Summer, or holiday residences are not permanent residence.

17. **Attachment to First Club.** A person seeking to become a member of the Association shall be limited to applying only to a Club in the catchment area of his Permanent Residence.

18. **Grading;**

(a) Teams relegated from any championship, under the Championship Regulations approved by the County Committee, shall be re-graded to play in the next lower Championship grade for the following year.

(b) At least 4 weeks prior to the club championships commencing each year, clubs with two or more adult championship teams, must submit a list or lists of players to the Secretary of the Competitions Control Committee to determine the grading of players for that championship year as follows:

The list shall contain the Championship status, of each player, at the end of the previous Championship year and their proposed status for the current year.

The list shall name a minimum of 18 players for the highest grade of Championship and a minimum of 15 for each subsequent grade, excluding the Club's lowest grade. The names for each grade of championship must comply with Riail 6.19 T.O. 2022.

In order for players to be officially regraded to a lower level, they must be named at that level. Each Clubs list is subject to examination by the Competitions Control Committee, who may at their discretion make additions or amendments to the names listed.

In Accordance with Rule 6.20 (b) T.O 2022 a Player aggrieved by a decision on his application for Regrading shall have the right of appeal to the County Hearings Committee whose decision shall be final.

(c) A player whose championship status is ""Junior B"" at the commencement of the Championship season may, on one occasion only, play at a higher championship grade and regain his lower championship grading. The player's club must notify the Secretary of the Competitions Control Committee of this intention.





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