

# Clár

Achoimhriu an Comhdail Nollaig 2013

Adoption of Standing orders

Na Tuarascail

Cuntas an Chisteora

Oraid an Uachtáran

Oraid an Cathaoirligh

Togadh na h-Oifigi

Na Ruin

Adoption of Bye-laws

Aon ghnó eile



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# Miontuairiscí Comhdháil 12/12/2013

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An tUas Coireall Ó Ficheallaigh a bhí í gceannais

Ceaptha An tUas Ciaran Mac Diarmada mar Patrún Coiste Chontae Shligigh

Uachtarán Seán Ó Huiginn welcomed the delegates to the Convention and the *Standing Orders* were adopted on the proposal of Eamon Ó Maoláin agus Maire Bean Uí Fhinn

**Tuarascáil an Rúnaí:** The Secretary's Report was adopted on the proposal of Daithí Mac an Bheata agus Pádraig Mac Uidhir.

**Tuarascáil an Cisteoir:** An overview of the accounts presented was given by the County's Auditor, Mulhern Leonard. An Cisteoir, Seosamh Ó Cuineáin, stated that: "these were the worst set of accounts ever presented to a Convention." It had been a very difficult year with creditors in particular becoming impatient with the delays in their payments for goods and services supplied to the County Committee. This was very unsatisfactory as most of these small businesses were family-owned by good GAA friends and supporters. He had sought outside help and was in negotiations since the previous May. A new "Implementation Committee" had been formed and there were new faces on the Finance Committee with both these bodies comprising of officers from inside and outside the County. A Budget had been prepared up until January, 2014, and there would be monthly financial reports prepared using software provided by the National Finance Committee. Cuts in expenditure had already been implemented. The new Senior Football Management team would get basic travelling expenses. Players' expenses would be monitored closely with an insistence on "car pooling" to reduce this figure. A *purchase order* agreement is now in place to monitor all outgoings more efficiently.

There was very little fund-raising undertaken in 2013 and this had to be addressed. The county had to set realistic achievable targets and work together in order to raise finance. "We simply have to make inroads into our debt. This debt was manageable if we approached the problems we have cohesively and sensibly; cutting expenditure and raising income with a concerted effort from everyone in the Association locally. There had to be a balance between club and county. The Finance Committee had a target of four major fund-raisers for 2014 with no extra burden or 'levy' on the clubs."

An Cisteoir felt that some short-term finance was needed from the National Finance Committee to give the organisation locally some breathing space. He had been raising this matter at every meeting.

The main points in the Auditors report were:

- Overall reduction in income; increase in gate receipts; reduction in grants; reduction (€57k) in commercial income; Cúl Camps income down (€14k); Club Affiliation fee increase €3k.
- Expenditure increase from €659k to €809k.

- Team expenses up €150k.
- Office administration up €93k.
- Loss of €22k on the Coolera-Strandhill training ground deal.

The deficit for the year was €220k which included depreciation. The overall debt stood at €1.7m. The auditor explained that trade suppliers were absorbing the losses of the County Committee. Explanations were sought regarding some of the financial reports. The main points covered included:

- Coaching Grant; Connacht Council indicated balance as of 2012; Sligo would be seeking a refund in 2014.
- The auditor was of the impression that the administrator's salary owed to Connacht Council would be displayed over 3 years of accounts. His understanding was at variance with that of the Council and in the event the 2013 accounts absorbed the full amount.
- Two years (2012,13) of Cúl Camp grants were accounted for in 2012 and this explained the reduction this year.
- Senior team expenses; player and travel up €53k; catering + €25k; bus hire + €8k; others + €20k.

Money owed to creditors for less than 1 year had risen from €521k to €740k while longer-term debts (over one year) had reduced from €1.17m. to €964k.

- AIB €565K-Scarden: interest only; negotiations ongoing.
- AIB loan other: Reduced from €91k to €49k.
- Connacht loan: an arrangement had been entered into to pay this off over a fourteen year period.

Debtors included annual grant from National Finance Committee, which had since been allocated. Other outstanding debts included Club Fees yet to be collected; tickets and some sponsorship. Creditor amounts had increased thus:

- Trade + €138k
- Croke Park + €174k.
- Connacht Council from €28k. to €125k.

In response to a query from Deaglán Ros, Brendáin Ó Loinín explained that Cumann Tourloistreáin did not make a financial gain on the rental of their ground for the use of county team training. There were significant expenses incurred in providing lighting and remedial work had to be carried out on the pitch and training area more frequently than if they were used solely by the club.

Pádraig Mac Einrí agus Criostóir Ó Murchú queried the contract of a psychologist for the senior football team. An Cisteoir agreed that this expenditure was not justified and no such agreement would be entered into for the coming season. He pointed out that the players themselves had raised money to pay for this service and he felt that the County Committee was not "out of pocket" as a result.

Donal Ó Mathúna felt that the senior team expenditure was excessive. We were trying to compete with counties like Dublin and we couldn't in terms of resources. Could we realistically afford to be appointing another senior team manager?

Tomás Mac Giolla Chadhain complimented Seosamh Ó Cuineáin agus Sean Ó Maoilchiaráin for their presentation of the accounts and their explanations as to particular aspects of same.

Edel Ní Hacéid hoped that there would be no more surprises after the *song and dance* created by the Auditing of the accounts.

An Cisteoir thanked the clubs, sub-committees, sponsors, Mulhern Leonard, Implementation Committee, the County Administrator, Cathaoirleach agus Rúnaí. It had been a difficult year but we had to be optimistic for 2014.

The 2013 accounts for An Coiste Chontae Shligigh were adopted Ps. Seamas Mac Almhaigh; sec; Tomas Ó hEimhín.

An Cathaoirleach thanked Seán Ó Maoilchiarain for his work on behalf of the Finance Committee and the delegates for a very constructive debate.

**Coiste na nÓg;** Brendain Ó Loinín in his report explained that over 700 fixtures had been completed by his committee. They had afforded equal status to hurling and football. **Aidan Rooney** had been appointed as Minor Manager and he wished him well. He thanked **Paddy Galvin** and the Markievicz Park Committee for their co-operation, and also his colleagues on the Executive and the clubs.

The report was adopted Ps. Daithí Mac AN Bheata, sec. Pádraig Mac Énrí.

**Coaching and Games;** **Pádraig Mac Fhlanncaidh** explained how Uachtarán Liam Ó Neill had been impressed with the coaching provided by the County on a recent visit. There was a hope that u-age results would reflect soon at minor level. There was a proposal to form two rural committees based on the success of the Urban model.

**Cultura-Gaeilge;** **Bernardín Ni Shamhrain** spoke of the All-Ireland medal won by Niamh Ní Fhearail the previous year; the success of **Naomh Fearnain**, and the 40-year milestone reached by Scór in the Association. She paid tribute to Clan Mac hÉil on the presentation of a cup in memory of the late Teresa. Report adopted Ps. Edel Ní Hacéid, Sec. Pádraig Mac Éinrí.

**PRO: Muris Mac Suibhne** thanked his club Innis Eascra Abhann, Cill Molaise, for their support in what had been a difficult year for Sligo on and off the pitch. His report was adopted Ps. Colm Nevin; sec. Tom Towey.

**Oifigeach Oiliuna;** **Seán Mac Parthaláin** stated that the main contractor "Currans" was back on site at Scarden. He gave an outline of the Urban Committee's work and spoke of the need for individual club plans. Report adopted: ps. Seán O Carúil; sec, Bart Barrins.

**Urban Committee:** The report was adopted Ps. Caomhín Mag Fhinneachta, sec. Eamon Ó Maoláin.

**Referee's Report:** Adopted Ps. Pádraig Mac Uidhir; sec, Deaglán Ros.

**Handball:** Shane Breun thanked the County Committee for their acknowledgement of **Paddy Walsh** recently at the awards ceremony. Report adopted Ps. Bart Barrins; sec. Neal Farry

**Countess Markievicz Park:** Report adopted Ps. Taidh Ó hEidhin; sec. Liam Ó Maolomhnaigh

**Cumann na mBunscol:** Tomás Mac Giolla Chadhain congratulated Patricia Hunt and her Committee on the excellent work they were doing. Report adopted: Ps; Tomás Mac Giolla Chadhain; sec. David Mac Veigh.

**Iomáint:** Report adopted Tomás Mac hÉimhín; sec. Pádraig Mac Uidhir.

An Cathaoirleach thanked the officers for their detailed **reports**.

## Óráid an Uachtarán

Seán Ó hUiginn spoke of the fact that he was “fíor bródúil” to be a member of an Association that was “part of what we are”. He spoke of the unselfish dedication of its members but he warned of the danger of becoming complacent. An tUas Ó hUiginn felt that we must embrace new methodologies and ideas if we were to prosper.

As a proud Sligo-man he congratulated Sligo Rovers on their success and indeed all who engaged in sport were to be encouraged whatever the code.

Cumann Luthchleas Gael í Sligeach and nationwide had a duty of care to all its members as we continue on the work of building a nation; building a better society. This work is ongoing, declared the President, and the media coverage afforded to Conor Cusack as he related his battle with depression was an encouraging sign that we were taking this problem seriously. We must listen and be alert to the problems of others and we must share our own problems as well as finding ways to reach out to those who are vulnerable.

An tUas Ó hUiginn spoke of the fact that 80% of suicides were young men. More young men die by their own hand than are killed on our roads. Cumann Luthchleas Gael had to find a way to reach out to young members who had any nefarious, depression or psychological problems.

The President felt that there was an urgent need for the Association to intervene as the gap in resources available to different counties was widening all the time. It was a source of worry to smaller counties that the level of sponsorship available to them and their ability to fund-raise was so much less than that available to traditionally strong counties. This disparity was always there but it had become more pronounced lately. He also felt alarm at the proposed rates bill for the Croke Park stadium.

An tUachtarán congratulated all the clubs and the County team that was still a force despite recent set-backs. He referred to the report of An Rúnaí that described how the drama played out in Ruislip as the last action of the game could have resulted in a win, a draw or defeat. It wasn't to be our day.

John Higgins expressed his thanks to Bainisteoir, Kevin Walsh, for his commitment to Sligo over a number of years. He wished the new Bainisteoir, Pat Flanagan, the very best as he takes over the reins. He felt that the club "All-Star Awards" was an appropriate recognition of the efforts of our players.

Uachtarán Ó hUiginn then expressed his condolences to all Gaels who had lost loved ones throughout the year.

## Óraid an Cathaoirligh

An tUas Ó Ficheallaigh welcomed the delegates to convention and expressed his gratitude to the Officers who had compiled reports for the Comhdháil. He also thanked the Administrator and Rúnaí Chontae for their production of the Convention booklet.

An Cathaoirleach explained that he had completed his third year in office and could lay claim to having achieved some success. He was delighted to see that the County's accounts were now audited as per rule. He welcomed the fact that all team managers were in place for the coming season. He paid tribute to Kevin Walsh and wished Pat Flanagan the best for the future. The Chairman felt that we must now focus on success. An tUas Ó Ficheallaigh thanked Sean Mulhern and Joe Queenan for their informative explanation of the County's financial affairs. It was to be welcomed that the new *Dynamics* accountancy package was now being used by the Administrator making it easier to keep within budget when monthly figures were available. The County finances would gradually improve with tighter purchasing controls and new arrangements with our lenders. It was important to establish working capital and improve returns from fundraising. He welcomed the assistance of the implementation committee and in particular the help of the Chairman of the National Finance Committee Laurí Quinn.

Some success had been achieved by the Junior footballers, St Attracta's and Summerhill and the Chairman wished them all the best for 2014. He felt the local media had done a wonderful job in informing supporters at home and abroad of our activities and he sent his best wishes to the exiles who were promoting our games and culture.

The Chairman also paid tribute to the sponsorship committee and thanked the various Sponsors who were supporting Sligo GAA now and had done so in the past. He also alluded to the talents of members of sub-committees including Hand-ball, Camoige, Rounders and Cumann na mBunscol. He paid tribute to our sister-organisation and their achievements in Ladies football. The efforts of those involved in Scor competitions and u-age hurling should also be noted.

The coaching Committee and the assistance they receive from IT Sligo is proving very effective on the ground and the Chairman took time to wish Liam Óg Gormley and Sinéid McGill all the best for the future.



He noted that the Connacht Wheelchair hurling team was Captained by Shane Hynes Calraigh-Naomh Iosaf.

Coireall Ó Ficheallaigh stated that volunteerism was the life-blood of the organisation and that we should recognize the role of our supporters, the parents and partners of players. The Senior County players were our “shop-window” and he welcomed the agreements that had been reached with the GPA. The Chairman also felt that the “Give respect-Get respect” initiative needed all our support as we tried to stamp out bullying and in particular racism. Echoing the remarks of An tUachtarán he felt that the causes of the high rate of suicide in our young population must be investigated.

An Cathaoirleach complimented Pat Conway and the Referee’s Committee and he noted that no appeal had been lodged to Connacht hearings this year.

An tUas Ó Ficheallaigh offered his condolences to those who had been bereaved during the year.

In conclusion An Cathaoirleach thanked his family for their support and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

### **Election of Officers;**

An Cathaoirleach explained that he would not be seeking re-election and that he had accepted the position of Children’s officer. He felt he would have more time to concentrate on this role and he thanked his family and supporters expressing the wish that all Gaels “pull together” for the betterment of the County. The voting between the two remaining candidates Seosamh Ó Taift and Brendain Ó Loinín then took place while Motions were discussed--

### **Gaeil na Seamróige**

That the CCC and Coiste na nÓg ensure strict adherence to the master fixtures calendar and that clubs receive adequate written notification of fixtures throughout the year, with the recommendation being that clubs are circulated every Monday morning with the fixtures for the following two weeks at a minimum. *Laurí Quinn before speaking on the motion acknowledged the work of the outgoing Chairman and wished him well. He spoke of the restrictiveness of the present regime and commended the motion to the meeting.* **Referred to CCC.**

### **Cláirsigh an Oirthear**

That a substantial reduction in the premium payable for club u 20 and u 21 grade is negotiated with the risk and insurance committee. The vast majority of players in the u20/21 category are already covered by the players’ injury scheme at minor or adult level and generally participate in a maximum of 3 games in the u20/21 grade annually. **Referred to finance committee.**

### **Gael Naomh Molaise**

That the current Minor inter county championship structure be replaced as follows

A; with an u17 competition (players aged 16 and 17).

B; A minor competition with no u17’s eligible to be played in conjunction with the senior inter county championship competition. **Agreed to prepare motion for congress.**

## Naomh Eoin peil

1. That a review of Under Age Football & Coaching be undertaken by Sligo county Board including the hosting of a Youth Convention. **Refer to Coaching and Games Committee.**
2. That a Feasibility Study be undertaken to determine if Centre of Excellence at Scarden, could become a North West Regional Centre of Excellence. **Noted-Can be reviewed on completion of project. Possibility of cross border funding was raised.**
3. That Sligo County Committee appoints a Sub Committee under the Chairmanship of the Central Council Delegate to establish what grounds are suitable for the hosting of Senior & Intermediate Championship Matches which meet the criteria required as regards match regulations. *Colm Nevin stated Some grounds not suitable;* **Noted**
4. That the format of the Senior Championship be revised. **Referred to CCC.**
5. That the playing of Senior Championship games on Sunday evenings be discontinued except in exceptional circumstances. *Problems of players returning to Dublin highlighted.* **Referred to relevant Committees.**

## lascaigh

For a trial period, take the U14 development squad and rather than have collective county development training sessions, revert back to a divisional basis and have South, West, North and East development squads.

Each division could then have their own training sessions locally and play each of the other divisions on a 'home and away' basis thus giving each team a minimum of 6 games. **Coaching and Games considering similar ideas.**

## Naomh Micheál

That on the day following a County Committee meeting an attendance record is e mailed to all Club secretaries. **Noted.**

That the two minor teams, which contest a Connacht final, would be seeded and automatically qualify for the following year's semi final; the remaining three teams to play a round robin competition with the two top teams progressing to the semi final. **Prepare motion for Connacht Convention.**

## BYE LAWS

There would need to be changes to the bye laws to allow for a larger Finance Committee and to allow for a Health and Well-being Committee. Ps. Tomás Ó hÉimhín Sec. Brendáin Ó Muirí

## Election

Seosamh Ó Taift was declared the winner of the ballot and the new County Chairman. Brendáin Ó Loinín offered his congratulations pledging that he would “row in behind” the new Cathaoirleach as he was “a good friend.”

Seosamh Ó Taift thanked the Convention for their support especially his own club Naomh Mhichíl. He wished the former Cathaoirleach the best for the future in his new position and he stated that Brendáin Ó Loinín had much to offer Sligo GAA. With reference to the financial position of the County the new incumbent stated that we must never allow a similar set of accounts to be presented to a Convention again. A business or a household could only spend what it took in. There would have to be decisions taken; decisions that might be unpopular but he had no problem making such choices for the good of Sligo GAA. Spending simply had to be reduced and income increased with an acceptable level of finance provided for all County teams. He felt a County team performing well would “lift all boats.” Fundraising events would be rolled out as a matter of priority with the Club Sligo initiative to be launched shortly. Chairs, Secretaries and treasurers would be briefed on the way the fundraiser would operate. He envisaged an adult and u-age draft fixture plan being outlined so that Clubs could air their views.

**Leas Rúnaí;** There was no contest as Sean Ó Nialláin, Curraigh, withdrew his nomination.

**Cisteoir Cuntóir;** Eamonn Mac hÉil, Calraigh-Naomh Iosaf, successfully contested this position. He thanked his Club for the nomination and also Micheál Ó Loinín, Curraigh, for his contribution. Micheal Ó Loinín in turn wished the new incumbent well in the role and assured all of his continued support for the County. An tUas Mac hÉil in reference to his late brother Noel pointed out that he appreciated the words of Cristóir Ó Murchú as his brother had lined out as a junior player at the age of 61.

**Cultura agus Gaeilge;** Ceit Mac Enrí, Bun an Fheadáin, was elected unopposed.

**PRO;** Gabhan Mac Almhaigh, Naomh Muire, was elected unopposed.

**Connacht Council;** There was no contest as Sean Ó Nialláin withdrew his nomination.

**Tomás Mac Giolla Chadhain;** Congratulated Seosamh Ó Taift and his club Naomh Mhichíl. He also wished Coireall Ó Ficheallaigh well stating that he had worked tirelessly for the Association with no other agenda. He paid tribute to Eamon Mac Maoin agus An Rúnaí for the way the Convention booklet was presented. An tUas Mac Giolla Chadhain reminded delegates of the National Club draw. Prizes were provided by Croke Park and the Club simply sold the tickets. Only individual’s names could appear on tickets; not Club names. They would be available the following week.

**Padraig S.Ó Dubhtaigh;** Tributes were paid to Padraig Ó Dubhtaigh who would complete his term as Connacht Council Rep. at the Connacht Convention. Seosamh Ó Taift spoke of the “record of service” of an tUas Ó Dubhtaigh to the East Division. Brendáin Ó Loinín also spoke of the Eastern Harps man’s contribution. Pádraig Ó Dubhtaigh thanked everyone for their kind words and thanked Coireall Ó Ficheallaigh for his effort and work on behalf of Sligo GAA.

**Maire Bean Uí bhFinn** on behalf of Cumann Naomh Micheál thanked the Convention for electing Seosamh Ó Taift to the position of Cathaoirleach.

An Cathaoirleach thanked everyone for their attendance and wished all a safe journey home.

Do scor an crinniú ansin.

## CONVENTION STANDING ORDERS 2014

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 2014.
2. Delegates are requested to sign in on entering the Convention Hall.
3. A returning officer will be ratified by the delegates present to oversee the distribution of ballot papers, determine the valid poll, conduct the counting of votes and advise An Cathaoirleach of the results.
4. The returning officer shall be assisted by independent tellers who shall be ratified by the delegates present.
5. Voting is in accordance with rules of Proportional Representation single transferable vote (PRSTV) as described in the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government literature (notes on election expenses not applicable).  
[www.environ.ie/en/LocalGovernment/.../FileDownload,1895,en.pdf](http://www.environ.ie/en/LocalGovernment/.../FileDownload,1895,en.pdf)
6. Representatives of candidates may be present at the count. Recounts may be allowed at the discretion of the returning officer who shall have the final say in all matters pertaining to the elections at convention.
7. All motions must be formally proposed and seconded. Any delegate may propose or second a motion.
8. 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.
9. No delegate, other than the proposer, may speak more than once on any motion.
10. All speakers to motions, other than the proposer, must limit themselves to not more than two minutes.
11. Only one delegate from any club may speak on a motion.
12. Voting on motions, if applicable, may be conducted by way of a show of voting cards or by secret ballot.
13. Delegates leaving Convention before its conclusion must return their voting cards to the tellers. Ballot papers cannot be removed from the voting area.
14. The quota for elections is the next highest number of the total number of votes divided by the number of vacancies plus one. For example; in the case of one position to be filled on the vote of 90 delegates, the quota will be 46. In the case of two positions to be filled on the vote of 90 delegates the quota will be 31

## Tuarascáil an Runai Chontae Don Comhdháil Coiste Chontae 2014

The 2013 annual Convention witnessed a seamless transition of power as **Seosamh Ó Taift**, Naomh Micheál, was elected Cathaoirleach of An Coiste Chontae Shligigh. The outgoing Cathaoirleach, **Coireall Ó Ficheallaigh**, had been nominated by An Coiste Bainistí to the position of Oifigeach na bPaistí; while **Brendain Ó Loinín** the only other contender for the position of Chairperson was subsequently re-appointed as Cathaoirleach, Coiste na nÓg.

The age profile of An Coiste was lowered considerably when **Gabhán Mac Almhaigh** agus **Ceit Mac Enri** were elected unopposed to the positions of PRO and “Irish and Cultural” officers respectively. **Eamon Mac hÉil** successfully challenged **Micheál Ó Loinín** for the position of Cisteoir Cúntoir.

The delegates put their faith in this committee to not alone see to the day to day running of Sligo GAA for 2014 but also to address the financial challenges facing An Coiste. Agreements prior to Convention meant that the economic affairs of Sligo GAA were to be administered by the elected officers with an input from the National Finance Committee and their appointees. Sensible decisions taken at Convention allowed this new County Executive to explore solutions for the many challenges that lay ahead. It is to the credit of those who took these unselfish decisions that a corner was turned. Fund-raising schemes that were already on the “drawing board” were now advanced; chiefly among them the Club Sligo Initiative, an enterprise that proved to be an outstanding success.

*How to effectively fundraise for overall county projects while still being fair to clubs in allowing them the opportunity to raise finance to keep their own “show on the road” is an annual conundrum.*

In this regard I, as County Secretary, would like to pay tribute to the clubs that supported the 2013 Draw. It was a fund-raiser that was short on planning and short on prizes but the “usual suspects” supported the strategy for the good of the county. A bad situation, financially, would have been a lot worse but for club members who made the effort to sell the €50 tickets. Those who entered the draw in the sure and certain knowledge that in the unlikely event of a win: it would be a very modest one, are of course our true supporters. A more universal response to this and other fund-raisers would avoid the necessity to impose levies but a levy of some sort seems to be inevitable if we are to avoid a situation where two thirds of cumainn are asked to carry the “can” for the whole County.

In 2014 “Club Sligo” had, what seemed to be, very optimistic targets but the revenue raised met and exceeded expectations. The support for Club Sligo this year has resulted in it being the most successful fund-raising initiative ever undertaken by Sligo GAA and in conjunction with the progression of the “Scarden” project we can be justifiably proud of our achievements. The senior football team had a competitive run in the All-Ireland Championship and the fact that they competed in the “last twelve” was also a boost to our collective morale.

Gabhaim buíochas do na toscairi a thug tacaíocht dom I rith na bliana seo; bhlian ina rinneamar ár ndhícheall feabhas a chuir ar cursaí Cumann Luthchleas Gael í Sligeach. Níl aon dabht go raibh uaireanta nach raibh gach éinnie í bhfabhair an dtreo ina raibh An Coiste ag dul ach rinne gach éinne a ndhícheall obair go dian ar son an Chontae. Nuair atá cursaí airigid í gceist ní ceist

simplí é feabhas a chuir ar an fadhb ach tá tús iontach deánta ag sibhse, na Cumainn, chun dul chun chinn ar cursaí gnó sa Chontae.

There now, at last, seems to be a “plan” in place although it would appear that a long road of repayments lies ahead. Progression requires investment and the remittances to our lenders will require a focused approach to fund-raising for some time to come. The debt is very manageable and the infrastructure that will be made available to the Sligo GAA as a result of our efforts is the least that we can and should provide as the largest voluntary organisation in the county.

A very welcome boost to Sligo GAA came in the form of a €300,000-00 Sports Capital Grant; funding that is earmarked for the building that will be part of the Development at Scarden. The proposal to avail of funding was put together by **Peadar Niland** and the funding itself was eventually granted by the Office of the Minister for Sport **Michael Ring TD**. The Minister’s colleagues local TDs **Tony McLoughlin** and **John Perry** were also very supportive of the allocation.

#### **Micheál Kearins ‘Hall of Fame’**

On behalf of all Sligo Gaels I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to **Micheál Kearins** for his contribution to Sligo football during a long and illustrious career. His self-imposed training regime was ahead of its time and his scores from impossible angles were as a result of that constant striving for perfection.

I most sincerely thank Uachtarán **Liam Ó Neill** and Cumann Luthchleas Gael for their decision to induct Micheál into the GAA Museum ‘Hall of Fame.’ It is a singular honour for Sligo and Connacht GAA as well as the Kearins’ family.

#### **Philip Greene**

It was widely and wrongly reported in 2012 that Philip had ended his inter-county football career but in 2013 it became obvious that the No. 1 goalkeeper for the county had indeed called it a day. There were no announcements; no statements . . . the big-man just wasn’t around anymore. Philip has made an immense contribution to Sligo football as one of its longest-serving players. He was not just a goalkeeper . . . he conducted his team vocally from the No. 1 position as warned of unmarked forwards and opposition threats. Anyone who observed the St. John’s man’s performance from behind his goal could only marvel at the energy and concentration he brought to every game. The Chartered Accountant made his debut in 2003 and four years later won a Connacht medal.

An Coiste Chontae is very grateful to “Fizzy” for his loyal service.

#### **Connacht Council**

Sligo and Eastern Harps were honoured when **Pádraig S. Ó Dubhtaigh** was elected to the position of Connacht PRO at Provincial Convention. Pádraig has served as Sligo PRO followed by a term as County Secretary – a path followed by the present Rúnaí Chontae. He is synonymous with Cláirsigh an Oirthear where he has acted as Rúnaí since the beginning; an association all the more remarkable given

that Pádraig taught many of the club members at Keash National School from where he has recently retired. Connacht Council is indeed fortunate to have the services of such a totally-committed GAA man.

A proposal to allow **minor** teams a second chance in the provincial championship was supported by Sligo and Galway at Connacht Convention. The arguments put forward by the two counties were that it was unfair to ask minor footballers to sacrifice so much time training when they might exit the competition after one match. The proposal did not find much favour with the Connacht Executive and it was clear that Mayo and Leitrim representatives were totally opposed to the idea with Roscommon lukewarm at best. The Connacht CCC was asked to come up with a proposal themselves that would encapsulate the “spirit” of the Galway-Sligo ideas. Subsequently the National minor review work-group came up with the suggestion that defeated counties might enter a “tier II” competition on an All-Ireland basis but this suggestion will not see the light of day until 2016 if at all.

It is strange that a senior player should have at least two chances to play for his county in a given Championship and even after a poor season he can look forward to better fortune the following year while the seventeen-year-old minor who loses his first championship match will never get the chance to play at that grade again. There seems to be little appetite to change things in Connacht, however, as the Galway-Sligo axis fails to convince the neighbours.

### **Vacancy**

Following Connacht Convention Sligo County Committee was left with a vacancy to fill in the ranks of its Connacht Council Representatives. *Seán Ó Tuairisc*, Naomh Gaeil Molaise, was nominated and has carried out his duties in his own inimitable way since.

### **Congress**

**Aogan Ó Fearghail** was elected to the position of Uachtarán tofa at Congress, which was held in Croke Park this year. He will be the first Cavan-man to hold the position and will have knowledge of the unique challenges faced by counties like Sligo. The initial impression of Uachtarán Tofa Ó Fearghail is that he is an excellent communicator and that although he is keenly-aware of the power and influence of Cumann Luthchleas Gael he does not see the Association having a role to cure all society’s ills. The new President will focus on what is achievable rather than setting unrealistic goals.

The new “**black card**” was entered into the rule-book as the Association got to grips with what was termed as cynical fouling. It was felt that gifted forwards in particular would be protected by this new sanction and by allowing the carded player to be replaced the whole team would not be penalised. Most commentators felt that the new sanction would benefit teams like Sligo in that it would offer protection for smaller, lighter players. Sligo players were to become all too familiar with the new rule as the season unfolded.

The “advantage” rule was also adopted at congress and while very welcome it did cause some confusion for spectators during the year! Match bans replaced bans related to time in a welcome move to introduce more fairness in matters of discipline.

In order to comply with an **Treoiráí Oifigiul** as it applies to teams consisting of players that belong to another club An Cathaoirleach, Seosamh Ó Taift, conducted a hurling review as it was in this code that the “permit system” was most widely used. The changes at Congress had cast doubt on the legality of teams comprised of large numbers from another club and while An Coiste made an honest attempt to regularise the situation these attempts so far have failed to satisfy everyone and have led to an appearance by the County Committee at a Disputes Resolution Authority hearing. This hearing ruled that the attempts to form a new u-age hurling entity were contrary to rule and the situation will have to be revisited in the future if teams that participated in competitions in the past can continue to do so “under rule.”

## **FBD**

### **Rnd.1.**

**Pat Flanagan** being the last manager to be appointed after the Autumnal managerial “merry-go-round” had little time to prepare his new team for the FBD league and hopes that the new Black Card regime would suit Sligo were quickly dashed as **Neill Ewing** received one of the first in the country. Galway had no difficulty overcoming the Yeats men as the Tribesmen had an easy win in a wet and windy Tuam Stadium, their first victory over the Yeats’ men in recent years.

### **Rnd 2.**

**Charlie Harrison** was next to add to the “Black Card” collection but the new Manager picked up his first win against GMIT with **Eoin McHugh’s** first half goal decisive in Collooney.

### **Rnd.3.**

Sligo were dominant against neighbours, Leitrim, and looked to be on the way to securing a second win when somehow **Seán Hagan’s** men clawed their way back to earn an unlikely draw. While **Pat Hughes** added to our **black card** collection, a **Niall Murphy** goal and an **Adrian Marren** penalty should have been enough along with some excellent points but the teams ended up dividing the spoils; a result that was enough to propel Leitrim into the FBD final. Leitrim won back-to-back FBD titles when they defeated Roscommon in the final.

### **Allianz League Rnd 1.**

“A master-class in the art of scoring by **Adrian Marren** propelled Sligo into a priceless win over Limerick” reported Leo Gray. Newly-appointed Captain **Marren** had eight points to his credit at the final whistle and with newly-appointed goal-keeper **Aidan Devaney** denying Limerick a late, late goal (with the aid of Ross Donovan) the newly-appointed manager had some reason for celebration although Limerick helped Sligo’s case with way-ward shooting. It was the 49<sup>th</sup> minute before the Yeats’ men got in front at Markievicz Park with Coen, McHugh and Kelly on-song as well as the marksman Marren.



## Rnd. 2.

Enniskillen proved barren ground when hopes to add to the Limerick win were dashed. ‘Black on top of yellow’ made for red for **James Kilcullen** after the break and **Keelan Cawley** joined him on the bench when he picked up two yellows. A Fermanagh-punched goal was quickly followed by a Mark Breheny goal and Sligo went in at the break one point ahead. The second-half did not live up to expectations however, and thirteen men probably did well to keep the scoring difference down.

## Rnd.3.

Sligo had a comfortable win over a poor Offaly side but they went in at the break on level terms in Countess Markievicz Park. The Yeats’ men turned on the style in the second-half with what the *Sligo Champion* report described as “exquisite points.” It was a very important win for the home side and overall the performance was encouraging.

## Rnd.4.

Another encouraging performance from Sligo but still no points to show for their outing in Breffni Park. Cavan, under pressure, engineered a goal courtesy of **Niall McDermott** and they took over in the final stages to end on a five-point margin. Sligo led 0-9 to 0-5 eight minutes into the second-half and looked well up for the challenge. They were to pay for missed opportunities and some turnovers though in what could have been a sweet away victory. The side picked up two more **black cards** and seemed intent on accumulating a “full deck.”

## Rnd.5.

Yet again Sligo made the long journey to Wexford only to return home empty handed along with the added fear of relegation looming over their heads. Roscommon and Cavan were moving up; Offaly was going down but who was to join them?

Two Wexford goals in the fourth and 52<sup>nd</sup> minutes and a saved penalty were the difference that ensured a home win. Sligo were always a threat in a wind-assisted second-half but the second Wexford goal gave the home side the “lift” they needed to ensure the points did not travel north. Predictions that the **black card** would protect “smaller” forwards were to prove true in this game at least when a trip on Stephen Coen resulted in Wexford’s Conor Carty receiving the sanction.

## Rnd.6.

Relief was the over-riding emotion as **Pat Flanagan’s** side registered a win over Longford to ensure their survival in Division III. Sligo’s first-half performance seemed to indicate a comfortable passage to gaining the valuable points but a Longford come-back ensured a nail-biting finish for Sligo supporters. The **black card** tally for Sligo was again added to when **Brendan Egan** saw the line early in the second-half and the home side lost their authority over the game; at this point, almost letting the midlanders grab an unlikely two points. In the end a one point win sealed the deal.

## Rnd.7

Sligo and Roscommon had nothing to fear from their encounter in the “Hyde” as both knew their League status fate was already determined. The game, as **Cathal Mullaney** pointed out in his report, displayed intensity levels, “rarely rising above that of a challenge match.” It was an experimental side with 11 changes from the Longford match and the game proved useful in the context of giving players a start. **Keelan Cawley’s** efforts gave **James Kilcullen** an easy goal chance which he duly took giving Sligo a two-point lead at 49 minutes. Roscommon exerted their authority after this score though and ran out winners by a margin of three points.

Division 3				
6 Apr 2014 3pm	Roscommon	0-12 - 1-06	Sligo	Dr Hyde Park
6 Apr 2014 3pm	Wexford	1-15 - 2-10	Longford	Wexford Park
6 Apr 2014 3pm	Fermanagh	3-10 - 2-13	Offaly	Brewster Park
5 Apr 2014 4pm	Limerick	0-14 - 0-18	Cavan	Gaelic Grounds, Limerick
30 Mar 2014 3:30pm	Fermanagh	2-20 - 3-08	Wexford	Brewster Park
30 Mar 2014 3pm	Sligo	0-15 - 2-08	Longford	Markievicz Park
30 Mar 2014 3pm	Offaly	1-12 - 1-13	Limerick	Tullamore
29 Mar 2014 7pm	Cavan	0-14 - 1-08	Roscommon	Kingspan Breffni Park
16 Mar 2014 2pm	Roscommon	3-19 - 2-04	Offaly	Dr Hyde Park
16 Mar 2014 2pm	Limerick	1-06 - 0-18	Fermanagh	Newcastlewest
16 Mar 2014 2pm	Longford	0-10 - 1-09	Cavan	Glennon Brothers Pearse Park
16 Mar 2014 12:45pm	Wexford	2-12 - 1-12	Sligo	Wexford Park
9 Mar 2014 3pm	Limerick	1-14 - 1-13	Wexford	Gaelic Grounds, Limerick
9 Mar 2014 2pm	Offaly	1-10 - 1-15	Longford	Tullamore
9 Mar 2014 2pm	Fermanagh	4-10 - 3-17	Roscommon	Brewster Park
9 Mar 2014 2pm	Cavan	1-12 - 0-10	Sligo	Kingspan Breffni Park
2 Mar 2014 2pm	Roscommon	1-21 - 0-13	Limerick	Kiltoom
2 Mar 2014 2pm	Sligo	0-18 - 1-12	Offaly	Markievicz Park
2 Mar 2014 2pm	Longford	1-15 - 2-11	Fermanagh	Glennon Brothers Pearse Park
2 Mar 2014 2pm	Wexford	0-06 - 0-13	Cavan	Wexford Park
9 Feb 2014 2pm	Roscommon	1-16 - 1-09	Wexford	Kiltoom
9 Feb 2014 2pm	Offaly	0-08 - 1-11	Cavan	Tullamore
9 Feb 2014 2pm	Limerick	2-11 - 0-11	Longford	Gaelic Grounds, Limerick
8 Feb 2014 7pm	Fermanagh	2-13 - 1-10	Sligo	Brewster Park
2 Feb 2014 2pm	Cavan	1-12 - 0-11	Fermanagh	Kingspan Breffni Park
2 Feb 2014 2pm	Sligo	0-15 - 0-13	Limerick	Markievicz Park
2 Feb 2014 2pm	Longford	0-10 - 0-13	Roscommon	Glennon Brothers Pearse Park
2 Feb 2014 2pm	Wexford	1-14 - 0-12	Offaly	Wexford Park

**U-21:** Sligo produced an outstanding performance against odds-on favourites, Roscommon, and just came up short in what would have been a major upset in the Connacht U-21 Championship. The fact that it was a Sligo-man **Niall Murphy** who received the “Man of the Match” award speaks volumes about a game that could have gone anyway. Pat Flanagan’s u-21 charges have given reason for optimism for the future.

## All-Ireland Senior Football Championship

Sligo's hopes of a Connacht final appearance were dashed when Galway had four points to spare at the final whistle in Countess Markievicz Park. With the wind at their backs the Yeats' men were off-target on eight occasions in the first-half, a statistic that would count in the end. **Alan Mullholland's** men pulled ahead after the break and Sligo was left to contemplate another run at the qualifiers.

That first qualifier match was in Aughrim against Wicklow, a venue that hasn't always borne fruit for Sligo in recent years. Although never behind at any stage in the game the margins were always tight and the result unpredictable until **Stephen Coen** and **Brian Curran** scored in the dying minutes to put two between the sides; the margin that was recorded at the final whistle 0-12 to 0-10. This was our first qualifier victory in five years and a welcome boost after recent and not so recent defeats.

Sligo overcame Limerick by the same margin in their next qualifier assignment but the wastefulness of the Yeats' men (13 missed chances) was frustrating for manager, Pat Flanagan, who felt his side should have "been out of sight" long before **Stephen Coen** was sprung off the bench to score an invaluable point. 0-12 to 0-10.

The Sligo panel had reached the last twelve in the All-Ireland series and had a date with Cork to decide on further progress. The championship ended for the Yeats' men when Cork scored eight points without reply in the first-half but they did get to within four courtesy of a **Brian Curran** goal and some fine points. Cork eased into a seven point lead that showed Sligo still had some work to do before competing at the top table.

### Management:

There is always speculation about management after a team exits the championship but no one seriously contemplated any change in Sligo as the year would count as one of the more successful in recent times. While there was "room for improvement" it was obvious that the team had responded well to **Pat Flanagan's** management style and that with more time to prepare there was grounds for optimism in 2015.

Doubts about Pat Flanagan's tenure came from an unlikely source when the manager, himself, informed the Sligo Chairman that he had been approached by his own club to consider the Offaly vacancy. He explained that he felt he had a duty "out of courtesy" to meet with his former team mates to at least discuss the matter. The Sligo executive expected an answer sooner rather than later and when none was forthcoming a deadline was applied in order to get clarity regarding the manager's intentions.

At this stage a return by the Clara-man seemed unlikely and indeed unwise as the panel now realised that a move to Offaly was being contemplated and this would have damaged his relationship with the players in the event of a return. After the Cork game, the Captain, **Adrian Marren**, expressed the hope that a decision about Pat's future would be made "in the next week or two" a sentiment

shared by the Executive. The deadline imposed by the Executive passed and Sligo parted company with Pat Flanagan on amicable terms.

When **Joe Taaffe** took over the helm as County Chairman he never contemplated that that one of his tasks in 2014 would be to conduct yet another search for a football manager. Yet that was the task facing the management committee and it was obvious that a quick decision was called for given the uncertainty of the weeks following the Cork game.

Contacts were made, expressions of interest were invited and the name **Niall Carew** came into the mix. Niall was interviewed and an agreement was reached shortly after the county final. The Executive feel that a quality manager has been appointed in good time to prepare the panel for another season. We wish Niall the best and look forward to steady progress.

In the mean-time Pat Flanagan has been appointed to the role of Senior Football Manager with Offaly and An Coiste wishes Pat every success in that role as well as thanking him for his short but significant contribution to Sligo football.

It is also to be welcomed that **Aidan Rooney** was ratified in good time as the Minor Manager and we wish him good fortune in a very important role.

## **Iomaint**

The only consolation the senior hurlers can take from the season is that they forced Tyrone into extra time before losing to the eventual Nicky Rackard Cup winners. The u-16 Hurlers won the All-Ireland 'B' Plate in September. Hurling GPO, **Benny Kenny**, had 65 players involved in that tournament.

## **Handball**

The facilities opened recently in Collooney are a credit to a small hard working Committee and their efforts to introduce "one wall" facilities into National schools are to be commended. **Paddy Walsh's** exploits are by now the "stuff of legends."

**Junior** In may the Yeats' men retained their Connacht Junior crown when they defeated Leitrim.

# Intermediate Club Championship

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The two Intermediate semi-finals were close encounters. Naomh Pádraig looked like they were booking a place in the final with some excellent points to their credit in a game that saw Calraigh-Naomh Iosaf snatch victory in the final quarter of a dramatic encounter.

Bun an Fheadáin also got their “second wind” and looked set to pull off a similar victory but Gaeil na Seamroige held off the challenge and booked their own slot in the final.

**Calraigh-Naomh Iosaf:** coasted to an easy and predicted win in the Intermediate final against a Gael na Seamroige side that displayed none of the form they possessed in previous encounters with the same opposition this year.

## SENIOR, Club Championship

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Tubbercurry gave an indication of what was to come when they accounted for Tourlestrane in the semi-final. County-men **David Kelly** and **Brian Curran** were on-song.

The big story in the other semi-final was the failure of the St. John’s team to ignite against Sligo rivals, St. Mary’s, in a disappointing one-sided affair.

### **Tubbercurry;**

Tobar an Choire, Captain, **David Kelly**, got to lift the **Owen B. Hunt** trophy knowing that the club had waited for most of his life-time to recapture the honour. David thanked the team supporters for their patience and his voice betrayed how much a senior club medal meant to a player that has won more accolades than most. **Willie Gormley** had brought his side to the top flight in Sligo football terms as he simultaneously coped with the serious illness of his father, Owen, who sadly passed away two days after the final *ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilís*.

### **“Railway Cup”**

Tubbercurry’s wait for county glory was as to nothing compared with Connacht’s 45-year wait for a provincial championship win in a tournament that will be forever known as the “Railway Cup.” **David Kelly**, **Mark Breheny** and **Neil Ewing** were part of John Tobin’s set-up which coasted to an easy victory over Ulster.

**Rebellion:** Anyone would be forgiven for thinking that an episode that included an order: a countermanding order and mention of “Na Fianna” had something to do with the anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916. However, the same ingredients could be applied to various controversies that were part and parcel of hurling in the West Div. in 2014. It can only be hoped that the undoubted success of underage hurling continues unabated in West Sligo and that common sense rather than legalistic arguments comes to the fore. In future debate we would all do well to remember that the “Give Respect; Get Respect” initiative is intended to extend beyond the white line.

## David Herity

All too frequently unflattering remarks are directed towards the Sligo senior hurlers and Sligo hurling in general and during these conversations it is always useful to be in a position to introduce the name of **David Herity**, a player who has amassed five All-Ireland senior medals during seven seasons with the Kilkenny Senior team.

As one of the more famous of the Drumfad-Herritys, David was always generous with his time especially when asked to present medals to the younger Yeats' men. He was asked to carry out these duties primarily because of his Sligo connections and his ability as a hurler playing at the highest level but it soon became apparent to us that it was as a role model for young people that he should have been asked in the first instance.

The irony is that the Dunnamaggin Club-man would have lined out for the Sligo hurling team, like his brother Colin, but for his commitment, at the time, to Kilkenny football!

Coiste Iomána Sligeach wish David the very best for the future and we thank him and Coiste na nÓg, Cill Chainnigh for the hospitality shown to our young teams on their visits to the County.

## The Scribes

**Tomás Mac Giolla Chadhain** comes to the end of his term as Ard Comhairle Representative in a year that also saw the retirement of his good friend, **Leo Gray**, from his position as Sports Editor of the *Sligo Champion* newspaper. Both men have had an extraordinarily long involvement with Sport in Sligo. Along with his tenure as Ard Chomhairle Rep., Tommy was one of the longest serving County Secretaries in the country when he stood down after 34 years; a term that was all the more extraordinary considering that his father had served in the same position for a similar time ! Leo Gray's forty-year tenure as Sports Editor has few parallels in Irish journalism and the fact that he worked for a while alongside his twin brother Jim, the overall editor of the paper, is unique indeed.

The instincts of both Leo Gray and Tommy Kilcoyne were to record accurately but without malice. Care was always taken by both men to record the good and the bad in Sligo GAA without individual criticism. In another life both would have proven excellent appointees to the diplomatic corp.!

## Challenging times

Administration and excitement are two words that rarely appear in the same sentence but these are indeed exciting times to be involved in administration. Uachtarán **Liam Ó Neil** has left a legacy that he can be proud of. He has initiated plans that will mean the All-Ireland Club Championship will in future be completed in a Calendar year. The Minor Review Group and the Youth Consultation Day got to grips in a definitive way with the problems facing young players as they juggle life, study and their GAA commitments. Real and intelligent solutions are being advanced after real and intelligent conversations with those affected.

An tUachtarán also initiated changes to Scór competitions and the eligibility criteria for participation in Feile Peil agus Feile na nÓg. To say that he had some difficulty in getting his ideas accepted by some members with regard to both initiatives would be an understatement. The Feile competitions, some of which were hosted by Sligo clubs, were a resounding success. Many participants would never have got the chance to take part in these sporting occasions but for the changes that were initiated by An tUas Ó Neill. Scór badly needed a revamp and as the only sporting organisation that encourages these cultural activities it behooves us to ensure that they prosper. The seeds have also been sown for the eventual collective administration of all Gaelic pursuits. At some stage in the not too distant future Uachtarán Cumann Luthchleas Gael will preside over Ladies' football, Camogie and Handball as well the current activities.

Uachtarán Ó Neill paid a visit to a selection of National and Secondary schools in the County where he was questioned about every aspect of the GAA by a most discerning audience. The "Sky Sports" deal and the "Black Card" were high on the agenda but the question regarding his tailor and the origin of the suit he was wearing got everyone by surprise! The National school teacher took it all in his stride and it was clear that he was very comfortable with a young audience and cognisant of their views.

## **Small is beautiful !**

The National Finance Committee has proven itself capable of dealing with the current challenges also. The Committee held a seminar to discuss the disparity in funding available to different counties. There is no easy solution to the fact that some counties have the ability to attract very high levels of sponsorship as compared with others. The differences in population and opportunity among different counties are obvious but as long as our games are based on the club and county unit these anomalies will always be with us. The National Finance Committee has at least acknowledged the challenges faced by what are termed "smaller counties" although no easy solution maybe in sight.

## **No one followed the script**

The announcement after any Elvis Presley concert, in the 1960s and '70s, became a catchphrase "Elvis has left the building" but in the case of **Garth Brooks**: he never got as far as the building. While the arguments about the rights and wrongs of three, five or as it turned out no concert were debated publically over many weeks the loss of revenue to the Association is a real one. In the context of the acknowledgement of the Finance Committee and Central Council of the difficulty for the "smaller counties" to attract revenue it would be a fair assumption to make; that Garth's loss is also Sligo's. The 'smaller counties' like Sligo are aware, however, that a "bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" and that "tomorrow 'and its bills' will always come."

## **Race Day**

Some collaboration has occurred in the past between An Coiste Chontae and our neighbours, the County Sligo Race Committee but we were always conscious that there was more to be gained from a stronger partnership. An Rúnaí Chontae and the Chairman of the Race Committee discussed the possibility of a dedicated GAA Race Day on many occasions and those discussions became a reality when

the inaugural GAA Race Day was penciled in for the 19<sup>th</sup> of August. The meeting itself was an outstanding success and one which can be built on for the future. The outgoing Chairman, **Martin Foley**, and newly-elected incumbent, **Kieran O'Connor**, were most helpful in making the day the success that it was and, of course, it is always a help when you are dealing with two staunch GAA men!

#### **Obituaries:**

**Ted Nealon:** Ted had a long and fulfilled life and achieved much in his broadcasting and political career. "Fairness" is a word that is often used in descriptions of the man who was synonymous with the "7days" programme and went on to hold several ministries with distinction.

For our part An Coiste Chontae, Shligigh, will always remember Ted as a footballer who represented his county, with distinction, long before he did the same as our representative in Dáil Éireann.

#### **Gary Dillon**

When **Joe Brolly** spoke on the subject of Organ Donation at the 2012 GAA Congress in Derry he mentioned his friend **Gary Dillon** a Cystic Fibrosis sufferer who frequently attended to his duties as Calry St. Joseph's PRO from his hospital bed, "wearing his club top and working away on his laptop." The hurlers and footballers of Cumann Calraigh-Naomh Iosaf will miss the presence of Gary on the side-line sporting his blue tracksuit, which also covered the ever present oxygen tank. Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.

#### **Edward Neary Reitoir**

**Edward Neary** was a high-achiever apart from his stint as an inter-county referee he established the Quantity Surveying firm of Edward Neary & Co. **Paddy Galvin**, on the night he was inducted into the Sligo GAA "Hall of Fame," spoke of the assistance of the Naomh Pádraig Clubman to the Markievicz Park Committee during various developments at the ground.

At Edward Neary's Funeral Mass his son, Eamon, brought the referee's jersey and whistle as a gift to the altar. Eamon turned briefly to face the congregation and held them aloft; an action that spoke a thousand words.

#### **Francis White**

The death occurred this year of **Frank White**, Knockalasa, after a long life, much of it devoted to Gaelic Games. Frank Captained the Sligo team that played Mayo at the official opening of Countess Markievicz Park in 1955. As a member of An Garda Síochána Frank lived in Dungloe, Co. Donegal, where he married his wife, Kathleen. He had the distinction of playing for Knockalasa, Dungloe, Sligo and Donegal Senior



teams along with Connacht and Ulster Railway Cup teams in a career that spanned a period from the early '40s to the late 1950s.

*On behalf of An Coiste Chontae, Shligigh, I extend my sympathies to all who have been bereaved throughout the year in the Association; Ar Dheis Lámh Dé go raibh a hAnaim dílis.*

## European Town of Sport

Sligo was honoured to be chosen as the European “Town of Sport” for 2014 and one of the highlights of the year was the staging of the *Wheelchair Hurling Interprovincial Final* at the Knocknarae Arena at IT Sligo. **Coireall Ó Ficheallaigh** has been acknowledged, by the Sports and Recreation Partnership as the person who first suggested that the prestigious event should come to Sligo in “the year that was in it”. The SSRP has been very supportive of various GAA initiatives and this one was no exception.

## “Sligo Champion” All-Stars

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The Sligo Club All-Stars award ceremony has established itself as the highlight event on the GAA’s social calendar. Fears that numbers would wane after the initial successes of the first few years proved unfounded as the 2014 gathering was as large as ever. **Brian Curran**, Tubbercurry, was adjudged to be ‘Senior Player of the Year’ while **Conor Griffin** Calry-St. Joseph’s picked up the Intermediate accolade. The power-houses of Sligo football were well represented in the awards ceremony but players from clubs with few titles were also recognised.

The “Hall of Fame” inductees, **Paddy Galvin** and **Tom Gallen**, were honoured in recognition of their work at the county grounds over many decades.

## Progress

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New faces at Executive level were only some of the changes experienced by the Association locally in 2014. The GAA is an organisation that must consider all options and reflect changes in society in general. In that respect Countess Markievicz Park was the venue for the first championship football game televised by Sky Sports in what was a most professional production.

The “Park” itself required a revamp in order to comply with new Health & Safety regulations and An Cathairleach saw to it that this work was carried out in a timely fashion. A grant of €60,000 from central funds was most welcome and the work ensures that our County ground can now safely accommodate its maximum capacity.

The future is bright for Sligo football if the exploits of St. Attracta’s College, who reached an ‘A’ final in the year immediately following promotion, are anything to go by. A Manning Cup win is always a good omen and the medal presentation ceremony held in the Radisson Blu Hotel was a fitting tribute to a team and management who have worked together for many years. The exploits of the teams entered into the Ted Webb tournament also augur well for the future.

IT Sligo and An Coiste have collaborated for many years; not least in the coaching of school children and the new sponsorship deal that sees the IT logo on the back of county jerseys is a most welcome development.

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann had its base in Sligo this year and many GAA volunteers were part of the “production.” Talented performers, who are also part of the Association, took part showcasing a traditional heritage that is very strong in the county.

A “Communities Creating Jobs” seminar recently took place in Aras Connacht; hosted by the **Western Development Commission**. This is an acknowledgement of the tremendous potential of Connacht GAA to network and create employment in the Western region.

The words of **Uachtarán Seán Ó hUiginn**, at last year’s Convention in relation to the physical and mental well-being of our members, were very pertinent. **Richard Kennedy** of Devenish Nutrition, has kindly sponsored seminars on the subject which help coaches to recognise the signs of depression among players. The late **Gary Dillon** was frequently seen sporting an “opt for life” T-shirt as he did his bit to highlight these problems. The GAA provides a whole life experience for its members and if anyone has any doubt about that there is one shining example in **Paddy Walsh** All-Ireland Handball Champion!

Many factors affect our quality of life and in that respect the formation of “Health & Wellbeing” committees are to be welcomed. It is not that ordinary members have the cure for all of life’s ills but it is a significant move that a committee is formed that will point people in the right direction when help is needed. The creation of the position of “Player Welfare Mentor” is also a progressive move and was no doubt influenced by the young people who took part in the “Youth Consultation Day.” The 15 to 22-year-olds are only too aware of the pressure they are being put under as they try to satisfy the demands of club and county teams, other codes and prepare for important exams.

The work of the Minor Review Group is ongoing and they, too, are keenly-aware of the pressure being put to bear on minor county players in particular. Intelligent solutions have been advanced such as playing the Minor Provincial Championship final at a different date to the senior game. This would allow more flexibility in making fixtures that could take account of State exams in particular. A proposed national u-age CCC to look after inter-provincial school tournaments would help to coordinate these fixtures with the Inter-County Minor dates allowing for a more sensible spread of games. The use of closed “Facebook” forums to allow county managers keep track of the activities of their panel members is a welcome use of technology that allows the Bainisteoir to avoid “burnout” within his panel.

Sligo GAA has written a submission for the new Local Community Development Committee (**LCDC**), a body set up in a major reform of local Government. The thinking behind the new arrangements is that the “Community & Voluntary” sector will have a say in the future of our county and as the largest voluntary organisation in the county, An Coiste Chontae Shligigh, must ensure that its voice is heard.

*It was with difficulty that any County Secretary in recent annual reports could allude to tangible progress in the county and so it is with some satisfaction that I can record that the first games were played on the new pitches at Scarden in November. The u-17 ‘Four County Tournament’ took place there in what must be regarded as a most positive sign that the project is now beginning to “bear fruit” for the Gaels of Sligo.*

*Thaispeáin na cluichi seo go bhfuilaimid go leir ag iarraidh an treo is sáisiúil a ghlacadh don Chontae agus is le gach éinne ag obair le cheile an treo is fearr. Comhoibriú an sli ar aghaidh. Ní neart go cuir le cheile ! Ta súil agam go n-éiríodh go maith le na foirne agus leis an Choiste Bainistí a mbeidh í bhfeidm tar éis an gComhdháil seo.*

The past year has been a very productive one for the present Executive. Leadership is about decision making; it is not about “being all things to all men” and decisions by their nature don’t please everyone. Significant progress has been made and while there are outstanding issues that will have to be addressed by the new Executive and County Committee the will is there to address them. I would like to thank the Chairman, my fellow officers and our administrator for their assistance and support throughout the year and I look forward to working positively with the Club Delegates in the coming twelve months.

Gearoid Ó Conchubhair

Cuil Aine, Mullach na Bréine	Cúil Irra, Leathros
Tobar an Choire	Naomh Mhuire
Cluain naCúile	Calraigh, Naomh Iósaf
Tuarloistreáin	C.P.Naomh Eoin
Curraigh	Naomh Eoin
Bun an Fheadáin	Droim Chliabh, Ros Ceite
Baile an Mhóta	Gaeil Naomh Molaise
Gaobhach	Naomh Pádraig
Naomh Mícheál	Naomh Fearnain
Gaeil na Seamroige	Iascaigh
Cláirsigh an Oirthear	Inis Eascra Abhann, Cill Molaise
Gaeil na hAbhann Mhóire	Caisleán Uí Conchubhair
Baile Easa Dara	Gaeil an Iarthar

## Belfry Senior Championship 2014

Date	Round	TeamA	G/P	G/P	TeamB
30 Aug	Playoff X	Coolaney/Mullinabreena	2 - 12	1 - 6	Geevagh
31 Aug	Playoff Y	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point	2 - 12	1 - 8	Curry/Curraigh
06 Sep	Quarterfinal	St John's	1 - 9	1 - 6	CooleraStrandhill
13 Sep	Quarter-final	Tubbercurry	2 - 10	0 - 13	St Molaise Gaels
14 Sep	Quarter-final	Tourlestrane	1 - 14	0 - 9	Coolaney/Mullinabreena
14 Sep	Quarter-final	St Mary's	6 - 10	1 - 6	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point
28 Sep	Semi-Final	St Mary's	2 - 15	1 - 5	St John's
28 Sep	Semi-Final	Tubbercurry	2 - 11	0 - 13	Tourlestrane
12 Oct	Final	Tubbercurry	3 - 12	0 - 12	St Mary's

## Kennedy's Intermediate Championship 2014

Date	Round	TeamA	G/P	G/P	TeamB
31 Aug	Play Off X	Enniscrone/Kilglass	0 - 4	4 - 12	Easkey
31 Aug	Play Off Y	Cloonacool	2 - 8	1 - 7	St Michael's/Naomh Micheál
06 Sep	Quarterfinal 2	Shamrock Gaels	0 - 15	1 - 9	Easkey
06 Sep	Quarterfinal 4	St Farnan's	0 - 9	2 - 15	St Patrick's
13 Sep	Quarterfinal 1	Calry/St Joseph's	0 - 13	1 - 5	Cloonacool
14 Sep	Quarterfinal 3	Bunninadden	1 - 13	1 - 12	Castleconnor
05 Oct	Semi Final	Bunninadden	0 - 11	0 - 12	Shamrock Gaels
05 Oct	Semi Final	Calry/St Joseph's	1 - 12	0 - 13	St Patrick's
19 Oct	Final	Shamrock Gaels	0 - 6	4 - 9	Calry/St Joseph's

## Coiste na nÓg Chontae Shligigh C.L.G.

### (Report to county convention 2014)

Ba mhaith liom a chur i láthair an tuarascáil do Choiste na nÓg 2014.

**Féile Peil na nÓg:** Féile Peil na nÓg was hosted by Connacht council this year. Coiste na nÓg chairman Brendan Leonard represented Sligo on the Connacht Féile Committee who organised and co-ordinated the running of the National Féile Competition. Brendan facilitated the visit of Uachtarán of Cumann Luthchleas Gael, Liam O Neill, to Sligo on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. They visited Tubbercurry, Moylough, Drimina and Enniscrone National schools as well as St. Attracta's and Enniscrone Secondary Schools. All students and teachers were very welcoming and engaged in debate on gaelic football and hurling. The president prioritised taking part in sport, enjoying sport and making new friends over the upcoming National Féile Peil na nÓg competition. He asked everybody to remember the three F's: Fun, Friendship and Fair play. Sligo played a leading role hosting teams from Scotland, England and all over Ireland. The Sligo clubs who hosted teams were Tourlestrane, Curry, Eastern Harps, Coolera, St. Mary's, St. Molaise Gaels, Coolaney/ Mullinabreena, Calry/ St. Joseph's, Shamrock Gaels, Tubbercurry/ Cloonacool and Enniscrone. The sun shone on the event and we witnessed a festival of football over the weekend of June 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. The finals took place on Sunday at a sun soaked Connacht center of excellence in the presence of Uachtarán Cumann Luthchleas Gael, Liam O'Neill, and Uachtarán LGFA, Pat Quill. Coiste na nÓg would like to extend its sincere thanks to Tourlestrane, Tubbercurry and St. Marys for the provision of their venues. Also to all the clubs who hosted teams and opened up their homes and communities to make this a memorable event.

**Fixtures:** Coiste na nÓg have organised, scheduled and facilitated in excess of 650 fixtures at underage club football and hurling level in 2014. We acknowledge the hard work at club level that allows these fixtures to be achieved and applaud the club coaches and mentors for co-operating with us in achieving the schedule. This year we had an increase in walkovers. Walkovers deprive our youth of football and hurling and also impacts greatly on competitions. We urge all clubs to adhere to the fixtures calendar as ratified at the beginning of the year. We accept that changes are inevitable at times for various reasons and we will always make every effort to accommodate these changes.

**Discipline:** We are happy to report discipline continued to improve with no major problems this year. We thank the clubs for promoting respect for all clubs, officials, referees and players. We thank the clubs for buying into this initiative.

**Underage county teams:** Our U-16 team were the winners of the Fr. Manning cup and the Ted Web shield competition. The Fr. Manning cup final was played in Glennon Brothers Pearse Park Longford against the 2013 holders, Offaly. It was a nail biting finish with Sligo winning on a score line of 1-13 to 0-15. This game was a thrilling affair from start to finish and great credit

must go to all players and management on achieving this victory. We congratulate David Cummins and his backroom team of Sean Davey, Hubert Gilvarry, Cormac Kearins, Pat Kilcoyne and all the players who also won the Ted Webb Shield.

Our Minor team lost to Galway in the first round of the championship. The team failed to perform to their full potential on the day after showing great promise in challenge games leading into this fixture. We would like to wish our minor manager for 2015, Aidan Rooney, and his backroom team all the best for a successful year ahead.

**Referees:** Our committee thank Francie Finan and Pat Conway for their continuous work with referees training and fitness tests, without this work and time our committee could not facilitate the number of fixtures at under age level. We recommend all clubs forward two adults to be trained as referees, in the late 20's early 30's age bracket, this will help to ensure the referee base will be maintained into the future.

**Acknowledgements:** The Coiste na nÓg committee comprised of Brendan Leonard, John Niland, Cathal Martin, Bart Barrins, Enda Mulrooney, Sean Brehony, Pauric Clancy, Martin Nicholson and Bill O Kelly-Lynch. Each member played their part in ensuring a fixtures calendar was in place and ran on schedule throughout the year. Many hours of background work was completed before our schedule of fixtures was presented to the clubs. Each member of this committee played their part in achieving a successful under age calendar. Also attending finals at different venues throughout the county to present trophies and attending meetings on a regular basis to ensure the smooth running of all competitions.

**Markievicz Park:** To all the Markievicz Park committee who co-operated with us at all times and facilitated our fixtures whenever possible, a sincere thank you for all your support.

**Referees:** To all our referees and officials who ensure the smooth running of our fixtures also making themselves available, sometimes at short notice, to accommodate changes. We thank you sincerely and look forward to working with you in 2015.

**Clubs:** To the clubs who made their facilities available to us for finals and having their grounds in excellent condition. We thank you and acknowledge the effort involved in hosting these finals.

**Media:** To the media for their continued coverage of our games at both local and national levels. Your support is invaluable in promoting our games. We thank you for your continued support.

**Development:** Coiste na nÓg wishes to thank all managers and assistants of development squads at U-14, U-15 and U-16 levels. This work and time is very much appreciated.

**Coaches/ Managers:** We thank all managers and players who work with our underage players at all levels in our clubs, schools and colleges. This is where the future of our game begins.

**Eamonn Mc Munn:** Many thanks Eamonn for your support with the minor team.

**Cathal Martin and Bart Barrins:** Cathal and Bart, sincere thanks to both of you for all the time and hard work as fixtures secretaries of both football and hurling. This time and hard work goes on quietly and efficiently with many phone calls both day and night to deliver the end result.

**Brendan Leonard:** Brendan, thank you from all Coiste na nÓg committee members. It has been an honour to work with you over the last three years. You led from the front and set the standard for others to follow when hard decision have to be made. The promotion and welfare of our games have always been your priority. Míle Buíochas Brendan.

**Sympathy:** Coiste na nÓg sympathises with all members of the association who suffered bereavements throughout the year. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. To members who are ill or recovering from illness we wish them a speedy recovery and hope they are back to full health soon.

Nollag Shona daoibh ó Coiste na nóg.

Críochnaíonn an tuarscail seo do Coiste na nÓg.

Runaí- Coiste na nÓg- Sligeach.

Sean Ó Niallain.

## **Tuarisc Cultúr agus Teanga 2014**

Mar is gnáth ba bhliain ghnóthach i ngach ábhar cultúrtha agus teanga sa chontae arís. Is léir a fheiceáil go bhfuil an aidhm atá leis an CLG chun an cultúr na hÉireann ar chur chun cinn, fós chomh tábhachtach sa lá atá inniu i 2014 mar a bhí sé i 1884 nuair a bunaíodh an CLG. Laistigh den chontae mór dúinn a lán a bheith bródúil as ach fós tá feabhsuithe is féidir a dhéanamh. Léiríonn an tuarascáil seo a leanas ár gcuid gníomhaíochtaí don bhliain seo caite.

### **Scór Overview:**

This year saw the implementation of new practices and reformed competitions in both Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsir. Of particular note were the changes to the Nuachlas or Novelty Act. These changes aimed to ground this discipline in a historical or mythological setting and while it was a change not without its controversy the standard nationally was very high. While the number of Leiriú or Historical Dramas entries was not as high as Novelty Acts locally and nationally, many clubs will hopefully build upon what they will have seen in 2014 for the forthcoming competitions.

There were also changes to the Tráth na gCeist which saw it being removed from the traditional Scór programme and being held as a standalone event with more questions. This move proved very popular here in the county and nationwide with participation increasing significantly.

It was a busy year for our Scór committee outside of the county too as Castlebar hosted both Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsir All Ireland Finals. We also hosted the Connacht Scór Sinsir finals in Tubbercurry in March. Great thanks and appreciation must go to all the members who assisted in the running of these events.

For the forthcoming year there are also changes in relation to marking systems for the different competitions with outside analysts providing a critique in how we select our champions.

### **Scór na nÓg Review:**

The Scór na nÓg county final took place on January 5th in the Carraroe Community Hall and as always the standard was high. Participation was down slightly in some disciplines which was disappointing. Also having no competitors in the Léiriú and Rince Seit meant and we did not have a full complement progressing to the Connacht Finals. Nonetheless those who did progress did their club and county proud and special mention must go to the members of Iascaigh CLG who reached the All Ireland Final in the Ceol Uirlise or Instrumental Music.

The new table quiz was received with much enthusiasm in the county and the final held in Corhownagh Hall saw ten clubs and 12 teams participate with Calraigh/Naomh Iósaf claiming the spoils and representing Sligo in the All Ireland finals which were held in Castlebar.



### **Scór na nÓg Buaitoírí 2014:**

**Rince Foirne (Céilí Dancing):** Gael Naomh Molaise

**Amhránaíocht Aonair (Solo Singing):** Tomás Ó Gabháin – Naomh Mhuire

**Aithriseoireacht (Recitation):** Conchbhar Mac Gabhainn – Gael Naomh Molaise

**Ceol Uirlise (Instrumental Music):** Iascaigh – Connacht Champions 2014

**Bailéad Ghrúpa (Ballad Group):** Naomh Fearnáin

**Tráth na gCeist (Table Quiz):** Calraigh/Naomh Iósaf

### **Scór Sinsir Review:**

As with Scór na nÓg the same reforms were implemented into the senior competition. The county final was held in March in Skreen Community Centre and participation was also low in the traditional programme of events with some disciplines not contested and others with only one competitor. Nonetheless Sligo did well at Connacht level with two groups and one table quiz team reaching the All Ireland finals. The table quiz was again held in Corhownagh hall with seven clubs participating.

### **Scór Sinsir Buaitoírí 2014:**

**Amhránaíocht Aonair (Solo Singing):** Noelle Ní Braonáin – Cúil Áine/Mullach Na Bréine

**Aithriseoireacht (Recitation):** Ceit Mac Éinrí – Bun an Fheadáin

**Ceol Uirlise (Instrumental Music):** Naomh Fearnáin – Connacht Champions 2014

**Bailéad Ghrúpa (Ballad Group):** Gael Naomh Molaise

**Léiriú (Historical Drama):** Gael Naomh Molaise – Connacht Champions 2014

**Rince Sean nÓs (Sean Nos Dancing):** Eibhlin Ní Lionard - Droim Chliabh/Ros Ceite

**Tráth na gCeist (Table Quiz):** Gael Naomh Molaise

### **Scór 2015 Dates:**

**Scór na nÓg County Final:** January 3rd Dromore West Community Hall 6pm

**Scór na nÓg Connacht Final:** January 17th Claremorris 3pm

**Scór na nÓg County Quiz:** January 25<sup>th</sup> Corhownagh Hall 3pm

**Scór na nÓg All Ireland Finals:** 14th February City West Dublin

**Scór Sinsir County Final:** March 7th Kilmacowen Hall 8pm (Provisional Venue)

**Scór Sinsir County Quiz:** March 21<sup>st</sup> Corhownagh Hall 8pm

**Scór Sinsir Connacht Final:** 28th March St. Brigids Hall Tubbercurry 6pm

**Scór Sinsir All Ireland Finals:** 17th/25th April City West Dublin

### Participating Clubs

Participation at Scór level is an issue that continues to be addressed within the county. As the table below outlines there are only about 25% of clubs participating in Scór activities. As with Club Football and Hurling in order to be strong in the province we need to have stronger participation at county level. Scór is given the same prominence within the rules of the GAA as field sports and this should be the case at club level also. While I understand that it is often difficult for clubs to get competitors and many may be unaware of the competition, the Scór committee and I are here to assist in these types of situations.

Scór offers the opportunity for clubs to involve people who may not be strong on the field but may be talented in other aspects of Irish life. It broadens the horizons for the GAA and makes clubs more inclusive. Scór titles are as hard won as Football or Hurling ones and those who compete put in as much effort as those on the field. In the coming year I hope that my report will list more clubs as having participated but clubs should know that I am here to assist them in activating or reactivating Scór locally.

Club	Scór na Nog	Scór na nÓg Quiz	Scór Sinsir	Scór Sinsir Quiz
Bunninadden		X	X	X
Calry/St.Josephs		X		
Cloonacool		X		X
Coolaney/Mullinabreena			X	
Coolera/Strandhill	X	X		X
Drumcliffe/Rosses Point	X	X	X	
Easkey	X	X	X	X
Naomh Eoin Hurling		X		
St Farnan's	X	X	X	X
St Mary's	X	X		
St Molaise Gaels	X	X	X	X
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

### All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil 2014 & 2015

Sligo had the privilege of hosting Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in August of this year and will do so again this coming August. As Comhaltas and the GAA aim to promote Irish culture it is important that the two organisations assist one another. Many of our Scór competitors also competed in the competitions and congratulations to those. Many more of our club members offered their services as volunteers for the Fleadh and a sincere thank you to them for their assistance. We also afforded the Fleadh committee the opportunity to show case some of the talent that would be on show at the Fleadh prior to the Galway Connacht Championship match in Markievicz Park. Fleadh 2014 was a resounding success and I would hope that the GAA can offer the same help for the 2015 event.

## **Irish Language Review**

This year saw the reintroduction of the Gaeltacht Scholarship Grants after a few years absence. This was achieved at no expense to the county board and with the kind generosity of Barry McTiernan in Colaiste na bhFiann. Over 30 applications were received and after interviews we were in a position to offer grants to ten students from six different clubs.

It is hoped that some form of Gaeltacht Grant will continue in 2015 and details will be forwarded to secondary schools and clubs in the new year.

I attended a number of Irish Officer meetings in Croke Park throughout the year which outlined different strategies to promote the language in a small way within the GAA. Small things such as using the Irish name of the club on scoreboards, match programmes and Irish titles of officers in correspondence and meetings are easy methods of bringing the language into the association.

There are also signs available for club grounds free of charge identifying toilets/dressing rooms etc and any club interested can contact me for these.

## **Final Remarks**

My first year as Irish and Cultural Officer has been an enjoyable and busy one. We in Sligo have had many highlights with several acts reaching the All Ireland stage in Scór. I was extremely delighted to bring back the Gaeltacht Grants and was impressed by the standard of Irish the applicants for the Gaeltacht grants had. The reports back from those who went to the Gaeltacht emphasise that there is a need for the GAA to continue to support the Irish language and provide a facility to families to send their children to the Gaeltacht who without the grant may not have been able to do so. The Fleadh offers us the opportunity again to showcase what the county has on offer and I look forward to helping the organisers once more.

For the coming year I would hope that clubs put in a special effort to get at least one act in both Scór competitions as it is in need of a morale boost not least for the hard volunteers who work year upon year to ensure that we are well represented outside of the county. I would like to thank these volunteers and in particular the Scór and Cultural Committee of Catherine Gallagher, Hugh Gallagher, Frances Hanley, Tom Haran, Sean Kilgannon, Jackie Clancy, Aoife Kilgannon and Michelle Kilrehill. Thanks also to Mark Nestor from Ennis Co.Clare for his assistance with the Gaeltacht Grant interviews and to Eamonn McMunn for admin support.

Thanks also to the clubs, competitors, parents and mentors without whom Scór would not survive. I hope that all have a happy and peaceful Christmas and that 2015 will bring everyone success.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Ceit Mac Éinrí,  
Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Cultúr Coiste Chontae Shligigh

**Coiste Oiliúna agus Forbairt na gCluichí**  
**(Coaching and Games Development Committee)**

<b>Area 2: Games Opportunities (Youth)</b>			
<b>National/County-specific Initiatives:</b> <i>Please provide details of planned National/County-specific Initiatives in the context of Games Opportunities (Youth) e.g. Club Super Touch Blitz Programmes (min. 3 Blitzes); Super Games Centres</i>			
Activity	Timeline/s (please state 'on-going' where the activity occurs throughout the year)	Indicator of achievement (please indicate measure of assessment e.g. no. of participating units, level of quality)	Outcome
Super Games Centres	Jan to Nov 2015	2 Super Games Centre/s established 48 Games provided through the Super Games Centre/s 60 Youths participating at Super Games Centres	[insert no.]
Club Super Touch	April to Oct	22 Clubs participating in at least three Super Touch Blitzes	[insert no.]
Post Primary Super Touch	Jan to Nov	9 Schools participating in at least three Super Touch Blitzes	[insert no.]

<b>Area 3: School Initiatives</b>			
<b>National/County-specific Initiatives:</b> <i>Please provide details of planned National and County-specific Initiatives in the context of School Initiatives e.g. 'Have-a-Ball' (Nursery) Programme; Primary Schools Coaching Programmes; Club/School Link (Primary).</i>			
Activity	Timeline/s (please state 'on-going' where the activity occurs throughout the year)	Indicator of achievement (please indicate measure of assessment e.g. no. of participating units, level of quality)	Outcome
Primary Schools Coaching Programme	Feb to May 2015	65 Schools receiving at least 8 weeks of coaching in either Hurling or Football	[insert no.]
Club/School link (Primary)	Jan to May and Sept to Nov	65 Primary Schools linked directly with club through the Club/School link i.e. club coach providing coaching the school	[insert no.]
Club/School link (Post Primary)	Jan to May and Sept to Nov	9 Post Primary Schools linked directly with club through the Club/School link i.e. club coach providing coaching the school	[insert no.]

### Area 4: Camps

#### National/County-specific Initiatives:

*Please provide details of planned National and County-specific Initiatives in the context of Camps e.g. Cúl Camps; Easter Camps etc.*

Activity	Timeline/s (please state 'on-going' where the activity occurs throughout the year)	Indicator of achievement (please indicate measure of assessment e.g. no. of participating units, level of quality)	Outcome
Cúl Camps	July - August	16 Clubs participating in Cúl Camps  1300 Children participating in Cúl Camps	<i>[insert no.]</i>
Youth Camps	June	1 No of Youth Camps  50 Youths participating in Youth Camps	<i>[insert no.]</i>
Easter Camps	March/April	6/7 club easter camps  50+ children participating in each camp	
Mid term camps	Feb/Nov	2 camps each mid term  50+ youth taking part in each camp	

### Area 5: Talent Academies\*

#### Football Squads

Age Group	Proposed no. of Squads	Proposed no. of Participants per squad	Proposed no. of games per squad (as per policy)	Proposed no. of training sessions per squad (as per policy)
U.14	2	70	6	12
U.15	2	52	6	12
U.16	2	42	8	16
U.17	1	30	8	16
Other e.g. Rookie 18+				

Hurling Squads				
Age Group	Proposed no. of Squads	Proposed no. of Participants per squad	Proposed no. of games per squad (as per policy)	Proposed no. of training sessions per squad (as per policy)
U.14	1	32	6	12
U.15				
U.16	1	32	6	16
U.17				
Other e.g. Rookie 18+				

Area 6: Learning & Development			
National/County-specific Initiatives:			
<i>Please provide details of planned National and County-specific Initiatives in the context of Coach Education e.g. Courses (Foundation, Award 1, Award 2); Online Courses; Communities of Practice; Mentoring Programmes etc.</i>			
Activity	Timeline/s (please state 'on-going' where the activity occurs throughout the year)	Indicator of achievement (please indicate measure of assessment e.g. no. of participating units, level of quality)	Outcome
Online Foundation Level Course	Jan to Dec	2 number of Online Foundation Level Courses to be held	2
Online Workshop	Jan to Dec	1 number of Online Workshops to be held	1
Talent Academy Coach Qualifications	Jan To Dec	4 number of coaches qualified at Award 2 level	<i>[insert no.]</i> <b>{Minimum of 1 coach per squad}</b>
Talent Academy Player Education	Jan to Dec	2 Information/Education Events for Talent Academy Players	<i>[insert no.]</i>
Go Games Referee Course	Jan to Mar	1 Go Games Referee Courses held	<i>[insert no.]</i>
Teachers in-service course	July	1 teachers in-service course	

### **Nursery Programme Pilot**

Nursery Programme is up and running in 16 clubs so far within the County. It is planned to run the programme in another 6 in the new year. This programme is growing from year to year and it is hoped by 2016 that all clubs will be running this programme as part of their GAA calendar.

### **FUNDamentals Programme:**

Our FUNdamental programme is now standardised in all clubs and has proven very successful. We would encourage all clubs to keep supporting this initiative as it concentrates on developing the basic motor skills in our young players from 6-10 years of age. This is recognised as one of the key stages of development in players and it is essential that all our young players are given the opportunity to develop at this age if they are to reach their full potential. FUNdamental packs will be online in the New Year.

### **Under 8 and Under 10 Blitzes:**

The 'Play and Stay' programme continued with a number of blitzes in both hurling and football at Under 8, Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11's held throughout the summer. The final U8 and U10 blitzes were held in Markievicz Park over 2 days. In addition, games were held at half time during home National League fixtures as well as during the Sligo Senior County final. These events proved very popular with our young players. All teams got 14+ games. Also this year clubs were invited to take part in blitz in Connacht centre 14 clubs took up this offer and a great day was enjoyed by all.

### **Under 12 Structures:**

The U12 structure, based on the Go Games model, was once again hugely successful. The system is intended to provide football for all our young players who wish to play at this level. All games were either 9 aside or 11 aside and along with the two-play rule, gave players more ball contact and developed a better awareness of team play.

We would like to thank all clubs and their mentors for their continued support with the U12 games structure and adherence to the Respect Initiative. Blitz days were held in Markievicz Park in which all clubs participated. These days were a huge success providing the opportunity for most of our young players to play in the home of Sligo GAA. We would like to thank Brian McGuaran, Paddy Galvin, Pdraig Gorman, Tom Gallen, John A Mc Andrew and their committee for facilitating us in the use of the park. Special thanks also to Coiste na nÓg for their work in scheduling the busy U12 fixtures. And finally, a special word of thanks to the referees who implemented the Go Games rules on the field - their help was greatly appreciated.

## **Primary Schools Coaching (with I.T. Sligo)**

The Primary Schools Coaching Scheme was very successful again this year with 18 Award 1 qualified coaches (16 Football, 2 Hurling) visiting all our schools on a weekly basis and providing expert coaching to the bulk of our young players. A number of Go-Games blitzes were also held during this period for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class children and the feedback was very positive. There were almost 6,000 children coached every week for 12 weeks and over 1500 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class pupils took part in the Go Games blitzes in week 8 and 12. This will be hugely beneficial to all these kids and these coaches have been doing fantastic work.

Many thanks are extended to the coaches from I.T Sligo. Sport and Recreation Course and their course director Roddy Gaynor without whom it would not be possible to run this initiative. Thanks also to Liam Óg, Michael Harte, Pat Kilcoyne, Benny Kenny and Jason Farrell who co-ordinate the running of the scheme on a daily basis and liaised with the coaches to ensure this was a worthwhile scheme for all parties. Great credit is due to Cumann na mBunscol and in particular John Hughes, David Dillon, Patricia Hunt and Geraldine Kilcoyne for their contribution in making this scheme the success it is. Thanks also to all the teachers of the county who have been so supportive of the scheme. This scheme is funded by the County Board, the clubs and the Connacht Council and I thank them for this. Special thanks to John Tobin and John Prenty for their advice and support. Also to Kukri Sport who generously sponsored the gear for the coaches. Thanks to all the schools who supported the County Jersey day in 2014.

'The Three GAAmigos' scheme was once again hugely successful in 2014. This scheme encourages children to work on their own and in small groups to develop their skills on both dominant and non-dominant sides. Feedback from the schools has been very positive and an enormous improvement has already been seen in the skill levels. Congrats to both Cloonacool and Mullaghroe who won the boys and girls skills competitions respectively. All finalists were invited to attend a special day in Connacht centre thanks to all schools who participated.

## **Secondary schools:**

The Secondary schools programme has been running extremely well over the last number of years with coaching now taking place in all Secondary schools in the county. This years Sligo Senior Championship final will be played in coming weeks. Colaiste Iascaigh won the Sligo 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> year competition. We have excellent coaches working throughout the county and I want to thank them for their time and effort.

St Attracta's Community school had a fantastic year winning reaching the Connacht Senior 'A' final for the first time unfortunately they were beaten in a fantastic final by St Gerald's Castlebar. Congratulations to Colm Mc Gee, Gary Gaughan, Pat Kilcoyne and their team as well as school Principal David Mc Evoy on their continued work in developing GAA in the school. The school also won the 1<sup>st</sup> year and Juvenile 'B' championships so it was a very successful year

Summerhill once again reached the Senior Connacht 'A' Semi final and lost the Junior league and Championship finals. Well done to all involved.

Coola Vocational school made History for the school by winning the Connacht Junior 'C' Championship for the first time. The boys from Coola beat Colaiste Einde in the final. Great work is being carried out by the teachers in the school and this is beginning to show.

Colaiste Iascaigh had an excellent year on the field also reaching Connacht finals at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year and Junior. They have also won the Sligo 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year competition in the last year for the first time. Well done to Mattie Brennan, Pdraig Gibson and the lads.

The transition year programme continued in 9 schools throughout the county, with 200 students taking part.



School	Team	Teacher
Enniscrone	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	Pauline Timmons
	Junior/Senior	Frank Costello
Easkey	All Teams	Matthew Brennan
St Attracta's	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Pat Kilcoyne and James Mc Donagh
	Juvenile	Enda Joyce
	Junior	Gavin Hoey
	Senior	Colm Mc Gee
Summerhill	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Damien Keenan
	Juvenile	Mark Breheny/Joe Neary
	Junior	Mark Breheny/Joe Neary
	Senior	Barry Convey/Keelan Watters
Ballymote	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Davey Cullen
	Juvenile	Davey Cullen/James Mc Donagh
	Junior/Senior	Davey Cullen/James Mc Donagh
Coola	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Eamon Bruen
	Juvenile	Kevin Mc Carthy
	Junior/Senior	Padraig Murphy
Ballisodare	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Michael Horkin
	2 <sup>nd</sup> / juvenile	Michael Horkin & Ollie Sexton
	Juniors/Seniors	Michael Horkin
Corran College	All Teams	Martin flynn
Grange	All Teams	Kieran Breslin

## **Coach Education:**

2015 was another very busy year for furthering coach education, with 8 foundation courses (two online), 3 Award 1, 4 Code of Ethics courses and 2 first aid course held throughout the year. In total 169 coaches achieved Foundation Level while 46 coaches achieved Award 1 grade. Also 4 coaches achieved Award 2 qualification in Football 5. A special word of thanks to all our tutors for their enthusiasm and the professional way they deliver the courses including Charlie Harrison, Brian Henry, Conor Gormley and Eamon Clarke. We have also two lads completing the tutor training at present Ross Donavan and Benny Kenny. There is an award 2 planned for Connacht in the New year.

**\*\*REMINDER to all County/Clubs under the National Strategic plan by 2016 County Senior team must have an Award 2 coach as part of their coaching team and by 2018 the HEAD COACH must be Award 2 qualified. Clubs by 2016 the club coaching team must have an award 1 coach as part of the team and by 2018 HEAD COACH must be Award 1 qualified.**

## **Development Squads (Football)**

### **U-14**

This squad under the guidance of Shane Nealon, Donal Brady, Paul O'Brien, Charlie Harrison and Pat Kilcoyne had approximately 20 sessions working on their skills and played 4 blitz games against various oppositions. The squad consisted of an initial panel of 80 players, which is a further tribute to the work being done at club level and the success of the underage structures. The panel has now been reduced to 65 players who have trained intensively over the past few months. Special thanks to IT Sligo for use of their facilities.

### **U-15**

This squad under the guidance of Conor Gormley, Paul Higgins, Niall Mc Gill, Mark Towey, Kieran O'Connor and Liam Og Gormley had approximately 24 sessions working on their skills and played 4 blitz games against various oppositions. This squad worked with a panel of 55 players over the course of the summer and Took part in blitzes including the Dermot Earley in Connacht and the National Blitz in Connacht Centre. The highlight of the year for this squad was a trip to DCU where they played Dublin and got a training session with the DCU coaches which included the man responsible for helping arrange trip Brendan Gillen. Dean Rock also spoke with the players in DCU and Alan Kelly Diet and Nutritionist. We would like to thank Brendan for his support throughout the year. Thanks also to Eamon Cunningham and EJ's for their sponsorship.

### **U-16**

This squad under the guidance of David Cummins, Sean Davey, Hubert Gilvarry, Cormac Kearns and Pat Kilcoyne had approximately 30 sessions working on their skills and team development. This years squad had a fantastic year winning the FR Manning Cup in July and winning the Tedd Webb shield in August. The panel received the medals in the Radisson on the evening of the All Stars, thank you to Eamon Mc Munn for organising this event alongside the management team. Special thanks to Pdraig O'Dowd for his fantastic sponsorship of the team throughout the year. Thanks also to Cathal Cregg for his work on strength and conditioning programmes.

## U-17

For the past 2-3 months, this panel have been working in the gym under the guidance of Aidan Rooney, and will now join the minor panel in preparation for next year's campaign.

### **Development Squads (Hurling)**

## U-14

**Team Mentors:** Benny Kenny, Eugene Brady Paul Cadden,.

**Results:** The year gone by will be looked upon as a year of development more so than a cabinet full of silverware. Having competed in 4 competitions throughout the year it can only help the skills improve even more throughout our clubs and county teams. Having captured the All Ireland plate the previous year the U14's were hoping to do the same again this year but were landed in a tough group and failed to make the knockout stages.

## U-15

**Results:** The u15's had two outing in ballyshannon where they reached the final only to come up against a strong Donegal team who were victorious on the day. We also travelled to Galway's Pierce Stadium, and reached the semi-final stage. This group will be a force in the 2015 season.

## U-16

**Team Mentors:** Benny Kenny. Declan Loughnane,

**Results:** The U16s had a successful year competing in the All Ireland B competition for the second time and reached the Plate Final, where they were victorious against a much fancied Wicklow team.

A massive thanks to the Kilkenny County board for taking our U16 development squad for a training session on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October with Michael Dempsey and Brian Ryan taking the coaching session. The players got to meet the captain Lester Ryan and the McCarty cup. The visit finished off with a trip to see Ballyhale and Dicksboro in the senior league final. The players from the kilkenny senior winning team spoke to our squad and signed autographs. This was a great experience for our players to see the high standard of hurling.

Looking forward the county would hope that every hurling club would send in at least 5 players to the development squad as this will help both club and county raise the standards of the game

Congratulations to all clubs this year on there achievement both on and off the pitch. Hurling is getting stronger every year.

### **Development squad review**

We are currently in the process of having a review of our development squad programme and we would like to give special thanks to Peadar Niland for his work on this review which will be ready to present to County in January

## **Divisional Competition**

Over the past number of months planning has taken place to run a County Divisional competition at a number of age levels. This will now take place in January/February 2015.

## **Kelloggs Cúl Camps:**

Kelloggs Cúl camps were held in the following venues this year: Tourlestrane, Geevagh, Calry, Eastern Harps, Drumcliffe, St. Michaels, Tubbercurry, St Marys, Ballymote, Enniscrone, St Molaise Gaels, Shamrock Gaels, Coolera Strandhill, St Pats, Owenmore Gaels, Curry and Easkey. This was the first ever camp in Easkey and thanks to the club for its support. Firstly We would like to thank in particular the summer camp co-ordinator in each venue for all their assistance in organising the camps. Also great thanks is due to Liam Óg Gormley, Benny Kenny, Michael Harte, Pat Kilcoyne, Charlie Harrison and all the coaches involved in the camps for their great work. A special word of thanks to the clubs, for putting their facilities at our disposal. All coaches were trained up to Award 1 child. Numbers attending the camps this year were 1430 which was a tremendous show of support from parents in the County, this is our third increase in a row.

## **Coaching Workshops**

The County held a number of Coaching workshops in 2014. Peter Donnelly Cavan Senior coach carried out a workshop on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> in IT Sligo. 35 coaches attended which was a good turnout. Thanks to Peter who done an excellent 1 and ½ hour session. Also thanks to Aidan Rooney and David Cummins for providing players from u-16/17 squads. Thanks to all players also. Thanks also to IT Sligo for providing facilities.

Kevin Kelly Ulster GAA Development officer carried out a session for u-8/10/12 coaches on fun skills games on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> of March at 7pm in St Attractas school. Over 40 coaches were in attendance on the night. The coaching committee would like to thank the coaches and players of tubbercurry, Easkey and St Farnans for their help on the night.

Pat Kilcoyne and Jason Farrell carried out 4 weeks of Goalkeeping workshops in Cleveragh astro pitch in February with 26 u-16 keepers and 9 senior keepers taking part. Thanks to both coaches for their great work. Also thanks to David Cummins for use of his facility.

Michael Kennedy DCU and Dublin carried out the final workshop of the year in Ballisodare GAA pitch in June with the assistance of Brendan Gillen DCU. There was over 35 coaches in attendance. This was a very informative evening for all who attended. Thanks to David Cummins and Conor Gormley for the use of their players for the session.

The Sligo GAA Coaching Committee would like to thank all the clubs and their coaches who attended these events throughout 2014.

## **Urban Committee**

The Sligo Urban committee carried out tremendous amount of work in 2014. The annual U-9/11 autumn leagues were again a great success, blitzes for urban schools to get children into clubs and surveys in primary schools to highlight numbers not involved in GAA in clubs and schools took place in May. A big thanks goes to John Clifford, John Mc Partland, Liam Og Gormley, Jason Farrell and the club representatives for their work during the year. The future of the committee relies on support from clubs in Urban area.

### Club Coaching Officers:

I would like to thank all the club coaching officers (listed below) for their help during the year. Without their assistance and enthusiasm it would be impossible to implement our coaching plans and structures and their success is a tribute to the often unseen work undertaken by the coaching officers in each club. This role is becoming more important in every club from year to year and its important that it is selected carefully by each club.

Club	Coaching Officer
Bunninadden	Stephen Murray
Ballymote	Michael Finn
Ballisodare	Martin Feeney
Calry/St josephs	Helen Mc Ardle/John Foy
Castleconnor	David Durkan
Coolaney/Mullinabreena	Trish Gorman
Coolera Strandhill	Michael Heneghan
Curry	Gerry Mc Donagh
Cloonacool	Maurice Conboy
Drumcliffe/Rosses point	Shane Campbell
Easkey	Tom Evans
Enniscrone/Kilglass	Michael Duffy

Eastern Harps	Fintan Mc Gowan
Geevagh	Sinead Heaney
Owenmore Gaels	Jason Farrell
Shamrock Gaels	Mark Tuohy
St Farnans	Brendan Kilrehill
St Johns	Charlie Jordan
St Marys	Peadar Niland
St Michaels	Gareth Guilfoyle
St Molaise Gaels	Mark Towey
St Patricks	Aidan Kiely
Tourlestrane	Niall Surlis
Tubbercurry	Pat Lucey

### Club Sligo:

A special work of thanks to Club Sligo for its important contribution to the coaching and games structures, in particular it's funding for GAAmigo's Jerseys, TYR Project. Club Sligo is essential to the continued success of coaching in the county, so we thank all contributors. The relaunch of Club Sligo in 2014 is a vital asset to coaching and games in Sligo and we appeal to all Sligo Gaels who can to continue to support if possible.

### Console Workshops

The Sligo GAA in partnership with Devenish Nutrition and Console ran a workshop in April to highlight the area of mental health in sport. This is a very important area and issue in Irish society at the moment and we would like to thank Richard Kennedy and his company for providing this training. Another one of these workshops is being planned for January

## **Staff**

This year our GPO Charlie Harrison moved to Croke park to take up the position as National GAA Cul camp coordinator we wish him the best of success in his new role. We would like to thank Jason Farrell the the work he carried out during his nine months as GPO in the County. We would also like to wish Ross Donovan the best of luck in his new role as Sligo GPO and look forward to working alongside him into the future. Big thank you to James Mc Donagh who has been working for the County for the past 6 months under the Job Bridge initiative he has been a tremendous asset.

## **Thanks:**

Thanks to all the full-time coaching staff who I've worked with over the past year - Liam Óg Gormley, Pat Kilcoyne, Charlie Harrison, Jason Farrell, Benny Kenny, James Mc Donagh and Ross Donovan. It's been a pleasure working with such enthusiastic individuals, and I know we are extremely lucky to have such dedicated and highly motivated full time coaches working within the county. Their time and efforts go way beyond what is expected from them in terms of their working week. Also thanks to our part-time coaches for all the work they carried out throughout the year including Michael Duffy, Conor Gormley, Paul Higgins and Pdraig Gibson.

I'd like to thank my fellow executive officers for all their support and advice over the past year and also John Prenty, John Tobin, Cathal Cregg and Damien Coleman for their assistance in the Connacht Coaching & Games Development Committee. I continue to learn a lot from working with people of this calibre who bring such professionalism to their roles. They provide a great service to the county and to the GAA in general.

I would like to thank the members of the Coaching and Games Committee – Liam Og Gormley, John Hughes, Eamon Bruen, Joe Neary, Dessie Sloyane, Brendan Leonard, Michael Duffy, Pat Conway and Tom Evans for all their help and support in the past year.

I'd like to give a special mention to all the club coaches who do so much work at grass roots level – it is this work that builds the foundation for a successful Coaching & Games Development structure, and ultimately success on the pitch at all age groups. We would encourage all clubs to have a coaching committee within the club to support the work being carried out by underage coaches. The children are the Senior players of the future and these need to get the best coaching and development possible.

I would especially like to thank our County Administrator Eamon Mc Munn for his support this year. Eamonn has been fantastic to work with and on any occasion which I sought help he was approachable, patient and went out of his way to assist me. He does Trojan work for the County.

Finally I would like to thank all the people who helped me out this year on the Sligo GAA executive. This year has seen a great improvement in all aspects of the County development. The opening of Scarden in the New year will play a major role in the preparation of all our teams at underage level right up to Senior and I look forward to this becoming a reality. I would like say a special thank you to Liam Og Gormley for all his help and assistance over the past year. Finally I would like to wish Aidan Rooney and his team at Minor and Niall Carew and his team at U-21 and Senior the best of luck on the fields of play in 2015

## **Roll on 2015**

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Padraig Mac Fhlannaidh

## *Public Relations Officer Report for Convention*

### **Overview**

It gives me great pleasure to write this report as Public Relations Officer of Sligo G.A.A. for 2014. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Easkey for nominating me for this eminent and important role. I consider it a great honour to be elected as PRO on the Sligo County Executive. I have outlined, in my report, the many areas covered as part of my brief, from a PRO Training Day in Croke Park for all PROs in Ireland, to Connacht Council PR meetings to public relations work within the county to include inter-county games and club competitions with general communication to clubs.

### **1. Working with the GAA Organisation**

**Croke Park:** One of the many facets pertaining to the role is that there is a lot of time-consuming work involved. At the same time there is support and encouragement available from the top of the organisation down to county boards. This started with a visit to Croke Park on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> of January, for an Executive Officers Training Day which was attended by PROs from all counties.

Outlining the role of the PRO within GAA:

In the position of **Public Relations Officer** at County Level the role description was to

- Promote the GAA within your county
- Present a positive image of the Association and our games
- Establish good relations with all local media
- Provide regular updates on fixtures, results and information on all other GAA activities in the county.
- Communicate with all clubs in your county on various issues

County Officers are briefed on the many guidelines that Croke Park request PROs to follow during the year – from using sponsors’ advertising logos in match programmes, to informing them of what we are doing for the GAA Open Evenings, Give Respect Get Respect Initiatives, etc. As I hope this report outlines, it is a busy and demanding role, but a very satisfying one.

**Connacht Council:** As Sligo PRO I attended several meetings in the Centre of Excellence, Ballyhaunis, during the year. Many areas were discussed, such as the Launch of the Connacht Championship and the Croke Park Driven GAA Open Evening/Night with counties from across the country. To promote the **Give Respect Get Respect** Initiative in every county and club ground around the country with visible

signage as directed by Croke Park and Provincial Committees. The aim is that all players, officials and supporters respect one another during our national games.

**Connacht Championship Launch Day:** Connacht Council launched the 2013 Connacht Championship on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May at the Centre of Excellence, Ballyhaunis, with a wide and varied circle of media in attendance. Delegates from Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon, Leitrim, Galway & London were in attendance. Our own Pádraig Duffy, Connacht Council P.R.O. was the MC for the afternoon with Frank Burke, President of Connacht Council, launching the event. All county PROs were asked to liaise with their Senior Team Manager and County Captain to have them in attendance and wear their respective sponsors outfits. I would like to thank Pat Flanagan and Adrian Marren for attending the event as well as Sligo delegates including Chairman, Joe Taaffe.

**“Into the West” Magazine:** This magazine is run by Connacht Council and is open to every club and county in Connacht to promote their achievements in it. Many thanks to clubs in Sligo who sent information into the magazine during the year. Many thanks to Pádraig Corcoran and John Fallon, Editor of “Into the West” for promoting Sligo GAA in the magazine and to all the clubs and sporting organisations under the umbrella of the GAA for sending in their information.

### **National Media**

Many fellow students in DCU now work with the National media and these contacts are invaluable along with the help and support offered by veterans like RTE’s Brian Carty. The Sunday game panellist Eamonn O’Hara has always been supportive whether in media terms or in giving me encouragement during my involvement with handball tournaments.

## **2. Working with County Teams**

**Match Day Programmes:** I would like to thank our former manager, Pat Flanagan, for his courtesy to me during the year as PRO and his help and understanding of the duties associated with the position when looking for teams for match programmes early in the week. Croke Park regulations state that teams have to be in by the Wednesday before the weekend game regardless of home or away fixtures, as there are many rules and regulations to match programmes at county level. Pat was extremely approachable at all times during the season.

During the year I also was part of the compilation of the Hurling programmes where I dealt with Declan Loughnane, the Sligo senior hurling manager, and just like, Pat, he was always on hand to alleviate any fears or jitters I had and helped me enormously during the League and Championship.



### **3. Presenting and promoting County events and competitions**

**Club Championship:** Once again, with the co-operation of Clubs and our administrator we were able to provide a match programme for every club game.

**“Up for the Match Live”:** Thanks to Darragh Cox, who kindly offered, on behalf of Ocean FM, to do a live broadcast from the Belfry Bar ahead of the senior final where plenty of craic and debate ensued between St. Mary’s and Tubbercurry. Shamrock Gaels and Calry/St. Joseph’s were also present with their captains and manager to preview the Intermediate final.

**GAA Open Evening:** Once again the Open Night proved to be a massive success and was a real joy to see all the kids meeting their county players and was a fantastic and enjoyable evening for everyone to see.

#### **Wheelchair Hurling**

The staging of the wheelchair-hurling Inter-Provincial final at the Knocknarae Arena in the 2014 European Town of Sport was a PR highlight. Congratulations to Cyril Feehily and Tim Hynes in particular for making this event happen in Sligo. The Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership promoted the event also.

#### **Summary and conclusion:**

It has been a privilege and honour for me, to be involved at county board level and to see the degree of commitment and dedication required to carry out this job diligently.

I have carried out my role as PRO to the best of my ability within the resources that were available to me and if I have offended anyone along the way, my apologies; and to those who may have offended me; the fullest of forgiveness.

Let nobody underestimate the level of commitment that has to be given at county level in comparison to club level, even though I had an inclination of the commitment involved, I would like to thank all my colleagues on the executive for their assistance during the year by providing me with updates on a regular basis.

Finally I wish Niall Carew, Aidan Rooney, Declan Loughnane and their panels the very best for the coming year. I also hope that Keith Henry and his Scor teams have much success.

Gavin Cawley

**Sligo County PRO 2014**

# Development Officer Report Chontae Shligigh GAA 2014

## Centre of Excellence

I am delighted to report that our Centre of Excellence is progressing to fruition as per schedule at this time.

Indeed as we read this report today we will have used out pitches for the first time to hold a County U/17 competition on the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Well done and thanks to everyone who made this possible.

With our main contractors Curran Contracts coming back on site in March 2014 we have progressed stage by stage, whereby at this time we intend to have all works in Phase 1 and Phase 2 completed by January 2015.

This will include,

- a. Pitches complete and ready for use
- b. Floodlighting and public lighting
- c. Roadway and kerbing complete
- d. Front entrance gates and boundary wall
- e. Car parks kerbed and rolled
- f. All landscaping complete

Temporary changing facilities to be decided on shortly.

A special word of thanks to our capital project team under the chairmanship of Tommy Breheny for all their work in bringing this project to where we are today, also our County chairman Joe Taffe for his drive and enthusiasm.

Thanks also to our contractors Curran Contracts, Mullane Plant and Civil Engineering contractors, our design team lead by Seamus Lee from Hannon and Co., Seamus Clancy our Q.S. along with Anthony McCarboury. Also to Declan Rouse for all his help with the floodlighting. I would also like to acknowledge the help of Paddy Naughton and Denis Rocks of the National Grounds Committee Croke Park not forgetting the finance committee as well from Croke Park under the chairmanship of our own Lauri Quinn along with Tom Ryan and Kathy Slattery who give the help and advice to progress this project to where it is today.

Phase 2 i.e.

Dressing rooms, gym and administration offices. We have downsized the new building as per original planning permission so as to cut down on cost. As a result we have to apply for planning permission again and at this time the drawings and application are with the relevant authorities.

With everything going to plan we hope to have this project ready to go in March 2015.

Thanks to everyone involved in helping us to acquire our €300k grant from the Sports Partnership, our local T.D. Tony McLoughlin and Minister Michael Ring for their help, to Peadar Niland for all his work and to everyone who lobbied and helped in any way. Thanks again.

As 2014 draws to a close it's on a positive note regarding our Centre of Excellence and come this time 2015 our facilities should be complete and stand there as a flagship to the development of our teams in both football and hurling at both County and Club level.

### **CLUB SCENE**

I would like to congratulate Easkey, Coolera-Strandhill, Coolaney-Mullinabreena, Enniscrone, St Molaise Gaels and Tourlestrane who are all upgrading their facilities and have secured Connaught Council grants or Sports Partnership monies to help them advance and complete their project.

Congratulations to Shamrock Gaels G.A.A. club in being nominated club grounds of the year 2014. They will represent Sligo at Connaught Awards in January 2015.

Just to remind clubs that are thinking of applying for funds from Connaught Council or Croke Park that they must have their 5 year club plan in place.

I would like to thank Pauric McGourty for all his help and work as facilitator to all the clubs completing their club plans. All clubs should have a plan and visions for the years ahead.

At this time of year clubs hold their A.G.M's. it is the ideal time to reflect on the day to day running of your club.

- Did your club progress as a unit working together to promote our games and deliver the aims of the G.A.A.?
- Was your club officers up to speed with their role within the club i.e. responsibility?
- Did we have enough coaches and are they all certified and Garda vetted?
- Going forward have we that vision and plan for our club to progress?
- Both and County and Club level how are we in the presentations of our games i.e. image etc.
- Are we selling our games to our young players as well as we should?

While all of our clubs are run by volunteers who give of their time day and night, sometimes a thank you can make them feel appreciated for their work and commitment.

### **Review of Club Championship and League Structures 2014**

As a member of the above review committee under our chairman Joe Taffe along with Pdraig Clancy and Richard Brennan to look at the structure of our league and championship we should have a template ready for Convention. Clubs can discuss same and have their views ready for the January County Board meeting.

This will also take into consideration our underage fixtures in both hurling and football. The presentation of our games i.e. under age finals and officialdom at games etc.

I would like to express a special work of thanks to our independent review committee of Joe Murphy, John Brennan, Brian Henry, Eamon Clarke and Dessie Sloyan for all their work in compiling a detailed report and insight into what should be a benefit to Sligo G.A.A. going forward.

### **Urban Committee**

Our urban committee once again did a brilliant job for the year. As chairperson of same I would like to thank the committee, club delegates involved and especially John Clifford, Secretary, for his zest and professionalism in his role. Also to Pdraig Clancy and Liam Og Gormley for all their help. **See Urban Report**

## **Handball**

Congratulations to Collooney Handball Club on the opening of their new handball court earlier in the year.

Thanks to all the Handball Clubs in Sligo for their hard work in promoting the game throughout the county.

Congratulations to all winners within and outside the county for 2014 with a special mention to Paddy Walsh in his victories.

## **Coaching**

Well done to all our coaches within the county under our coaching officer Padraig Clancy for all their work at both football and hurling within the clubs and schools.

Thanks also to Liam Og Gormley for all his work during the year.

## **Club Sligo 2014**

I would like to add my appreciation to everyone involved with Club Sligo in 2014. This is a colossal effort by our commercial and fundraising team lead by Peter Greene and his team to secure funds for the day to day running of the County Board and our County Teams, through sponsorship, fundraising etc. Club Sligo in 2014 has ensured that our Centre of Excellence is now on the way to completion. Thanks to everyone who supported it. I would appeal to all clubs and to Sligo people wherever you are to support us in 2015 so that we can complete our flagship The Centre of Excellence as soon as possible. Thank You. Also to our gates committees for the revenue collected during the year. While we had a positive year within our boardroom and on our playing fields, this year it is a pity that the ongoing saga within the west of the county regarding the hurling set up regarding teams eligible to enter competitions has not been resolved. This debacle has caused a lot of hurt to certain people within the hurling board and county board which cannot be condoned at any level.

I would ask all that is involved in this impasse to use dialogue, commonsense and to work within the rules of the G.A.A. to solve this as soon as possible.

We at County Board and executive level will and have worked with everyone involved to sort this out for once and for all.

Hopefully the new year will bring in a new era to the hurling scene so we can go forward with one aim to promote the game of hurling with the rules and aims of the G.A.A.

To conclude thanks to all my colleagues on the executive for all their help during the year. To all the clubs for their co-operation and help, and to the clubs who have made their facilities available to host games and training during the year. Wishing the best of luck to our new senior team manager Niall Carew, and to all our managers and selectors with all teams within the county. Going forward in 2015 I wish you a very successful year both on and off the field.

Mise le Meas

Seán Mac Parthaláin

## SLIGO GAA URBAN COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee is made up of representatives of St. Mary's, Coolera- Strandhill, Drumcliffe- Rosses Point, Calry-St. Joseph's, St, John's, Ballisodare, Owenmore Gaels and Naomh Eoin.

The aims of the committee are;

To examine underage structures in clubs.

Create a template to use best practice in agreeing a template.

Ensure clubs are adequately resourced in terms of the number of people looking after teams.

Encourage parents to get actively involved.

Insist in line with National policy that all coaches undertake the appropriate coaching courses, code of ethics and Garda vetting before getting involved with teams.

Set underage group coaching sessions for each club ie; every Saturday morning or another suitable time.

Despite the aims and aspirations of the committee, there is still a need for many of the clubs to be better organised and structured at underage level. This must be initiated by the adult section of the club.

A separate underage structure must exist with a chairperson, secretary, coaching officer and coaching co-ordinator. This subcommittee must be given the responsibility to run the entire underage activity in the club. They must adequately resource each age group with at least 4/5 mentors .They also must ensure that all mentors and coaches have at least foundation level coaching qualification.

The coaching co-ordinator is the person to organise the collective coaching session for age groups from U6 to U12 etc; Saturday/Sunday morning for approx. 75 minutes. This requires good organisation and commitment from coaches, parents and the involvement of adult players to help out. Ideally this coaching initiative should run from April to September outdoors.

If players (U12 to U18) are to develop their skills properly, they should be involved in at least 3 one hour sessions per week which would include matches .For U10 down to U6 at least 2 one hour sessions per week.

The challenge remains for clubs to recruit players who attend schools in their area but are not registered with the club. The survey conducted in 2013 highlighted this and it is still obvious that the fact still exists.

The coaching and games committee with the games manager and GPO's are available and willing to help establish these structures in the clubs.

The September leagues in both football and hurling under the Go Games rules were a great success. The committee invited St. Maloise Gaels and St. Michaels to participate in the leagues.

Section A in the football consisted of St. Mary's, St. John's, Drumcliffe –Rosses Point, Coolera-Strandhill and St. Molaise Gaels. Each club provided two U9 nine a side teams and two U11 eleven a side teams.

Section B consisted of Calry –St. Joseph's, Owenmore Gaels, Ballisodare and St Michael's.

Each section was played on a round robin basis, with the finals of the each section played in a blitz format on the astro pitch under lights at Cleveragh over two different evenings. It was a great success with all teams getting refreshments afterwards.

It was very encouraging to see in excess of 400 boys enjoying a great night's football greatly supported by a large number of parents.

Both finals nights were expertly supervised by Games Manager Liam Og Gormley and GPO Pat Kilcoyne with plenty of help from the clubs.

The hurling section also took place over three Sunday's in September with the final blitz taking place on 12<sup>th</sup> October in Kent Park .Organised by the participating clubs , Naomh Eoin, Calry-St. Joseph's, Coolera -Strandhill and Drumcliffe -Rosses Point.

The final blitz was also a great success under the organisation of Bill O Kelly Lynch and each player was presented with refreshments.

Clubs will be encouraged to recruit coaches and participate in coaching courses which will be organised in February 2015 in preparation for the new season.

A seminar will take place in February titled "Nutrition and Wellbeing"

The committee would like to thank Games Manager Liam Og Gormley. GPO Pat Kilcoyne, Coaching Officer Pdraig Clancy and Development Officer John McPartland.

Thanks to David Cummins and Glenn Young of Sligo Astro Pitch for making their facilities available.

A special word of thanks to Sligo Sport and Recreation who provided assistance towards the hosting of our competitions and blitz.

Thanks to all clubs in the urban area for their participation which we hope to build on in to the future.

Sean O Clumhain

Runai.

# Referees Administrator Report

## Convention 2014

In early January 18 trainee referees completed the Basic Level 1 Referees Foundation Course over a period of three nights. This now brings to 55 the number of referees who were actively officiating at games throughout 2014 in all grades.

It is hoped that these referee's will continue to progress and go on to referee at adult level in the coming years. I think these numbers are encouraging for the future of refereeing and I would hope to see a continuing development in the recruitment and training of new referee's. It is intended to run a further referee's foundation course in January 2015 and I would appeal to all clubs to encourage interested members to participate.

An In-service programme was carried out for all referees in February 2014 before the commencement of the games programme. These training sessions were necessary in ensuring the highest possible standards in light of the new playing rules introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. Sessions on the rules changes were organised for the Sligo senior and under 21 players, club panels, team managers and coaches. A fitness test for all referees was carried out in early April. Umpire training also took place in April.

On the inter-county and Connacht panels we have 7 referees.

The Club games programme started in March and finished in November. In all some 1056 games were played, 423 adult and 633 underage.

The National Feile was this year played in Connacht, and we provided 20 referees to officiate at this festival of sport.

On a negative note the abuse, threatening conduct and in some cases assault on referees cannot be tolerated. A number of instances which occurred this year are not acceptable in our sport. All clubs and County committees have a duty of care to protect referees who are officiating at our games. It is one sure way of losing referees and will make it even harder to recruit new ones.

2014 has been a busy year for referees and I would like to thank all referees and their Officials for their help and co-operation during the year. Without this my job would have been impossible.

I would like to thank the members of the CCC, Coiste na nOg, Cumann na mBunacol, County Board Administrator, County Board Chairman and Pat Conway for all their help and advice during the year.

Eddie Neary passed away to his eternal reward a short time ago. Eddie was a club and inter-county referee for many a year. I would like to express my condolences to his family on their great loss. May he rest in peace.

Mise Le Meas,

Proinsias O'Fionain

## **Sligo handball report 2014**

2014 was the most successful in recent memory for Sligo handball. The county claimed 6 all Ireland medals in all in what was a remarkable achievement.

Castleconnors Martin Cooney claimed 3 of those medals- 2 in 60x30 and 1 in 40x20.

Collooneys Shane Bruen claimed the Master B singles and doubles titles while his clubmate Paddy Walsh claimed an unprecedented 30th all Ireland medal when he defeated Dublins Mick O Brien.

The opening of the new 40x20 court in Collooney is a great benefit to the county as a whole. Juveniles in particular are reaping the rewards of the new development.

There are approximately 60 juveniles registered at the moment in the county. New and improved facilities, as well as the newly introduced one wall game has helped attract juveniles. While a lot more needs to be done, coaching levels and activity has come a long way in the last number of years.

The Finn brothers Connor and Cormac won an U-12 Connaught Final in the A grade in September While their sister Laura won an U-15 National B title, a terrific achievement for a girl that has only taken up the game in the last 18 months.

There is a determination in the county to put handball back in its rightful place on the map and with this years achievements 2014 will certainly be remembered in the history of Sligo handball



## Markievicz Park Accounts from 2/1/14 to 20/11/14

### Income

### Expenditure

C.F.	€	57.00	ESB & Phone	€	1,664.00
			Fertiliser, Weed killer & application	€	1,176.00
<u>Signage</u>	€	6,200.00	Field paint	€	1,220.00
			Grass seed	€	195.00
<u>Commission</u>			Electrical repairs & Plumbing	€	188.00
Sligo v Offaly	€	280.00	Machinery repairs. Petrol/Diesel	€	1,115.00
Sligo v Limerick	€	340.00	Waste collection	€	887.00
U21 Sligo v Roscommon	€	85.00	Connacht Gold-Value Centre	€	528.00
			Ambulance services	€	1,500.00
<u>Match Expenses</u>			Ballast signs	€	756.00
Sligo v Offaly	€	200.00	Net/flag replacement & repairs	€	720.00
Sligo v Galway	€	2,957.00	Tool hire, power washing, painting & Brushes	€	1,090.00
Donegal v Roscommon Minor	€	1,943.00	Tractor Insurance	€	150.00
			Fire extinguisher maintenance	€	125.00
<u>Connacht Club Expenses</u>			Field hire	€	600.00
Tubbercurry v Aghawillian	€	300.00	Catering	€	800.00
			Postage, phone/sundries	€	131.00
Rent Challenge matches	€	120.00	Toiletries, hygiene materials	€	197.00
Due from County Board	€	617.00			
	€	<u>13,099.00</u>			
				€	<u>13,042.00</u>
			Excess income over expenditure	€	57.00

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

John A McAndrew  
Treasurer  
Markievicz Park

## MARKIEVICZ PARK-PITCH USAGE 02/2/2014 TO 26/10/2014

1 County Teams Training	23 Sessions
2 Hurling County Games	5 Games
3 Hurling Club & Underage	6 Games
4 Football Community Games Finals	3 Games
5 Football Cumann –Na- Bunscoil Finals	14 Games
6 Football U/8's, U/10's & U/12's	52 Games
7 Football Underage Championship Finals	9 Games
8 Football County, Colleges & Clubs	53 Games

### Summary of Above:

Total Training Sessions	23
Total Games Football/Hurling	<u>142</u>
Total Events:	<u>165</u>

### Pitch Maintenance:

Apply Sand on Pitch (100 tons)	1 Occasion
Brush and Roll after sand application	1 Occasion
Slit for aeration to improve grass growth	6 Occasions
Verte Drain (Spike) to improve drainage	2 Occasions
Grass Cutting	59 Occasions
Fertilised	6 Occasions
Apply Grass seed and fertiliser to damaged areas of pitch	5 Occasions
Spray pitch for weed control	1 Occasion

### 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 MARKEVICZ PARK 2014

### FOOTBALL:

Senior	Sligo V Limerick	NFL
	Sligo V Offaly	NFL
	Sligo V Longford	NFL
	Sligo V Laois	Challenge
	Sligo V Limerick	Qualifier
	Sligo V Galway	SFC
U/21	Sligo V Roscommon	Connacht U/21 Semi Final
Minor Football	Sligo V Dublin	Challenge
	Sligo V Fermanagh	Challenge
	Sligo V Antrim	Challenge
	Sligo V Donegal	Challenge
	Sligo V Galway	Connacht MFC Semi Final
	Donegal V Dublin	Challenge
	Donegal V Roscommon	All Ireland Quarter Final
Football Colleges	St Josephs Crossmaglen Armagh V Our Ladies Belmullet Mayo	All Ireland Semi Final
Senior Hurling	Sligo V Leitrim	Challenge
	Sligo V Warwickshire	NHL
	Sligo v Tyrone	NHL
	Tyrone V Leitrim	
	Donegal V Roscommon	
Football	Connacht Club Owenmore Gaels Sligo V Oilehin Arainn Galway Junior	Semi Final
	Tubbercurry Sligo V Aughawillam Leitrim	Senior Quarter Final

**Above Games included on page 1 report**

**Markievicz Park  
Upkeep & Maintenance of Pitch & Stadium  
Day to Day Running Expenses 2015**

Sand for pitch (100 ton)	3000
Spread sand	800
Spiking x 2 annually	1700
Special grass seed	400
Fertiliser & application	1000
Chemical 24D & application on pitch for weed control	150
Chemical for general area	150
Field marking paint	1500
Tractor & mower fuel	600
Tractor Insurance	130
Tractor Mower service & repairs	800
Painting Dressing rooms, toilets & meeting rooms & repairs	300
Skip & water disposal	500
ESB/Phone	1500
Toiletries, misc locks, soaps etc	600
Press box & Machinery store maintenance	200
Clean up after all games, staff & Skip	500
Annual fire extinguishers overhaul & tests	200
Jet washing of sewer lines	400
Painting Gangways and emergency gate frames	400
Maintenance of Turnstiles	150
Net maintenance	500
Electrical Maintenance	400
Replace skirting tiles in dressing rooms	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>16080</b>

Signed

Signed

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T.Gallen  
Vice Chairman

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P.Galvin  
Secretary

## Coiste Iomána

### HURLING REPORT 2014

At the Coiste Iomána (*County Hurling Committee*) AGM held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2014, the following officers were elected for 2014:

Cathaoirleach: Gerry O'Connor (*Nominated by Coiste Chontae*)

Leas-Cathaoirleach: Brian McCann

Runaí: Bill O'Kelly-Lynch

Leas-Runaí: Pat Maguire

PRO: Kieran Tobin

*(Cisteoir: Mick Burke was reappointed; however Coiste Chontae subsequently advised that under Rule a subcommittee may not have a Cisteoir)*

Delegates appointed to other committees for 2014 were as follows:

Delegate to Coiste Chontae: Brian McCann

Delegate to County Coaching and Games Development Committee: Tom Evans

Delegate to Connacht Hurling Committee: Tom Evans

Delegate to County Post-Primary Schools Committee: Tom Evans

Delegate to CCC: Pat Maguire

Delegate to Coiste na nÓg: Bill O'Kelly-Lynch

## **Inter-County Adult Hurling Competitions.**

The Sligo senior hurlers competed in Roinn 3B of the Allianz Hurling League in 2014. The team was managed by Declan Loughnane with Brian McMahon as coach. Selectors were Ronan Watters, Chris Madden and Ronan Haughey. Having reached the final of the 2013 competition, hopes were high that the team could go one step further this year and win promotion to Roinn 3A. However, narrow defeats at home to Warwickshire (2-5 to 0-12) in Round 1 and away to Leitrim (2-11 to 2-9) in Round 2 put paid to this ambition. The final game, a loss at home to Tyrone (1-10 to 2-16) in Round 3, had little at stake for both sides with the visitors already assured of their place in the final prior to the game.

In the Nicky Rackard competition, the team had to travel to Dungannon to play Tyrone in Round 1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May with the winners to get a bye to the semi-final. In their best performance of the year, the Sligo hurlers were leading by a point 2-17 to 1-19 going into added time. Cruelly however, a late Tyrone equaliser forced the game into extra-time. In the extra-time, Tyrone finished the stronger to win by a three-point margin 1-27 to 2-21. The next outing for the Sligo team was the Qualifier Round 1 game against Louth a week later. Once again Sligo had to travel, this time to Dowdallshill Dundalk, and short a number of key players as a result, lost out by 4-19 to 0-7. Out of the Rackard Cup for 2014, Sligo had to go through two further games to try to retain their status in the Rackard Cup for 2015. However both games resulted in losses for the Sligo hurlers, going down by 0-14 to 3-12 against Monaghan on 24<sup>th</sup> May, and by 3-13 to 3-17 in the final promotion-relegation play-off game against newly-crowned Lory Meagher champions Longford on 14<sup>th</sup> June, both games being played in Ballinamore.

On the whole it was a frustrating year for the senior hurlers. The narrow losses in the opening games of the Allianz Hurling League were disappointing. The loss after extra-time to Tyrone in the opening round of the Rackard Cup was heart-breaking particularly considering that Tyrone would ultimately go on to lift the Rackard Cup in Croke Park. For the coming year (2015), promotion from Roinn 3B and success in the Lory Meagher Cup must certainly be realistic ambitions.

## **Inter-County U21 Hurling**

Being granted a walk-over by Leitrim on short notice in the quarter-final did not help our U21 manager Declan Loughnane in his preparations for the Connacht U21 'B' hurling championship. With no match practice, Mayo proved to be too strong a week later in the semi-final played in McHale Park on 6<sup>th</sup> August winning comfortably in the end by 4-21 to 1-8.

## **Inter-county Minor Hurling**

In the Minor C hurling championship, the Sligo Minor team played in the preliminary competition on 26<sup>th</sup> July in Longford Slashers GAA grounds. The team was managed by Declan Loughnane, assisted by Tom Brennan. With the late withdrawal of Fermanagh, three teams competed on the day, namely Sligo, Longford and Mayo. Sligo started well in their opening game against Longford and had built up a sizeable lead in the opening half. However the home team rallied in the second half and in spite of a spirited performance by the Sligo minors, Longford emerged as winners by three points, 3-11 to 3-8. With a small panel available on the day, and with no time to recuperate against a Mayo side playing their first game of the day, the Sligo minors underperformed against last year's Minor C winners, going down by 3-15 to 0-7. (Mayo subsequently went on to retain their All-Ireland crown).

## **Inter-county U16 & U14 Hurling**

The underage development squads under the tutelage of hurling GPO Benny Kenny took part in several blitzes during the year, culminating in the National hurling blitz day held in Newry on 30<sup>th</sup> August. The u16s travelled to Newry with two squads, with the first team competing in the 'B' competition and the second team in the 'C' competition. After the opening phase of games in the morning, the first U16 team qualified for the semi-finals of the Plate Competition. They accounted for Donegal on a 3-8 to 4-4 scoreline to set up a Sligo v Wicklow final. Sligo beat Wicklow by a 10 point margin (2-10 to 0-6) to capture the National U16'B' Plate, a great achievement for this talented group of players. The second U16 team found the going difficult in the 'C' competition, losing out to a South Ulster amalgamated side and Donegal in the round robin phase. Nonetheless it was a terrific accomplishment to be able to field two teams at U16 level.

The U14 team played in the 'B' competition at the National blitz. They lost to Tyrone and Mayo in the round robin phase and unfortunately did not advance further in the competition on the day.

## **Senior Club Hurling Competitions.**

On the club scene, at the start of the year Calry/St Josephs were unsuccessful in their quest to secure a place in the All-Ireland Junior club hurling final, the 2013 Connacht champions going down by 4-13 to 0-8 against the Munster champions Ballysaggart from Waterford in the semi-final played in Tullamore on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Sligo had three representatives in the Táin league which was held in the Spring. Coolera/Strandhill played in Division 2, with Western Gaels and Tourlestrane competing in Division 3. Tourlestrane made it to the Division 3 decider on 26<sup>th</sup> April, succumbing to Mayo side Tooreen by 4-12 to 0-7.

In the Dermot Molloy senior hurling league, the five Sligo teams (Calry/St Josephs, Coolera/Strandhill, Naomh Eoin, Tourlestrane and Western Gaels) were joined by two Leitrim sides, namely Cluainin Iomaint (Manorhamilton) and Carrick Hurling Club (St Marys). Calry/St Josephs, Cluainin Iomaint, Western Gaels and Tourlestrane made it to the semi-finals. In the semi-finals, Calry/St Josephs defeated Western Gaels while Tourlestrane accounted for Cluainin. The decider between Tourlestrane and Calry/St Josephs was played in Tourlestrane on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, with Tourlestrane making the most of home advantage, being crowned Dermot Molloy champions on a 2-10 to 0-11 score line.

The Senior Hurling Championship was contested by the five Sligo clubs, with Naomh Eoin losing out on a semi-final spot following the round-robin phase. In the semi-finals, played as a double header in Tourlestrane on 20<sup>th</sup> September, Calry/St Josephs defeated Coolera/Strandhill on a 5-13 to 1-4 scoreline, while Western Gaels had a narrow 2-11 to 1-12 win over Tourlestrane. The county final was played in Markievicz Park as a double-header with the county SFC final on 12<sup>th</sup> October. In an unexpectedly one-sided encounter, Calry/st Josephs accounted for Western Gaels by 4-14 to 0-3, making it four SHC titles in-a-row for the Sligo town side.

Calry/St Joseph's quest to retain their Connacht JHC title began with a semi-final clash against Carrick. The Sligo champions duly accounted for their County Leitrim counterparts, winning by 1-9 to 0-8. The Connacht JHC final was played in Connacht GAA Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately, Calry/St Josephs could not emulate their feat of 2013, losing out to the new Galway champions Annaghdown on a score line of 2-11 to 0-6.

In the Martin Brennan Memorial Cup, Coolera/Strandhill defeated Naomh Eoin 5-7 to 0-7 at the semi-final stage. The final was hosted by Tourlestrane on 16<sup>th</sup> November. As in their semi-final victory,

Coolera/Strandhill's ability to get goals saw them emerge victorious against Tourlestrane on a scoreline of 5-10 to 1-8.

### **Underage Club Hurling Competitions.**

In the underage hurling championships, Naomh Eoin claimed their first minor title with a 3-12 to 2-5 win over Coolera/Strandhill on 18<sup>th</sup> October. The U16'A' championship was retained by Easkey/St Farnans who overcame Coolera/Strandhill in Markievicz Park. Easkey also claimed the U14'A' title with a resounding win over Naomh Eoin in Markievicz Park. The U16'B' title went to Tubbercurry, while the U14'B' title was claimed by Drumcliffe/Rosses Point.

In the leagues, Naomh Eoin annexed both the U16'A' and U14'B' titles with wins in the league finals over Coolera/Strandhill and Drumcliffe/Rosses Point respectively. The u16'B' league title went to Tourlestrane.

The U12 hurling season culminated with the staging of the finals festival in Markievicz Park on 26<sup>th</sup> August. Drumcliffe/Rosses Point won their first A1 title with a 0-10 to 0-7 win over Naomh Eoin. In the A2 decider, Calry/St Josephs were 0-3 to 0-1 winners over Tourlestrane. The B1 final was won by Catkeconnor who had a 0-8 to 0-3 win over Coolera/Strandhill.

Following the Féile qualifying blitz held in April, Drumcliffe/Rosses Point qualified for their first ever appearance at the Féile na nGael finals hosted by Ulster GAA. As runners-up Naomh Eoin also qualified to participate at the Féile na nGael finals. Easkey/St Farnans subsequently were invited to travel to the finals. Although none of the three teams qualified for their respective divisional finals at the Féile Uladh weekend, all three teams acquitted themselves well on the national stage.

Easkey/St Farnans competed in the Suck Valley leagues with their U14 side winning the Cahalan Cup, defeating Abbeyknockmoy of Galway in the final by 2-11 to 2-7.

In the Connacht Club U16 hurling championship, Easkey/St Farnans began their defence of their Connacht title with a resounding win over Carrick Hurling Club in the preliminary Round. However, they were knocked out at the quarter-final stage on 25<sup>th</sup> October by Tooreen on a 3-14 to 0-11 scoreline. Their victors subsequently went on to win the Connacht title.

### **Achievements**

Congratulations to Tom Brennan (Tourlestrane) on being honoured with a Rackard Champions 15 award.

### **Acknowledgements**

Firstly I would like to sincerely thank my fellow Coiste Iomana officers and delegates for their assistance during the year. The support of the County Board Chairman Joe Taffe and the other Coiste Chontae officers is also very much appreciated; so too is the assistance of the Administrator Eamon McMunn.

On behalf of Coiste Iomána I extend gratitude to our sponsors and in particular to Ronan Watters of Shoot the Crows for his financial input.

Special thanks are due to Declan Loughnane who stepped in to manage the county senior, U21 and minor hurling teams again this year. Thanks also to his background team and in particular to Brian McMahon



(coach), Brian McCann (liaison person), and selectors Ronan Watters, Chris Madden and Ronan Haughey. The contribution of Tom Brennan in preparing the U21 and minor teams was also invaluable.

Thanks to the hurling GPO, Benny Kenny, for continuing to do sterling work with young hurlers in the county, both in the schools and in the development squads.

Gratitude is expressed to the management teams of the U14 and U16 hurling development squads for all their work during the course of the year. The contribution of the County Coaching and Games Development Committee under the leadership of Pdraig Clancy in the development of hurling is acknowledged.

Cumann na mBunscoil's role in promoting hurling in the primary schools is acknowledged. Many thanks also to the referees who officiate at our games

Thanks to the CCC for organising the adult club hurling competitions throughout the year, and in particular to the Coiste Iomana representative Pat Maguire.

Personally, I would like to offer thanks to my fellow delegates on Coiste na Og and in particular Cathaoirleach Brendan Leonard and Runaí John Niland for their commitment in facilitating the underage hurling competitions. Special thanks also to Bart Barrins who as hurling fixtures secretary for Coiste na nOg organised the referees, etc for the matches and ensured that the fixtures ran to plan.

To the clubs, thanks for participating in our club competitions and for making your facilities available to us for hurling games and coaching sessions. Thanks to the Markievicz Park committee for permitting us to avail of Markievicz Park for our championship finals, and to the media for their coverage of hurling at county and club levels throughout the year.

Finally, thanks once again to my fellow officers of Coiste Iomána, namely Gerry O'Connor, Pat Maguire, Brian McCann and Kieran Tobin. Also thanks to Tom Evans who acted as the representative for Coiste Iomána on several committees during the year.

Is Mise, le meas

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Liam Ó Ceallaigh-Loinsigh (*Bill O'Kelly-Lynch*)

Runaí

Coiste Iomána, Sligeach

## HURLING COMPETITIONS 2014

<b>COMPETITION</b>	<b>WINNER</b>	<b>RUNNER-UP</b>
<u>Underage</u>		
U9 Indoor Hurling	<i>Final not played</i>	
U11 Indoor Hurling	<i>Final not played</i>	
U13 Indoor Hurling	<i>Final not played</i>	
U12 A1	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point	Naomh Eoin
U12 A2	Calry/St Joseph's	Tourlestrane
U12 B1	Castleconnor	Coolera/Strandhill
U14 A Championship	Easkey	Naomh Eoin
U14 B Championship	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point	Coolera/Strandhill
U14 Féile	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point	Naomh Eoin ( <i>blitz</i> )
U14 A League	Naomh Eoin	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point
U16 A Championship	Easkey	Coolera/Strandhill
U16 B Championship	Tubbercurry	Tourlestrane
U16 A League	Naomh Eoin	Coolera/Strandhill
U16B League	Tourlestrane	Tubbercurry
Minor Championship	Naomh Eoin	Coolera/Strandhill
<u>Adult</u>		
Dermot Molloy SHL	Tourlestrane	Calry/St Josephs
Senior Hurling Championship	Calry/St Joseph's	Western Gaels
Martin Brennan Cup	Coolera/Strandhill	Tourlestrane

## Tuarscail an Runai 2014

### Cumann na mBunscol, Co. Shligigh.

The school year 2013-2014 proved to be an enjoyable and busy year for Cumann na mBunscol. I would like to thank all the schools and teachers for their assistance in getting the competitions completed.

#### Cumann na mBunscol Awards

These awards honour and portray the diligent work carried out by Cumann na mBunscol committees throughout the country.

This year 2013 – 2014, we entered and received a nomination for the Assessor's Merit Award in the Public Relations Category and Promotion of Gaelic Games and Culture Category of The National Cumann na mBunscol Awards. The awards ceremony was held in Hogan Mezzanine Suite, Croke Park on the 16th November 2013. Thank you to Bernie Ryan, who organised the Public Relations submission, and for her diligent work in keeping in contact with the local media. We also thank Áine Mc Grath for the work she did in promoting Rounders and for organising this year's submission to the Promotion of Gaelic Games and Culture.

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol will be launching the new award format this year.

Level 1 of the Awards is certificate based. Any school that is affiliated to Cumann na mBunscol and attends their local AGM will be presented with this certificate.

Level 2 of the Awards is presented to those who have already received Level 1.

Level 2 Certificate is awarded to schools who have participated in any four of the items listed below:

- Participation in boys / girls football
- Participation in mini-7s
- Participation in camogie / hurling competitions
- Promotion of Respect Initiative (as in Fair Play Awards, nominate schools / advertise on website etc)
- Having a club school link
- Having an Allianz Cumann na mBunscol noticeboard

The form will be available on the national website [www.cnmnbaisiunta.com](http://www.cnmnbaisiunta.com) and should be returned to the county secretary. Evidence should be attached e.g. a photo of the noticeboard. The Merit Awards are featured in the current INTOUCH magazine.

#### Football Competitions

The 2013 Football Championship began in March with 56 schools entered. All competitions were played on a league basis. The details of the various competitions are as follows:

- 3 teams entered the 2 Teacher Mixed competitions. This was played on a league basis with the top two teams qualifying for the final.
- 11 schools entered the 2 Teachers Competitions with the majority of schools fielding boys and girls teams. This was divided into 2 Sections. The top team in each section played the runners up in the other section for the semi-final.
- 10 schools participated in the 3 teacher section – this was divided into three groups. The top team for each group progressed to the semi-final. A draw was made between the three group runners up for the fourth place in the semi-final. All schools fielded boys' and girls' teams.

- 17 schools participated in the 4/5 teachers section. All schools fielded boys' and girls' teams. This section was divided into 4 groups. The top team in each section progressed to the quarter-finals. The semi-finals were played as follows Winner (1) vs Winner (3) and Winner (2) vs Winner (4)
- 6 schools participated in the 6/7 teacher section. There was one group. The top two teams qualified for the final.
- 9 schools participated in the 8+ teacher section. Schools fielded boys and girls teams where applicable. This section was divided into two groups. The top two teams progressed to the semi-finals with the winners in both sections playing the runners up in the other.

Our finals' day took place in Markievicz Park on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014. The favourable weather conditions contributed hugely to the success of the day. Although this can be a long day, for all involved, it is also very enjoyable. Our thanks go out to Paddy Galvin and the Markievicz Park committee for all their help. We would like to offer a special word of thanks to all the teachers and other volunteers who turned up on the day and helped out with the running of the competitions. Without their help the children's "Big Day" would not have happened so smoothly. Thanks especially to Pat Conway and his team of referees for helping us out on the day.

<b>Football Roll of Honour 2014</b>		
<u>Competitions</u>	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Runners-Up</u>
<b>2 Teacher Mixed</b>	<b>Kilrusheighter NS</b>	<b>Cloonloo NS</b>
<b>2 Teacher Competition</b>		
<b>(Boys)</b>	<b>Carns NS</b>	<b>Kilmactranny NS</b>
<b>(Girls)</b>	<b>Templeboy NS</b>	<b>Mullaghroe NS</b>
<b>3 Teacher Competition</b>		
<b>(Boys)</b>	<b>Dromore West NS</b>	<b>Castlerock NS</b>
<b>(Girls)</b>	<b>Castlerock NS</b>	<b>Cliffoney NS</b>
<b>4/5 Teacher Competition</b>		
<b>John Kent (Boys)</b>	<b>Ardkeeran NS</b>	<b>High Park NS</b>
<b>(Girls)</b>	<b>Culfadda NS</b>	<b>Cloonacool NS</b>
<b>6/7 Teacher Competition</b>		
<b>(Boys)</b>	<b>Calry NS</b>	<b>Tubbercurry NS</b>
<b>(Girls)</b>	<b>Calry NS</b>	<b>Strandhill NS</b>
<b>8+ Teacher Competition</b>		
<b>Seán Mulhern (Boys)</b>	<b>Grange NS</b>	<b>St. John's NS</b>
<b>Cannings (Girls)</b>	<b>Grange NS</b>	<b>Scoil Ursula</b>

## **Hurling Championships**

After wet weather conditions in early Spring, the Hurling competitions were rescheduled for later in the year. Twenty teams took part. The finals took place on 21<sup>st</sup> May in Connolly Park, Collooney. A Camogie Blitz was held in Geevagh on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

<b>Hurling Competition</b>
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	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Runners-Up</b>
<b>Hurling</b>	<b>Dromore West NS</b>	<b>Geevagh NS</b>
<b>Camogie</b>	<b>Castlerock NS</b>	<b>Geevagh NS</b>

## **Indoor Hurling/ Camogie**

The Indoor Competitions took place after the Easter break. 28 schools participated in the Indoor Hurling competition and 17 schools in the Indoor Camogie. The top boys/girls team in each section progressed to the semi-final. The finals were played in the Teeling Centre on March 9th 2014.

	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Runners-Up</b>
<b>Hurling</b>	<b>Dromore West NS</b>	<b>High Park NS</b>
<b>Camogie</b>	<b>Killeenduff NS</b>	<b>Ballintogher NS</b>

## **INTO Mini-7's Competition**

The INTO Mini-7's is a National Competition where all schools in the country are invited to compete in the same competition. The setting of age limits enables this to take place.

Once again there was huge interest in our mini-7's, with 45 schools participating in the football competition. The competition was divided into 13 regional blitzes with the top boys/girls teams progressing to Round 2 consisting of four groups. The finals were held on 7th November 2013 in St Mary's Sligo.

## **Mini 7's Football**

	<b><u>Winners</u></b>	<b><u>Runners-Up</u></b>
<b>Girls</b>	<b>Castlerock NS</b>	<b>Calry NS</b>
<b>Boys</b>	<b>Dromore West NS</b>	<b>Calry NS</b>

## **Mini 7's Hurling**

It was decided to hold one competition for the Mini 7's Hurling and Hurling this year due to the adverse weather conditions and consequently the difficulty of finding time to run both competitions.

### **Place Kicking Competitions:**

The finals of the placekicking competitions were held in Markievicz Park on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 during the Sligo Longford match. A high standard was achieved by both boys and girls.

### **Match Report Competition**

Winner: Matthew Fitzsimons, Drimina NS

### **Exhibition Games**

On the day of the Mini 7's Finals, children were chosen to go forward to play in Croke Park on semi-finals days in August – Girls' Football (1), Boys' Football (2), Hurling (1), Camogie (3).

Cumann na mBunscol took part in an exhibition match during the Sligo v Galway match on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014 in Markievicz Park, Sligo. A boys' and girls' team were selected to represent Sligo from teams who had progressed to Finals' Day. Cumann na mBunscol also took part in an exhibition match during the Mayo v Galway Connacht Final match on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2014 in Hyde Park, Roscommon.

### **Annual Table Quiz**

The Annual Cumann na mBunscol table quiz took place in the Teeling Centre, Collooney on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Thanks are extended to CJ Fallon who sponsored this event once again this year. There was a large interest in this event with 42 teams participating.

The results of the competition were as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Calry NS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Grange NS
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mercy

### **Sponsorship**

Allianz continue to sponsor Cumann na mBunscol on a National Level. However, without financial support at local level our competitions could not continue in their present format. Our level of sponsorship for the competitions has been cut dramatically in the past two years. We are deeply grateful to the businesses that continue to sponsor our competitions. While we value our current sponsors highly we are always on the lookout for future sponsors. Sponsors are given recognition in our Fixtures Booklet, in our Finals' Day Programme and in our media correspondence. We would especially like to thank Sean Mulhern for his continued sponsorship of the fixtures booklets, and also Tubbercurry Credit Union, Cannings and John Kent for their sponsorship this year.

## **Most Colourful Supporters**

To add to the colour and excitement of Finals' Day, we introduced the Most Colourful Supporters Competition a number of years ago. Schools have entered into the spirit of this competition and encouraged parents and pupils alike to support their school team with colour and volume!

This year's award was won by Cliffoney NS and Scoil Ursula.

## **Fair Play Awards**

The Fair Play Awards were introduced to encourage Fair Play in our competitions both on and off the pitch. This is a whole school award. School nominate the team they feel best demonstrates Fair Play in their particular groups. Well done to the schools who received an award in the Sligo Park Hotel on 18<sup>th</sup> June at 4pm:

- Killavil, Coolbock, Maugherow, Monasteraden, Kilglass, Soeey, Moylough, St Brendan's, High Park, Collooney BNS, Rathcormac, and Ballisodare.

This year's overall winner was: Rathcormac NS.

The award for Fair Play on Finals' Day, the Maura Galvin Award, was presented to: Castlerock NS

## **Sligo Coaching Scheme**

Eleven years ago, the great partnership between Sligo Cumann na mBunscol, Sligo IT and Sligo County Board put a football coaching scheme in place for all interested Primary Schools in County Sligo. The scheme started at the end of February and continued until the end of May. The students who visited our schools were skilful and co-operative and their work enhanced the work already being undertaken in schools. It was generally agreed that the IT coaches were of an excellent standard this year. However, as every organisation is under financial pressure we are encouraging schools to hold a Jersey Day each year to fundraise for the scheme. We would like to thank Liam Og Gormley and John Hughes for all their work to ensure this scheme runs smoothly.

## **New Ventures**

In a continuing effort to promote Gaelic Games, the Allianz Cumann na m Bunscol Co Shligigh Committee organised a GAA Rounders coaching session for teachers on 1<sup>st</sup> April in Gaelscoil Chnoc na Ré followed by a blitz for primary schools on 2<sup>nd</sup> April in Kilcoyne Park, Tubbercurry and on 3<sup>rd</sup> April in Sligo Council Pitch. It was a great success. Many thanks to Joe Donoghue, his team of coaches and to all who turned out for the blitzes. Similar blitzes will be run again in Spring 2015.

This year a Camogie Development Day was organised and held in Geevagh on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014 from 10am – 2pm with nine schools participating. A shield and medals were awarded to the winning team. Two trophies, one for Player of the Day and another for the best emerging team were also awarded. Refreshments were provided by Geevagh club and a photographer was employed to record the event. Many thanks to Benny Kenny who organised the referees and to Yvonne Byrne, Coaching Officer and Mary O Connor, National Development Officer who attended the event.

It was agreed to begin the process of setting up a website for the coming academic year. The National Committee of Cumann na mBunscol has launched its website [www.cnmbnaisiunta.com](http://www.cnmbnaisiunta.com). Cumann na mBunscol Shligigh can send information which is then posted in blog format.

For the coming academic year, it has been decided to pilot sending out affiliation forms in June to be returned by June 30<sup>th</sup>. This is to facilitate getting the competitions started as soon as possible when the new academic year 2015-2016 starts. The committee should be informed of any changes to class numbers in September, and will accommodate as necessary.

### **Conclusion**

At a time when schools are under increasing pressures, we are extremely grateful to all the teachers in Sligo who give so willingly of their class and free time to engage their pupils in Gaelic Games. The level of participation and skill that are seen in all areas of our competitions are testament to the dedication of our teachers. We are also grateful for the time they give to help on Finals' Days and in co-ordinating competitions during the year.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people on our committee. It would be impossible to organise and run activities without their support. They work so hard throughout the year, giving generously and freely of their time to organise, co-ordinate and publicise competitions and events for the promotion of Gaelic Games. I would like to acknowledge the sterling work done by David Dillon, Natasha Branigan, Aisling Tighe, John Liddy, Geraldine Kilcoyne, Mick Maye, Bernie Ryan, John Hughes, Cathy Mc Ginley, Áine Mc Grath, Carl O Rourke, Marlene Scanlon, Mick Heffernan and Michéal O Broin in their respective roles on the committee. I would like to thank them most sincerely for their help and support during the year. They have been of invaluable assistance to me in my role as secretary and for which I am very grateful.

We wish Natasha Branigan success in her move to Drogheda and hope she will be happy there. We congratulate Bernie Ryan on her appointment as Chairperson of the National Committee of Cumann na mBunscol and wish her success in her role.

Finally I thank you for your attendance at this year's AGM and wish the new committee all the best for the coming year.

**Patricia Hunt (Rúnaí, Cumann na mBunscol)**



## **Sligo GAA Inclusion and Integration Report for Convention.**

Comhdháil Bhliantúil Coiste Chontae Slighigh 2015.

### **Background.**

The “Inclusion and Integration Strategy” was launched by the GAA in 2008 and is the first of its kind, a joint initiative between the GAA, Ladies Football and Camogie in addressing the issue of inclusion in terms of race, ethnicity, the Traveller community, religion, gender, and disability. The vision for the association outlined in this plan is “that everybody has the opportunity to be welcomed to take part in our games and culture, to participate fully, to grow and develop, to be inspired to keep a lifelong engagement with our Association.”

Many of our clubs around the country have played an active role in inclusion over many years, and in more recent times, have opened their doors to newcomers to Ireland from all over the world. Cumann Na mBunscol has also played a major role in our schools in encouraging children of all nationalities to play our games. Indeed, it is most encouraging to see children of many nationalities participating in the Cumann na mBunscol finals played at Croke Park each year.

### **Sligo “GAA Inclusion and Integration”**

The Strategic aim of the Sligo “GAA Inclusion and Integration Committee” is to offer an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone to participate in our games and in our culture. We welcome people from all nationalities, ethnicities, religions, ages and abilities into our sports and activities, and we make it easy for everybody to take part. We champion equality within the Irish sporting landscape and communities overseas. Clubs should make themselves aware of Club Manuals which reflect best practice in the area of inclusion. All organisations should update their rules to reflect a clear anti-sectarian, anti-racist and anti-discrimination position.

The Croke Park GAA Inclusion Officer (Tony Watene) will work with the Coaching and Games Team to develop new games and formats. These will be attractive to people with a disability and encourage them to take part.

Clubs should continue to develop the “Give Respect – Get Respect” initiative promoting respect between coaches, players, referees, and spectators.

Inclusiveness is listed as one of the organisation’s values and states that we welcome everybody to be part of our Association, that we are anti-sectarian and we are anti-racist. While these are strong statements, it demonstrates our commitment and our belief that the association is for all people.

### **Activities during 2014.**

In 2014 the Sligo Inclusion and Integration committee continued to highlight the vision and the aims contained in the GAA’s inclusion and Integration strategic plan. A number of committee meetings were held, getting a number of the various stakeholders together discussing the various policies. The following events were organised.

### **Golden Jubilee Celebrations at Senior Football County Final on Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Oct.**

The 1964 Curry Senior County Champions and the 1964 Coolera St/Hill Minor County Champions were honoured at the County Final as part of the Teams Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Sean Meade the

Galway centre back in the Galway three in a row All Ireland Champions( 1964 to 1966) attended the County Final and displayed his Four All Ireland Medals (Senior / Junior) for viewing by children and interested adults. Thanks to Terence Marren from Curry and Jonnie Kivlihen from Coolera St/Hill who organised this event.

### **Wheelchair Hurling Inter Provincial Finals**

As Part of Sligo European Town of Sport 2014 celebrations, Sligo and Connacht GAA Inclusion and Integration Committees in conjunction with Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership (SSRP) hosted the 2014 M. Donnelly GAA Wheelchair Hurling Interprovincial Finals on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 14. With the support nationally from Paraic Duffy, Ard Stiúrthóir GAA, Paschal Donohue (TD) Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and Tony Watene, GAA National Inclusion Officer, Sligo was delighted to promote the theme of 'Sporting Inclusion' through the hosting of the national finals. In supporting the event Minister Donohue stated "The M. Donnelly GAA Wheelchair Hurling Interprovincial Finals are being hosted as part of the Sligo European Town of Sport 2014 calendar of events with a key theme of the year being 'Sporting Inclusion.' I'd like to commend the great work that has taken place this year by the Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership."

The Martin Donnelly All Ireland Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling / Camogie Championship Finals were held in the Knocknarea Sports Centre at the Sligo Institute of Technology on Sat Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a "come and try" coaching session from 3.30pm to 4.15pm where young and adult players male and female participated and also watched the very exciting and enjoyable games. The introduction of Wheelchair hurling ensures that our great games can be enjoyed by both able bodied and people with a disability, alike.

This was a great honour for the Sligo GAA Inclusion and Integration Committee and the Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership to host the second Martin Donnelly All Ireland Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling / Camogie Championship Finals after being granted the privilege by Croke Park in honour of Sligo being nominated as the "European Town of Sport 2014". Special thanks the Sligo I.T for providing their world class facilities for this prestigious event. Thanks to Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership and especially Deirdre Lavin and Shane Hayes for their support and financial assistance. Thanks to the Connacht Inclusion and Integration Committee ably led by energetic Chairman Denis O'Boyle and Secretary Mattie Kilroy, thanks to the Sligo Inclusion and Integration Committee efficiently led by John Leyden and Cyril Feehily, thanks also to the National Inclusion and Integration Committee under the expert stewardship of Tony Watene and Brian Armitage. Special word of thanks to Martin Donnelly for his continued sponsorship of this event. Finally sincere thanks to the Connacht GAA Council and especially John Prenty for supporting the Connacht Wheelchair Hurling /Camogie team and to Sligo GAA County Board and chairman Joe Taffe for their enthusiastic assistance.

The members of the Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling Team are: Pat Carty (Tourlestrane-Sligo), Aidan Hynes, Captain, (Calry-Sligo), Stephen Melvin (Ballinacarrow, Sligo), Tommy Fleming (Charlestwon-Mayo), Shane Curran (Moycullen-Galway), Fergal Mohan (Frenchpark-Roscommon), David Tarpey (Ardrahan-Galway), , Peter Egan (Kilmovee-Mayo), Sarah Cregg (Frenchpark-Roscommon), Val Lenehan (Charlestown-Mayo) and Susan O' Flaherty-Coleman (Portumna-Galway).

The Sligo Inclusion & Integration committee wishes to thanks the many volunteers who helped out, the local media for their promotion of the event, the Sligo I.T for providing their world class facilities, the SSRP and especially Deirdre Lavin and Shane Hayes who spared no effort in organizing and

supporting the finals, and also Fiona Brennan who gave a beautiful rendition of Amhran na bhFiann. Finally sincere thanks to Croke Park, Connacht GAA Council and Sligo GAA Co Board for their help and support and a heartfelt thanks to the players, mentors and supporters who gave their all in a most entertaining and memorable occasion, and best wishes to Munster who beat Connacht in a most exciting, sporting, and enjoyable final.

Sincere thanks to all who helped out at the Sligo IT to make this a most memorable and enjoyable occasion for all players and supporters and especially Gerry Tuohy and Seamus Cummins who coordinated and organised up to fifteen volunteers.

### **Give Respect Get Respect signs:**

It is GAA policy that all GAA Clubs have signs of "Give Respect Get Respect" erected and visible in their Club Grounds and they can make their own decisions about having these signs in the Dressing rooms. These signs are available from a Company "Signs Express" at the roundabout in Collooney. Some Clubs have the signs erected and all Clubs should make a special effort to have these signs erected early in 2015.

### **Rounders update:-**

Rounders is making great progress in Sligo. There was a two day Cumann na mBunscoil Rounders Blitz last June which was very well attended in Owenmore Gaels and Tubbercurry. Easkey U-13 Girls are 2014 National Feile Champions and two of the team represented their club and county in Croke Park on Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>. ST Feichins were in the Connacht U-14 Girls Final of Community Games and just lost out by one run. A coaching day was attended by Primary Teachers from Sligo given by Rounders personnel. Primary School's Rounders Competition for all NS in the County was held in September. Rounders Clubs being established in Easkey, Castleconnor, Shamrock Gaels, Owenmore Gales.

### **Objectives for 2015.**

1. Ensure all Clubs have the "Give Respect Get Respect" signs erected in Club grounds.
2. Honour the Golden Jubilee Teams for 1965 at the 2015 County Final.
3. Establish work group to promote Rounders under the guidance of Cyril Feehily.
4. Continue to promote and expand Wheelchair Hurling / Camogie.
5. To organise a "Have a go day" with a Club taking the lead role, and to provide coaching and game practice in Gaelic Football, Hurling, Camogie, Handball and Rounder's for underage players, and to invite new people to the area to the event.
6. To further promote integration with Sligo Coaching / Development Committee and Sligo Cumann na mBunscoil.

I want to thank John Leyden, Cyril Feehily, Seamus Cummins, Terence Marren, John Kivlehen, Liam Og Gormley, Jim Owens, Joe Taaffe, Bernardine Mc Gauran, and Kieran Mc Dermott who helped out during the year. Special thanks to the local and national media who helped our activities, the Sligo Champion, Sligo Weekender, Ocean FM and RTE.

Yours In Sport,

Tim Hynes(Secretary of Sligo GAA Inclusion and Integration Committee.)

**Ainmniucáin na gClubanna don bhliain 2015**

**(Club Nominations for the year 2015)**

<b>Oifig</b>	<b>Duine I Seilbh</b>	<b>Ainmniucáin</b>
<b>(Office)</b>	<b>(Outgoing)</b>	<b>(Nomination)</b>
<b>Cathaoirleach:</b> (Chairperson)	<b>Seosamh Ó Taift</b>	Seosamh Ó Taift
<b>Leas-Chathaoirleach :</b> (Vice Chairperson)	<b>Risteard Ó Braonain</b>	Risteard Ó Braonáin
<b>Runai:</b> (Secretary)	<b>Gearoid Ó Concubhair</b>	Gearoid Ó Concubhair
<b>Leas-Runai:</b> (Assistant Secretary)	<b>Bernadin Ni Shamhráin</b>	Bernadin Ni Shamhráin
<b>Cisteoir :</b> (Treasurer)	<b>Seosamh Ó Chuineáin</b>	Seosamh Ó Chuineáin Peadar Ó hUaine
<b>Cisteoir Cunta:</b> (Assistant Treasurer)	<b>Eamon Mac Éil</b>	Eamon Mac Éil
<b>Oifigeach Forbartha:</b> (Development Officer)	<b>Sean Mac Parthaláin</b>	Sean Mac Parthaláin
<b>Oifigeach Oiliona :</b> (Coaching Officer)	<b>Pádraig Mac Fhlannaidh</b>	Pádraig Mac Fhlannaidh
<b>Oifigeach Cultura/Gaeilge:</b> (Irish & Cultural Officer)	<b>Ceith Mac Einrí</b>	Ceith Mac Einrí
<b>**Oifigeach na bPáisti:</b> (Children's Officer)	<b>Coireall Ó Ficheallaigh</b>	To be nominated by outgoing County Board

<b>Oifigeach Caidrimh Poibli:(PRO)</b>	<b>Gabhann Mac Amhlaigh</b>	Gabhann Mac Amhlaigh
<b>Baill Comhairle Chonnachta(2):</b> (Connacht Council Rep)	<b>Sean Ó Tuairisc</b> <b>Risteard Ó Braonain</b>	Sean Ó Tuairisc Risteard Ó Braonáin Sean Ó Nialláin
<b>Ball den Ard-Comhairle:</b> (Ard Comhairle Rep)	<b>Tomás Mac Giolla Cadhain</b>	Sean Ó Murchú Eamon Mac Éil Seasamh Ó Chuineáin
<b>Ionadai ag Comhdháil Comhairle Chonnachta 2014:(4)</b> (Reps to Connacht Convention)		Cathaoirleach& Runaí agus beirt eile; Seamus Mac Amhlaigh Aodh Ó Gallchóir Eamon Ó Maoláin Sean A Mac Aindriú
<b>Ionadai ag Comhdháil Náisiunta 2014 :</b> <b>(4 incl.Cathaoirleach&amp;Runai)</b> (Reps to Annual Congress)		Cathaoirleach & Runaí Eamon Mac Maoin Eamon Ó Maoláin

## Motions

1. All Club Sligo members and ticket holders are allowed in free to all Sligo games.  
**Calraigh/Naomh Iosef**
2. All finals – Football, Hurling and Ladies Football including underage finals to be played in Markievicz Park.  
**Calraigh/Naomh Iosef**
3. That there can be no restriction as to the age-grade at which a properly constituted Club may field a team unless the Club agrees to such restrictions applying for a specific competition and such agreed restrictions are reviewed annually or where a Club/team is disqualified by reason of discipline or governance.  
No rule is affected: This Motion will have the effect of making the agreement regarding hurling in the “West” division, ratified at the County Committee meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup>. April 2011: redundant. **SEE APPENDIX 1 Page 68**  
**Cumann Iascaigh**
4. That Connacht Council would continue subvention to County Scór Committees.  
**Gaeil Naomh Molaise**
5. That an u12 team with a large panel may use the same number of substitutions as their opponents with a smaller number available to them. That is there is no obligation on the team with the larger panel to use all substitutions available to them if they so wish.  
Rule affected; 6.26 “Unlimited substitutions may be made during a game to optimise participation”.  
**Naomh Micéal**
6. That neutral officials: referee, linesmen and umpires are used for all Championship games.  
**Naomh Micéal**
7. Current warm up competitions (Benson, Kiernan and Abbott Cups) to be played after the completion of the Leagues and before the commencement of the Championships  
**Naomh Pádraig**
8. Under 12 Goal Posts to be used for under 14 competitions on a trial basis for 2015, and to be reviewed by the clubs at the end of the year.  
**Naomh Pádraig**
9. The Co.Board to carry out a full review of the format of 2014 Senior and Intermediate Championship with the aim of developing a more competitive format.  
**Naomh Pádraig**
10. .For Senior and Intermediate Championship semi-finals and final that 100 tickets are given to each competing Club. The Club then retains 33% of the proceeds of the sales.

## **Naomh Pádraig**

11. That unlimited substitutions be allowed for all underage competitions.

### **Clarsigh an Oirthear**

12. That the maximum admission charge for all underage finals be set at €5 for stand alone or double headers.

### **Clarsigh an Oirthear**

13. That the presentation of underage finals be improved to include a full compliment of match officials, properly marked pitches and a hand-out programme.

### **Clarsigh an Oirthear**

14. That the programme of underage fixtures be completed by mid-September.

### **Clarsigh an Oirthear**

15. That a new format be introduced for the Senior and Intermediate football championship in 2015.

**Suggested Format:** (1) 4 groups of 3 teams. Open draw for these groups.

(2) Each team in the groups will play each other at home and away.

(3) Final group positions will be decided by points attained if this reaches a final conclusion.

If not:

1 If 2 teams finish with the same number of points at the top of the table, the order will be determined by the head-to-head over their two games.

2 If each team won a game each, the final position will be decided on scoring average between the 2 teams involved.

3 If this doesn't reach a final position, the order will be decided by points scored between the 2 teams.

4 If this doesn't reach a final conclusion the scoring average in the entire group will decide the order and, if necessary points scored.

5 If 3 teams finish on the same number of points, the group winner will be decided on scoring average, and, if necessary, on points scored. Remaining 2 teams will play off to decide group finishing order.

6 All games from Qr.-Final onwards will be played at neutral venues.

7 Winners who finish 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the group stages will progress to Qr.-Finals, with the winner of one group playing the runner-up in other groups as follows:

Winner A V Runner-up B (1)

Winner B V Runner-up A (2)

Winner C V Runner-up D (3)

Winner D V Runner-up C (4)

8 Semi-Finals: 1 v 3 and 2 v 4.

9 Relegation Play-offs:

The 4 bottom teams from the group stages will be entered into an open draw for relegation semi-finals, with the losers of these games playing a relegation final. The loser of this match will be relegated.

**Clarsigh an Oirthear**

## Appendix 1

### Copy Minutes from County Board Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Correspondence from Tomas Cawley, Kunal Western Gaels gave details of two meetings held recently to regularise the situation re. hurling in West Sligo. Joe Queenan described the progress made at the meetings and hoped that the outcome would be acceptable to everybody.

Runai An Coiste Iomána, Brian Mc Cann explained that the hurling fixtures were planned since January and during the fixture planning process, he told delegates that they had no indication from Western Gaels that they intended to enter teams from under-10 to under-14.

He referred to under-16 hurling league fixtures planned for the evening after our meeting and felt it was too late to be accepting entries when fixtures were already made and ratified.

Joe Queenan reminded delegates that Western Gaels was an exclusively hurling club and the agreement reached won't interfere with fixtures.

He explained that Easkey have withdrawn their under-16 team and their manager, Michael Gordon will now manage the Western Gaels under-16 team.

The correspondence from Western Gaels indicated that under-12 and under-14 hurlers in the West Div. to be under the management of Easkey/St. Farnan's /Castleconnor; under-12 and under-14 teams to be withdrawn from competitions by Western Gaels.

Under-16's upwards to register and play with Western Gaels, which is the only club to cater for under-16's upwards in West Sligo.

**The Chairman requested that an email to this effect be forwarded from Western Gaels to Bill O Kelly-Lynch, Sec. of the hurling C.C.C. The regularisation of the hurling teams in West Sligo was then accepted on the proposal of Bart Barrins, seconded by Paddy Henry.**



## Sligo GAA Bye-Laws

1 Annual **County Convention** shall elect the following Officers of the County Committee, who shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant-Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant-Treasurer, Development Officer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture and Public Relations Officer. It shall appoint 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, who shall hold office respectively for the term of the ensuing Connacht and Central Councils.

2 The **County Committee** shall consist of the Officers elected at County Convention including Central and Connacht Council representatives, the Children's Officer, the Chairperson of Coiste na nÓg, a representative of each adult club, County Referees Administrator and a representative of each of the following committees, Cumann na mBunscol, Post-Primary Schools, Hurling and Handball. The Insurance Officer, County Committee Administrator and a representative of the Countess Markievicz Park Committee can attend County Committee meetings in a non-voting capacity.

3 The County Committee shall appoint the following Sub-Committees whose membership, duties and functions shall be as set out in the Official Guide and in these Bye-Laws.

(i) **Management Committee:** It shall consist of the Officers and Representatives elected at Annual County Convention, the Children's Officer, the Chairperson of Coiste na nÓg and the County Committee Administrator (non-voting).

(ii) **Competitions Control Committee (CCC):** It shall consist of a minimum of thirteen members. ten members to be appointed from members of the County Committee and/or other suitable personnel and to include a Hurling rep and five members of Coiste na nOg. It Shall include The Chairman of Coiste na nOg, the County Committee Administrator (non-voting), 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 it shall have plenary powers i.e. appeals against its decisions shall be made to Connacht Council.

- It shall be responsible for all arrangements for, including the appointment of referees, and control of games under the jurisdiction of the County Committee, including disciplinary matters other than those functions reserved for the County Hearings Committee.
- It shall deal with objections and counter-objections arising from games under the control of the County Committee.
- It shall investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules and Match Regulations for games under the control of the County Committee.
- It shall process and make recommendations to the County Committee on the grading of clubs and players.

An aggrieved applicant not satisfied with recommendations of the CCC may request a Hearing at the County Committee meeting at which the final decision is taken. Such a request shall be granted.

(iii) **Fixtures Planners:** The County Management Committee shall appoint two Fixtures Planners with responsibilities as outlined in Rule 3.22 (iii), Official Guide 2013, Part 1.

(iv) **County Hearings Committee:** It shall consist of six members, none of whom may be a member of the County Competitions Control Committee, the CCC of the County Hurling Committee, the CCC of the Post-Primary Schools' Committee, the County Management Committee or the CCC of any other sub-committee of the County Committee. It shall have plenary powers i.e. appeals against its decisions shall be made to Connacht Council. It shall adjudicate on matters where a Hearing is prescribed and requested. It shall hear appeals arising from Sub-Committees established under Rule 3.22, Official Guide 2013, Part 1.

(v) **County Planning and Physical Development Committee** shall have seven members. The County Committee Development Officer shall be Chairperson of this Committee. Six other members shall be appointed by the County Committee.

(vi) **County Referees' Administration Committee** shall have eight members. The County Referees' Administrator shall be Chairperson of this Committee. It shall also consist of seven other members, to include a representative of the Referees' Tutors and Referees' Assessors, appointed by the County Committee.

(vii) **County Coaching and Games Development Committee** shall have a maximum of twelve 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 a representative of each of Cumann na mBunscol, Post-Primary Schools, Third Level Colleges, County Hurling Committee, County Youth Committee and other members appointed by the County Committee.

(viii) **County Cultural Committee** shall have eight members. The County Committee Officer for Irish Language and Culture shall be Chairperson of this Committee. The other members shall be appointed by the County Committee.

(ix) **County Public Relations/Marketing Committee** shall have a maximum of eight 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. The other members shall be appointed by the County Committee.

(x) **Coiste na n-Óg** (County Youth Committee) shall have six members. It shall be responsible for the initiation and coordination of all youth activities within the County. The Chairperson and other members shall be appointed by the County Committee.

(xi) **County Finance Sub-Committee** The County Committee Treasurer shall be Chairperson of this Sub-Committee. The Assistant-Treasurer of the County Committee shall also be a member. The other members shall be appointed by the County Committee.

(xii) **County Information Technology Committee.** Its Chairperson, Secretary and other members shall be appointed by the County Committee.

(xiii) **County Teams' Management and Panels' Sub-Committee.** The membership of this Sub-Committee shall be as outlined in the Charter for County Committee/Player Relationships as approved by Ard-Chomhairle from time to time. The functions of this Sub-Committee shall be as outlined in Rule 3.22 (xiii) Official Guide 2013, Part 1.

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

In accordance with Rule 3.21 (a) T.O. 2013, Part 1, the County Committee shall appoint the following Sub-Committees whose functions and powers shall be outlined in these Bye-Laws.

**4. (i) County Post-Primary Schools' Committee.** It shall consist of (i) an Officer of the County Management Committee (who may act as Chairperson), (ii) a representative of each affiliated Post-Primary School, (iii) a representative of the County Coaching and Games Development Committee, (iv) a representative of the County Hurling Committee and (v) a representative of the County Youth Committee. A CCC shall be appointed by the County Committee from the members of the County Post-Primary Schools' Committee. Requests for a Hearing and Appeals against decisions of this committee will be heard by the County Hearings Committee.

The County 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** (County Hurling Committee). 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 and Appeals against decisions of the CCC will be heard by the County Hearings Committee. An Officer of the County Committee shall be appointed Chairperson of the Hurling Committee along with one representative of each club that fields a team in an adult county hurling championship in the current year. Additional members may also be appointed by the County Committee. All members shall be entitled to vote.

(iii) **Sligo Urban Committee.** 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 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 plus one Handball representative, all of whom shall be ratified by the County Committee. Appeals will be heard by the County Hearings Committee.

(iv) **Divisional Boards.** There shall be four Divisional Boards, North, South, East and West. Their areas of jurisdiction (i.e. clubs) shall be decided annually by the County Committee. Each Board shall consist of the following officers elected at their Annual General Meeting which must be held at least four weeks before Annual County Convention: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, P.R.O. and one delegate from each club within its jurisdiction that participated in Adult Competition in the current year. The Boards may organise competitions subject to the approval of the County Committee. Each Board's officers and members shall also act as its CCC. Appeals will be heard by the County Hearings Committee.

(v) **Countess Markievicz Park Committee.** 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 Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, P.R.O. and a maximum of ten other members, including the County Committee P.R.O., elected at its Annual General Meeting which must be held at least four weeks before the Annual County Convention.

**5** Bye-law governing **Transfers within Co. Sligo**. A player may apply for a transfer to a club where he is a permanent resident or as otherwise provided for in An Treor Oifigiúil. Applications shall be in writing to the Secretary of the County Committee. The County CCC shall process and make recommendations to the County Committee on such applications. Applications shall be with the County Secretary before the 1<sup>st</sup> March in any year. An aggrieved applicant not satisfied with the recommendations of the County CCC may request and be granted a hearing at the County Committee meeting at which the final decision is taken.

**6** Bye-law governing '**Permanent Residence**'. 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. Week-end, college, summer or holiday residences are not permanent residence.

*Note:* Permanent Residence is now defined in Rule 6.3 Official Guide 2013, Part 1, since Congress 2012.

**7** Subject to Rule 6.7 Official Guide 2013, Part 1,

(i) a player from a separately affiliated Football Club may apply for, and may be granted, annual written permission by the County Committee to play Hurling with a dual club in his own Divisional Board area.

(ii) A player from a club that does not have a Hurling team at his age level, may play Hurling in that grade with an alternative club in his own Divisional Board area. In the case of both (i) and (ii) if there is no relevant club available to a player in his own Divisional Board area, he may apply for, and may be granted, annual written permission by the County Committee to play Hurling with a club in another Divisional Board area. All applications referred to in this Bye-Law must be made in writing by the player to the County Secretary. All such players must have written permission from the County Committee before taking part in competition. The County CCC shall process such applications and, in conjunction with the County Hurling Committee, make recommendations to the County Committee whose decision shall be final. Existing arrangements (prior to 2012) may continue while both parties (i.e. the player and the club he plays Hurling with) agree.

*Note:* Rule 6.7 Exceptions (1) Official Guide 2013, Part 1, allows a Player of a separately affiliated Hurling Club play football with a separately affiliated Football Club and vice versa.

**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 whose catchment area he/she is a permanent resident, or as otherwise provided for in An Treoraí Oifigiúil.

# Underage Football Competiton Winners 2014

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Competition	Winner	Runner up
U-14 A Ch.	Shamrock Gaels	Eastern Harps
U-14 A2 Ch.	Coolera	Tourlestrane
U-14 B Ch.	Enniscrone	Calry
U-14 C Ch.	Ballymote	Castleconnor
U-16 A Ch.	Owenmore Gaels	Tubbercurry
U-16 A2 Ch.	Eastern Harps	St. Marys
U-16 B Ch.	Tourlestrane	Bunninadden
U-16 C Ch.	Calry	St.Johns
Minor A Ch.	St.Marys	Calry
Minor A2 Ch.	Tourlestrane	St. Farnans
Minor B Ch.	Drumcliffe	St. Michaels
Minor C Ch.	Enniscrone	Owenmore Gaels
U-14 A League	Eastern Harps	Shamrock Gaels
U-14 A Shield	Curry	Coolera
U-14 B League	Owenmore Gaels	Tourlestrane
U-14 B Shield	St. Marys	Enniscrone
U-14 C League	Geevagh	St.Patricks
U-14C Shield	St.Molaise	Ballymote
U-16 A League	Shamrock Gaels	Tubbercurry

U-16 A Shield	Easkey	St.Molaise
U-16B League	Coolera	Castleconnor
U-16B Shield	Tourlestrane	St.Pats
U-16 C League	Ballymote	Bunninadden
U-16C Shield	St.Michaels	Geevagh
Minor A League	St.Marys	Easkey
Minor Shield	Calry	St.Molaise
Minor B League	St.Johns	Castleconnor
Minor B Shield	St.Farnans	Drumcliffe
Minor C League	St.Michaels	Shamrock Gaels
Minor Shield	Geevagh	Ballymote

## Adult Football Competiton Winners 2014

Competition	Winner	Runner-up
Belfry Senior Football Championship	Tubbercurry	St.Mary's
Kennedys Intermediate Championship	Calry/St.Joseph's	Shamrock Gaels
Toffs Junior A Championship	St.Mary's	Owenmore Gaels
Toffs Junior B Championship	Eastern Harps	Coolaney/Mullinabreena
Fureys Coaches Division 1	St.Mary's	Tourlestrane
Fureys Coaches Division 2	Coolaney/Mullinabreena	Calry/St.Joseph's
Fureys Coaches Division 3	St.Mary's	Enniscrone/Kilglass
Fureys Coaches Division 4	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point	St.Farnan's
Kiernan Cup	Tubbercurry	St.Mary's
Benson Cup	Calry/St.Joseph's	Castleconnor
Abbott Cup	Enniscrone/Kilglass	St.Mary's

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