

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael - Coiste Átha Cliath

Comhdháil Bhliantúil

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

An Clár

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

Standing Orders for Convention

1. The Proposer of a motion, or amendment thereto, may speak for no longer than five minutes.
2. A Delegate speaking to a resolution or an amendment must not exceed three minutes.
3. The proposer of a resolution or amendment may speak a second time for five minutes before a vote is taken, but no other delegate may speak a second time to any resolution or amendment.
4. The Chairman may at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed call on the proposer for a reply, after which a vote must be taken.
5. A Delegate may, with the consent of the Chairman, move 'that the question be now put' after which, when the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
6. A speaker to the Annual Report or to any other general discussion shall not exceed three minutes.
7. Convention shall not be entitled to consider any matter not on the Agenda, except with the consent of a majority comprising two-thirds of the votes of those present, voting and entitled to vote.

AINMNIUCHÁIN

Cathaoirleach

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

Leas-Chathaoirleach

Cionnaith Ó Súilleabháin (Cuala) **Outgoing**

Leas-Rúnaí

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

Cisteoir

Mícheál Ó hOireachtaigh (Na Tráchtálaí)

Oifigeach na Gaeilge

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

Árd Chomhairle

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

Comhairle Laighean

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

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

Tuarascáil An Rúnaí

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

Facilities and Playing Pitches

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local Authorities – Sport and Activity Plans

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

John Costello

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minor footballers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minor hurlers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under-20 footballers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under-20 hurlers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senior hurlers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senior footballers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Results

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

Walsh Cup

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

National Hurling League

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

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship

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

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship

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

O'Byrne Cup

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

National Football League

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

Leinster Senior Football Championship

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

All-Ireland Senior Football Championship

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

Leinster Minor Football Championship

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

All-Ireland Minor Football Championship

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

Leinster Minor Hurling Championship

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

Leinster U20 Hurling Championship

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

Leinster U20 Football Championship

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

Intercounty Structures

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

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

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

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

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

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

Child Safeguarding Audit

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Club Championships

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Multimedia

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

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

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

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

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

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

Refereeing

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

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

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

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

Sponsorship

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

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

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

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

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

Cumann na mBunscol / Second Level Schools

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

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

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

County Grounds

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

The numerous games programmes staged in Parnell Park entail a significant amount of time for the essential preparation and planning. This involves communicating with all the statutory agencies to ensure the safety of all our patrons. I am also indebted to Noel Murphy, Paul Tobin and their team of regular stewards for their assistance, their attention to their different duties and their courtesy to our patrons, all of which adds to the presentation of our games.

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

Cuimhne na Marbh

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

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

Buíochas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A special word of thanks to the members of the CCC for their work in scheduling and implementing a games programme for our players. Also, the members of Coiste Éisteachta Chair Derek Keogh, David Faherty, Matt Dunne, Dave Feeney, Timmy McCarthy, Sinead O'Brien, Dermot Sheridan and Secretary Tom O'Shea for the huge volume of work undertaken during the year. Thanks also to the members of our various sub-committees for their commitment.

I wish to compliment the work of Declan O'Leary, Damian Murphy, Declan Coulter, Maura Ryan, and Anne O'Dea of Coiste na nÓg. Having recently attended their AGM, it is clear to see that the future of Juveniles games program is in safe hands.

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

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

Fionnbarra Ó Mathúna

Rúnaí

Na Rúin

1. Amend Byelaw 1.2 of the Dublin GAA Byelaws 2022 to read: -

The County Committee shall consist of: -

- the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Public Relations Officer, Planning and Training Officer, **Demographics Officer**, Children's Officer, the Chairperson of the Adult Competitions Control Committee, the Chairperson of the County Youth Committee and a representative from Blue Clusters Company* in accordance with the provisions of An Treoraí Oifigiúil as amended from time to time;
- the Central Council representative and the two Provincial Council representatives.
- one named representative from each affiliated Club.
- the County Referees' Administrator.
- one named representative each from the County Handball, the County Primary Schools and the County Post-Primary Schools Committees;
- All members, with the exception of the Secretary, shall have voting rights.

2. Amend Byelaw 1.3 of the Dublin GAA Byelaws 2022 to read: -

The County Management Committee shall consist of the following County Committee members:- the County Chairperson, County Vice-Chairperson, County Secretary (without voting power), County Assistant Secretary, County Treasurer, Chairperson of the County Youth Committee, **Coaching Officer**, Central Council Representative, the Leinster Council Representatives, a representative from Blue Clusters Company and two members of the County Committee, to be elected each year at the first meeting of the County Committee to be held after the Annual County Convention, one of whom shall be nominated from representatives of Hurling Clubs and one of whom shall be nominated from representatives of Football Clubs.

C.C.C. / Fixture Planner's Report 2023.

A Chairde,

It is again my pleasure to present you with a report on the adult games' activities of Dublin County Board. In presenting this report I hope to highlight a number of issues which I feel need to be discussed in order to improve how we manage our adult games programme.

In 2023 the CCC scheduled 4,500 (approx.) fixtures in eighty-five competitions in two codes. Hopefully, by the time Convention is held we will have completed our programme for this year. If not completed there will be a handful of games, (low single figures) outstanding.

The year has been a challenging year fixture wise, one of the more challenging in many years. The weather has been unkind, we lost fixture dates at the start of the season in February and again in October, dates that we could ill afford to lose because of our tight schedule. We have no control over the weather but if the climate experts are to be believed it may be something that will have to be factored into fixture planning, and pitch development, in the future.

The greatest difficulty as I see it is the new Club v. County split seasons. On paper it seems fine to have the inter-county programme completed before August, with a club only period following. In reality our competitions need to be tweaked to be a proper "fit" into the condensed playing times that are now available to us February to July and August to October.

As long ago as mid-2022 the CCC highlighted to Clubs that there would be a difficulty fitting in our usual league competitions into the 22 or so weekends that are available from mid-February to late July – even less when bank Holiday weekends and Dublin intercounty championship games that we all want to attend are taken into consideration – as the CCC are currently obliged to plan a competitive league programme which includes a minimum of twenty six games (15 football / 11 hurling) plus playoff matches built around the needs of players who want to participate in both of our games.

Unfortunately, the clubs, through the County Committee delegates, shot down proposals to reduce the number of teams in the football league from sixteen to twelve (same as hurling) and opted to carry on with the current structures ensuring that many players must play midweek and weekend almost every week from Easter to July, leading to many complaints of player burnout, injuries through overuse, no break time, loss of interest etc. That is not forgetting the enormous pressure put on our small band of referees without whom our games would not be played.

Having experienced the games congestion difficulties that arose in 2023 it is my belief that we need to revisit the decision not to reduce the number of teams in our football leagues and to do so as a matter of urgency.

The August to October period brings its own difficulty. There were particular difficulties for clubs trying to field teams during August which is peak holiday time, especially for players and mentors with families. It is also a time when many younger adult players (students) are travelling or working abroad. On one hand clubs benefited from having players return from their intercounty commitments, on the other hand clubs had to compete without some of their better players who were unavailable due to travel, this had a significant impact on results and on the championship in general.

For 50% of teams / players the season ends after the round robin series of games in championship, which is by late September. The CCC, at the suggestion of Coiste Peil and Coiste Iomana delegates, attempted to set up Shield Competitions to provide those teams / players with extra games. The reaction from the majority of teams was very definite in that they did not want to participate in those Shield competitions leading to a decision to scrap those competitions, at least for this year.

In the current games structure, we are provided with a twelve-week window to play our county championships and to put forward representatives for the various Leinster Club championships on time. Our football structure, three round robin rounds followed by three knockout rounds

fits perfectly into that time frame. The hurling structure, unfortunately, does not. Five team or six team groups by their nature require extra rounds of matches at a time of year where we do not have weekends available and when the majority of clubs are not in a position to host midweek games due to the unavailability of daylight or floodlit pitches. There is a need for our hurling competitions to copy the football group structure in terms of fitting in to the time available to play.

While on the subject of the hurling championships, specifically the senior and intermediate hurling championships, there is, based on complaints that I have received, a need to review the decision to play with five team groups. Having a bye game in every round is just not working. In fact, it has proven to hinder teams by causing four- or six-week gaps between games. That was evident in the poor results of group winners who skipped quarterfinals and went straight through to semifinals. It was even more evident where the group winner's last round robin game was their bye.

Minor. After our trial of last year with Under 17/19 we have from this year settled on the Minor grade as being Under 18 for Dublin purposes. That was a sensible decision. If I have a concern about the minor grade, it is that we do not play enough games at that level. The league campaign is stop start with breaks for mid-term break, Easter Holidays, pre-Exam study, Exam time, followed by a lengthy summer holiday break. Even when we did have league games some teams struggled to field due to the absence of better players who were unavailable due to their intercounty commitments.

Minor is the most important grade we have. If we hope to take players through that grade into our adult grades, we must give more attention to our schedule of minor league games with a view to playing more often in the first half of the year.

Referees. I must thank our referees for all their cooperation during 2023. Without their assistance our games programme would not have been completed. While I know that everyone will agree that our referees are essential to the playing of our competitions, I also know that there are mentors, players and supporters who believe that our referees attend games in order to allow those people to insult and abuse them. Not only that, but far too often in 2023 the CCC had to investigate alleged assaults on match officials. I am glad to report that where the facts available to CCC allowed action to be taken against the perpetrators of those assaults the CCC did take that action.

A major problem for the playing of our games is that we are facing a shortage of referees. Through the excellent work of Paddy Kiernan (referees coordinator) we managed the situation in the past season albeit we were unable to cover all games early in the year but going forward is going to be exceedingly difficult unless the clubs give more assistance.

The CCC are expecting, even insisting, that every club in Dublin must provide at least two referees who will join our panel of referees who take charge of minor and adult fixtures.

Discipline. There were several high-profile disciplinary cases this year. There is no excuse for out-of-control groups of players or supporters becoming involved in a melee or other behaviour that brings discredit to the teams, individuals, Dublin County Board, or the GAA. There is an onus on every person participating in or attending our games to behave in a proper manner. If people cannot behave in a proper manner, they must accept that CCC will be prepared to act by proposing sanctions that are meaningful and which will impact on individuals and / or units.

Media. The lack of newspaper coverage of our competitions is to be regretted. The loss of Dublin GAA coverage in the Herald and Fingal Independent in particular where supporters could follow match reports and photographs of games in general is huge. Thankfully, we have our Dublin GAA website which provides great coverage of our activities and I thank Derek Ryan and Sophie McGlynn for their assistance and support to CCC during the year.

Trophies. The collection and re-issuing of trophies from previous winners is a massive task that takes up too much time every year. Every team that wins a league or championship expect,

even demand, that there is a trophy presented to them at a final or last league game. Regrettably when it comes to the next winner the same expectations are not appreciated. Trophies are very often not returned, they are not tracked within teams and disappear, lost forever. Where they returned, they are very often sent back in poor condition, damaged beyond repair or in a filthy condition, unwashed and sticky from drink poured into the trophy months before. Is it time to dispense with presenting trophies / cups and perhaps present a pennant outlining details of the achievement that could be held forever by the club?

Conclusion. I wish to record thanks and appreciation to the members of CCC for all their efforts during the past year, to Chairperson, Elaine Dolan (Ballinteer St John's), Vice Chairperson, John O' Brien (Naomh Olaf) and members – Ken O' Sullivan (Cuala), Colm Crowley (Fingallians), Gerry Rowley (Scoil Ui Chonail), Tom Rock (Kilmacud Crokes), Denis Malony (Ballyboden St Enda's), Mel Farrell (Erin's Isle), Michael Errity (Commercial's) and Aidan Shiells (Clontarf / Referees Committee) thanks for your commitment to CCC on every Tuesday evening and beyond.

Thanks also to Paddy Kiernan (Naomh Olaf / Referees Coordinator) and Noel O' Donoghue (Cuala) for all their support on refereeing matters and appointments. Thanks to Carol Monahan for her continued support in the CCC Office and to all our colleagues in Parnell Park. I especially want to thank John Costello for his support, help and advice over the years. I wish John and his wife Marie many happy years of retirement. Congratulations to Finbarr O' Mahony on his appointment as the new CEO. I look forward to working with Finbarr in the future.

Thanks to all the clubs for their cooperation in 2023. Wishing you all a happy and successful 2024.

Seán MacNiocláis.

Rúnaí CCC.

C.C.C Átha Cliath Hurling Winners / Runners-up 2023

2023	Winners	Runners up
Senior 1 Hurling Championship	Na Fianna	Ballyboden St Endas
Senior 2 Hurling Championship	Craobh Chiarain	St Judes
Senior 3 Hurling Championship	Naomh Mearnog	Raheny
Intermediate Hurling C/ship	Fingallians	St Vincents
Junior A Hurling Championship	Good Counsel Liffey Gaels	St Marks
Junior B Hurling Championship	Ballyboden St Endas	Lucan Sarsfields
Junior C Hurling Championship	Thomas Davis	Raheny
Junior D Hurling Championship	Clontarf	Naomh Barrog
Junior E Hurling Championship	Ballyboden St Endas	Ballinteer St Johns
Junior F Hurling Championship	Parnells	Realt Dearg
Junior G Hurling Championship	Craobh Chiarain	O' Tooles
Junior H Hurling Championship	St Marks	Commercials
Minor A Hurling Championship	Lucan Sarsfields	Kilmacud Crokes
Minor B Hurling Championship	Fingallians	Thomas Davis
Minor C Hurling Championship	Commercials	Ballyboden St Endas
Minor D Hurling Championship	St Sylvesters	Lucan Sarsfields

Under 21 A Hurling Championship	Kilmacud Crokes	Lucan Sarsfields
Under 21 B Hurling Championship	St Oliver Plunketts ER	Faughs
Under 21 C Hurling Championship	Clontarf	St Judes
Under 21 D Hurling Championship	O' Tooles	Round Towers (C)
Under 21 E Hurling Championship	St Peregrines	Ballyboden St Endas
AHL 1	Ballyboden St Endas	Na Fianna
AHL 2	Raheny	Ballyboden St Endas
AHL 3	Kilmacud Crokes	Fingallians
AHL 4	Na Fianna	St Vincents
AHL 5	St Oliver Plunketts ER	Faughs
AHL 6	Ballyboden St Endas	Na Gaeil Óga
AHL 7	Kilmacud Crokes	Lucan Sarsfields
AHL 8	Portobello	Naomh Mearnog
AHL 9	Ballyboden St Endas	Commercials
AHL 10 North	Craobh Chiarain	Parnells
AHL 10 South	Thomas Davis	St Annes
Minor Hurling League Div 1	Lucan Sarsfields	Kilmacud Crokes
Minor Hurling League Div 2	Castleknock	Naomh Mearnog
Minor Hurling League Div 3	Raheny	St Oliver Plunketts ER
Minor Hurling League Div 4	Lucan Sarsfields	Kilmacud Crokes
Minor Hurling League Div 5	Castleknock	Cuala
Minor Hurling League Div 6	St Judes	Kevins

C.C.C Átha Cliath Football Winners / Runners-up 2023.

2023	Winners	Runners up
Senior 1 Football Championship	Kilmacud Crokes	Ballyboden St Endas
Senior 2 Football Championship	Clontarf	Fingallians
Intermediate Club Football C/ship	Scoil Ui Chonaill	Parnells
Junior 1 Club Championship	Man O War	O' Dwyer's
Junior 2 Club Championship	St Kevins Killians	Bank of Ireland
Inter Football All County C/ship	Ballyboden St Endas	Na Fianna
Junior 1 All County C/ship	Kilmacud Crokes	Ballyboden St Endas
Junior 2 All County C/ship	Naomh Olaf	St Judes
Junior 3 All County C/ship	Na Fianna	Kilmacud Crokes
Junior 4 All County C/ship	Kilmacud Crokes	St Brigids
Junior 5 All County C/ship	St Finians (N)	Whitehall Colmcille
Junior 6 All County North C/ship	St Brigids	Fingallians
Junior 6 All County South C/ship	Lucan Sarsfields	N/A
Minor A Football Championship	Ballyboden St Endas	Kilmacud Crokes

Minor B Football Championship	St Patricks (D)	Beann Eadair
Minor C Football Championship	Templeogue Synge St	O' Dwyer's
Minor D South Football Championship	Kilmacud Crokes	St Agnes
Minor D North Football Championship	Na Fianna	Cú Chuaillain
Under 21 A Championship	<i>Ballymun Kickhams v. Ballyboden St Endas</i>	
Under 21 B Championship	<i>Clontarf v. Castleknock</i>	
Under 21 C Championship	<i>St Judes v. Skerries Harps</i>	
Under 21 D Football Championship	<i>Round Towers @ v Whitehall Colmcille</i>	
Under 21 E Football Championship	<i>St Judes v. Parnells</i>	
Under 21 F Football Championship	<i>Castleknock v. St Peregrines</i>	
AFL 1	<i>Ballyboden St Endas v Kilmacud Crokes.</i>	
AFL 2	Whitehall Colmcille	St Marys
AFL 3	Naomh Barrog	St Patricks (D)
AFL 4	Clann Mhuire	St Patricks (P)
AFL 5	Fingal Ravens	O' Dwyer's
AFL 6	Garristown	St Patricks (D)
AFL 7	Craobh Chiarain	St Judes
AFL 8	St Kevins Killians	Templeogue Synge St
AFL 9	Shankill	St Brigids
AFL 10 N County	Raheny	Whitehall Colmcille
AFL 10 S County	St Judes	St Finians (N)
AFL 11 N County	Na Fianna	Ballymun Kickhams
AFL 11 S County	Robert Emmets	Lucan Sarsfields
Minor Football League Division 1	Lucan Sarsfields	Ballyboden St Endas
Minor Football League Division 2	Fingal Ravens	Castleknock
Minor Football League Division 3	Beann Eadair	Naomh Mearnog
Minor Football League Division 4	St Annes	Clanna Gael Fontenoy
Minor Football League Division 5 North	Scoil Ui Chonaill	Parnells
Minor Football League Division 5 South	Kilmacud Crokes	Cuala
Minor Football League Division 6 North	St Vincents	Thomas Ashe
Minor Football League Division 6 South	Kilmacud Crokes	Lucan Sarsfields

Coiste Éisteachta 2023

During the course of the year, Coiste Éisteachta met on 16 occasions. One of the meetings dealt with 41 Regrading Appeals 19 were Football and 22 were Hurling:

		Football	Hurling
Out Of Order	27	13	14
Upheld	5	3	2
Players didn't Require Regrading	5	0	5
Received Late	4	3	1

The other 15 meetings dealt with 47 cases.

Description	Hurling	Football
Suspensions Issued	9	13
Withdrawn By Players	9	4
Withdrawn by CCC	1	3
Cleared with Evidence	2	2
Out Of Order	1	2
Returned to CCC		1
Total	22	25

When it comes to regrading requests, it is of utmost importance for club officers to carefully review the requests submitted by their players. This scrutiny ensures that all necessary information, as requested in the form, is provided. This approach allows decisions to be made based on the fullest available information, thereby minimizing the need for unnecessary appeals.

Club Officers should be aware that Transfer and Regrading appeals are not hearings in the traditional sense. Instead, the appeal process focuses on evaluating whether there has been an alleged breach of a rule or procedure by the CCC (County Competitions Committee).

The decision-making process may, at times, involve complex and challenging circumstances. However, Coiste Éisteachta always strives for fairness and honesty. Each case is unique and should be treated with the utmost respect and privacy. If any member or unit believes our decision was incorrect, they have the right to appeal to the Leinster Hearings Committee by specifying the alleged rule breach. We fully respect this right, regardless of the appeal's outcome.

As noted in previous County Convention Reports, the role of the County Hearings Committee (CHC) may not be fully understood by all. The CHC is not an Appeals Committee; that function falls under the jurisdiction of the Leinster Council. The CHC does not aim to be seen as a defender of referees, committees, or players. Its role is solely to base its decision on the evidence presented, maintain impartiality, and promptly communicate its decision to the parties involved.

Operating within a strict time frame places pressure on all parties involved, including the claimant, defendant, referee, and CHC members. With match suspensions now in place, there

may be time constraints for urgent hearings. It's important for all parties to understand that no hearing can proceed without a referee's report. We extend our appreciation to those who cooperated by providing supporting materials for urgent hearings during the year.

It's worth reiterating that individuals seeking a hearing should be aware that any request received outside the prescribed two-day (52 hours) limit cannot be accommodated by the committee, as per the rules.

Coiste Éisteachta strongly recommends that all Club Secretaries obtain a copy of the current Treoraí Oifigiúil (Official Guide) and familiarize themselves with the Association's rules, especially those related to Coiste Éisteachta's procedures. Additionally, club officers should ensure that those accompanying players to a Hearing are knowledgeable about the relevant sections of An Treoir Oifigiúil (Official Guide).

The Hearings Committee is obligated to act in accordance with the rules outlined in the Official Guide and will apply those rules consistently.

The Committee rigorously adheres to the requirement in An Treoir Oifigiúil that any committee member with a potential conflict of interest must recuse themselves for that specific hearing. Furthermore, all parties seeking a hearing have the right to object to any committee member before the hearing commences.

It is regrettable that we must once again note instances where individuals who have been sent off and reported for serious offences are reluctant to acknowledge their wrongdoing and accept the imposed penalty. Similarly, some team managers and club officers are inclined to defend actions that are indefensible. We earnestly request all club officers to conduct a thorough review of players' hearing requests in light of the relevant rules to prevent the submission of requests destined for failure.

We draw your attention to the following rule when considering requests for a hearing:

Rule 7.3.aa (vi): A Referee's Report, including any Clarification thereto, shall be presumed to be correct in all factual matters and may only be rebutted where unedited video or other compelling evidence contradicts it.

We extend our gratitude to the members of Coiste Éisteachta for their unwavering commitment and dedication, often attending meetings at short notice in order to accommodate players or clubs.

We are grateful to Paddy Maloney for looking after us on our meeting nights, and Ger O Connor for his assistance with the setting up of the video equipment when required.

We would like to acknowledge the advice and help given to us by the County Secretary (John Costello).

Coiste Éisteachta Átha Cliath 2023 members:

Derek MacEochaidh	(Cathaoirleach)	Oileann na hÉireann
Daihtí Ó Fathartaigh	(Leas Cathaoirleach)	Fionnbhrú Colmcille
Tomás Ó Sé	(Rúnaí)	Naomh Marcais

Coiste:

Maitiú Ó Doinn

Dáithí Ó Fiannaí

Diarmaid Ó Sirideáin

Taidhgín MacCártaigh

Sínéad Uí Bhriain

(Croimghlinn)

(Parnell)

(Long Cogaidh)

(Naomh Uionsíonn)

(Na Fianna)

Is Mise

Derek MacEochaidh

Cathaoirleach

Coiste Éisteachta Átha Cliath

Coaching and Games Development Report 2023

Gerard O'Connor.

The Dublin Oversight Coaching/Club Committee continues to support and implement the recommendations highlighted in the report to evaluate the progress of the coaching and games development programme in Dublin.

The members of the committee are Chairperson, Bernie Mc Loughlin (Round Tower C), Ken O' Sullivan (Cuala), Paddy Walsh (Ballyboden St Endas), Ciaran Hoban (Whitehall Colmcille) , Declan Coulter (Naomh Barrog), and Brendan Waters (St Brigids)

The key recommendations highlighted by Dr. Ladden relate to the need to provide a definite career path for GPOs with salaries appropriate to the different grades. The RDOs need to engage more closely with the clubs in their area and help them develop strategic plans for coaching and games. They also need to develop strong links with the decision makers in the four Dublin Local Authority regions so that they can help the clubs obtain whatever assistance is available. The Football and Hurling Development Officers should lead the development of football and hurling in the county beyond the boundaries of the development squad system.

During the past year many of these recommendations were again the main areas for the work of coaching & games development.

The continuing staff turnover is part of the ongoing evolution of the employment landscape today.

Candidates graduating with sports management degrees and other business degrees who planned to work in sports are opting out to pursue other opportunities that are less structured, better compensated and have fewer expectations. Students have been told for years that the work week in the sports industry can often exceed 60-plus hours without overtime pay.

The lure of better career options coupled with cost-of-living concerns have driven up staff turnover rates in businesses around the country since last year.

A third of employers have reported a voluntary turnover rate of 16% or higher, according to this year's CIPD Ireland HR Practices in Ireland report, we in Dublin GAA have experienced upwards of 26% of staff departures. This is a significant increase from last year when 21% of employers experienced the same level of worker departures. High staff turnover does cause a major headache for all concerned. The main impact of high staff turnover includes decreased productivity, increased recruitment costs, avoidable time spent on training new employees, and a lack of visibility for some clubs in schools. While the recruitment process is an integral part of sustaining our staffing levels, it often brings forth a significant experience gap between outgoing employees and their replacements. Navigating this gap requires a thoughtful approach to ensure a smooth transition and the continued success of Dublin GAA. One of the primary hurdles in replacing staff lies in the experience differential between the departing employees, who may have accumulated years of skills and knowledge, and the incoming recruits eager to contribute but lacking the same depth of experience. Managing this transition effectively demands a strategic and proactive approach from both our leadership and the new staff.

Young players should benefit greatly from playing our sports in terms of personal development and enjoyment. Our players are encouraged to realise that as a result of their participation in our Gaelic Games that they also have a responsibility to treat all other players and officials with fairness. The term young players, i.e. any person who is under 18 years of age, also refers to children regardless of what team, grade or age group they play with. 'Underage' is a general term given to the players and competitions up to Minor grade level and to whom the Code of Behaviour (Underage) applies. Young players, and those who work with them in our associations are required to 'sign up' and abide by this Code of Behaviour and to any other policies or codes in our clubs or associations.

As part of the recent risk assessment, an additional section was added to enable us to identify on a club by club, and county by county basis, the number of new coaches recruited to work with children's teams in the last year, the number of clubs who have appointed their three person Code of Behaviour Hearings Committee in line with GAA policy, contact details for the Club Children's Officer and Club Designated Liaison Person, and finally, what the most common breaches of the Code of Behaviour (Underage) identified at club level in 2022, were and the age grade.

Going forward all clubs must take place conduct the Risk Assessment at least every two years following which the relevant unit shall then agree and display a Child Safeguarding Statement.

Over the past year upwards of 1700 parents, coaches and helpers attended safeguarding training in over 90 venues across Dublin.

The GAA have for several years promoted the practice that all coaches who work with children must have a minimum coaching qualification. It makes sense and such practices have benefitted not just the coaches but also the children and the clubs with whom they play. Given the standards contained in "Children First" this requirement is even clearer now and it has been enshrined in our Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and will also be referenced in our Child Safeguarding Statement. Quality trained coaches benefit children, youth sports programmes and communities in countless ways. If volunteer coaches are comfortable and confident in their abilities to work with children and coach the child first followed by the sport, they will feel like – and be – an extremely valuable part of the youth sports program. Thankfully, we are now back to where we were in 2019 in relation to coach education courses and coach development opportunities. Currently there are at total of 87 Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games (ICGG) Courses completed/being undertaken in 2023. We have 24 Award One Child Courses, 2 Award One Youth/Adult Courses, 1 Award Two

Youth/Adult Football and 1 Award Two Child Course in 2023. Below is a breakdown of the participant numbers for each entity.

Our GPOs/Coach Developers are doing great work in facilitating the practical sessions within their clubs. By the end of 2023 a total of 2,053 coaches will have completed their Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games (ICGG) qualification across 118 courses. This equates to 16,424 hours of coach development. Currently we have 454 Coaches who are undertaking the Award One Child and 60 for the Award One Youth/Adult courses respectively. Our Award Two Youth/Adult Football & Award Two Child courses had 15 and 22 coaches respectively who have completed the course and their assignments are currently being assessed. Our Award Two Child cohort for 2023/2024 have weekend 2 of their course on 1st & 2nd December.

We have a very strong Coach Developer cohort who are made up of full-time staff and volunteers, who give their time so readily to help us continue to improve the learning and development of our coaches. Without this cohort of people, we would not be able to run our courses to the standards we expect. We will be supporting and mentoring our Coach Developers in relation to quality assurance with Sport Ireland Coaching.

We were also in a position to run 12 Coach Support Workshops (3 Hurling, 3 Gaelic Football & 4 Cross Code) and 2 High Performance Goalkeeper courses in 2023/2024 in the fantastic Sport Ireland Campus. In 2023 we have run 2 workshops which had a total of 311 Coaches attend the workshops.

Our first Coaching Officer Symposium took place on 19th January 2023 in the Sport Ireland Conference Centre. This event was a great opportunity to engage with our Club's Coaching Officers to support them in their roles. It also gave us the chance to highlight what we do as there were presentations from our Regional Development Officers, Eimear Dignam & Donal Doyle, Football Development Officer Stephen O'Shaughnessy and Hurling Development

Officer Colm Burtchaell, Learning & Games Development Coordinator Owen Mooney, Timmy Hammersley & Sean Og Boyce from Ballyboden St Endas and Director of Sport at Sport Ireland, Michael McGeehin.

Our Coaching Conference took place on 28th January 2023 in the Sport Ireland Conference Centre. Chairman Mick Seavers opened the conference and across the day we had 120 people on to listen to and observe our brilliant presenters in action. Thank you to, DR. Fiona Chambers, Niall Corcoran, Conleith Gilligan, Michael Darragh Macauly and Gordon Maclelland. We also had presentations from Avenir Sports, and we had pop up stalls from McSport, Avenir, GAATactable & GAA Books for Kids. We look forward to running this event every two years with the next one taking place in January 2025.

The development of our GPOs is hugely important for what we do. In 2023, we facilitated development and collaboration opportunities across 5 staff development days around the areas of Summer Camps, First Aid Training Courses, AMS Training, Parent Engagement and Athletic Performance. Our GPOs are vital to the work we do; supporting and developing them is crucial to how we work.

For the third summer in a row much had to be done to make it possible for our 92 clubs to provide summer camp activity. This year we had a full programme of nine weeks of summer activity for the second year in a row. There were 181 Summer/Cul Camps activity with a total of 22,632 children participated; 10,078 of which were girls and 12,534 being boys. With such a volume of activity great credit must go to all our GPOs, club coaches and volunteers who managed to keep everyone safe.

In addition to the programme of summer activity, more and more children are now attending camps at other times of the year such as Halloween and Easter. Many clubs are providing lots more offerings during these holiday periods for children to avail of. This must be commended. This past year we had 59 Easter Camps with a total of 8,886 children in

attendance: 4,051 girls and 4,835 boys. Only a few weeks ago we had 8 Halloween Camps with a total of 240 children.

Our social media footprint has increased significantly again this year. The Dublin GAA Coaching & Games account has increased its followers from 8,072 to 8,841; an increase of 769. Our Facebook page has increased from 5,851 followers to 5,887; an increase of 36. Our Instagram page has increased its followers to 1,581 from 1,303, which is an increase of 278. Currently, our YouTube Channel continues to have huge engagement. The channel is there to support coaches with videos, webinars, online conference, to assist them in their coaching practice. We currently have 2,321 subscribers to the channel, which allows users to receive a notification when we post a video. There is a total of 60 public videos on the channel, which are separated into clearly defined playlists for ease of access for the user. In total the channel has had a massive 164,511 views across all content: with the most watched video, still being of renowned GAA coach Donie Buckley having a total of 40,291 views alone. We look forward to continuing our support of coaches at all levels in 2024 and beyond.

The unprecedented growth in the number of juvenile teams in Dublin GAA continues progress, with that comes challenges to have adequate coaches and more importantly referees to officiate at these games. During the past year a major recruitment drive was undertaken to focus on enlisting more referees for CCC2 covering the competitive U/13 to U/16 games. Clubs where there were shortage of referees at these levels were targeted to try and identify suitable candidates for training. A total of 26 new referees from completed the Referee of Youth Games course. There are still some clubs who are not on the required numbers to properly operate our programme going forward. For 2024, all clubs will be required to have one referee for every two teams entered in competitions. In addition to the CCC2 referee recruitment the ongoing training and recruitment of Go Games referee will be continued in 2024.

Over 440 referees were trained, across the three levels of referee courses that we offer, in 16 different venues in the past year. To increase capacity; this work would not have been possible without the support of our referee trainers.

Referee training establishes a foundation for consistent officiating standards across different levels of our games programme. Whether at the Go Games or at youth levels, a standardised approach to refereeing promotes fairness and equity. Consistency in decision-making builds trust among players, coaches, and fans, fostering a positive environment for the development and growth of Gaelic Games. Referee training is undeniably a key priority for us in Coaching & Games Development. Its complex impact on fair play, player safety, parental experience, consistent standards, sportsmanship, and the professionalism underscores its critical role in the success and sustainability of our games.

In 2024, we are holding our second Coaching Officer Symposium, which takes place on 24th January. This event will allow us to start each year on the front foot in relation to Coach & Volunteer Development. These events are a great opportunity to showcase best practice with our clubs and to highlight the brilliant resources.

To the members of the Games Development team, in particular the RDOs and HDO, FDO & LGDC

for their work and dedication to their roles. I would also like to acknowledge the excellent contribution that Laura Scuffil has made in her role as Learning and Games Development Coordinator. Special thanks to our DCU students Paul Tolan, Caitriona Comerford and Eoin O' Connor

for all energy that they have brought to their work over the past number of years. To Lorraine Swan for all she does to plan, organise and administrate all our Youth Referee training for the past year.

Special thanks to the members of the Oversight Coaching/Club committee: Bernie Mc Loughlin,

Ken O' Sullivan, Paddy Walsh, Ciaran Hoban, Declan Coulter and Brendan Waters your help and support have been invaluable.

Finally, I would like to thank our former CEO John Costello for his care and support throughout his leadership, we are grateful for the opportunity to work with you and learn under your guidance, wishing you a happy retirement.

Convention Report 2023 – Dublin South Region

Total No. of clubs = 35

GPOs

- DCB GPOs (employed by DCB) = 21
 - Club GPOs (employed by clubs, DCB part funded) = 6
 - Club GPOs (employed by clubs, no DCB funding) = 4
 - Part time School Coaches (DCB part funded) = 3
 - No. of Clubs with part time School Coaches (no DCB funding) Assisting GPOs = 10
- Total Full Time GPOs = 31**

Summary: Full time GPOs = 31; Part time School Coaches = 12;
Total = 43

GPO Resignations = 1; New GPOs Recruited and Assigned = 3; Maternity Leave = 1;
Current GPO Vacancies = 1.5;

Primary Schools

- Number of Schools that coaching was provided in = 340 to 350 (all county figure)
- Total number of children = 68 to 70k (all county figure)

Club Nurseries/Academies (South)

- No. of Club Nurseries/Academies = 35
- Total no. of Children = 5,500 to 5,600
- Total no. of Coaches = 1,050 to 1,100

Camps (South)

- No. of Easter Camps = 30; No. of Children = 3,877
- No. of Kellogg's Cul Camps = 35; No. of Children = 5,445
- No. of Club Summer Camps = 50; No. of Children = 6,415
- **Total No. of Camps = 115; Total No. of Children = 15,737**

Important Developments:

- **GPO Salary Scale:**
 - o The GPO salary scale was first implemented in July 2022 which was a really welcomed action. With a high turnover still happening in the GPO role and the increasing cost of living we think it will be necessary to revisit the GPO salary scale again with the intention of making improvements.

- **Part Time School Coaches Assisting GPOs:**
 - o This is a development that started in 2021 and now at least 10 clubs (nearly 30% of clubs) in the south region have decided to take on a part time school coach to assist their GPO with the primary schools coaching timetable. The feedback from these clubs is that this is now a necessary requirement given the increased workload on their GPO given the growth and development of their club.

- **Recent GPO Developments in the South Region:**
 - o Cabinteely GAA have been assigned a half GPO and are making steady progress in growing;
 - o Croi Ro Naofa have been assigned a half GPO;
 - o St Finian's Newcastle have very recently been assigned one third of a GPO;
 - o Ballyboden Wanderers have very recently been assigned a half GPO.
 - o St Kevin's Killian's will be assigned a half GPO early in 2024.

Convention Report 2022 – Dublin North Region, Regional Development Officer, Eimear Dignam

Total No. of clubs = 43

- DCB GPO's (employed by DCB) = 32 (covering 36 clubs)
- Club GPO's (employed by clubs, DCB part funded) = 3
- Club GPO's / Coaching Director (employed by clubs, no DCB funding) = 1
- Part time School Coaches (DCB part funded) = 4

- No. of Clubs with part time School Coaches (no DCB funding) Assisting GPOs = 3

A lot of movement in the North region with approximately 10 GPO's transferring to other clubs

**Summary – Full time GPO's / Club Coach = 36; Part time School Coaches = 7
Total = 42**

GPO Resignations in 2023 = 8; New GPOs Recruited and Assigned = 6; Current GPO Vacancies = 3 (Parnells will return to the GPO scheme in 2024)

Primary Schools

- Number of Schools coaching provided in = 340 - 350 (all county figure)
- Total number of children = 68,000 – 72,000 (all county figure)

Club Nurseries/Academies – Dublin North

- No. of Club Nurseries/Academies = 43
- Total no. of Children = 5,900
- Total no. of Coaches = 1,100 – 1,200
- **Camps – Dublin North**
- No. of Easter Camps = 39; No. of Children = 5,455
- No. of Kellogg's Cul Camps = 40; No. of Children = 6,820
- No. of Club Summer Camps including Advanced Camps = 78; No. of Children = 8,915
- **Total No. of Camps = 157; Total No. of Children = 21,190**

Important Developments:

- **New GPO Salary Scale – highlighted in overall report**
- **Recent GPO Developments in the North Region:**
 - o St Peter's have been assigned a fulltime GPO for the 1st time and are making steady progress in growth. St Peters is an amalgamation of Ballyboughal, Clann Mhuire & Garristown
 - o Man-O-War have joined the GPO scheme after a number of years in the schools coach/cub coach scheme. They have partnered up with Fingal Raven & Wild Geese to make a 3 club group with 1 GPO.
 - o Parnells will re-join the GPO scheme in early 2024.

Dublin GAA Talent Academies Report 2023

The football and hurling development officers are responsible for management of the football and hurling talent academies across the 14-19 age groups and to also assist with the operational requirements of the U20 Squads. Both officers' reports are below in respective of each code's academy programmes for 2023.

Football Talent Academy Report 2023

The ethos of our Talent Academy in Football is to provide an opportunity for as many players as possible from all clubs to achieve their potential. While these squads participate in various inter county competitions during the year the focus at these age groups is on development rather than results. It is important to note that all squads at all age groups are fluid and can integrate a late developer or a player who for whatever reason has not been nominated by his club at an earlier stage.

The below tables illustrate the activity levels and participating number of players/clubs for the 2023 programme.

Dublin GAA Football Talent Academy 2023				
Age	U15	U16	U17	U19
Number of players participated over the year	250	73	42	33
Number of clubs represented	55	34	20	18
Number of academy dates	36	56	92	41
Number of academy sessions	18	26	43	10
Number of academy games	12	16	22	9
Number of athletic development dates	6	24	27	22
Number of lifestyle/cultural activities	2	3	6	2

U15 Football Clubs Represented			
Ballinteer St Johns	Kilmacud Crokes	Round Towers Lusk	St Sylvesters
Ballyboden St Endas	Lucan Sarsfields	Shankill	St Vincents
Ballymun Kickhams	Na Fianna	Skerries Harps	Stars of Erin
Beann Eadair	Na Gaeil Óga	St Anne's	Templeogue Synge Street
Bray Emmets	Naomh Barrog	St Brigids	Thomas Ashe
Castleknock	Naomh Fhionnbarra	St Finian's Newcastle	Thomas Davis
Clanna Gael Fontenoy	Naomh Mearnog	St Judes	Trinity Gaels
Clontarf	Naomh Olaf	St Kevins Killians	Tyrrelstown
Crumlin	O'Dwyers	St Maurs	Ballyboden Wanderers
Cuala	O'Tooles	St Monica's	Whitehall Colmcille
Erin's Isle	Parnells	St Oliver Plunkets ER	
Fingal Ravens	Raheny	St Patrick's Donabate	
Fingallians	Ranelagh Gaels	St Patricks Palmerstown	

U16 Football Clubs Represented		
Ballyboden St Endas	Lucan Sarsfields	St Marys
Ballymun Kickhams	Man O War	St Maurs
Beann Eadair CLG	Na Fianna	St Oliver Plunketts Eoghan Ruadh

Castleknock	Round Towers Clondalkin	St Patrick's Donabate
Clanna Gael Fontenoy	Round Towers Lusk	St Peters
Cuala	Scoil Ui Chonaill	St Sylvester's
Fingal Ravens	Skerries Harps	St.Margaret's
Fingallians	St Brigids	Templeogue Synge Street
Kilmacud Crokes	St Judes	Thomas Davis

U17 Football Clubs Represented		
Ballinteer St Johns	Fingal Ravens	Skerries Harps
Ballyboden St.Endas	Kilmacud Crokes	St Jude's
Beann Eadair	Lucan Sarsfields	St Peters
Castleknock	Na Fianna	St Sylvesters
Clanna Gael Fontenoy	O'Dwyers	St. Vincents
Clontarf	Parnells	Thomas Davis
Erin's Isle	Raheny	Skerries Harps

U19 Football Clubs Represented		
Ballyboden St Endas	Na Fianna	St Margarets
Castleknock	Naomh Mearnog	St Marys
Erins Isles	Raheny	St Maurs
Garristown	Skerries Harps	St Slyvesters
Kilmacud Crokes	St Brigids	Templeogue Synge Street
Lucan Sarsfields	St Judes	Thomas Davis

Dublin Football Academy Mentors

Dublin U15 Football	
Anthony Holly	Whitehall Colmcilles
Colm Costello	St Judes
Dave Reynolds	St Judes
Declan O Boyle	Clontarf
Gavin Burke	St Vincents
James Fanning	O Dwyers
Joe Lyons	Whitehall Colmcille

Niall Byrne	Round Towers Clondalkin
Robert Behan	Kilmacud Crokes
Thomas McGrath	Ballyboden St Enda's
Warren Linnie	St Judes
Dublin U16 Football	
Alan O Neill	St Oliver Plunketts ER
Dara Gray	Na Fianna
Ger Glesson	Lucan Sarsfields
James Fanning	O Dwyers
Paddy Andrews	St Brigids
Shane Dooley	Moorefield
Stephen O Shaughneesy	Lucan Sarsfields
Walter Durcan	Ballyboden St Enda's
Dublin U17 Football	
Brian O Connor	Westmanstown Garda
Conor Mc Stay	O Tooles
Cormac Coady	Scoil Ui Chonail
Damien Fennelly	Clontarf
Dave Mc Ginley	Round Towers Lusk
Declan O Sullivan	Scoil Hi Chonail
Dermot Leahy	Ballymun Kickhams
Diarmuid McStay	Clontarf
Gene Meaghan	Scoil Ui Chonail
Pat Caulfield	Raheny
Stephen Keane	St Vincents
Dublin U19 Football	
Barry O Donnell	O Dwyers
Dave Reynolds	St Judes
Dave Wolverson	Ballyfermot De La Salle
Derek Byrne	Ballymun Kichams
Fergal Keys	Kilmacud Crokes
Paul O Brien	Ballyfermot De La Salle

Talent Academy Policy Document

In conjunction with the Hurling Development Officer, we developed and produced a formal policy document which incorporates all aspects of Talent Academy Activity in both codes. This document is available to view on both the Dublin GAA Website and the Dublin GAA Coaching & Games Website.

Research into Academy Players Maturation Levels

The football academy has begun a research project to collect data on maturation levels of development squad players. It's widely accepted that talent academies have a bias towards early developing players when conducting talent identification processes. Selection of players for development squads is a complex and difficult process. It's felt that understanding the maturation levels of players at all levels of the academy will aid/improve the selection policies for the academy and club coaches for 2024.

Talent Identification Process's

The football academy intends to extend its current practice at U14 level where clubs attend noncompetitive 7 a side club blitz with a silent sideline policy to U15 level for 2024. The key focus on these days is fun, participation, skill development and to reduce the influence of spectators on players in game decision making.

Dublin u19 Football Academy Squad

The football academy started up a new u19 squad this year. This squad is aimed at players who have the potential to make a u20 squad. The key areas of focus for the group is on skill and athletic development. The squad also took part in 9 games. 3 V Dublin minors, 1 v Dublin U20's, 2 V Dublin club teams, 2 V Meath u19's and 1 v Laois.

Regional Athletic Development Programmes

In conjunction with the Hurling academy, we provided a weekly supervised athletic development session for our 16 academy players. We have 3 regional bases for these sessions – Ballinteer St Johns, Ballyfermot De La Salle and Parnell Park. The programme is designed and overseen by the high-performance manager Bryan Cullen. I would like to thank Ballinteer St Johns and Ballyfermot DLS for providing the south and west bases. We would also like to thank the three athletic development coaches delivering the sessions in 2023 – Noel Cowman, Keith Bannan and Paul O'Brien.

Hurling Talent Academy Report 2023

2023 was a busy year for the Hurling Talent Academy, with plenty of activity from u14 up to adult. Below are some of the new initiatives introduced during the year, and also some plans for 2023. Finally, there is a brief report on u14, u15 and u16 activity.

Talent Academy Policy Document

In conjunction with the Football Development Officer, we developed and produced a formal policy document which incorporates all aspects of Talent Academy Activity in both codes. This document is available to view on both the Dublin GAA Website and the Dublin GAA Coaching & Games Website.

Bursary Scheme for Talent Academy Mentors

In conjunction with Friends of Dublin Hurling we introduced an annual Bursary scheme for Dublin GAA Hurling Talent Academy Mentors. The scheme will provide funding for selected Talent Academy Coaches who are looking to access further education in the Sports Science and Sports Coaching Fields.

Hurling Academy Mentors Community of Practice

We hosted 4 x Community of Practice Dates for Talent Academy Mentors. Areas covered were Session Planning, Season Review, Player Pathway, Individual Development Plans/Player Assessment Forms. We also introduced a monthly meeting for u14, 15 and 16 Talent Academy Managers with a view to sharing ideas, experience and problem solving.

Implementation of Performance Analysis Program in the Hurling Talent Academy

We introduced a Performance Analysis Program for u14, u15 and u16 hurling squads. This involved Mentor and Player Training on the Hudl Platform as well as the hosting of 3 x Workshops per age group. Feedback from players and coaches was extremely positive.

Talent Academy Summer Activity Program

With our busy CCC2 games program trying to find time in the calendar for Talent Academy activity can be challenging. Therefore, we try and concentrate as much of our activity at times of the year when the club scene is quiet. With this in mind a Summer Activity Program took place for the u14, u15 and u16 Hurling Talent Academies in 2023. This incorporated 2 x training sessions and 1 match per week for 6 weeks in July-Aug. S&C, Lifestyle and Cultural aspects were included in the program. Neil Irwin Performance Nutritionist with Dublin GAA also ran a number of nutrition workshops with the various age groups. This proved to be a very successful way of developing players at a time when they were not busy with their clubs.

Bio Banding

This autumn we piloted a bio banding program with our u14 Hurlers. Using data collected the stage of growth and maturation of each player can be calculated. From this we group players at similar stages of physical development together during training. This lessens the physical advantages or disadvantages some players may have and creates a new challenge for players to work on improving technical and tactical elements of their play.

The next stage of this project will be to play some bio banded matches with other counties matching players of similar stages of development. This is hoped to happen next season.

Squad Reports

The below tables illustrate the activity levels and participating number of players/clubs for the 2023 programme.

Dublin GAA Hurling Talent Academy 2023			
Age	U14	U15	U16
Number of players participated over the year	180	130	82
Number of clubs represented	49	27	26
Number of academy dates	30	44	72
Number of academy sessions	22	22	26
Number of academy games	8	12	14

Number of athletic development dates		10	32
Number of lifestyle/cultural activities	5	5	3

U14 Football Clubs Represented		
Ballinteer St John	Lucan Sarsfields	St Brigid's
Ballyboden St Enda's	Na Fianna	St Jude's
Beann Eadair	Na Gaeil Óga	Oliver Plunkett Eoghan Ruadh
Castleknock	Naomh Barróg	St Patricks Donabate
Clanna Gael Fontenoy	Naomh Mearnog	St Peregrine's
Clontarf	Naomh Olaf	St Sylvester's
Commercials	O'Dwyer's	St Vincent's
Craobh Chiarain	O'Toole's	St. Finians S
Crumlin GAA	Parnells	St. Kevin's/Killian's
Cuala	Raheny GAA	Stars of Erin
Erin go Bragh	Ranelagh Gaels	Thomas Davis
Erins isle	Round Towers Clondalkin	Trinity Gaels
Faughs	Round Towers Lusk	Tyrrelstown GAA
Fingallians	Scoil Ui Chonaill	Whitehall Colmcille
Garda Westmanstown Gaels	Setanta	Wild Geese
Good Counsel Liffey Gaels	Skerries Harps	
Kevins HC	St Anne's	

U15 Football Clubs Represented		
Ballinteer St. Johns	Lucan Sarsfields	St Brigids
Ballyboden St. Endas	Na Fianna	St Judes
Castleknock	Naomh Barrog	St Maurs
Clontarf	Naomh Mearnog	St Peregrines
Cuala	O'Tooles	Oliver Plunkett/Eoghan Ruadh
Erins Isle	Raheny	St Sylvesters
Faughs	Ranelagh Gaels	St Vincents
Fingallians	Round Towers, Lusk	St Vincents

Kilmacud Crokes	Southern Gaels	Thomas Davis
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U16 Football Clubs Represented		
Ballinteer St John's	Fingallians	Scoil ui Chonail
Ballyboden St Enda's	Good Counsel	Skerries Harps
Beann Eadair	Kilmacud Crokes	St Brigids
Castleknock	Lucan Sarsfields	St Judes
Clontarf	Na Fianna	St Peregrine's
Commercials	Naomh Barrog	St Sylvester's
Craobh Chiarain	Naomh Mearnog	St Vincent's
Erins Isle	Naomh Olaf	Garda Westmanstown Gaels
Faughs	Round Towers ©	

Dublin Hurling Academy Mentors

Dublin U14 Hurling	
Eoin Roche	Na Fianna
Michael Carton	O Tooles
Damien Kelly	St Vincent's
Paddy Spellacy	Whitehall Colmcille
Paddy McAvinue	St Brigid's
Dean Memery	Setanta
Colin Martin	Commercials
Eoin Conroy	St Maur's
Shane Howard	Fingallians
Dublin U15 Hurling	
Paul O'Brien	Crumlin
Kevin Davis	Ballinteer St John's
Paul O Dea	Na Fianna
Johnny McGlynn	Good Counsel / Liffey Gaels
Ian Fahey	St Finians
Damien Laird (GK Coach)	St Finians
Cathal MacSealaigh	Ballinteer St John's

Eoin Manning	Erins Isle
Dublin U16 Hurling	
Martin Barry	Douglas
Brian Fox	Castleknock
Martin Quilty	Na Fianna
Donal Doyle	St Vincent's
Conor O Donoghue	Erins Isle
Aonghus O Grady	Faughs
David Kane	Clontarf
Jim Ryan	Kilmacud Crokes

We would like to sincerely thank all the clubs, club mentors, players and their parents/guardians involved for their co-operation throughout the year, and we would also like to thank CCC2 for their help and co-operation with fixture planning. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the efforts of all our talent academy mentors who in addition to coaching and often playing in their own clubs find the time to lend their expertise to the Talent Academy.

Colm Burtchaell
Hurling Development Officer

Stephen O Shaughnessy
Football Development Officer

Secretary Bord na nÓg

Introduction

This marks my fifteenth annual report, and subsequently, I will delve into the changes observed in activity levels over the past 15 years. The primary objective is not to pinpoint the most successful clubs in Hurling or Football but to underscore Coiste na nÓg's continuous achievement of a key goal: increasing the participation of children in hurling and football.

From the outset, my role has been to ensure the seamless operation of our games, taking into account the diverse needs of individuals, ranging from elite Under 16 players to the Under 8 Football mentors stepping into the realm of Go Games.

In addition to providing support to the dedicated officers of Bord na nÓg, CCC1, CCC2, and Juvenile Hearings Committees, who generously contribute their time to the county, my responsibility extends to assisting all Club Juvenile Chairpersons and Secretaries, Delegates, Mentors, and Parents. This assistance encompasses explaining and offering advice on decisions made by our various officers.

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CCC1 Go Games Programme (U8 to U12)

The CCC1 season kicked off on Saturday, 11th February, with U12 Football, and by Saturday, 25th February, all five age groups had completed their initial round of games in both codes. Year on year, we observed a marginal decline of 1.5% in both Football and Hurling playing numbers. This marks the first instance of a decrease, and we eagerly anticipate the 2024 entries with heightened interest. The reduction maybe influenced by the impact of the pandemic on our nursery programs, particularly evident in the lower under 8 age group players entering CCC1 compared to the equivalent numbers in 2022.

For the 2023 season, CCC1 issued over 10,600 fixtures, strategically scheduling 24 dates for both codes. A total of 130 competitions were established, including 32 competitive U12 Leagues. This followed the completion of U12 grading games as teams transitioned from a multi-group Go Game format at U8 to U11, progressing to single teams at the under-12 age grade.

The 2023 season witnessed the implementation of the 2022 Go Games Rules Review, marking the first amendment to the playing rules since 2010. The review, conducted by the Coaching and Games Department under Ger O'Connor, Dublin GAA Director of Coaching and Club Development, received positive feedback. Clubs will be updated shortly on the approach to team entries for the 2024 season in December.

You can view/download the rules at <https://www.dublingaa.ie/juvenile/regulations>.

Further insights into the CCC1 season will be provided by Cathaoirleach CCC1, Maura Ryan, later in this report.

As stated earlier, this marks my fifteenth annual report, providing an opportunity to reflect on CCC1 activity levels over the past 15 years.

CCC1 encompasses games for U8, U9, U10, U11 & U12 age groups, occurring each Saturday morning countywide between 9:30 am and 1 pm. These fixtures, employing the Go Game model, totaled over 10,600 in 2023, evenly split between Hurling and Football.

Growth in Numbers (2008-2023)

- Football: +82%
- Hurling: +135%
- Ratio of Hurling to Football participation: 89 (2023) vs. 68 (2008) children per 100 joining a Club.

Clubs without Football Teams in 2008:

- Cabinteely
- Na Gaeil Óga
- Ranelagh Gaels
- Shankill
- St Brendans
- St Colmcilles
- St Kevins Killians
- Starlights
- Tyrrelstown

Significant Growth in CCC1 Football Activity (2008-2023) > 200%:

1. Beann Eadair +364%
2. Innisfails +206%
3. St Finians N. +600%
4. St Finians S. +432%
5. St Judes +214%
6. Stars of Erin +786%
7. Trinity Gaels +202%

CCC1 Football Activity (2008-2023) > 100<200%:

1. Ballinteer St Johns +183%

2. Ballyboden St Endas +111%
3. Castleknock +135%
4. Clanna Gael Fontenoy +127%
5. Erin Go Bragh +130%
6. Fingallians +112%
7. Geraldine P. Moran +150%
8. Man O War +106%
9. Nh. Mearnog +142%
10. St Annes +171%
11. St Marys S. +173%
12. St Sylvesters +139%
13. St Peters (Ballyboughal, Clann Mhuire & Garristown) +111%
14. Templeogue Synge Street +142%
15. Wanderers +114%

Clubs without Hurling Teams in 2008:

- Cabinteely
- Garda Westmanstown Gaels
- Geraldine P. Moran
- Na Gaeil Óga
- Ranelagh Gaels
- Robert Emmets
- Shankill
- St Annes
- St Brendans
- St James Gaels An Caislean
- St Kevins Killians
- St Patricks D.
- Stars of Erin
- Tyrrelstown
- Wanderers

Significant Growth in CCC1 Hurling Activity (2008-2023) > 200%:

1. Ballinteer St Johns +384%
2. Beann Eadair +986%
3. Commercials +291%
4. Nh Mearnog +209%
5. O'Dwyers +205%
6. St Brigids +215%
7. St Finians S. +432%
8. St Judes +214%
9. St Patricks P. +591%
10. St Sylvesters +295%

11. Trinity Gaels +278%

CCC1 Hurling Activity (2008-2023) > 100<200%:

1. Castleknock +144%
2. Clanna Gael Fontenoy +167%
3. Clontarf +108%
4. Cuala +136%
5. Erin Go Bragh +181%
6. Fingallians +139%
7. Lucan Sarsfields +138%
8. Nh Olaf +132%
9. Round Towers C. +151%
10. Setanta +158%
11. Thomas Davis +114%

The purpose of presenting these statistics is not to emphasize the achievements of specific clubs in Hurling or Football but rather to spotlight grassroots efforts over the past 15 years. While the data does highlight clubs that have witnessed significant growth, it's important to note that there are also instances of clubs that have regressed or struggled to capitalize on the overall increase in playing numbers. This could be attributed to various reasons. Consequently, it is crucial to collaborate with these clubs, addressing any obstacles they face, and fostering continuous development within the critical age group of Under 8 to Under 12.

CCC2 Programme (U13 to U16)

In 2023, the season commenced on Saturday, February 11th, and by Sunday, February 26th, all grades in both football and hurling were underway. Throughout the year, CCC2 has meticulously organized 296 competitions and issued over 3,900 fixtures. Year on year, there has been a noteworthy 3% increase in football activity and a commendable 7% surge in hurling playing numbers.

The comprehensive program is designed to offer our young players a structured activity plan, including:

- U/13: 5 Grading matches and 9 League games, totaling 14 dates for both football and hurling.
- U/14: Phase One consists of 5 games, followed by Phase Two with another 5 games and Knockout matches, resulting in a total of 13 dates for both codes.
- U/15: Involves 5 Feile games, followed by 7 League matches, providing a total of 12 dates for each code.
- U/16: Encompasses a 7-game League, followed by Round Robin Championship and Knockout games, resulting in a total of 13 dates for both football and hurling.

As I draft this report, our ongoing competitions remain incomplete. Initially, the intention was to conclude the U13, U14, and U15 age categories by the week ending November 12th. The CCC2 season for our U16s was due to conclude on Saturday, November 25th, featuring Championship and Shield Football Finals. Unfortunately, adverse weather conditions in recent times have significantly disrupted our plans.

Currently, CCC2 is collaborating closely with the County Hurling & Football Development Officers, anticipating the National Development Calendar, which will provide the dates for the Feile and Development squad tournaments in 2024. In conjunction with Bord na nÓg and CCC1, our objective is to circulate a 2024 Juvenile Fixture Calendar akin to the one implemented in 2023.

While recent weeks have been marred by unfavorable weather, CCC2 is steadfast in the belief that the paramount goal is not merely to expedite the completion of our competitions in the early autumn, merely for the sake of meeting a deadline. Rather, our focus is on ensuring that our players have a comprehensive games program that keeps them engaged for as long as possible. This approach is not dictated solely by the desire to meet Finals dates promptly but is rooted in providing a meaningful and sustained experience for our players.

In response to feedback from clubs in recent years, CCC2 has taken into consideration requests to avoid scheduling games on Bank Holiday Weekends and has refrained from planning a full program of activity in the months of July and August. While it may be disappointing and less than ideal to witness some competitions extending into the month of December, particularly for those involved in upcoming finals, we trust that the commitment to a player-centric approach will be appreciated.

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

CCC2 games catering to the U13, U14, and U16 age groups are held on Saturday afternoons, while U15 matches are scheduled for Sunday mornings.

Participation Overview for 2023 & 2008:

Sport	Teams (2023)	Teams (2008)	Percentage Change (C'23 v C'08)
Football	361	216	+67%
Hurling	279	129	+116%

Another interesting observation is the increase in the number of clubs fielding "B" , "C" , "D" teams at each grade.

- *Football:*

- Teams with "B," "C," and "D" grades: 155 (C'23) vs. 49 (C'08)
- *Hurling:*
 - Teams with "B," "C," and "D" grades: 105 (C'18) vs. 11 (C'08)

CCC2 / CCC1 Activity Comparison with 2008:

- Football: +67% (CCC1 +89%)
- Hurling: +116% (CCC1 +135%)
- Hurling-to-Football Ratio: 77% vs. 60% (CCC1 89% vs. 69%)

The guiding philosophy of Coiste na nÓg Átha Cliath is encapsulated in the mantra, "As many as possible, as long as possible, in the best environment possible." The return to the traditional under 18 age grade at the Club level has played a pivotal role in maximizing player participation at the under 16 age grades in Dublin. This is particularly evident in U16 Hurling and contributes significantly to the observed increase in CCC2 hurling this year compared to the previous year.

In Dublin, we have organized competitions throughout the entire year for every age grade up to and including under 16. With a well-defined and structured program, I firmly believe that our primary goal should be to keep as many of our players together within their respective age groups including at under 16. This approach ensures a clear and cohesive development pathway for our young athletes.

While reviewing activity since 2008 I would like to highlight some Clubs who been able to increase their CCC2 activity by a greater margin than at CCC1 thereby clearly bridging the gap between CCC1 (U8 to U12) and CCC2 (U13 to U16):

- Ballymun Kickhams - Football
- Castleknock - Hurling
- Clanna Gael Fontenoy - Football & Hurling
- Erins Isle - Football & Hurling
- Faughs - Hurling
- Fingallians - Football & Hurling
- Kilmacud Crokes - Football & Hurling
- Na Fianna - Football & Hurling
- Nh Barrog - Football
- Nh Mearnog - Hurling
- Nh Olaf - Hurling
- St Oliver Plunkett ER - Football & Hurling
- O'Dwyers - Football
- Raheny - Hurling
- Skerries Harps - Football
- St Maurs - Football & Hurling
- St Patricks D. - Football
- St Peters - Football
- Templeogue Synge Street

- Whitehall Colmcille - football

To complete this review it is great to see the following Clubs enter teams in 2023 at CCC2 compared to the year 2008.

- Beann Eadair - Football & Hurling
- Erin Go Bragh - Football & Hurling
- Garda Westmanstown Gaels - Football & Hurling
- Man O War - Football
- O'Dwyers - Hurling
- Na Gaeil Óga - Football & Hurling
- Ranelagh Gaels - Football & Hurling
- Round Towers L. - Football & Hurling
- Shankill - Football & Hurling
- St Annes - Hurling
- St Kevins Killians - Football & Hurling
- St Patricks D. - Hurling
- Stars of Erin - Football & Hurling
- Starlights - Football
- Trinity Gaels - Hurling
- Tyrrelstown - Football & Hurling
- Wanderers - Football & Hurling
- Wild Geese - Hurling

Discipline

When addressing the issue of discipline within our games, it is disheartening to witness the repeated instances of juvenile game abandonments across the nation, drawing attention through various media channels. The alleged abuse of referees has emerged as a significant concern, gaining national headlines and proliferating on social media platforms, often accompanied by video evidence.

I appreciate the introduction of Rule 7.3(o) in the Official Guide during Congress 2023, specifically targeting Team Officials officiating at Juvenile Games. This rule stipulates that for infractions falling under Rule 7.2(c) Categories IIa, IIIa, IVa, or Va, the minimum time suspension shall be doubled for Team Officials at Juvenile Games.

For instance, a Mentor receiving a straight Red Card in an under 13 Football match for Abusive language towards a Referee or Disruptive Conduct is charged under Rule 7.2(c) Category IIa. The application of new rule 7.3(o) results in a minimum suspension of eight weeks, along with a one-match suspension in the same Code and at the same Level.

However, a significant concern arises when considering the practical implications of this suspension. The suspended Mentor, potentially a parent of one of the players, can still take charge of the Under 13 Hurling team the following week. Is it possible his child could be

denied playing football for eight weeks? Policing such suspensions, particularly with the vast number of teams involved(nearly 2,500 in 2023), poses a substantial challenge for CCC1 & CCC2.

It is imperative to prioritize the elimination of abuse directed at our referees, necessitating a cultural shift on GAA sidelines. While acknowledging that reeducating individuals will take time, there is a pressing need for clubs to take proactive measures. Clubs, through their structures, should act decisively to identify and address individuals who misbehave at all matches, especially juvenile games. Relying solely on Parnell Park to address these issues is an inadequate acknowledgment of responsibility by the club.

The unacceptable behavior witnessed at adult matches has no place in juvenile games, irrespective of perceived "mitigating circumstances." Should clubs with mentors, supporters, and players consistently in breach of regulations face sanctions? This is a crucial question that demands thoughtful consideration to ensure the fostering of a respectful and positive environment in our games.

As I issue this report with competitions still to finish:

- 194 Disciplinary Notices issued compared to 207 in 2022
- Clubs fined € 3,650 v €5,250 in C'22 (11 offences involving 8 different Club)
- Club placed in Bond € 0 v €1,150 in C'22
- 168 Straight Red Cards issued to Player v 165 in C'22
- 18 Clubs issued with warnings on future behaviour v 26 in C'22

Breakdown of 194 Disciplinary Notices:

	CCC1	CCC2
7.2.b III	1	151
7.2.b IV	0	16
7.2.c.2a	0	4
7.2.d I	2	3
7.2.d.2	0	3
7.2.d.3	2	11
7.2.e	0	1

Analysis of 168 Straight Reds:

No of offences	Penalty
139	1 match
22	2 match
4	2 weeks
1	3 match

1	4 match
1	4 weeks

Concussion Awareness

We can take great pride in the escalating levels of activity in recent years, with an increasing number of children, both boys and girls, joining in our national sports. In light of this positive trend, it becomes imperative to underscore the significance of concussion education. Despite the multitude of games played each year, the reality is that many won't have trained medical personnel on-site. Therefore, it is crucial to emphasize to our juvenile mentors the importance of erring on the side of caution when a player sustains a blow to the head, ensuring that young players are not permitted to return to the pitch.

Reiterating this message consistently is vital. Our game regulations permit unlimited substitutions, providing mentors the flexibility needed to prioritize player safety. Even in U16 Championship games, where there are constraints on substitutions, a player can be replaced if there is a concern about concussion. Nevertheless, mentors should always consider the perspectives of the Referee, who is in closer proximity to any on-field collisions than those on the sideline. Let's reinforce the concussion message repeatedly to ensure the well-being of our young athletes.

Signs and Symptoms

Contrary to popular belief, most concussion injuries occur without a loss of consciousness and so it is important to recognise the other signs and symptoms of concussion.

Symptoms include:

- Headache
- Confusion
- Nausea
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double/blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Feeling sluggish, hazy or groggy
- Just not 'feeling right'
- Concentration/memory problems
- Pressure in hand

Return to Play

- A player with a diagnosed concussion should never be allowed to return to play on the day of injury.
- Return to play must follow a medically supervised stepwise approach and a player should never return to play while symptomatic.

Action Plan

- Recognise the signs and symptoms
- Report if suspicious, don't hide it
- Rehab with rest and medical guidance
- Return after following Return To Play Protocol and getting medical clearance

Conclusion

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the dedicated individuals and committees who have played a pivotal role in the success and growth of Coiste na nÓg throughout the year.

Firstly, my heartfelt thanks go to the officers of Bord na nÓg, CCC1, CCC2, Juvenile Hearings Committee, and County Hearings Committee. Your unwavering assistance and support have been invaluable in navigating the challenges and successes of the past year.

Special recognition is due to Declan O'Leary, Cathaoirleach Coiste na nÓg, Maura Ryan, Cathaoirleach CCC1, and Declan Coulter, Cathaoirleach CCC2, for their exceptional guidance and contributions to our endeavors.

A big shoutout to the Club Go Games Referee Coordinators for their tireless efforts in allocating referees for our Go Games program. Your commitment to overseeing nearly 500 referees each weekend is truly commendable, and I want to express my gratitude for your crucial role in making our games possible.

I must also extend my appreciation to Danny Harrington for his outstanding work in assigning nearly 4,000 referees for CCC2. Utilizing our website effectively, Danny has kept all parties informed in a timely manner, ensuring the smooth operation of our games.

I want to acknowledge and thank my colleagues at Parnell Park, Ger O'Connor, John McNicholas and County Chairman Mick Seavers, for their collaboration and support with a special mention to Anne O Dea for her invaluable assistance particularly this year.

Special thanks to Paddy Maloney, Noel Brady, Tony O'Shea, and all the stewards who contributed to the success of our juvenile finals. I would also like to pay tribute to Patsy Kieran who passed away in late December last year. Patsy went out of his way to facilitate the playing of as many juvenile games in Parnell Park over the years. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

A significant moment for Dublin GAA was the retirement of John Costello, our County Secretary of 29 years. John has played a pivotal role in transforming Dublin GAA into the modern organization it is today. His dedication and continuous championing of juvenile affairs have been instrumental in the healthy position of Coiste na nÓg Átha Cliath today. Míle Buíochas Seán. A warm welcome to our new County Secretary, Finbarr O'Mahony, and best wishes for the years ahead. I am confident he will receive the full support of all the Dublin GAA community.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to all club officials, delegates, mentors, and referees for their unwavering support in 2023. I eagerly anticipate our collective efforts in providing opportunities for all young players, regardless of their abilities, within the GAA family. Let us continue to foster a sense of community, where every child feels they belong and can thrive. As I complete my fifteenth year as Secretary to Coiste na nÓg, I am continually inspired by the dedication and effort of so many individuals working towards a common goal. Our Olympian attitudes, values, and philosophies shine through in every game and activity, making us all proud of juvenile-level GAA in Dublin.

Damian Ó Murchú
Rúnaí
Coiste na nÓg