

# ZURICH INSURANCE PROUD SPONSORS OF WEXFORD GAA.









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# Contents

Clár	3
Nominations	4
Standing Orders	4
Miontuairisci Comhdhail Bhliantuil 2020	5
Rúin 2021	6
Tuarscáil an Runaí	8
Roll of Honour	16
Cuntais Iniúchta	18
Tuarascálacha na bhFochoistí	41
Competitions Control Committee – Fixtures	41
Competitions Control Committee – Discipline	44
Hearings Committee	45
Leinster Council Representatives	46
Central Council Representative	48
Children's Officer	49
Coaching Officer	50
Oifigeach Gaeilge & Cultúr	54
Development Officer	54

# Clár

- 1. Prayers for Deceased Members
- 2. Adoption of Standing Orders
- 3. Miontuairscí
- 4. Tuarscáil an Runaí
- 5. Tuarascálacha na bhFochoistí
- 6. Tuarascáil an Chisteora
- 7. Election of Officers
- 8. Motions
- 9. Chairperson's Address
- 10. Amhrán na bhFiann



# Nominations

Chairperson Micheál Martin (CLG Naomh Eoin-Na hÓglaigh)

**Vice-Chairperson**Bobby Goff (*CLG An Gleann-Baile Bearna*)

**Secretary** Michael Hennessy-Cullen (*CLG Cumann Uí Ratháille*)

**Assistant Secretary** Andrew Egan (*CLG Baile Dáithí-Cúl Mo Choda*)

**Treasurer** Andrew Nolan (*CLG Na Sairséalaigh*)

**Coaching Officer** Tom Cousins (*CLG Cill Mhór*)

Oifigeach Gaeilge & Cultúr Tony Dempsey (CLG An Gleann-Baile Bearna / CLG

Baile Dáithí-Cúl Mo Choda )

Public Relations Officer Colm Lambert (CLG Naomh Aodháin-Fearna)

Children's Officer Des Croke (CLG Naomh Máirtín)

Planning and Training Officer Kevin Doyle (CLG Naomh Pádraig)

**Leinster Council Representatives (2)** Cathal Byrne (*CLG Baile Uí Cheog*)

PJ Howlin (*CLG Feannaire na Dubh Tíre*) Gary Laffan (*CLG An Gleann-Baile Bearna*) Dermot Howlin (*CLG Banibh-Baile Mhiota*)

Central Council Representative (1)

**Delegates to attend Annual Congress (3)** John H

(excluding Chairperson & Secretary)

Delegates to attend Leinster Convention (5)

John Kenny (*CLG Coill De hÓra*)

Andrew Egan (CLG Baile Dáithí-Cúl Mo Choda)

Andrew Egan (*CLG Baile Dáithí-Cúl Mo Choda*)
Dermot Howlin (*CLG Banibh-Baile Mhiota*)

# Standing Orders

- 1) The proposer of a Motion or an Amendment may speak for not more than five minutes when making the proposal. He/she may speak a second time and for not more than three minutes before a vote is taken.
- 2) A delegate seconding or speaking to a motion or an Amendment may speak once only and must not exceed three minutes. A maximum of two delegates from any one club shall speak on any one motion.
- 3) The Chairperson may, at any time they considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed, call on the proposer for a reply, and when that has been given, a vote must be taken.
- 4) A delegate may, with the consent of the Chairperson, move "that the question be put" after which, when the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
- 5) Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on the Agenda except by the consent of the majority equal to two-thirds of those present and voting.
- 6) A speaker to the Secretary's Report or to any other general discussion shall not exceed three minutes on any one topic.



# Miontuairisci Comhdhail Bhliantuil 2020

**I lathar:** Do bhi Derec Ceannt mar Cathaoirleach ag an gcruiunniú seo.

Leithsceil; CLG Clúnfaí

Prayers for the deceased members offered by Fr Odhrán Furlong.

Standing orders adopted on proposal of Gearóid Ó Cárthaigh and seconded by Peadar Meirtneach.

Miontuairisci Comhdhail Bhliantuil 2019 adopted on the proposal of Seán Ó Muiris and seconded by Gearóid Ó Cárthaigh.

Tuarscáil an Runaí was adopted on the proposal of Maire Nualláin and seconded by Seosamh Ó Síocháin.

Tuarascálacha na bhFochoistí adopted on the proposal of Ruairí Ó Murchú and seconded by Antaine Ó Díomasaigh.

Tuarascáil an Chisteora adopted on the proposal of Breandán Mac Gabhann and seconded by Seán Ó Coinne. There was total income €2,108,035, expenditure €1,600,807 with a surplus of €507,228.

Election of Unopposed Officers: All nominees who were unopposed were ratified on the proposal of Seán Ó Muiris and seconded by Peadar Meirtneach.

- Chairperson Micheál Martin
- Assistant Secretary Andrew Egan
- Treasurer Andrew Nolan
- Coaching Officer Tom Cousins
- Oifigeach Gaeilge & Cultúr Cian Ó Lionáin
- PRO PJ Howlin
- Children's Officer Des Croke
- Development Officer David Tobin
- Central Council Rep Dermot Howlin

 Leinster Council Reps – Cathal Byrne and Mary Foley

An election was required for Vice-Chairperson – Bobby Goff was elected.

## **Motions:**

- Motion 1 Carried for 2021 only
- Motion 2 Carried
- Motion 3 Carried
- Motion 4 Carried
- Motion 5 Carried
- Motion 6 Defeated
- Motion 7 Defeated
- Motion 8 Withdrawn
- Motion 9 Defeated

Cathoirleach, Derec Ceannt, in his address thanked officers, team mentors, clubs and all who supported during the year. He congratulated all winners during the year and gave credit to everyone in Wexford GAA that made it possible to play the club championships. He also spoke of:

- presentation of the Seamus Keevans Memorial Cup by the Keevans family;
- Kelloggs Cúl Camps;
- wellness programme;
- yearbook;
- finances;
- Cairde Loch Garman; and
- Wexford GAA TV.

In conclusion, he thanked the Management Committee and County Secretary, Gearóid Devitt, for their assistance throughout the year and wished the incoming Cathaoirleach, Micheál Martin, well in his term in office.

The meeting was closed with Amhrán na bhFiann.

Gearóid Mac Daibhéid Runaí Chontae



# Rúin 2021

Motions to remove or to amend an existing Bye-Law must be carried by three-fifths of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

# Motion 1 (Coiste Bainistí)

That Bye-Law 1.1 be amended to read:

1.1 County Convention, convened in accordance with Rule 3.10, shall elect/appoint Officers and Representatives in accordance with Rule 3.11 and Delegates in accordance with Rule 3.12 following nomination in accordance with Rule 3.13:

Chairperson, Secretary, Vice-Chairperson, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Public Relations Officer and shall appoint a Children's Officer and a Planning and Training Officer as recommended by the outgoing County Committee.

# Motion 2 (Coiste Bainistí)

That Bye-Law 2 be amended to insert the County Safety & Facilities Officer as a member of the County Committee.

# Motion 3 (Coiste Bainistí)

That Bye-Law 3 (a) be amended to insert the County Safety & Facilities Officer as a member of the Management Committee.

# Motion 4 (Coiste Bainistí)

That Bye-Law 2 be amended to insert the CEO/Operations Manager as a member of the County Committee without voting rights.

# Motion 5 (Coiste Bainistí)

That Bye-Law 3 (a) be amended to insert the CEO/Operations Manager as a member of the Management Committee without voting rights.

# Motion 5 (Coiste Bainistí)

That Bye Law 3 (b) be amended to read:

(b) Competitions Control Committee: It shall consist of a Chairperson and a Vice-

Chairperson (nominated by the County Chairperson) the Assistant County Secretary, the County Referees Administrator (who shall be entitled to vote only on the appointment of referees), either the Chairman or Secretary of Coiste na nÓg Loch Garman CCC or a named Coiste na nÓg representative, a named representative of each of the four Divisional District Committees and up to eight other named members. Its powers, functions and responsibilities shall be as set out in Rule 3.20 (ii T.O 2021. except as those defined below in Sections 1 and 2.

# Motion 6 (Coiste Bainistí)

That Bye-Law 3 (c) be amended to read:

**(c) Fixtures Analysts** – In accordance with Rule 3.20 (iii) T.O 2021 **up to** two Fixtures Analysts shall be appointed by the County Management Committee.



# Motion 7 (*Coiste Bainistl*)

That Bye-Law 3 (e) be replaced with the following:

(e) Safety and Facilities Committee: It shall have six members including County Safety and Facilities Officer who shall be Chairperson, a Qualified Event Controller. The remaining members, nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee, should be suitably qualified in areas relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee as outlined in R. 3.20 (v) T.O. 2021.

# Motion 8 (Coiste Bainistí)

That Bye-Law 3 be amended to insert a new subcommittee as follows:

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

# Motion 9 (Coiste Bainistí)

That Bye-Law 3 be amended to insert a new subcommittee as follows:

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

# Motion 10 (Coiste Bainistí)

That Bye-Law 12 be amended to replace U21 with U20.

# Motion 11 (CLG CLG Naomh Mhuire Rosláir)

That Rule 3.20 (iii) T.O. 2021 be amended to include the following;

The Fixtures Analyst(s) shall conduct a survey annually amongst all of the County's clubs to establish participation rates amongst all Codes and all Levels (Juvenile and Adult) and that the results of this Survey shall be included in the Fixture Analyst(s) Report to Annual Convention.

[To be inserted as part (c) of Riail 3.20 (iii) and current parts (c), (d) and (e) to be renumbered as (d), (e) and (f) accordingly]

# Motion 12 (CLG CLG Naomh Mhuire Rosláir)

That all GAA Clubs on the Island of Ireland are required to have or to establish a Hurling Nursery up to and including children of 12 years of age. This to be fully established on or before the 1st of January 2024 to mark the 140th year of the establishment of the GAA.



# Tuarscáil an Runaí

It is my privilege and honour as County Secretary to write this report on the activities within the county in the last 12 months. As we are all too aware of the impact of Covid-19 around the world, it has been a challenging period in all walks of life, and with that said, it is of great testament to the Association that a full program of games and activities at both intercounty and club level has taken place in 2021.

This is due in no small way to the volunteers within the Association that give endless hours of their own free time to help with the running of our Games and this is what makes the GAA so special something we should be proud of and never forget.

# **Intercounty Teams**

The year began for our senior hurlers in early May with the National League. There were good wins against Laois, Clare and Dublin, a draw against an improving Antrim and a loss to our neighbours Kilkenny ultimately saw us finish in second place in Division 1B. As both Kilkenny and Galway finished top of their respective tables and didn't play each other in championship they were declared joint league winners for 2021. Overall, the league can be seen as a success with three wins and a draw and just the single loss, with the full squad being utilised which can only be seen as a good thing for the team moving forward.

At the end of June, Wexford faced into the opening round of the Leinster championship against Laois. A comprehensive win here set up a semi-final clash against Kilkenny in Croke Park. With limited attendances at games there were 8,000 lucky spectators in Dublin that day to witness a titanic battle against our old foes which we ultimately lost in extra time. How things might have been so different if Hawk-Eye had not adjudged Liam Ryan's monster puck to level the game at the end of the 70 minutes to be over the bar, as when Kilkenny's Paul Murphy batted the ball back into play, Conor McDonald's flick to the net would have surely won it for the Wexford men that day. Alas it was

not to be, and Kilkenny went on to lift the Bob O'Keeffe Cup beating Dublin in the Final.

We were drawn to play Clare next in Round 1 of the All-Ireland Qualifiers which was played in Thurles on a blistering hot July day. Clare came out of the blocks fast and raced into an 11-point lead by the 20th minute mark. It is of great credit to the players that there was only two points in it after a few minutes of the second half and maybe those efforts to get back into the game was just too much as Clare went on to win by three points at the end.

That was the end for our hurlers in the championship of 2021 and in the weeks that followed we would also learn that it was to be our manager's last game in charge. Davy Fitzgerald was manager for five years and it was plain to be seen the great bond he had with both the players and the supporters. No one will forget the great day in Croke Park in 2019 when Lee Chin and Mathew O'Hanlon lifted the Bob O'Keeffe Cup, brought it back to Slaneyside and the celebrations that followed in the days after. To Davy, we thank him and all his backroom team for the great days they gave is in those five years and wish him all the best for the future.

With the announcement of Davy stepping down the process to find a new manager began. Tipperary native Darragh Egan, was selected to lead our hurlers into the 2022 season. Darragh was part of Liam Sheedy's Tipperary backroom team that won the 2019 All Ireland as well as winning two All-Ireland medals as a player. We hope that you will join us in making Darragh welcome in Wexford and integrating him into the Wexford GAA family.

With a shortened league structure in 2021, the Wexford Senior Footballers were drawn in a group of three with the top two going to the semi-finals. We started off the league campaign with a game versus near-neighbours Waterford in Chadwicks Wexford Park. This was game in which we probably should have came away with the win but we ultimately lost by one point, setting up a must win game against our other



neighbour, Carlow. Once again this was a tight game and two minutes into injury time, Wexford were leading by one, but Carlow got two late scores to win it at the death. While we didn't make it to the semi-finals of the league, we did play Sligo in an inaugural Division 4 Shield Final, Wexford put in a commanding display and were comfortable winners in the end.

Championship was next up with Wicklow in the opening round. A very good all round team performance saw Wexford win by three points and great scenes followed as it was a first win in seven years in the Leinster Championship. It set up a home game against the all-conquering All-Ireland champions Dublin.

While attendance was limited to a capacity of 500 to welcome the All-Ireland champions to Chadwicks Wexford Park it was still a vocal one. Wexford definitely let Dublin know they were in for a tough game and at half time there was only three points between the teams. Dublin went on to win by eight points in the end but there were huge positives for Shane Roche and his back room team to take from both the game and the championship as a whole. I am sure that they will bring this positivity forward into the 2022 season.

The U20 footballers overcame Carlow with a convincing and assured win to set up a home game against eventual Leinster and All-Ireland winners Offaly. While we trailed 1-10 to 0-6 at the last water break, a great come back nearly materialised, but we just came up short by a single point. With Offaly going on to win both Leinster and All-Ireland honours, it shows that were not far off in this grade. Some great work has been done by David Murphy and his backroom team and I'm sure they are looking forward to the 2022 season to build on the strong foundations that have been laid in 2021.

The U20 hurlers had a tough campaign with a disappointing loss to Kildare. Deep into injury time, Wexford were leading by one point but Kildare rallied in those last few minutes to get two quick points and take the spoils. This is a young group of men and I'm sure they will come back stronger for the experience.

Our Minor Footballers were involved in an enthralling game versus Laois in the first round of the Leinster championship. The game finished level after normal time and with just a few minutes left in extra time, Wexford trailed by three points. The team showed great resilience to get back on level terms forcing the tie to the dreaded penalty shootout. Unfortunately, the penalties didn't go the way of Wexford losing 4-3. Great encouragement can be taken by the display and hopefully can be built upon for 2022.

The Minor Hurlers opened their Championship campaign with a hard-fought win against Kildare setting up a semi-final game at home against Dublin. Another battling display saw the Wexford through to a Leinster final against Kilkenny. The final was a game that ebbed and flowed both ways. Wexford had goal chances at the very end to win the game, but it wasn't to be. Kilkenny won out by two points in the end bringing an end to the Wexford campaign.

Many thanks to all players, managers, selectors and backroom personnel, too numerous to mention by name, of all our county teams. It requires huge commitment and dedication for all those involved and Wexford GAA is grateful for the time given by all.

# Strategic plan

In March, Wexford GAA launched a five-year strategic plan titled "Ar Aghaidh Linn le Chéile" (Onwards Together).

The goals of the Plan are to

- To improve participation and performance across all age grades and levels of our games.
- To provide first class facilities for our players and supporters.
- To work with our commercial partners in a professional way to continue to invest in developing our games.
- To ensure all units at all levels provide a coordinated programme of meaningful games for players, appropriate to their needs and abilities, that all games regulated so that players experience fair play and that players can take part in well planned and scheduled games as part of a balanced lifestyle.



 To attract and retain active players, members and volunteers from all communities in our society.

Some of the key initiatives outlined in the plan include:

- Increase the number of Club Games Promotion Officers (GPOs) to work with children and coaches to ensure that every child plays.
- Have 500 children per annum participate in the VIP (Very Important Player) Programme.
- Develop a unique Centre of Excellence and Inclusion with pitches for men's and ladies' teams and a sensory garden to act as a hub for our VIP Programme.
- In addition to investment in Halo Tiles Wexford GAA COE, upgrade of Chadwicks Wexford Park and St. Patrick's Park and the provision of a floodlit, 4G pitch in Wexford.
- Expand our Wellness Programme to one thousand pupils per year and increase the community programme which is held every May.
- Establish a development programme to cater for the holistic development of our best young players aged 17-21 to deliver a structure to ensure that we consistently challenge for top Honours in the coming decade. This will be supported by a High-Performance Committee with the best sporting minds from County Wexford.

Chadwicks Wexford Park is now our strategic priority due to the likely delay to our planned developments in Halo Tiles Wexford GAA COE. With the introduction of the county-club split season and the earlier start of provincial championships, floodlights are now a necessity to host games on Saturday evenings – games which bring a boost to our local economy, in particular, to the hospitality sector.

# **Club Championships**

The Pettit's SuperValu Senior Hurling Championship got underway in August with a Friday night opening round in Chadwicks Wexford Park. Glynn-Barntown and St. Martin's had the honour of the opening fixture, and some great games were served up in the following weeks with the St. Martins and Naomh Éanna tie being one that stands out – for the first time ever in Wexford Senior hurling

championship, a game was decided on penalties Naomh Éanna coming out as winners. Rapparees would go on to claim their first title in the grade for 43 years after an emphatic win against St Anne's in the final. Great scenes of joy followed the final whistle for the Enniscorthy town side after such a long spell between titles.

The Dominic Smith Expert Electrical Senior Football Championship got underway on the first weekend in October and, as ever the championship was wide open with many teams showing their credentials to lay claim to the Seamus Keevans Memorial Cup. The final would see two teams clash who had previously played each other in the opening round, Shelmaliers and Gusserane O'Rahilly's. Shelmaliers won that opening round game by four and that was to be the margin in the final as they went on to win their second ever Senior football title with a 100% record in the 2021 championship. An interesting fact both - last year's senior winners have swapped cups for 2021. I am reliable told this is the first time for this to happen.

Oylegate-Glenbrien returned to senior ranks with a hard-fought win against HWH Bunclody in the Courtyard Ferns Intermediate Hurling decider. In the Amber Springs Hotel/Ashdown Park Hotel Intermediate Football final, Crossabeg/Ballymurn came out on top against St. Mary's Maudlintown. They are now a dual senior club, a fantastic achievement for the club.

Meanwhile in the Wexford GAA Intermediate A Hurling Championship, Tara Rocks eventually saw off Liam Mellows after extra time in a hard fought battle while the Joyce's Expert Intermediate A Football title was won by Clongeen after a one point victory over Cloughbawn – the 2007 Senior football champions are rising back up the football ranks.

In the Junior Championships, Horeswood made amends for defeat at the same stage last year to claim the Permanent TSB Junior Hurling Championship against Kilmore while Kilrush defeated Monageer-Boolavogue in the Enniscorthy Farm Systems Junior Football Championship.



St. Fintan's (hurling) and St. Anne's Rathangan (football) were also worthy winners in the Junior A competitions, overcoming Oylegate-Glenbrien and HWH Bunclody respectively with St. Brigid's Blackwater winning out the Permanent TSB Junior B Hurling Championship and Kilrush being victorious in the Enniscorthy Farm Systems Junior B Football Championship.

The Permanent TSB Junior B hurling winners were St. Brigid's Blackwater and the Enniscorthy Farm Systems Junior B football champions were Ferns-St. Aidans.

It takes a massive effort to run the championships and I would like to thank everyone who has given their time and effort to see the smooth running of our games. I would also like to thank all clubs who made their venues available for games throughout the year.

Particular mention must go to Michael Lynch who had an extremely busy autumn in St. Patrick's Park, with Adult, underage, Ladies and Camogie fixtures and to Seamus O'Brien in Halo Tiles Wexford GAA Centre of Excellence where we have had more club activity than ever before due to the new county-club split season.

Thank you to all stewards who helped at venues on games under the guidance of Dave Ormonde.

The ground staff have our main pitches in great shape – John Nolan takes care of Chadwicks Wexford Park and Seamus O'Brien has Ferns COE in tip top shape.

Once again this year, our club games were live streamed by Wexford GAA TV. The quality of the service has been widely praised and it showcases our games to a wider audience. Special thanks must go to Finbar Flanagan and Lar Sutton and also the main voice of the games, Peter Mernagh, together with his team of co-commentators.

## **CCC/Fixtures**

I would like to thank Bobby Goff, Marion Doyle and all members of the CCC Committee for their tireless work during this season. Having just come into my role for the last few weeks of the championship, it really opened my eyes to see the hard work that is needed to successfully run our championships. Great credit must go to the committee members for this.

The four districts ran their Junior B competitions and once again provided a great programme of games for these players.

I would like to thank all the District Officers and, in particular, the secretaries and chairperson for their work.

# **Discipline**

Once again, as can be seen in the report by the CCC-Discipline, abuse towards referees and officials has not improved from last year. Wexford has a shortage of referees and, while there has been some great work this year in regard to recruitment, it will continue to be a problem to get new people involved in this side of the game if the abuse aimed at officials continues. Without the person in the middle, our games cannot happen and maybe this is worth thinking about as we attend future games.

I would like to thank Chairperson, Aidan O'Leary, Secretary, Joe Sheehan, and the other committee members for dealing with all disciplinary matters in an efficient manner. Their full report is available as part of Tuarascálacha na bhFochoistí.

On the refereeing side, I would like to thank Syl Doyle, Seamus Whelan, and Dickie Murphy for their assistance in appointing, educating and assisting referees on match days during the year. All our match officials are invaluable to our fixtures programme, and I also thank them for their time and dedication.

Finally, I would like to thank Chairperson, Margaret Doyle, Secretary, Eddie Nangle and all the members of the Hearings Committee for their work to ensure that rules and procedures are properly followed and ensuring that the GAA's Disciplinary Code is implemented in a fair



and efficient manner. The full report on their work is available as part of Tuarascálacha na bhFochoistí.

### **Finance**

We delivered an operating surplus of €1.08 million for the 11-month period ended 30 September 2021. The surplus for 2021 resulted from the unique circumstances that Wexford GAA faced because of the pandemic.

We have agreed to ring fence €1 million into an Infrastructure Development Fund for the delivery of the infrastructure projects set out in the Strategic Plan.

It must be noted that staff costs and teams expenses are significantly below normal and support received from Croke Park will not likely be available in 2022 as we hopefully return to a more normal fixtures calendar.

Again, an extraordinary effort went into the Model County Draw this year. While the timing of the draw may not have been ideal for some clubs, our annual repayment relating to the development of Halo Tiles Wexford GAA COE was met and the clubs themselves benefited as a result of their retained sales.

I would like to thank all involved in the smooth and efficient running of the draw and, in particular, acknowledge the work of our coordinators Joe Sheehan, Joe Tully, John Hanton and Liam Roche.

2022 will bring continued financial challenges, with a longer intercounty season, removal of supports so although there is positive news regarding our finances at present, it is important to note that given the planned development works also, we cannot afford to be complacent and must continue to work hard fundraising and managing costs.

I would like to thank Micheál Martin, Andrew Nolan and Joe Sheehan for their work throughout the year in relation to the county's finances which is positively reflected in our financial statements.

# Halo Tiles Wexford GAA Centre of Excellence

Wexford GAA were delighted to announce that we have renewed our agreement with Halo Tiles for the naming rights for what will continue to be known as Halo Tiles Wexford GAA Centre of Excellence.

It was with great disappointment when we heard the news of the decision of An Bord Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed development in Halo Tiles Wexford GAA COE. Planning permission for the addition of new pitches, a spectator area and the development of an entrance from the N11 at the Halo Tiles Wexford GAA Centre of Excellence was originally granted by Wexford County Council.

We are working with Wexford County Council and our consultants to consider our next steps.

Wexford GAA remains committed to developing a centre of excellence and inclusion that meets the needs of Gaelic games within our county. In 2021, the Halo Tiles COE has been a hub of activity for our club blitzes and games as well as a base for all our county teams and development squads.

# **Chadwicks Wexford Park**

As announced, we plan to proceed with the upgrade of Chadwicks Wexford Park in 2022, subject to the approval of Clubs. The upgrade plan, which received planning permission in 2021, includes the installation of floodlights, the extension of dressing rooms and referee facilities, upgrade to the car parking area and the installation of a pitch irrigation system among other items.

It is incumbent on Wexford GAA to work in cooperation with our neighbours in the area, during the upgrade.

The current projected cost of the upgrade is €1.8 million. This investment will be financed through specific fundraising initiatives, grants and funding from national bodies and, on the back of a very strong financial year, from Wexford GAA's own Infrastructure Development Fund.



Pitch maintenance was carried out similar to last year by overseeding in the growing season. This process proved vital to the condition of the pitch in late autumn/early winter and allowed the games programme to be completed at the venue.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the process of maintaining the pitch including John Nolan, David Ormonde, Bobby Goff and many others.

# Coaching

A busy year was had with a full schedule of games and initiatives provided once pitches were reopened. When you consider the uncertain times we are in this is of great credit to all involved.

Coaching is a major part of our Strategic Plan. Our goal is for participation and performance across all age grades to improve and, in doing so, will in turn bring our county teams and clubs to another level of performance.

Early this year, the Wexford Coaching and Games team produced the Wexford Way document. This document is a guide to mentors, players and parents as to what they might do as to help our players develop through each age group in their GAA playing career.

Its purpose is to aid and assist all concerned to maximise enjoyment and participation, with player welfare at the core of the plan. The desire is this will help in ensuring the development of all players to reach their full potential, from their first introduction to Gaelic games at nursery level, up to the adult teams and beyond.

This year brought with it a fantastic Kelloggs Cúl Camp program. In total we had over 6,000 attendees over our 44 venues. The six-week program was spread across the months of July and August with 6-8 camps held each week. The camps are a special event each summer for primary school kids of all ages. Each child, each day, experience a variety of hurling, football and fun Games in a safe controlled environment.

Thank you to all the Camp Co-ordinators and 100 coaches that were involved to fulfil the massive demand this year. A special thank you to all the individuals who acted as club liaison officer. These individuals ensured that the venue and facilities were safe and clean, and ensured that the carparks operated in a safe and efficient manner.

After a year sabbatical due to Covid, we were able to return our ASD Kelloggs CÚl Camp in Wexford. The first week in August saw an array of colour, fun and excitement in Chadwicks Wexford Park. Our inclusion camps allow children with autism and their siblings attend a camp that is tailored to their needs.

The camp is based on the pillars of Fun, Laughter, Connection and Understanding. In total, 180 children attended over the three days and enjoyed a range of fun games, hurling skills and football skills. GAA President, Larry McCarthy was also in attendance describing the camp as a "Wonderful manifestation of Where We All Belong."

I would like to thank both the Wexford Sports Partnership and Cottage Autism Network Wexford for their continued help and support. Thank you to Leinster GAA for sponsoring kits for our attendees and to our wellbeing partner McCauley Pharmacy. Finally, occasions such as this camp would not be possible without the volunteers and staff, who give their time to ensure a safe, fun & inclusive camp. We wish to say thank you and well done.

Go Games continue to grow within the county year on year as numbers have increased by over 35% in the last 4 years, this shows the great work that is being carried out, a special thanks goes to the Go Games Committee of Dermot Ryan, Shane Ready, Darren Caulfield, and Gary Curley for the running of the Games.

There have been a few departures in our coaching staff this year with Shane O'Hanlon, Adam Ryan and James O'Donohue moving on to pastures new and I would like to pay thanks for all their work that they have given and wish them well in their future careers.



A special mention to our Coaching officer Tom Cousins who has just completed his first year in the role and has done a fantastic job. He brings great knowledge and enthusiasm to the position, for a more comprehensive breakdown of coaching please see Tom's full report available as part of Tuarascálacha na bhFochoistí.

# **Wellness Programme**

The 2021 Wexford GAA Wellness Month in association with McCauley Health & Beauty Pharmacy ran from Saturday 1st May to Sunday 30th May. The Wexford GAA Wellness programme, which is in its third year, ran online events, interactive activities, educational webinars, skills challenges and further content for all ages aiming to promote mental health and personal wellbeing.

Wexford GAA are also delighted to be one of the lead partners for the 'Not Around Us' initiative in Wexford. This countywide 'Not Around Us' campaign calls for young people and their supporting organisations to get involved in the Healthy Wexford led initiative, to create outdoor smoke and vape free spaces for young people.

The Wexford 'Not Around Us' initiative is an ask from young people, to consider smoking and vaping behaviour when in places where they are. The initiative calls for you to engage with the youth in your club to determine if it is a message they would like the club to support and promote on their behalf. Ensuring the clubs policies and the members support the initiative the club then signs up and joins the growing community of supporters of the #NotAroundUs message across County Wexford.

I would like to thank our Health and Wellbeing Committee for their assistance in this and other initiatives during the year and would ask our clubs to engage more with this committee as there are numerous resources available from Croke Park to initiate programmes on a local basis.

# **Deceased Members:**

In the past 12 months, we have lost some stalwarts of Wexford GAA, both from the playing side and former officers.

Willie Carley sadly passed away during the year, a former All-Ireland minor hurling winner for Wexford and held various roles on Wexford committees.

Pat Nolan, the legendary former Wexford goalkeeper and three-time senior hurling All-Ireland winner, also went to his eternal rest.

Former Wexford County Chairperson, Central Council Representative and county footballer, Joe O' Shaughnessy passed after a short illness. Joe had a record nine Senior football championship medals with Castletown along with a number of other titles at club level.

We remember these and all associated with Wexford GAA who passed away during the year and the many involved in Wexford GAA and the wider GAA community who lost family members also.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hainmeacha dhílis.

# **Buíochas**

As I conclude my report, I would like to thank all the members of An Coiste Bainistí for their support in my first few months in the role. Special mention to Micheál Martin, County Chairperson, and Gavin O'Donovan, CEO/Operations Manager, for all their help so far.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all our staff. In the office, Marion Doyle and Eibhín McCormack and in the coaching section, Ray Harris, our GDA Anthony Masterson, and all our GPOs for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

A special mention must go to our outgoing PRO, PJ Howlin, who comes to the end of his five-year term. PJ has put in a trojan amount of work into the role over the past five years which saw him take the Leinster PRO of the Year title in 2019. At the start of this year, I was asked to be the Coiste PRO and any time I rang PJ for some



help, he was more than obliging. For this and for all his work I thank him.

I would Like to thank all our club secretaries and chairpersons and all members who put in endless hours of work into their clubs and without this voluntary effort we would simply not function as an organisation.

# I would also like to thank:

- All our various Corporate Partners and Sponsors.
- District Officers and County Board Members.
- Chairpersons and Members of the many Subcommittees.
- Coiste na nÓg officers.
- Andrew Nolan, County Treasurer and Joe Sheehan.
- James Flood and all the gate people.
- Dave Ormonde and his team of stewards.
- Managers, selectors and backroom teams of all our intercounty teams and development squads.
- Referees, linesmen and umpires.
- Our grounds people John Nolan, Michael Lynch and Seamus O'Brien.
- Staff at Croke Park & Leinster Council.
- Chief Superintendent Denis Ferry, Superintendent Jim Doyle, Inspector Graham Rowley and Sergeant Denis Murphy and all locally based members of An Garda Síochana.
- Bríd Quigley and Pat Murphy for their assistance on match days.
- Pat Kavanagh and The Corish Park Residents for their cooperation.
- Auditors Martin & Ruairi Quigley.

- Games Development Staff.
- Local press and radio, in particular Liam Spratt, Gerry Forde, Alan Corcoran, Alan Aherne, Darragh Clifford and Ronan Fagan.
- All Wexford GAA TV Contributors, in particular, Finbar Flanagan, Lar Sutton and Peter Mernagh.

Finally, I would like to recognise the contributions of Ger Doyle and Mary Foley to Wexford GAA. Both step down from their current roles of County Board Representative for Oulart-The Ballagh and Leinster Council Representative respectively after years of sterling service to Wexford GAA in many varying roles. Go raibh míle buíochas daoibh ón muintir CLG Loch Garman.

Mícheál ÓhAonghusa Cuilín Runaí CLG Loch Garman



# Roll of Honour 2021

# 2020 Championships (completed in 2021)

Permanent TSB Junior B Hurling St. Anne's Rathangan Enniscorthy Farm Systems Junior B Football Glynn-Barntown

# **2021 Hurling Championship Winners**

Pettits SuperValu Senior Hurling
The Courtyard Ferns Intermediate Hurling
Oylegate-Glenbrien
Wexford GAA Intermediate A Hurling
Tara Rock
Permanent TSB Junior Hurling
Permanent TSB Junior A Hurling
St. Fintan's
Permanent TSB Junior B Hurling
St. Brigid's Blackwater

# **2021 Football Championship County Final Winners**

Dominic Smith Expert Electrical Senior Football

Amber Springs & Ashdown Park Hotels Intermediate Football

Joyces Expert Intermediate A Football

Enniscorthy Farm Systems Junior Football

Enniscorthy Farm Systems Junior A Football

Enniscorthy Farm Systems Junior B Football

Enniscorthy Farm Systems Junior B Football

Ferns-St. Aidans

# **Enniscorthy Electrical Wholesale All County Hurling League 2021**

1A North	Shelmaliers	1A North	Shelmaliers
1A South	Faythe Harriers	1A South	Taghmon-Camross
1B North	Crossabeg/Ballymurn	1B North	Kilanerin
I B South	Rathnure St. Anne's	I B South	Glynn-Barntown
2A North	Fr. O'Regan's Craanford	2A North	Kilanerin
2A South	Oulart-The Ballagh	2A South	Clongeen
2B North	Shelmaliers	2B North	Monageer-Boolavogue
2B South	St. Martins	2B South	St. Abban's Adamstown
D3 North	Ferns-St. Aidan's	D3 North	Davidstown-Courtnacuddy
D3 South	Clongeen	D3 South	Ballyhogue

# **Greenstar U20 Hurling 2021**

Premier St Martins
Division 1 Buffers Alley
Division 2 Fr O' Regan's -

Division 2 Fr O' Regan's - Craanford

Division 2 Shield St Mary's Rosslare

# **Greenstar U20 Football 2021**

**All County Football League 2021** 

To be completed

**EBS Wexford** 



# Proud Sponsors of Wexford GAA















































































# Cuntais Iniúchta

Coiste Chontae Loch Garman

**Financial Statements** 

for the period ended  $30^{\text{th}}$  September 2021



# Report of Management of Coiste Chontae Loch Garman

Coiste Bainistí Loch Garman presents its annual report together with audited financial statements of Coiste Chontae Loch Garman for the eleven months ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

### **Principal activities**

Coiste Chontae Loch Garman is the governing board for the Gaelic Athletic Association in County Wexford. The principal activity of the board is the development and promotion of Gaelic games as a principal component of Irish identity and culture.

As well as developing and promoting the games in the county, Coiste Chontae Loch Garman is responsible for the preparation of the Wexford inter county teams and the operation of club championships, leagues and various other competitions at adult level.

#### Results

The effects of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic continued to be a factor during the year, albeit to a lesser extent than 2020. The easing of restrictions throughout the Summer of 2021 allowed a graduated full return of match day attendances and allowed for a fuller program of inter county and club championships throughout the year.

As a result of the easing of restrictions, income levels in some areas, particularly gate receipts, have recovered to close to pre-pandemic levels.

The board continue to avail of various government supports during the year and expenditure was also monitored closely as a result of the ongoing situation.

The results are set out Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the supporting schedules and show a significant surplus for the year despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

### Events since the period end

The Covid-19 pandemic is ongoing since the year end date and the situation regarding future restrictions is currently unknown.

In planning the future activities of the board, the officers will seek to develop the board's activities whilst managing the effects of the any future restrictions imposed as a result of the outbreak.

# Principal risks and uncertainties

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been severe on a worldwide basis. The full impact of the pandemic presents some risks for the board if any future restrictions on people's movements and large gatherings are in place. The board believe the main risk associated with Covid-19 is the any future restrictions on attendances at large sporting events and the resulting impact on the GAA organisation as a whole.

The officers are of the opinion that the protocols implemented in 2021 will assist the board in managing this risk during the ongoing pandemic.



# Books and records

Coiste Bainistí is responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Board. The books and accounting records of the board are maintained at Chadwicks Wexford Park, Clonard Road, Wexford.

# **Auditors**

The auditors, Martin Quigley & Co, have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

Micheál Ó Mairtín (Cathaoirleach)

Go Mullain

Medeal & Maintin

Andriu Ó Nualláin (Cisteoir)

Date: 25th November 2021



# Statement of Responsibilities of Coiste Bainistí

Coiste Bainistí is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish Law regulations.

Coiste Bainistí is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Board and of the surplus or deficit of the Board for that year. In preparing those financial statements Management is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reason for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Board will continue in operation.

Coiste Bainistí is responsible for ensuring that Coiste Chontae Loch Garman keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of Coiste Chontae Loch Garman, enable at any time the assets, liabilities and financial position of Coiste Chontae Loch Garman to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable the financial statements to be audited. Coiste Bainistí is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of Coiste Chontae Loch Garman and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of Coiste Chontae Loch Garman

Micheál Ó Mairtín (Cathaoirleach)

Go Muallain

Andriu Ó Nualláin (Cisteoir)

Date: 25th November 2021



### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

### Report on the audit of the financial statements

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Coiste Chontae Loch Garman for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the Republic of Ireland, in conjunction with the accounting policies.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of Coiste Chontae Loch Garman as at 30<sup>th</sup>
   September 2021 and of its surplus for the period then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the Republic of Ireland and the accounting policies stated in the financial statements.

## **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Board in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish auditing and Accounting Supervisory authority (IAASA) and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

# Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- Management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate: or
- Management have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast
  significant doubt about the Board's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a
  period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

# Other information

Management is responsible for other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

# Respective Responsibilities of Management Committee and Auditors

As described in the Statement of Management's responsibilities, management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that the give a true and fair view, and for such internal controls as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



In preparing the financial statements, Management is responsible for assessing Coiste Chontae Loch Garman's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Management either intends to liquidate the Board or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

# Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonable be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IASSA's website at: <a href="https://www.jaasa.je/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-98202dc9c3a/Description">https://www.jaasa.je/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-98202dc9c3a/Description</a> of auditors responsibilities for audit.pdf. This description forms part of our audit report.

# The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibility

Our report is made solely to the members of Coiste Chontae Loch Garman, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to them those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purposes. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Coiste Chontae Loch Garman and its members for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Ruaixi Quigley
For and on behalf of

Martin Quigley & Co Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors 100 North Main Street Wexford

Date: 25th November 2021



# Income and Expenditure Account

		20:	21	202	
	Schedule	€	€	(restated – €	·Note 14; €
Income					
Gate Receipts	1	508,664		293,164	
National League Shares	2	28,000		85,336	
Commercial and Fund-Raising Income	3	772,563		741,660	
Other Income	4	388,317		304,281	
Income from Associated Bodies	5	307,571		209,426	
Government Funding	6	180,499		281,993	
	-		2,185,614		1,915,860
Expenditure					
Match Day Costs	7	121,987		96,190	
County Teams Administration	8	518,457		636,473	
Maintenance of Grounds	9	131,386		171,351	
Financial Expenses	10	13,644		15,252	
Administration Expenses	11	242,996		265,589	
Grants/Promotional	12	5,000		6,150	
Coaching and Games Development	13	145,633		194,006	
	-		1,179,103		1,385,011
Operating surplus for the year			1,007,511		530,849
Depreciation of Fixed Assets			178,194		181,503
Net surplus for year			828,317		349,346

Muhal o Mawlin Micheal Ó Mairtín (Cathaoirleach) Ao Muallain

Andriu Ó Nualláin (Cisteoir)

Date: 25th November 2021



# Income Schedules

	2021	2020 (restated – note 14)
Schedule 1 - Gate Receipts	€	€
•		
County Championship	391,636	178,343
Streaming Income	44,640	13,787
Season Tickets	50,744	91,724
Coiste na nOg	17,765	8,100
Wexford District	1,345	95
New Ross District	893	415
Enniscorthy District	818	195
Gorey District	823	505
	508,664	293,164
Schedule 2 – National League Shares		
National League Share - Hurling	17,500	68,146
National League Share - Football	10,500	17,190
	28,000	85,336
	20,000	63,330
Schedule 3 – Commercial and Fund-Raising Income		
Rent Received	58,300	29,777
Advertising – Wexford Park	21,956	35,945
Supporters Club – Dublin Branch	10,000	27,741
Cairde Loch Garman Membership	19,646	19,292
Development Draw	181,347	141,692
Sponsorship, Commercial & Fundraising Income	481,314	487,213
	772,563	741,660
Schedule 4 Other Income		-
Club Affiliation Fees	10,367	9,307
Handball & Scor Affiliation	2,400	2,400
League Affiliation	31,880	19,924
Coiste na nOg Affiliation	23,465	22,250
Feile Entry Fees	2,476	-
Fines	6,250	2,270
Receipts – Programmes	14,198	11,283
Summer Camp Income	218,796	157,693
Sundry Income	8,236	5,563
Interest received	9,849	
Amortisation of Government Grant	400	
Covid Grant Wexford County Council Coaching Contribution Wexford County Council	60,000	20,591
Security Council	388,317	53,000 304,281
	500,517	304,281



# Income Schedules (....continued)

	2021	2020 (restated – note 14)
	€	€
Schedule 5 – Income from Associated Bodies		
Leinster Council – Teams Expenses	-	4,750
Leinster Council – Office Administration	10,000	10,000
Central Council – Match Day Grant	42,000	-
Central Council – Venue Expenses	15,000	
Central Council – Teams Expenses	97,450	
Central Council – Players Travel Expenses	50,621	61,969
Central Council – Grant	60,000	80,000
Central Council – Helmet & Hurley Subsidy	-	(6,277)
Central Council – Administration Grant	27,500	30,000
Central Council – TV Rights Grant	5,000	15,000
Central Council – Health & Safety Grant	-	10,819
Central Council – Other Grants	-	3,165
	307,571	209,426
Schedule 6 – Government Funding	CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF	24100 PH 50410
Wage Subsidy Scheme	180,499	129,793
Sport Ireland Resilience Funding	100,433	50,000
Sport Ireland Inter-County Championship Funding		122,200
The state of the s	180,499	281,993



# **Expense Schedules**

	2021	2020 (restated – note 14)
	€	€
Schedule 6 – Match Day Costs		
Medals & Trophies	47.704	
Match Day Expenses	17,791	13,418
Garda & Security	99,230 4,966	79,401
Garda & Security		3,371
	121,987	96,190
Schedule 7 – County Teams Administration		
•		
Rent	4,500	-
Players Travelling Expenses	63,024	118,318
Teams Administration	229,725	268,907
Player's Holiday	-	10,000
Transport	1,000	3,890
Catering, Hotels & Overnights	100,681	128,734
Medical	11,428	8,735
Sports Gear & Equipment	99,354	92,189
County Players Injury Scheme	8,745	5,700
	518,457	636,473
Schedule 8 – Maintenance of Grounds		
Maintenance ~ Chadwicks Wexford Park	62.260	***
Maintenance – St. Patricks Park	63,368	100,816
Maintenance – Halo Tiles Wexford GAA COE	19,517 48,501	20,501 50,034
Maintenance The The Western GAA COL	131,386	171,351
	131,300	
Schedule 9 – Financial Expenses		
Bank Charges	3,204	4,570
Bank Interest	10,440	10,682
	13,644	15,252



# Expense Schedules (....continued)

	2021	2020 (restated – note 14) €
Schedule 10 – Administration Expenses	•	•
Presentations & Donations	10,546	2,572
Staff Costs	137,751	193,682
Printing, Stationery & Advertising	34,027	29,179
I.T. Costs	458	3,839
Convention & Congress Expenses	-	3,253
Expenses of County Board Officers	6,837	4,315
Postage & Telephone	11,087	9,009
Other Meeting Expenses		2,276
Audit	12,705	12,705
Professional fees	14,869	-
Miscellaneous	8,616	4,759
Tickets	6,100	
	242,996	265,589
Schedule 11 - Grants/Promotional		
Handball	1,000	1,000
Cumann Camógaíochta	2,000	2,500
Ladies Football	2,000	2,500
Scór	-	150
	5,000	6,150
Schedule 12 – Coaching & Games Development		
Community Employment Coaching Scheme	7,321	8,777
Games Promotion Officers	19,017	53,219
Games Development Expenses	6,494	32,690
Summer Camp Expenses	112,801	95,530
Helmet & Hurley Subsidy	-	3,790
	145,633	194,006



# Balance Sheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

		202	1	2020 (restated – not	e 14)
	Notes	€	€	€	€
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	4		7,326,933	7,5	503,448
Current Assets					
Stocks		10,695		9,840	
Debtors	5	257,427		448,214	
Investments		254		254	
Cash and cash equivalents	6	1,624,496		732,511	
		1,892,872		1,190,819	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors	7	245,826		445,281	
Bank Loans	7	112,351		111,262	
Lease Creditor	7	11,106		12,739	
		369,283		569,282	
			1,523,589		621,537
Total Assets less current liabilities			8,850,522	8,	124,986
Creditors after more than one year	8		(700,321)	(8	22,703)
Deferred Government Grant	9		(19,600)		-
Net Assets			8,130,600	7,	302,283
Reserves					
Accumulated Fund	13		8,130,600	7,	302,283
			8,130,600	7,	302,283

Mulia o Martin Micheál Ó Mairtín (Cathaoirleach)

Co Mual Cain

Andriu Ó Nuallaín (Cisteoir)

Date: 25th November 2021



#### Notes to the Accounts

# 1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements comprising the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes constitute the financial statements of Coiste Chontae Loch Garman for the financial period ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Coiste Chontae Loch Garman is an unincorporated association. The nature of the association's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Report of Management of Coiste Chontae Loch Garman.

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the accounting policies noted below and the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland" ("FRS102").

Coiste Chontae Loch Garman is considered to be a public benefit entity.

The accounts are for the eleven month period ended 30th November 2021

# 2. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the associations financial statements.

# Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with historical cost convention, the accounting policies noted below and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. The financial statements are stated in Euro which is the functional currency of Coiste Chontae Loch Garman.

# Disclosure exemptions for qualifying entities under FRS 102

FRS 102 allows a qualifying entity certain disclosure exemptions. Coiste Chontae Loch Garman is a qualifying entity and has taken advantage of the below available disclosure exemptions for qualifying entities.

(i) Exemption from the requirement of FRS 102 paragraph 33.7 to disclose key management personnel compensation in total.

# Gate receipts

Gate receipts are stated gross on a remittance basis before deduction of match expenses.

### Grants

Grants receivable and payable are included in the Income and Expenditure Account in the year in which they are approved in principle.

# Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet comprise cash at banks and in hand and short-term deposits with an original maturity date of three months or less. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current and non-current liabilities.



# Coiste Chontae Loch Garman Period ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Notes to the accounts

### **Financial assets**

Basic financial assets, including other receivable and cash and bank balances are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. At the end of each reporting period financial assets measured at amortised cost are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. If an asset is impaired the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in income or expenditure. If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised the impairment loss is reversed. The reversal is such that the carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in income or expenditure. Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled; or substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party; or control of the asset has been transferred to another party who has the practical ability to unilaterally sell the asset to an unrelated third party without imposing additional restrictions on the transfer.

# Other financial assets

Other financial assets including trade receivable for goods sold to customers on short-term credit, are initially measured at the undiscounted amount of cash receivable from that customer, which is normally the invoice price, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost less impairment, where there is objective evidence of an impairment.

# Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation, less accumulated depreciation. Provision is made for depreciation on all tangible assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of each asset over their estimated useful life on a straight-line basis, as set out below.

Land -Nil
Chadwicks Wexford Park – 2% Straight Line
Halo Tiles Wexford GAA COE – 2% Straight Line
Equipment -12.5% Straight Line
Development St Patricks Park -5% - 10% Straight Line

### **Employee benefits**

Short term benefits

Short term benefits, including holiday pay and other similar non-monetary benefits, are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.



# 2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The Board Management Committee makes judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that were not readily apparent from other sources in the application of the Board's accounting policies. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from the estimates.

## Critical judgements

Management is of the opinion that there are no critical judgements (other than those involving estimates) that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

# Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

# Useful economic lives of fixed assets

Fixed assets comprising primarily grounds and fixtures and equipment represent a significant portion of total assets. The annual depreciation charge depends primarily on the estimated lives of each type of asset and, in certain circumstances, estimates of residual values. Management regularly review these useful lives and change them if necessary to reflect current conditions. In determining these useful lives management consider technological change, patterns of consumption, physical condition and expected economic utilisation of the assets. Changes in the useful lives can have a significant impact on the depreciation charge for the financial year. See Note 4 for the carrying amount of fixed assets.

# Impairment of other receivables

The Board assesses its loans and receivable on a continuous basis for any objective evidence of impairment by considering factors, including the ageing profile, the creditworthiness and the past collection history of each receivable. If the financial condition of these receivables were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, additional allowances may be required.



Coiste Chontae Loch Garman Period ended 30th September 2021

# Notes to the accounts

Tangible fixed assets

4.

	Halo Tiles Wexford GAA COE	St. Patricks Park Development	Chadwicks Wexford Park	Memorabilia	Equipment	Total
t 202	₩	w	w	Ψ	¥	w
At 1st November 2020 (restated –	4,491,647	119,890	5,680,985	8,524	254,553	10,555,599
see note 14) Additions	•	•			1,679	1,679
At 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	4,491,647	119,890	5,680,985	8,524	256,232	10,557,278
Depreciation At 1st November 2020 (restated –	622,375	96,272	2,120,345		213,159	3,052,151
Charge for the year	51,865	1,968	106,017	•	18,344	178,194
At 30th September 2021	674,239	98,243	2,226,362	1	231,502	3,230,345
Net Book Values At 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	3,817,405	21,647	3,454,622	8,524	24,730	7,326,933
At 31st October 2020 (restated – see note 14)	3,869,270	23,615	3,560,639	8,524	41,395	7,503,448



# Notes to the accounts

5.	Debtors	2021	2020 (restated - note 14)
		€	€
	Debtors and prepayments	257,427	448,214
6.	Cash and cash equivalents	2021	2020 (restated – note 14)
		€	- note 14) €
	Cash at bank and in hand	1,014,377	292,242
	Cash on deposit with Central Council	610,119	440,270
	Total	1,624,496	732,512
	The carrying amount of these assets approximate their fair value		
7.	Creditors	2021	2020 (restated – note 14)
	Amounts falling due within one year	€	-110(€ 14) €
	Bank loans and overdrafts  Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts  Creditors and accruals	112,351 11,106 246,826 370,283	111,262 12,739 445,281
	O = th		

# Creditors

The carrying amounts of creditors approximate their fair value due to the short-term maturities and nature of these instruments. The repayment terms of creditors vary between on demand and 90 days. No interest is payable on creditors.

### Accruals

The terms of the accruals are based on underlying contracts.

Taxes and social welfare costs

Taxes and social welfare costs are subject to the terms of the relevant legislation. Interest accrues on late payments. No interest was due at the financial year end.



# Notes to the accounts

8.	Creditors	2021	2020 (restated – note 14)
	Amounts due after more than one year	€	€
	Bank loans  Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts	700,321	812,829 9,884
		700,321	822,703

Allied Irish Bank hold a charge in respect of lands at Ferns, Co. Wexford as security for loan amounts outstanding.

9.	Government Grants Deferred	2021	2020 (restated – note 14)
		€	€
	Capital Grants Received and Receivable		
	Increase in financial period	20,000	
	Amortisation		
	Amortised in financial period	(400)	
	Net Book Value		
	At 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	19,600	-

Capital Grant funding of €20,000 was received from Sport Ireland during the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in relation to improvement works carried out at Wexford Park in 2019. This grant is being released to the Income & Expenditure account over the estimated useful life of the works completed.

# 10. Taxation

The Board is exempt from income tax under the provisions of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

# 11. Post Balance Sheet Events

There were no significant events affecting Coiste Chontae Loch Garman subsequent to the balance sheet date.

# 12. Contingent Liabilities

Coiste Chontae Loch Garman have guaranteed the following outstanding loan amounts at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. These amounts relate to loans advanced to clubs from the GAA Development Fund.

Kilmore GAA Club	€7,719.33
Fethard St Mogues GAA Club	€34,099.60
Ferns St. Aidans GAA Club	€62,966.69
Oulart the Ballagh GAA Club	€52,418.32
St. Fintans GAA Club	€51,440.20
St. Martins GAA Club	€76,717.48
Ballygarret/Realt na Mara	€81,645.27

PAGE 35



# Notes to the accounts

# 13. Accumulated Fund

	2021	2020 (restated – note 14) €
Balance 1st November	7,302,283	6,952,936
Surplus for the year	828,317	349,347
Balance 30 <sup>th</sup> September	8,130,600	7,302,283

# 14. Prior Year Adjustment

The financial statements include a prior year adjustment to reflect a change in the depreciation policy for buildings, specifically Chadwicks Wexford Park and Halo Tiles Wexford GAA Centre of Excellence. In prior years the accounting policy was to reflect no depreciation charge in relation to grounds & stadia, in line with common practice among GAA county boards. The depreciation policy has been changed in the current financial period to reflect a depreciation charge of 2% per annum on these assets in line with accounting standards and following guidance from Croke Park. The adjustment required a restatement of opening and comparative balances to reflect the change in depreciation policy as detailed below.

# Analysis of prior year adjustments

	2020
Depreciation charge for the year ended 31st October 2020	€
Depreciation as previously stated	23,621
Adjustment for change in depreciation policy	157,882
Depreciation as restated	181,503
Accumulated depreciation charge Chadwicks Wexford Park	
at 31st October 2020	€
Accumulated depreciation charge as previously stated	-
Adjustment for change in depreciation policy	2,120,345
Accumulated depreciation charge as restated	2,120,345
Accumulated depreciation charge Halo Tiles Wexford GAA COE	
at 31st October 2020	€
Accumulated depreciation charge as previously stated	-
Adjustment for change in depreciation policy	622,375
Accumulated depreciation charge as restated	622,375



#### Coiste Chontae Loch Garman Period ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

#### Notes to the accounts

Accumulated depreciation charge Chadwicks Wexford Park	
at 1st November 2019	€
Accumulated depreciation charge as previously stated	-
Adjustment for change in depreciation policy	2,014,328
Accumulated depreciation charge as restated	2,014,328
Accumulated depreciation charge Halo Tiles Wexford GAA COE	
at 1st November 2019	€
Accumulated depreciation charge as previously stated	-
Adjustment for change in depreciation policy	570,510
Accumulated depreciation charge as restated	570,510
Accumulated fund at 31st October 2020	€
Accumulated fund at 31st October 2020 as previously stated	10,045,003
Adjustment for change in depreciation policy	(2,742,720)
Accumulated fund at 31st October 2020 as restated	7,302,283
	€
Accumulated fund at 1st November 2019	
Accumulated fund at 1st November 2019 as previously stated	9,537,774
Adjustment for change in depreciation policy	(2,584,838)
Accumulated fund at 1st November 2019 as restated	6,952,936
Surplus for the year ended 31st October 2020	€
Surplus for the year ended 31st October 2020 as previously stated	
	507,229
Adjustment for change in depreciation policy  Surplus for the year ended 31st October 2020 as restated	507,229 157,882

#### 15. Comparatives

Comparative figures have been regrouped where necessary on a basis consistent with the current year.

#### 16. Post Balance Sheet Events

There are no significant events affecting Coiste Chontae Loch Garman subsequent to the year end.

#### 17. Approval of Financial Statements



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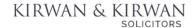








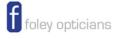














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# Tuarascálacha na bhFochoistí

# Competitions Control Committee - Fixtures

In reflecting on the past year, my first as CCC Chairperson, it is only when you're involved do you realise the balancing act that fixtures are, probably never more than in these covid times. We didn't really know when games would be allowed and probably didn't expect them to come on stream as quickly as they did, with games being allowed from June 7th, and we had the league up and running on June 12th.

#### The League

The league format we used was appropriate for this year, but I certainly think particularly with the split season we all need to take the league much more seriously than previously it will be the major competition for club players, four or five championship games will not be enough to keep players satisfied and playing Gaelic games, particularly single code players.

#### The Championship

The championship split season format has proved very popular with, players, team managements, and supporters alike, but it does put serious pressure on players, clubs with small panels, officials, gate people, stewards, and pitches, we have been blessed with fine weather, but one bad weekend caused panic with pitches, clubs and the ccc, to ensure that we had the three main championship grades finished in time for clubs to play in Leinster club competitions. The split season leaves no room for postponements for any reason, and as I write this report, we have only the junior b football final to be played, with the u20 football championship starting on November 26th.

#### **U20**

The U20 grade continues to cause problems, as did the U21 before it, with the time frame to play the championship I certainly think that any young footballer not playing adult will not stick around to play two games in December, so in my opinion we have to seriously look at an U19 competitions starting early in the year in both codes, I think it would be it would be a good grounding for young players to play in adult grades later in the year. The club calendar in 2022 needs serious consideration by us all both before and at the January county board meeting.

#### **Fixtures Analyst's Report**

The statistical data in this report was drawn up by our fixtures analyst John O Neill who does so much unseen work, thank you John.

#### League

The league commenced on 12th June and finished on 31st July with 5 rounds of Hurling and 5 rounds of Football. There were no knockout matches this year due to time constraints caused by covid, the top team in each group were declared the winners of their group resulting in 10 teams in both codes receiving medals for finishing 1st in their group.



There were 132 scheduled games fixed in Football with 106 being played, a compliance rate of 80.3%.

In Hurling there were 150 scheduled with 135 being played, a compliance rate of 90%.

There were 23 matches conceded in Football with 13 conceded in Hurling.

In all 282 league matches scheduled with 241 being played, a compliance rate of 85.46%

#### Championship

The Hurling Championship commenced on 7th August and was completed on 25th September. As there were 13 teams competing at the Senior Grade, they were divided into 3 groups of 3 and 1 Group of 4. All other Grades from Intermediate to Junior A were divided into 4 Groups of 3. 1 Team from Intermediate to Junior B were promoted with 2 teams from each level relegated to insure 12 teams in each level for 2022.

In all 136 matches were schedule in Championship Hurling with all matches played.

The Football Championship commenced on 2nd October and, with the exception of Junior B, finished on 20th November. At the time of writing the Junior B final remains to be played. The Groups were structured in the same way as the Hurling Championship with again 1 team promoted and 2 Teams relegated.

In all 136 matches scheduled (including Junior B Final) with 2 matches conceded, 1 due to the covid rule and 1 at Junior B ¼ Final stage.

#### U20

The U20 Hurling Championship commenced on 4th August and was completed on 1st of September. It consisted of 4 Groups Div 1, Div 2, Div 3 and Div 3 Shield with the teams competing in Div 1 and 2 being decided by Rd 1 matches.

30 Teams were entered in the competition with teams getting a minimum of 2 scheduled matches.

In all 37 fixtures were scheduled with 30 being played, a compliance rate of 81.08%.

At the time of writing the U20 Football Championship has not commenced. It is scheduled to begin on the weekend of 27th of November and will be run as was the U20 Hurling. A total of 35 clubs have entered a team in this competition.

#### **Summary**

From Senior to Junior A, teams were fixed to play a minimum of 7 match in each code, with the exception of teams in League D3 due to numbers competing, with a maximum of 11 matches. This resulted in Dual clubs receiving a minimum of 14 matches with a maximum of 22 over 23 weeks between 12 June and 20th November.



The charts below show the number of matches scheduled and played under the control of the CCC.

Hurling								
	Scheduled	Played	Conceded	% Played	Remarks			
Championship	136	136	0	100%				
District Champs	101	94	7	93.06%				
League	150	135	13	90%	2 unplayed( 1 Bereavment 1 Fixtures clash)			
U20	37	30	7	81.08%				
Total	424	395	27	93.16%				

Football									
	Scheduled	Played	Conceded	% Played	Remarks				
Championship	136	134	2	98.52%	1 due to covid				
<b>District Champs</b>	53	48	5	90.56%					
League	132	106	23	*81.81%	3 Unplayed ( 2 abandoned due to injury)				
Total	321	288	30	89.71%					

**John O'Neill** Anailísí Cluichí

#### **Transfers**

Transfers are dealt with by Joe Sheehan in the CCC-Discipline report, both branches of the CCC work together on Transfers, and each decision is reached after long and hard discussion.

#### **Thanks**

I would like to thank everyone who made it possible to complete a large games programme in such a condensed season our committee who met every Sunday after the last game of the weekend ,Marion Doyle, who makes sure we are all kept busy ,Joan Furlong, Liam Curtis, Seamus Kennelly, Justin Browne, John O'Neill, Seamus Whelan, who despite the shortage of referees got every game covered, Gavin O'Donovan who is always on hand to help and advise, Cathaoirleach Micheál Martin, Michael Hennessy Cullen our new co secretary, all my other colleagues on management, Dave Ormande and John Nolan who despite their misgivings about so many games in Chadwicks Wexford Park always delivered the goods, the gate persons, stewards, referees, all the clubs who so generously gave their facilities, and not forgetting, Michael Lynch, don't ever forget it without all those the games programme could not be completed.

The last people to thank are the members of the district committees particularly the fixtures gurus on them they are often the forgotten, who are depending on the crumbs that fall from the CCC table they have a great understanding that Junior B players like playing games and it's where most 18-year-olds get regular games now, and whereas we didn't always agree I thank Joe, Ollie, Seamus, and Michael, and look forward to working with you all next year.

I sincerely apologise to the Intermediate hurling clubs and players for such a stupid mistake at the 1/4 final draw and want to assure you all it will not happen again.

To anyone I've forgotten to thank I apologise. Loch Garman Abu

**Riobaird Magh Eochaidh** Cathaoirleach CCC Loch Garman



# Competitions Control Committee - Discipline

The following is a Summary of the issues that the Committee dealt with during the past year.

Discipline is a major problem within Wexford GAA and this year is no exception.

The Committee dealt with a total of 122 Infractions involving players, officials and clubs covering a range of Categories as listed below involving 42 clubs. It is extremely disappointing to see such a large number of cases, however we will continue with our efforts and we will not be found wanting in carrying out our responsibilities.

Despite highlighting, over a number of years, the issue of the levels of abuse directed at officials and referees. There has been no improvement during the past year. This is a problem that is endemic within the association and despite our decision to adopt a stricter line with regard to these type of cases, players and mentors have continued to ignore officialdom.

In the past few weeks we have all heard about the level of abuse that officials have been receiving in other sports, leading to officials withdrawing their service in some cases, the situation is as bad in Wexford GAA and we have never before encountered, as this year, the level of abuse of our officials. It should be noted that such abuse has resulted in lengthy suspensions to the individuals and in some cases fines being levied on clubs.

We would ask all clubs to work hard in endeavouring to instil in their players, officials and mentors a greater responsibility with regard to discipline both on and off the field with respect for officials being a priority.

Clubs need to take control of this situation as it should not be forgotten that without referees and linesmen we would not be able stage our games and they are all deserving of respect whether you agree or not with their decision making.

The level of abuse is also leading to difficulties in the recruitment of new referees.

All cases were dealt with in a fair manner and suspensions proposed were at all times considered appropriate to the Infraction reported.

Category	ONE		THREE		FOUR		FIVE		OTHER	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Infractions	53	22	97	71	11	10	3	0	29	19

We would like to thank all clubs and referees for their co-operation throughout the year.

In addition to dealing with Breaches of Discipline the committee are also involved with CCCC fixtures committee in adjudicating on transfer requests both within the County and players seeking to transfer to Wexford clubs from other counties. In deciding on cases a lot of time consuming work is undertaken with regard to eligibility of the respective player.

The County Hearings committee have an important role to play in ensuring disciplinary penalties are fairly applied and consequently it is a committee with whom we have a close working relationship. We wish to acknowledge the work of Committee Chairperson, Margaret Doyle, Secretary, Eddie Nangle and the other members of the committee for their work during the past year.



We express our appreciation to our County Chairperson, Micheál, and our new CEO/Operations Manager, Gavin, for their support and help throughout the year.

Míle buíochas don na daoine atá ag obair san oifíg i bPairc Loch Garman go hairithe Bainisteoir Óibríoctaí Gabhán le haghaidh an cabhrú agus cúirtéis a thabhairt siad liom i rith an bliain ,míle buíochas dóibh go léir.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow committee members under the Chairpersonship of Aidan O'Leary, Mary Doyle, Kevin Doyle, Philip Howlin and Thos Ryan and Andrew Egan for their diligence, fairness and impartial decision making when considering reported breaches of Discipline.

Seosamh Ó Síocháin

Runaí An Choiste Cheannais na gComortaisí Smachta

## **Hearings Committee**

The committee met on 11 occasions, from 19th May to the most recent on 29th Nov. On average, about seven members attended each meeting, out of a total membership of nine members. The covid pandemic created some problems in communications during the early meetings but they were overcome when restrictions were lifted.

The following were the most common infractions:-

1.	Striking with hurl, with minimum force	5 (	cases
2.	Misconduct at games by officials/supporters	4	ıı .
3.	Striking with hand, arm, elbow or knee	4	ıı .
4.	Verbal abuse of match official	3	ıı .
5.	Conduct dangerous to opponent	2	ıı .
6.	Catching faceguard of opponent's helmet	2	ıı .
7.	Striking an opponent with hurl with force	1 (	ase
8.	Kicking with minimum force	1	ıı .
9.	Bringing Association into disrepute	1	"

Total 23 cases

(There was also one appeal against non-transfer; it was refused)

Of the total of 23 disciplinary cases, 15 had penalties imposed, while the other 6 had their proposed penalties cancelled, principally through the use of good video evidence (Two cases are still outstanding at time of going to press).

Note should be taken of offence no. 2 – misconduct at games by officials/supporters. This infringement has risen from nowhere over the previous number of years to joint second most common infraction in 2021. This may be a side effect of the pandemic and its associated frustrations, but it could also be an indication of a lowering of respect by spectators and officials towards games and match officials. The fact that three of the four infringements occurred at underage games would seem to indicate that the people concerned think that it is alright for them to try to influence the referee or other officials in their decisions about younger club players.

One of the four cases involved abandoning the game, while two of the other three were only saved by the action of other team officials in persuading the perpetrator to leave the field. This type of



behaviour cannot be allowed to continue; the disruptive officials and relevant spectators must learn to behave themselves on the sideline.

The perennial infraction of verbal abuse of match officials again continues to raise its head in third position, having also been persistently notable over the years. Again, team officials were the most prominent in this regard, strongly and abusively questioning referees' and other match officials' decisions. Disagreeing with match officials' decisions is natural, but verbal abuse is completely unacceptable.

**Éamonn de Nógla** Runaí Coiste Éisteachtaí

# Leinster Council Representatives

#### **Cathal Byrne**

This was my second year as Comhairle Laighean Loch Garman representing Wexford as a Leinster Council Representative together with my colleague Mary Foley. It is a great honour and I am very grateful for the support and trust you have placed in me.

This year saw a significant curtailing of the normal Leinster Council activities as a result of the pandemic. Meetings instead took place online via the Microsoft Teams app with decisions about changes to championship structures, fixture formats and coaching among other things taking place through that forum.

The impact of Covid-19 on Leinster Council's ability to support the development of Club's facilities has been immense with all development grants frozen until 2022. This is an issue that I have raised directly at Leinster Council level and along with Mary Foley we have pushed hard to ensure that the restoration of the development grants remains a priority for 2022.

Since the pandemic reached our shores in late February, the volunteer spirit of the GAA has been to the forefront in helping our local community in these difficult times be it through delivering meals on wheels or checking in on the vulnerable and I think it's important that this work is recognized once again in this annual report.

I was privileged this year to be appointed by the County Chairman Michael Martin to represent Coiste Bainste on the Demographic Participation Taskforce alongside, George Hussey (Chair), Peter Mernagh, Liam Bowe and Mick Phelan. I am confident that the Report of this Committee can form the basis for future discussion on our Clubs and structures within the County once the pandemic has passed.

On a final note, I wish to pay tribute to outgoing Comhairle Laighean Loch Garman Mary Foley for her hard work and dedication to Wexford GAA. I wish her the very best. Wexford GAA is a better organisation as a result of her tireless efforts.

I wish all our supporters, players, mentors, officials, referees and volunteers the best for 2022. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any stage if I can be of any assistance to you or your club.

Cathal Ó Broin

Ionadaí ar an Chomhairle Laigheann



#### **Mary Foley**

The curtain comes down on the 2021 GAA year and another strange one for all of us! For a second year in a row, Leinster Council 3-monthly meetings couldn't proceed - one was held in March and the only other last month. As Fixtures is one of their main Agenda items, and thankfully games were allowed to proceed, this area was overseen by Leinster CCCC.

While we didn't have full Council meetings, I was kept busy as part of their Hearings committee with online meetings almost twice a week in the busy playing season. I was delighted to be part of this committee - no matter how long we are in the GAA, we learn something new every day!

Also, this year I was asked to be part of a Leinster Convention Review working group under the chairmanship of Michael Delaney along with John Cotter and JJ. Walsh. I thoroughly enjoyed our meetings and hopefully some of our thoughts and ideas will be seen in the years ahead.

While our interaction at meetings in Portlaoise was curtailed for two years due to Covid, I met and made friends with delegates across the 12 counties of Leinster, the GAA is such a wide and welcoming family!

On a sombre note, tonight I depart Coiste Bainistí after 15 years, having served in 3 different roles - PRO: Assistant Secretary and Leinster Council Rep. One might think three terms is a long time but as each one demanded so much time and effort, one year just ran into the next!

I started on my Wexford GAA journey in 2007. While there was a PRO vacancy at Convention in December 2006, not one nomination was received so I was approached by the then Chairman, Ger Doyle and Co. Secretary, Mick Kinsella in January just hours before their Co Board meeting. Perhaps I wasn't fully tuned in to their request and what was involved, but I said Yes to allow my name to be put forward for ratification in an hour's time - the rest is history. The following day, I hit the road running and haven't stopped since! That role has left me with the most wonderful memories - all the lovely people who crossed my path, the challenges I had to encounter along the way, the deadlines I had to meet, the fun and banter and the many new skills I learned. Fond memories of liaising with our 49 clubs to update their crests which are proudly displayed in Croke Park and in the hallway in the Halo Centre of Excellence, Ferns in addition to the pocket-sized Information Booklet first introduced in 2010.

The local reporters (Alan Aherne and Ronan Fagan) along with the National Press were so helpful and I was always conscious of following all protocols. They were the best five years with the highlight each year producing the Co. Final programmes culminating in collecting a McNamee Award for my second Co. Hurling Final programme (2008). My work was made easier with the staff of C & R Print, Enniscorthy who were so accommodating all year round and especially at busy times, whether it was 7.30 am on my way to work or at 9pm. in the week leading up to Finals. No man is an Island!

The banter and comradeship in the Press Box was second to none and it was a pleasure to be part of the team who welcomed photographers, local reporters, and those from further afield representing their local Radio or TV stations. Many of these were former PRO's who had many shared interests. Ní cheart go chur le chéile.

For the next two terms while serving as Assistant Secretary and Leinster Council Rep., I was involved in a myriad of tasks - sitting on the Transfers and Grading Committee, recording minutes of Coiste Bainistí and Bord Chondae meetings in addition to attending Council meetings in Comhairle Laighean and sitting on their PR committee. Minute taking took a lot of time as they had to be very detailed - I was always relaxed when we had moved on from the matters arising as



delegates were known to dissect them carefully and fire the questions! One area of work I took in my stride was organising Jubilee Presentations and Events and in particular the celebrations in The Talbot Hotel in 2010 for the 1960 Wexford Senior Hurlers and the 2008 Leinster Convention where we saw Sheamus Howlin elected as Leinster Chairman. On both occasions I was joined by Dermot Howlin and Séamus O'Beirne who were a pleasure to work with.

Then came the CCCC Secretary, a role I embraced for five years - while the workload was heavy and you couldn't take your eye off the ball, it was an area that I enjoyed working under the chairmanship of Denis Cadogan and his committee. The club officers were a pleasure to deal with which made our job easier. The phone calls and emails were constant, but I fully understood why there were so many - as an active club person myself, I could see why they were concerned about various aspects of fixtures, as players and officials dedicate many hours to training. Clubs were very supportive in sending in details on time and no matter what format they arrived in, I amended where necessary as attention to detail is paramount - what appears unnecessary information at the time of request, will form our history in years to come. I was reading a Thought for the Day last week and it reminded me that we should thank the club volunteers a little more - "A person who feels appreciated will always do more than expected!

Reflecting on my 15 years as part of the Wexford Management team, I can only say that they were good years working alongside four Chairmen, officers who are still around the table and fond memories of those who are no longer with us. I encourage club members to consider an officer or committee role at county level – never be afraid to try something new. Remember, Noah built the Arc and Professionals built the Titanic!

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir agus go n-éirí an t-ádh libh i mblianta seo chugainn.

**Máire Ní Foghlú** Ionadaí ar an Chomhairle Laigheann

# Central Council Representative

Reflecting on my 2nd year as a member of Ard Comhairle, it was similar to last year in the context of continuing to operate with the majority of meetings held on-line and emergency powers in operation as per Rule 3.64 (T.O) Special Emergency Circumstances.

Despite operating in these unusual circumstances, it remains an honour to represent Loch Garman at Ard Comhairle.

7 meetings of Ard Comhairle were held during 2021.

27th Feb 20th Mar 4th April 22nd May 31st July 18th Sept 20th Nov (scheduled meeting 22nd Jan 2022) 23rd Oct - Comhdháil Speisialta

At this stage, everyone is familiar with the various on-line meeting platforms, and many will view this method as excellent and efficient for certain meetings however on occasions it does little to encourage debate and develop working relationships.

Some topics of interest during 2021;

- Emergency powers have been in place in blocks of eight weeks as per rule.
- New Club Constitution & Articles passed at Congress.
- Injury Benefit Fund following discussion at Ard Comhairle, the loss of wages under the scheme was reinstated.



- Strategic Plan 2026 A Strategic Plan Steering Group has been established to oversee the development of a new strategic plan.
- Sport Ireland Governance Code for Sport The Association's compliance with the Governance Code is on-going and should be achieved in early 2022.
- Many Co. Officers have completed the governance modules as part of the Officer Training and Development programme.
- Sponsorship on the sleeves of players and replica jerseys was approved & updated guidelines circulated to units.
- GAA's Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted and will remain in effect for the next 24 months.
- Licensing Work Group established by An Coiste Bainistíochta to review licensing arrangements and proposals (Micheál Martin a member).
- Digital Sliotar a workgroup has been established to develop a structure around the manufacturing of sliotars with the target of implementing in the senior championship in 2023.
- Special Congress dealt with the carry-over of motions from Congress. The main focus was on the motion regarding the re-structure of the Football Championship and this topic will be revisited in 2022.

I would like to congratulate Derec Ceannt on his appointment by an t-Uachtaran as Cathaoirleach of the Central Competitions Control Committee.

#### On a personal note;

- In my capacity as senior hurling team liaison person, I would like to say a huge thanks to Davy Fitzgerald for his commitment to the Senior Hurling team for the last 5 years. It has been a great journey for the squad, backroom, and supporters.
- It has been a huge honour to be asked by an t-Uachtaran to chair the Child Safeguarding Committee during his term as Uachtaran. I will do my utmost to represent Wexford and my Club to the best of my ability.
- I would like to acknowledge the contribution of both Mary (Foley) & PJ (Howlin) as they come to the end of their 5-year terms as Leinster Council Rep and PRO respectively.

As I said at the outset, it has been a huge honour for me to serve on Central Council and I would like to thank the Clubs for their continued support. I would also like to thank my fellow officers, CEO/Operations Manager, Gavin and the staff in Chadwicks Wexford Park for all their support and help during the year.

Buíochas

**Diarmuid Ó Húilín** Ionadaí ar an Ard-Chomhairle

### Children's Officer

We have come to the end of another year in GAA circles. Restrictions were in place but thankfully we got through it.

A special thanks to all our club Children's Officers who did great work in relation to incidents which happened during the year. The varied incidences involved selectors, players, parents and supporters on different occasions and thankfully they were all dealt with and resolved by our Children's Officers. It is always best to resolve matters at club level whenever possible.

We were not allowed any face to face Safeguarding 1,2 or 3 courses during the year but we are hopeful that these can resume during 2022. Clubs will be notified when this becomes possible.



I want to sincerely thank all the clubs and their Children's Officers for the completion of the Risk Assessment and Safeguarding Statements which were required this year.

Sport Ireland requires Safeguarding Self-Assessment to be completed early in the New Year. I understand that this will be a much shorter version of this year's Safeguarding Statement. Clubs will be notified about the details of this in the near future.

A reminder to clubs to ensure that all their managers, trainers and selectors for 2022 are Garda Vetted and have completed Safeguarding and Foundation courses.

Finally, I would like to thank Dermot Howlin, Marion Doyle and Angela McCormack in Wexford and Michelle and Kayleen in Croke Park for all their help during 2021.

I look forward to 2022 and in the meantime, I hope everyone stays safe and well.

**Deasún Ó Chrocaigh** Oifigeach na Leanaí

# **Coaching Officer**

It is with great honour that I present to you my first Coaching Officer's Report. I am delighted to be able to give this report on the back of a strong games calendar in 2021. When we consider how uncertain and turbulent the past two years have been, it has been fantastic that Wexford GAA have been able to offer so many games and so many great initiatives.

From a coaching point of view, the coaching office have not left any stone unturned- with some of the highlights including the development of the awesome Wexford Way document, the implementation of our online Webinars during lockdown, and exciting initiatives including Camán Everybody which has been implemented nationwide at this point. Our coaching staff are at the forefront of pioneering coaching that we firmly believe will lead to better players and people for years to come.

#### Ar Aghaidh Linn le Chéile

This year also brought with it the launch of our very detailed 5 year Strategic Plan 'Ar Aghaidh Linn le Chéile.' Coaching and Player Development is at the heart of this document, and with this effective plan we will improve participation and performance across all age grades and levels of our games. Combining all aspects of this plan, there are many aspects which we can now focus on to help bring Wexford GAA to the next level- not just at county level but more importantly at club level. A strong club scene in Wexford is what will make our county a success for years to come.

#### **Cúl Camps**

This year we saw record breaking numbers attending our camps with over 6000 participants taking part in 42 camps throughout the summer months. While these numbers attending our camps are a fantastic achievement, it would not be possible to run camps in a safe environment but for the cooperation of clubs who have played a huge part in making our camps successful, particularly in these Covid 19 times which bring extra challenges.

Wexford GAA employed a staff of 120 Cúl Camps coaches who took part in practical & theory based training which helped to maintain our high standard of coaching at our camps. Thanks to



all our coaches who led by example, in particular James Flynn who organised everything so efficiently throughout the summer.

A highlight of our camps was the re-introduction of our ASD Camp in Chadwick's Wexford Park. Thanks to our close link with Sports Active Wexford it allowed us to welcome 180 children with Autism, as well as their siblings to a week of GAA in a safe and fun environment. We look forward to delivering more projects within the inclusion remit of the GAA in 2022.

#### **Go Games**

Undoubtedly one of the biggest successes in recent years of Wexford GAA has been the rise in participation numbers at Go Games level. Thanks to the Go Games Committee of Dermot Ryan, Shane Ready, Darren Caulfield and Gary Curley for their help in running a successful year of Go Games. This year we introduced our Go Games fixtures booklet which was launched at the start of the season which had all Go Games fixtures for the year ahead. We would hope to keep this format for 2022, with some changes from 2021, including limiting travel for teams, adding variety of games while matching teams of similar numbers.

Wexford Coaching and Games are planning on delivering more games for players in 2022, including Chadwicks Wexford Park Play and Stay, Monster Blitz days and more, however it will all be dependent on Covid 19 guidelines.

Overall Go Games numbers have increased by over 35% between 2018 and 2021. This is testament to the work that GAA clubs are doing in delivering quality coaching & working within the ethos of the principles of Go Games. Fundamentally, providing an opportunity for children to grow their skills from Nursery to U11 in the Go Games model, in an inclusive environment is the challenge to all club coaches. This growth in participants would suggest Wexford GAA clubs are providing an environment for growth and should be commended.

#### Games Calendar (U13 to U17)

Firstly a huge well done to all players and coaches who put so much time into making our games so successful this year. A huge thanks to the families and club officers who helped facilitate and organise in getting teams on the field. I know there is a huge amount of work that goes in behind the scenes, and with the uncertainty in the early months of the year it was fantastic to see such a programme of games run. When we were given the green light to return to playing games our CCC deserve huge credit in getting a calendar of games that was packed. This provided an opportunity for games to be played right up until the end of September and into October in some instances. The year was not without its own challenges in the fact that we have had a well documented referee shortage, and combining that with a heavy adult games calendar running simultaneously with the Coiste na nÓg calendar, pitches and referees were in huge demand. We hope that with a full season ahead we can mitigate against some of these challenges next year.

#### **Additional Playing Opportunities**

At the beginning of this year an Underage Games and Coaching Review Committee met to look at the games structures we currently provide players from u13 to u17. A number of recommendations were made from this group, with one of our key aims going forward to provide the opportunity for players to play as many games as possible in a balanced way. Whilst competition is hugely important, it should not be on which we measure success. As I have mentioned, increasing participation is essential in building a solid foundation for years to come. I do acknowledge the importance of championship, but we are certain that we need additional tournaments and developmental Leagues at key times of the year so that those able to play can play. We have successfully had the Martin Storey Tournament for u14 level, and we hope to run the Mattie Forde at u16 level in the New Year. Rising Stars has been a huge success in providing bigger clubs with an opportunity to field a number of teams at each grade, culminating in blitz



days to finish off the year. A big thanks to Paul Laffan and Dermot Ryan for co-ordinating and liaising with all those clubs involved in this initiative.

#### **Development Squads**

Our Development Squads have had a very turbulent year with the challenges Covid 19 has brought. While the pandemic stopped on field activity, our development squads took part in online S&C, with over 300 players taking part.

Once playing activity re commenced, rightly the priority switched to the clubs for games & training. On completion of the club season, our squads were straight into games provided by Leinster GAA. This included games against Cork, Kilkenny, Laois and Clare in Hurling, whilst in football we played in Louth, Mayo, Carlow and Wicklow.

All our squads have minimum 2 teams of mixed ability as we do not pick 'A' and 'B' squads for these games. Our teams were very competitive, especially considering it must be noted the level of difficulty these squads have faced. An example being that some of these squads haven't been together for 18 months.

In October, we re-introduced our U14 Model Óg Regional Hubs, with over 140 players playing Hurling and Football on a weekly basis. The focus and emphasis has been on skill development and building rapport. These Regional Hubs will continue into 2022.

With an emphasis of widening our base of players, keeping them in our system for longer and developing the person in addition to the player, our squad players require a large volume of coaches. Credit to our Talent Development Leaders JJ Doyle (Hurling) and Anthony Masterson (Football) for their work in firstly recruiting coaches but also up-skilling coaches to ensure our coaches pathway is in line with Wexford GAA policy.

The coaches have led the way across all grades through their high quality sessions and innovative thinking, with S&C being coordinated and implemented across all grades to provide continuity from year to year, and also to be able to focus on the specific code they are playing. This has led to the most professional of set ups at each grade- one which we can all be very proud of.

#### **Coach Education**

Once again, Covid 19 guidelines challenged us in our delivery of our coach education, both formal and informal coach education.

Wexford Coaching and Games delivered a spring webinar series in conjunction with Zurich, with topics including Building Resilience in Youth Players, Tackle Your Feelings with Nicholas Walsh, Club Culture and Games Based Coaching. These webinars were very well attended with an average audience of 120 participants.

Formal coach education with Foundation and Award 1 courses commenced in March with a huge number of courses delivered. 14 foundation courses and 5 award 1 courses started in Spring, however, with the increasing restrictions of Covid 19, we had to pause some of our courses. The majority have since been completed with 2 Award 1 courses to be completed by the end of 2021.

Wexford Coaching & Games has seen a turnover of staff this year & would like to wish all departing staff (Shane O' Hanlon, Adam Ryan and James O' Donohue) the best of luck for their future careers. This has opened the door for us to recruit new staff and we look forward to working with them in the coming months and years. Finally, we are very lucky that we have top



class coaches working with us in Wexford GAA. We thank them for their time and commitment, and look forward to continuing their coaching journey with us.

Club school links including Hurling 365, Peil4all, lunchtime leagues & our new exciting initiatives Camán Everybody will be re launched in Jan 2022. Wexford Coaching and Games has seen the huge benefit of such initiatives & we look forward to the renewed roll out in 2022.

#### **Wexford's Fittest Schools Fundraiser**

Schools play a hugely important role in the development of our games and instilling the love of our game in our youth. This fundraiser brought the schools of Wexford together, and through the support of these schools in entering teams and in promoting this fundraiser it really showed the calibre of schools that we have, and the calibre of people we have in those schools. The money raised will have a huge benefit to the coaching and games in Co. Wexford, and we hope that we can continue to build on the positive relationships with our schools in the months and years ahead through support, coaching and games development in those schools.

#### **Challenges Ahead**

The biggest challenge we face as an organisation is that of retaining players. It is inevitable that players will leave, but we don't want to lose players if we can provide them with games to stay for. From the knowledge we do have, we are losing players year on year- and we need to take action now. There's two main problems that we have noticed.

- Firstly, when players arrive to u13 level and competition is introduced officially- especially with county finals at stake, players are being left on the line and not played. Not every club is guilty of this, and the narrative is beginning to shift in terms of clubs seeing the bigger picture, but it is happening. By introducing Developmental Leagues, and offering non-competitive games we hope that clubs use this as an opportunity to play everyone and also to play players in different positions which will allow them a greater understanding of the game.
- Secondly, we need to address the lack of games for those players once they leave the u17 grade. Very few players manage to make it directly on to their adult team immediately- and if these players aren't looked after now they will be lost to other sports and interest which provide them with real opportunities. Whilst I do acknowledge the prestige and history that goes with u21, or u20 as it is now, the competition as we see it now (played out either at the start or end of the year in a very short window), does not provide enough games to keep those players. We need an u19 grade that is meaningful and gives those players games. This should be a core aim going forward. I understand there are many constraints, not least with refereeing and pitch availability, but it needs to be addressed.

#### Conclusion

I will finish this by thanking everyone that helped me during the year, all the full-time staff who gave of their time so freely, the various committees who have done Trojan work during the year, talent academy coaches and particularly Ray Harris, Wexford Games Manager, Micheál Martin Co Chairperson, Bobby Goff, Co. Vice Chairperson, and James Devane, Leinster Games Manager. A huge thanks to the the Coiste na nÓg management committee, in particular to our Chairperson John Kenny and the ever approachable and trustworthy secretary Aideen Howlin. If I have left anyone out I apologise, but know that you do have my thanks.

Wishing you all the best as we move into 2022.

**Tomás Ó Cuisín** Oifigeach Cóitseála



# Oifigeach Gaeilge & Cultúr

Tá ceangail daingean faoi leith idir ár dteanga agus Cuman Luthchleas Gael. Tagann an ceangail sin díreach ó na daoine éagsula a chaith a saoil ag obair ó mhaidin go hoíche ar son CLG. Dá bhrí sin tá orainn leanúint leis an obair agus cúis na teanga a chur chun cinn.

I'm delighted to serve as Wexford's Oifigeach Gaeilge & Cultúr. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my immediate predecessor, Cian Ó Lionnáin, for his outstanding work in promoting ár dteanga agus ár gcultúr and to congratulate him on his recent prestigious appointment. I want to also thank Áine Kennedy and her committee on her, and their, outstanding work in the lovely and very special world of scór. I look forward to working with our County Chairperson, Micheál, agus Coiste Bainistí. Tá súil agam go mbeidh mé ábalta cabhrú, i mo shlí féin leis an obair atá idir láimh ag ár gCoiste Chonntae san bhlian atá romhainn. Loch Garman abú.

**Antóin Ó Díomsaigh** Oifigeach Gaeilge & Cultúr

# **Development Officer**

#### Introduction

In writing this report it will be the last from a Development Officer in its current format as due to a motion passed at special congress the Development Officers position will undertake change. Two separate positions will be created in the form of a Planning & Training Officer and a Safety & Facilities officer. The Planning & Training Officer will have responsibility for club planning and officer training while the Safety & Facilities Officer will have responsibility for infrastructure and facilities.

The Covid-19 pandemic again proved a significant obstacle in carrying out the duties of the Development Officer this year with in person meetings not possible and uncertainty surrounding lockdowns and possible activities that could take place. Outlined in the following is summary of the activities undertaken in the last 12 months in relation to infrastructure (both county and clubs), Club Planning and Officer training.

The following was undertaken in relation to Infrastructure during 2021:

#### **County Development**

Halo Tiles Wexford GAA Centre of Excellence

#### **Planning Application**

- Planning permission for the new entrance onto old N11, access road, 2nr playing pitches, training area, spectator stand and floodlighting was lodged in October 2020. A request for further information was received in November 2020 from the Local Authority with the response to the RFI's submitted in March 2021. Notification to Grant Planning was received from Wexford County Council in April 2021.
- Two 3rd party observations were submitted during the planning process and both objectors made submissions to An Bord Pleanála following issue of the Notification to Grant Planning from the Local Authority.
- Wexford GAA engaged the services of a Planning Consultant to prepare and submit a response to the An Bord Pleanála objections.
- An Bord Pleanála issued an initial decision date of September 2021, however the date was deferred until November 2021 when a decision to refuse planning was issued. An Bord



Pleanála refused planning permission because they considered that the proposed development would be contrary to national and local planning policy in respect of regional roads. An Bord Pleanála own inspectors report had recommended the planning permission should be granted.

- Engagement has commenced with relevant professionals, the Local Authority and Public representatives to determine the next steps forward in the process.
- This Planning process was initiated by former County Chairman, Derek Kent, and former Development Officer, Cathal Byrne. Appreciation to the former County Chairman, Derek Kent, who continued to drive the process until the receipt of the decision in November.
- Immigrant Investor Fund (IIP) funding application was prepared for the proposed development by the preparation of a specific application process/business plan. To avail of the possible funding the proposed project required Planning Permission granted and due to the refusal decision Wexford GAA has lost the possibility of a significant funding opportunity.

#### Overhead Power Lines

• Engagement was made with ESB Networks with regard to the removal of the existing overhead power lines and placement underground to allow the construction of the new pitches. Agreement was made with ESB Networks and underground ducting was installed in November 2021 in preparation for the removal of the power lines by ESB. It is anticipated that the power lines will be removed and placed underground in early/mid 2022. It would not have been possible to consider removal of these power lines without the prior agreement that was made by former County Board Chairman, Ger Doyle, with ESB Networks in the late 00's. This agreement will enable the power lines to be removed at a significantly reduced cost. Expertise and assistances was received from David Ormonde, Wally Byrne, Kevin Kehoe, Bobby Goff, John Morris and Anthony Neville in process and appreciation is expressed to all.

#### Pitches & Venue Facilities

- The pitches and facilities at the venue were kept in pristine condition at all times during the year by Seamus O'Brien and the team of scheme works, thanks to all who have contributed to the process.
- Maintenance was required to the surface of the access road in early 2021 as the stone surfacing had deteriorated and was a safety issue to persons entering the venue.
- Annually pitch maintenance was carried out in spring 2021 with sand topdressing, vertidraining and some overseeding carried out.

#### **Sports Capital Funding**

• Sport Capital grant allocation granted in 2015, the drawdown process is ongoing and documentation is awaited from the Chief State Solicitors office to allow the final procedures to drawdown the funds. Thanks to Cathal Byrne who has continued to drive this process since his time as Development Officer.

#### Chadwicks Wexford Park

- Planning permission for floodlighting, dressing rooms extension and accessible toilet was lodged in June 2020. A request for further information was received in August 2020 from the Local Authority. Preparation of the response to the RFI's was a very onerous process, with a specialist lighting engineering consultant engaged to prepare a specialist report for the responses to the RFI's. The response to the RFI's was submitted in May 2021. Notification to Grant Planning was received from Wexford County Council in June 2021 and the Final Grant of Planning was received in July 2021.
- This Planning process was initiated by former County Chairman, Derek Kent, and appreciation to Derek who continued to be actively involved in both planning processes for Wexford Park until Final decision to grant planning was received in November.



- Following correspondence received from the Local Authority a Planning Application for signage to the Pineridge Terrace and Clonard Terrace was lodged to Wexford County Council in August 2021. Notification to Grant Planning was received from Wexford County Council in October 2021 and the Final Grant of Planning was received in November 2021.
- Pitch maintenance was carried out similar to last year by overseeding in the growing season, this procedure proved vital to the condition of the pitch in late autumn/early winter and allowed the games programme to be completed at the venue.
- Facilities and the pitch at the venue are maintained and monitored by John Nolan, David Ormonde, Bobby Goff and many more people, thanks to all who have contributed to the process.

#### St. Patrick's Park

- Vandalism continued to be a problem in 2021 at the venue with extensive damage caused to the scoreboard, dressing room building and office building.
- The scoreboard was damaged to a state beyond repair and a new electronic scoreboard was installed in August 2021.
- Protective screens were installed to dressing room and office building windows following the repair works of replacement of the broken glass. Additional repair works was required to doors and locking systems.
- A CCTV system has been installed to give greater protection to the venue.
- It is planned to upgrade facilities in 2022 at the venue with shower systems and floodlighting forming the basis of the works. Possible grant aid may be available from the SAEI Better Energy Communities (BEC) scheme for these upgrade works. The process to apply for this grant aid has commenced by Wexford GAA registering with SAEI and engaging an auditor to carry out energy audits of both St Patrick Park and Wexford Park. Grant applications will be made in early 2022.
- Thanks to Michael lynch, the Lynch family and many others for their contribution to having the venue always available to host games or training.

#### Strategic Plan

- An ambitious infrastructure plan is outlined in the Strategic Plan. In consultation with County Chairperson, Micheál Martin, and other committee members infrastructure projects were identified for inclusions in the plan. These projects are outlined in the Strategic Plan launched early this year.
- Preparation of information for inclusion in the Strategic Plan consisted of 3D images, 3D video, phasing plan and Budget costs. Thanks to Anne Doyle for providing the voice over to the 3D video.
- Challenges exist in delivering the aims set out under infrastructure in the strategic plan, with
  the most recent being the decision of An Bord Pleanála to refuse planning for the next phase
  of development at the centre of excellence. Challenges include funding requirements,
  Planning and the current pressures on the construction industry where price inflation will be
  a major issue. Areas of possible grant funding has been explored and expertise will be
  required to assist to deliver.

#### **Club Development**

- Leinster Club Infrastructure Development committee interaction was limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic and mostly by personal contact to committee members for advice on various infrastructure matters.
- Leinster GAA informed that due to the COVID-19 restrictions no grant funding would be available for 2021 and it is anticipated for possibly two to three years after, pending restrictions for the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Club burrowing requests were received and approved from five clubs (Davidstown-Courtnacuddy, Oylegate-Glenbrien, Rathnure St. Anne's, Cloughban and Shamrocks) to allow



clubs apply for loans to access funding to carry out various infrastructure project on club ground.

- Several clubs engaged for advice on various planned infrastructure projects proposed to club
  grounds, site visits were limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Projects were varied and
  ranged from concept design stage to construction completion.
- An issue that has arisen in the past year relates to clubs carrying out infrastructure works on club grounds and the need for contractor insurances, clubs must inform the Croke Park insurance department of works commencing and give relevant details and insurance cover. Incidents has occurred where the new infrastructure projects when complete are excluded from the property insurance cover due to the lack of notice and details given to the Croke Park insurance department.

#### **Officer Training & Development Programmes**

- The Associations National Officer Development Committee rolled out a new on-line training course for all County Officer called Leading GAA Governance. The aim of the course is to improve County Officer knowledge of the Associations Governance Guide. This course was completed in early 2021 with certification issued following completion. There was six modules covered in the course as follows:
  - Module 1: Introduction to the GAA's Governance Guide (eLearning Module)
  - Module 2: IT Governance (Webinar)
  - Module 3: Insurance and Injury Benefit Fund (Webinar)
  - Module 4: Human Resource Management (Webinar)
  - Module 5: Financial Governance (Webinar)
  - Module 6: Games Development and Child Safeguarding (Webinar)
- The Associations National Officer Development Committee held a County Officer induction and learning webinar for all new and existing County Officers in early 2021, traditionally this was an event held in person in Croke Park, however the on-line programme was beneficial to all that attended.
- A Development Officer Forum was held in May by the National Officer Development Committee, the forum was via Teams and outlined at the meeting was the motion for congress for the proposed changes to the Development Officers role and position.
- Officer training was provided for by the Player, Club & Games Administration Department of the GAA trough The Club Leadership Development Programme with an online Club Officer Training programme held. A full calendar of training webinars was held during the year and are available for access at any time via the GAA's eLearning portal. Club Officers were required to registered on the eLearning portal to gain access to the portal and access information. Notification of webinars was circulated to clubs via online posters provided by Croke Park on email and social media. Traditionally officer training was delivered by an in-person event held in a location within the county and training officers attending to deliver the training, however due to Covid-19 restrictions this was not possible, and it has resulted in the online programme being rolled out. The online programme of training where webinars can be viewed at any time through the eLearning portal would appear to be much more accessible to club officers who have limited spare time to attend such in person events due to their club commitments. Club Officers registered on the portal can also avail of the online club resource hub which provides resources to help clubs function effectively. This online training programme is available to all units of the GAA and is not County specific.
- An issue that did arise this year was difficulties club experienced using the on-line Foirean system. Difficulties were experienced in getting supports from the associations IT department and it resulted in a special Foirean webinar event held to deal with some of the problems. The difficulties in using the Foireann system, especially where clubs have a 'one club' model, may still be a problem come 2022 and beyond.



- Wexford did hold a county specific training event with Sinead Leavy and Ciara Clarke, insurance personnel for the GAA, presenting an online Insurance related webinar to the clubs.
   A large number of clubs attended the online event and feedback on the content was positive
- Officer Training in 2022 and going forward will now be the responsibility of the new Planning and Training Officer.

#### **Club Planning**

- Club Planning formed one of the modules in the Officer training programme, however due the COVID-19 pandemic club planning was not priority for clubs. One club has engaged to carry out a club plan early in 2022. Wexford GAA must encourage and engage with clubs to participate in the process of preparing a club plan as following the COVID-19 pandemic the local club has shown its importance and how it can provide to the wider community of a parish, an opportunity now exists for clubs to capitalise on this by forward planning and engaging with all in the local community.
- Club Planning in 2022 and going forward will now be the responsibility of the new Planning and Training Officer.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion I will be the last person to server Wexford GAA in the role of Development Officer and it has been a great honour to do so. The COVID-19 pandemic and new fixtures format that has come about (both New National Fixtures calendar and Wexford Split season) has highlight areas where facilities are deficient in the county. The need for floodlight pitches and facilities for the games programme and club training due to championships beginning in late Autumn has shown to be an issue. Clubs within Wexford have excellent facilities ranging from natural playing pitches, floodlighting, Astro turf training pitches, hurling walls, gyms, indoor arenas, etc. and these club facilities make Wexford one of the leading counties in relation to club grounds. Clubs must be commended for the tireless work and effort that has produced these facilities. However, the facilities owned by Wexford GAA County Board (Centre of Excellence, St Patrick Park & Wexford Park) are in need expansion and upgrade/refurbishment to meet team preparation requirements, games programme due to the new master fixtures calendar, health & safety requirements and hosting of large intercounty games. The individuals that maintain, operate and oversee these facilities must be commended as there are many challenges. Club Planning and Officer Training is an area that Wexford GAA should look to develop with a view to offering initiatives to try and develop possible new club officer recruits. As can be seen from this report the current role of the Development Officers responsibilities is wide ranging and varied and a considered workload with a new role of Planning & Training officer to be in place for 2022 it will give a sole focus on these issues of Club Planning and Officer Training.

Thanks to all committee members, members of management, Wexford GAA staff, operations manager/CEO, the County Secretary, the County Chairman, clubs and individuals for their assistance during the year.

**Daithí Tóibín** Oifigeach Forbartha



COISTE CONTAE CLG LOCH GARMAN