

C.L.G. Laoise



**Comhdháil
Bhliantúil**

**The Midlands Park Hotel
Port Laoise**

**Monday, 9th December, 2019
7.30 p.m.**

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Standing Orders

In order that the proceedings of the convention be carried out without delay the following Standing Orders will be observed: -

- 1. The Proposer of a Resolution, or Amendment thereto, may speak for 5 minutes but no longer.*
- 2. A Delegate speaking to a Resolution or Amendment shall not exceed 3 minutes.*
- 3. The Proposer of a Resolution, or Amendment, may speak a second time for 5 minutes, before a vote is taken, but no other Delegate may speak a second time to any Resolution or Amendment.*
- 4. The Chairman shall, at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed, call on the Proposer to reply, after which a vote will be taken.*
- 5. A Delegate may, with the consent of the Chairman, move "that the question be now put" after which, when the Proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.*

An Clár

1. Adoption of Standing Orders.
2. Minutes of 2018 Convention.
3. Secretary's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement.
5. Appointment of Tellers.
6. Election of Officers.
7. Motions.
8. Aon Ghnó Eile.
9. Votes of Sympathy.

The Annual Convention of Laois GAA was held in Midlands Park Hotel on Monday 3rd December 2018

Cathaoirleach Peadar O'Neil presided at County Convention in Midlands Park Hotel on 03/12/18. The following Executive Members were also in attendance Tomas O 'Cléirigh, Mairtín O'Broin, Ciarán O Consléibhe, Gearóid O'Caomhanach, Tomas Mac Seoin, Pascal Mac Aodh Bhuí, Feargal O'Beirn, PS O'Ceallaigh, Padraig O Suilleabháin, Moncha Ni Dhubhsláinne, Labhras O'Faoláin, Dónal O'Gormáin agus Niall Mac Laitimh (Runaí).

The following Clubs were represented as follows:

N. O'Riain & R. Mac Comhaill, Mainistir Laoise; C. Ní Cholmáin, M. Mac an Gahaill & C. Mac an Gahaill, Anach; SS. O'Conbhuí & S. Mac Aogáin, Ard Lios Cilchrúis; L. O'Braonáin, PS O'Cinnéide & M. O'Suillebháin, Ard Lios Cilín; L. O'Seachnasaigh & A. Mac Giolla Padraig, Baile na Coille; F. O'Cearbhúill, Baile Fionn; S. Hovendon, W. Hovendon & M. O'Murchú, Baile Laigheanáin; P. O'Dúlaoich, S. O'Deá & M. Ní Fhaoláin, Baile Píocas; M. O'Scoláí, Mainistir Baile Atha Róine; S. Dáibhis, A. O'Langtúin & A. O'Braonáin, Teach an Bhearra; E. O'Faoláin & S. O'Caollaí, Buiríos Mór Osraí; S. O'Ceallaigh, B. Ní Dhubhsláinne & T. Ní Fhaoláin, Buiríos Mór Osraí Coill Choitín; U. Ní Dhonnchaidh, T. Deoráin & M. Coiléir, Camros; S. Ozenbrook & M. Mac Pheadair, Baile an Chaisleáin; L. O'hEathairn, P. O'Cathail & S. O'Conraoi, Cluain Fhada; S. O'Gormáin, Cluain na Slí Naomh Manmáin; C. O'Meachair,

D. O'hAnluain & M. O'Bruadau, Cloch Baile Cholla; D. O'Scoláí, S. Ní Braonáin & L. De Stacphúil, Coillte; P. O'Conail, B. O'Nualláin & S. O'Beolláin, Coill na Cúirte; J. O'Cianaigh & S. De Búrca, Crochta Ard; A. Ní Leathlobhair, M. O'Leathlobhair & M. O'Riain, Ioma; R. O'Ceallaigh, P. Beirgin & P. O'Deá, Eiréil; M. Ní Fhaoláin, M. O'Leathlobhair & M. Boltún, Graig Chuillinn; T. O'Fiach, S. de Faoite & M. O'Tarpaigh, Cill Chabháin; D. Beirgin, D. Beirgin & J. O'Muineacháin, Coill Choitín; G. Diring & M. Braonáin, Gleann Uisean; T. O'Caoinnealbháin, M. O'Dubhsláinne & P. O'hAilche, Coill; T. Danachair, T. O'Mionacháin & A. Challoner, Móinteach Mílíc; S. O'Caomhanaigh, P. O'Laoire & L. O'Fionnalaigh, Na Diomasaigh; P. O'Diarmada & S. O'Ceallaigh, Páirc Raithín Uisce; S. O'Rannacháin, B. O'Rannacháin & S. O'Daltúin, Páirc Raithín Uisce Tigh Mochua; D. O'Murchú, D. O'Cléirigh & M. O'Leathlobhair, Cúil an tSudaire; SP O'Cathaláin, M. O'Nialláin & C. Mhic Gearailt, Portlaoise; S. O'Caomhanaigh & M. O'Puiriséil, Rath Domhnaigh; M. O'Cléirigh, P. O'Faoláin & M. Mac Giolla Phadraig, Rath Domhnaigh Eiréil; M. O'Leannáin, S. O'Leathlobhair & S. O'Dúlaoich, Ross Fhionnghlaise; T. O'Cearúill, M. Beirgin & N. Mac Giolla Phóil, Seanchua; B. O'Conraoi, C. Ní Fhearail & S. O'hIfearnáin, Sliabh Bladhma; P. O'Braonáin & R. O'Muilleoir, Spinc; T. O'Miach, M. Ní Mhideltáin & S. O'Cearbhúill, Maighean Rátha; M. O'Mórdha & D. O'Broin, Naomh Seosamh;

L. O'Dubhsláinne, S. O'Dubhsláinne & E. O'Dubhsláinne, Sráidbhaile; S. Caimpion, T. Breatnach & D. O'Fionnagáin, Na Clairsigh; M. O'Céin, D. O'Leathlobhair & P. O'Céin, An Fraoch; P. Harding, S. O'Cronáin & S. O'Murchú, An Charraig; A. Mhic Dhónaill, L. O'Rannacháin & M. O'Muilleoir, Tigh Mochua; B. O'hAllúinn, G. Ni Chiarubháin agus S. Mac Peaircín, Tromaire.

Seamus Laibheartaigh – Childrens Officer; Padraic O'Donnabháin – Handball; Séan O'Meachair, Cumann na mBunscol; Oileabháir O'hAilche, Iarbhunscoileanna.

Leithscéil – Sean O'Rannacháin (Uachtarán) & Micheál O'Cearbhúill.

1. **Standing Orders** were adopted on the proposition of Liam de Stacaphúil, seconded by Mairtín Mac an Ghaill.
2. **Minutes of 2017 Convention** was adopted on the proposition of Pilib O'Céin, seconded by Liam O'Rannacháin.
3. **Secretary's Report** was adopted on the proposition of Seán de Búrca, seconded by Seán O'Dubhsláinne.
 - Group Senior Teams – Mairtín Mac an Ghaill acknowledged outcome of Fixture Review Committee was being debated at County Committee next Monday evening, but asked not to dismiss all opportunities for young players from Intermediate and Junior clubs to play at Senior championship level;
 - Loss of Home Advantage for League for Clubs who don't supply a

Referee – Sean Mac Peaircín and SS O'Conbhuí expressed their concern at this proposal, stating it was very unfair to introduce such a sanction on small Clubs, who may not have the resources to supply a Referee;

- Verbal Abuse towards Match Officials – Ailéin O'Langtúin outlined his agreement with report in relation to escalation in the amount of verbal abuse directed towards our match officials and agreed that monetary fines on clubs may help in stooping this practice;
 - Centre of Excellence – Maire Ni Fhaoláin complimented the progress on this project development;
 - Strategic Review – Máire Ni Fhaoláin stated that this review process had been very thorough and comprehensive and that its recommendations should be carried out;
4. **Treasurer's Report** showing an operating surplus of €141,626 in County Committee A/c and €5,819 in O'Moore Park A/c was adopted on the proposition of Sean Mac Peaircín, seconded by Seán O'Ceallaigh.
 - An Cisteoir gave a detailed explanation of our financial accounts, explaining both Income and Expenditure Accounts and Schedules to accounts. He thanked his fellow Executive members for their support with our finances, our main sponsors and fundraising sponsors, our O'Moore Park stewards and gate staff;

- Centre of Excellence – S. O’Ceallaigh complimented An Cisteoir on an excellent Financial Report and presentation. He queried if development was within budget and costs of remaining phases. An Cisteoir replied to his queries;
 - Ground Rent – U. Ní Dhonnchaidh queried as to what Ground Rent was. An Cisteoir replied to her query;
- 5. Tellers** – the following were appointed and approved by Convention – Seán O’Conghaile, Micheál O’Dubhláinne, Seamas O’Caomhanaigh, Seosamh O’Conbhuí agus Adrainne Mhic Chartaigh.
- 6. Election of Officers:** The following of-ficers were elected –
- Cathaoirleach (Chairman): Peadar O’Néil was elected unopposed.
 - Cathaoirleach (Chairman): Peadar O’Néil was elected unopposed.
 - Leas Chathaoirleach (Vice Chairman): Tomas O’Cléirigh was elected unopposed.
 - Cisteoir (Treasurer): Mairtín O’Broin was elected unopposed.
 - Leas Cisteoir (Asst. Treasurer): Ciarán Consléibhe was elected unopposed.
 - Ard Comhairle (Central Council) Delegate: Gearóid O’Caomhanaigh was elected unopposed.
 - Comhairle Laignean (Leinster Council) Delegates (2): Tomas Mac Seoin agus Paschal Mac Aodh Bhuí were elected after defeating Briain O’hAlúinn in a vote.
 - Oifigeach Oiliuma (Coaching): Ferghal O’Beirn was elected unopposed.
 - Oifigeach Cultir agus Gaeilge (Cultural and Irish): Moncha Ní Dhubhláinne was elected unopposed.
 - Oifigeach Caidrimh Poibli (P.R.O.): Pdraig O’Suilleabháin was elected unopposed
 - Congress Delegates (5): Peadar O’Néil, Niall Mac Laitimh (both automatically elected); Mairtín O’Broin, PS O’Ceallaigh agus Tomas Mac Seoin were elected after vote.
 - Leinster Convention Delegates (5): Briain O’hAlúinn, Tomas O’Cléirigh, Moncha Ní Dhubhláinne, Gearóid O’Caomhanaigh, Pdraig O’Suilleabháin were elected.

All elected candidates returned thanks.

7. Chairperson's Address – P. O'Neil

Cathaoirleach P. O'Neil addressed Convention, thanking Clubs for their attendance and their continued support. He thanked his fellow executive members for their work and commitment to Laois GAA, our sponsors and in particular Mattie Walsh, MW Hire; our sub-committees and our volunteers; Michael O'Brien, Fenagh for chairing the Fixture Review Committee, whose report is down for discussion next Monday evening; Laurence Phelan for chairing Finance Committee and their work in sourcing additional funding, essential for our new development. He briefed delegates on his role as Laois Partnership Director and opportunities for Club's here, whilst also outlining the various challenges our county faced with social inclusion. He acknowledged and thanked our Inter County squads for their commitment to the County and looked forward in working with our Senior Managers John Sugrue and Eddie Brennan and other managers in the coming year. He acknowledged the development of our LOETB Centre of Excellence, which will be fully operational in 2019 and the role he envisages it will have in developing our young players in both football and hurling. He concluded by asking for Club's cooperation and patience, stating that he wasn't infallible, but that he would work his hardest for the betterment of our Clubs and County.

8. NA RÚIN

- A. In accordance with Rule 3.2, a Club shall affiliate annually with the County Committee on a standard affiliation form, which shall include the names of the Club Executive Committee, the Club colours and alternative colours and shall confirm that it has adopted the appropriate form of the Official Club Constitution and Rules. The closing date for submission of affiliation is the 7th. January in any year.
- B. In accordance with Rule 3.2, before a Club may take part in any competition, affiliation fee of €20 shall be paid for the year to the County Committee. Entry fee for Championships shall be €20 for each adult team and €8 for each under-age team. The closing date for entries to all competitions, with exception of development competitions, shall be the 7th. January in any year. (CLG Laoise)

Further to an amendment to the Motion, for the date to be amended to 14th. January, on the proposition of SS O'Conbhuí and seconded by Maitiú O'Coiléir, which was agreed on a show of hands, the motion was passed after being proposed by Liam O'Braonáin and seconded by Sean O'Dubhláinne.

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of Sympathy were extended to the following families:

- Abbeyleix Coffey Family;
- Annanough Crean, Moloney & McEvoy Families;
- Arles Killeen Leigh Family;
- Arles Kilcruise Mooney, Mulhall, Mulloy and Kelly Families;
- Barrowhouse Langton, Mulhall and Mulhare Families;
- Ballyfin Maher, Downey and Linden Families;
- Ballylinan Lawler, Behan, O'Neill and Kelly Families;
- Ballinakill Kennedy Family;
- Ballypickas Miller, Conroy, Kehoe and Costigan Families
- Ballyroan Abbey Mulhall, Jones and Conroy Families;
- Borris in Ossory O'Donnell, Ward and Bergin Families;
- Camross Lalor, O'Donovan, Walshe and Mortimer Families;
- Castletown Brophy, Kelly and Mullaney Families;
- Clonad McEvoy, Nicholas, Gilligan, McMahon, Conroy, Keenan,
Maher, Doogue, Dooley, Conroy, Bennett, Dowling, Russell,
Kavanagh, Peters, Larkin, Carolan, Reynolds, Norton,
Kennedy and Dunne Families;
- Clonaslee St Manmans . . . Conroy Family;
- Clough Ballacolla Hyland and Byrne Families;
- Colt Mulhall, Hearn, Kavanagh, Sinnott, Murray, McGill and
Power Families;
- Courtwood Kinsella, Wilson, Donnelly, Doyle and Dunne Families;
- Crettyard Delaney, Carroll, Brennan, Callinan, Daly, Hayden, Hyland
and Brophy Families;
- Errill Finn, Kelley and Whyte Families;
- Graigucullen Scully, Brennan, Cowan, Gordon, Dowling and Shannon
Families;
- Kilcotton Fitzpatrick and Daly Families;
- Killeshin Brennan and O'Shea Families;

Kyle Scully Family;
 Mountmellick Conroy, Mullins, Feery and Fitzpatrick Families;
 O'Dempseys Slevin and Keogh Families;
 Park Ratheniska Young Family;
 Portarlinton Hickey and Horan Families;
 Portlaoise O'Reilly, Taylor, Plunkett, Larkin, Sexton, Bowe and Conroy Families;
 Rathdowney Finn and McCormack Families
 Rosenallis Dunne, McEvoy, Shelly, McCormack, Flynn, Broomfield, Goodwin, Devine and Phelan Families;
 Shanahoe Leahy and Fennelly Families;
 Slieve Bloom Heffernan Family;
 Spink Miller and Kehoe Families;
 St. Fintans Mountrath . . . Russell, Redmond, Lalor Fitzpatrick, and Reynolds / Ward Families;
 St. Josephs Kealy, Condrón, Lacey, Hyland, Curtis and Kilbride Families;
 Stradbally Mulhare, Deegan, Quirke, Carolan, Lenihan and Swayne Families;
 The Harps Murphy, Carroll and Kirby Families;
 The Heath Hennessy, Kennedy, Kavanagh and Keane Families;
 The Rock Delaney, Mullen, Rogers and Fitzpatrick Families;
 Timahoe Lalor, Higgins, Miller, Carroll, Duff and Fleming Families;
 Trumera McEvoy, Kelly, Mulhall, Delaney and Reynolds / Ward Families;



Tuairisc an Runaí 2019

Once again I welcome you all to our annual Laois GAA Convention, whereby we all have the opportunity to analyse and reflect on Laois GAA affairs during the past year.

I am happy to report that 2019 was quite a successful year for all involved with Laois GAA, with pride of place going to our Senior Hurlers for their success in the Joe McDonagh Cup competition, followed by two memorable games against Dublin and Tipperary in the All Ireland series. Our Senior Footballers performed with distinction gaining promotion to AFL Division 2, albeit their AFL Division 3 Final and All Ireland Football Qualifier Round 4 defeats to Westmeath and Cork were a little disappointing. Our Under 20 Footballers had a very successful year with victory in the Andrew Cordon Cup competition and a fantastic Leinster Championship campaign whereby they lost little in defeat to a strong Dublin side. Both our Minor Football and Hurling panels also had very encouraging Leinster campaigns.

Off the field, I am delighted to state that our "LOETB" Centre of Excellence project was finally completed and was officially opened on the 7th August by Uachtarán Seán O'hOráin and I honestly believe the entire complex development will be of huge benefit in the future to our youth, our Clubs and our County.

Briefly my reflections on the year past -

Senior Hurling

WALSH CUP – Once again the competition was used by incoming management to experiment for upcoming League and whilst not involved in the latter end, a win against Offaly and competitive defeats to Carlow and Dublin, it was considered a worthwhile exercise.

LEAGUE – Normally our ultimate goal was to maintain our Division 1B status, however the bar was raised under new management, with qualification for the league quarter final, the goal set. Our opening games were undoubtedly the toughest, and albeit defeats to Galway and Waterford,

performances were encouraging. Success followed against near neighbours and rivals Offaly, a draw away to Carlow and a loss in our final game to Dublin. Realistically the latter two games were matches we could have won, but results ensured qualification for a league quarter final. Our opposition was Limerick, All Ireland Champions, who kindly travelled to O'Moore Park and produced a performance worthy of champions, running out deserving winners.

Prior to the competition, Central Council approved a restructuring of Allianz League for 2020 based on 2019 results and as a result Laois will face stronger opposition than heretofore with Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny (all Home) and Dublin and

Clare (all Away). Whilst the restructure favours the more traditional counties, it will certainly give Laois the opportunity to perform at this level, which they will now once again experience in the Leinster Senior Hurling Championship.

JOE MCDONAGH CUP – Whilst there was widespread disappointment in our 2018 Joe McDonagh campaign, where we were fortunate that results elsewhere kept us out of a relegation playoff. However there was renewed hope after a respectful league, that we could be competitive in this competition. With comprehensive victories in our games against Offaly, Antrim and Kerry, final qualification was assured prior to our final round game against Westmeath, which incidentally ended in a draw. Thankfully one of the promises made at the outset of this competition was kept and the final was played as the opening game to the Leinster Senior Hurling final, ensuring an atmosphere befitting of a Joe McDonagh Cup final. In the final we renewed rivalry with Westmeath and with a superb performance of hurling emerged winners, with Paddy Purcell collecting the Joe McDonagh Cup.

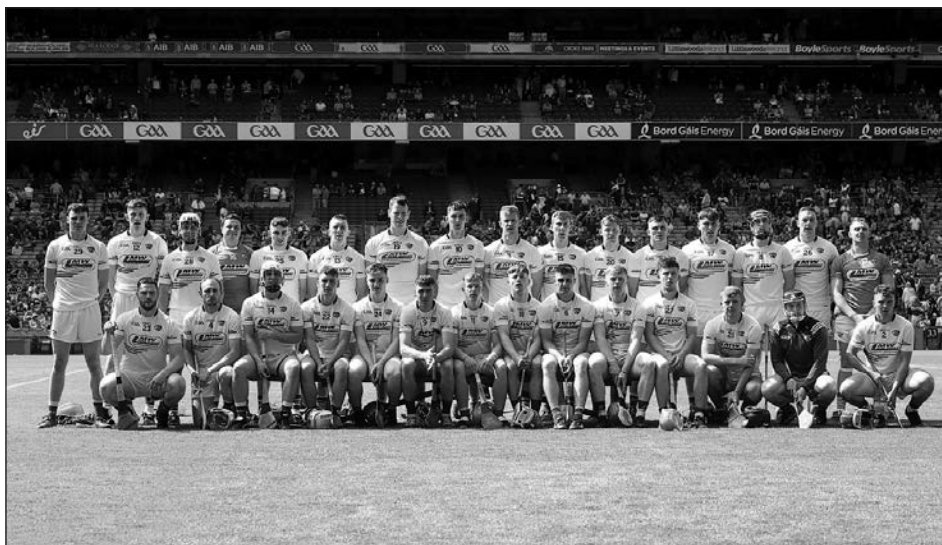
There was dismay and disappointment at our “placing” in the Joe McDonagh Cup Tier 2 competition three years ago, however I believe the experience gained in this competition has allowed our young team develop, both in confidence and physically over the past two years and the final occasion was indeed a memorable one for Laois hurling.

Whilst I am an advocate of a Tier 2 competition, I am only so in the context that the competition is rightly recognised in the same light as Tier 1 competitions, with its final, at the very least deserving TV coverage, instead of it being streamed live and only sporadic reports of results on the Sunday Game. There was a commitment to a Joe McDonagh Cup All Star team selection, known in 2018 as “Champion 15 Awards”, which were inexplicably omitted this year without consultation with any of the counties involved, a decision rumoured to be taken on the recommendation of the GPA, the players own representative committee. The treatment of our recipient of our Joe McDonagh Cup Player of the Year at the Allstar Presentation evening also left a lot to be desired. This decision in my opinion is not alone an insult to our own Laois players, but also to the other teams that competed in this competition. Other promised rewards such as financial bonuses and holidays also failed to materialise. I believe a commitment that the Joe McDonagh winning team would be part of the annual Fenway Hurling Classic or New York Classic as it is known this year and would be a just reward for their efforts and greatly enhance this new competition for both counties and players.

ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP – One of the pre-conditions of the Joe McDonagh Cup at the outset was that there would be a backdoor into the All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship, which was agreed albeit with a reluctance from the powers that be. As Joe McDonagh Cup winners, Laois qualified to play Dublin in



Laois Senior Football Team



Laois Senior Hurling Team

O'Moore Park the following week. In front of a huge home support, Laois produced an exceptional display of hurling that defied the ideologies of a lot of sports science personnel, and went on to defeat Dublin and qualify for their first All Ireland Senior Hurling quarter final since 1979. I have had many memorable days in O'Moore Park following both Club and County and savouring the atmosphere of this success on the first Sunday in July was I might say equal to any of those occasions. The following week in our All Ireland quarter final, we faced the might of Tipperary in Croke Park. In fairness our lads performed credibly, more so than many of the teams Tipperary defeated on route to their All Ireland success and certainly lost nothing in defeat. Indeed, but for some dubious officiating decisions in the award of a penalty and harsh sending off, particularly in light of what the same opposition got away with in the semi-final, the result may have been much closer.

The Leinster Championship awaits in 2020, which will be a much more competitive affair, with Galway and Wexford at home and Dublin and Kilkenny away, where there will be little room for error. It is intended Carlow will forward a motion to Congress in February to extend the number of teams competing in the Leinster Senior Hurling Championship from five to six. Laois will of course support this proposal, whereby if passed will hopefully allow counties more opportunity to develop further at this higher level.

Congratulations and Thanks - I want to sincerely thank all players who committed to the Laois cause for 2019, some

were offered the opportunity and declined, but for those who did they had a year to remember. I wish to congratulate our Captain Paddy Purcell on being the recipient of the Joe McDonagh Cup Player of the Year Award, and also acknowledge and congratulate Enda Rowland and Jack Kelly on their All Star Nominations, whilst our manager Eddie Brennan was rightly honoured with Eirgrid Manager of the Month in July for our team's remarkable performances. Ryan Mullaney and Willie Dunphy were deservedly recognised for their exploits during the year with selection on the Ireland Shinty team, as was James Keyes on the successful Ireland U21 Shinty team.

Our thanks to Eddie Brennan and his backroom team for their outstanding work during the year and for their continued dedication to Laois Hurling, which include Fran Dowling, Tommy Fitzgerald and Niall Corcoran (Selectors / Coaching), Dave Moriarty, assisted by Donal Treacy (Strength and Conditioning); Alison Holmes and team (Physiotherapy); Arthur Dunne (Nutrition); Jack Harding, David O'Brien and Brian O'Sullivan (Stats and Analysis), Sharon McDonald (Doctor), Pat Delaney (Kit), Ann Barry (Liaison) and John Kealy (Servicing Secretary). The aforementioned team will continue for 2020, with exception of Fran Dowling (Selector), Physiotherapy / Stats & Analysis personnel, who have not as yet been replaced as I write this report.



Laois U-20 Football Team



Laois U-20 Hurling Team

BORD NA MONA WALSH CUP

Sunday, 9th December, 2018 Round 1
Birr: Laois 2-16, Offaly 1-16

Sunday, 16th December, 2018 Round 2
O'Moore Park: Carlow 2-23, Laois 1-18

Sunday, 6th January, 2018 Round 3
O'Moore Park: Dublin 1-18, Laois 1-16

ALLIANZ HURLING LEAGUE DIVISION 1B

Sunday, 27th January, 2019 Round 1
Galway: Galway 1-27, Laois 2-15

Sunday, 3rd February, 2019 Round 2
O'Moore Park: Waterford 4-22, Laois 1-15

Saturday, 16th February, 2019 Round 3
O'Moore Park: Laois 3-17, Offaly 2-16

Sunday, 24th February, 2019 Round 4
Carlow: Laois 0-17, Carlow 0-17

Sunday, 3rd March, 2019 Round 5
Parnell Park: Dublin 0-13, Laois 0-11

Saturday, 9th March, 2019 Quarter Final
O'Moore Park: Limerick 2-22, Laois 0-11

JOE MCDONAGH CUP

Saturday, 11th May, 2019 Round 1
Tullamore: Laois 4-22, Offaly 3-21

Saturday, 18th May, 2019 Round 2
O'Moore Park: Laois 2-24, Antrim 1-19

Saturday, 8th June, 2019 Round 4
Tralee: Laois 5-17, Kerry 1-21

Saturday, 15th June, 2019 Round 5
O'Moore Park: Laois 1-22, Westmeath
1-22

Sunday, 30th June, 2019 Final
Croke Park: Laois 3-26, Westmeath 1-21

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, 7th July, 2019 Preliminary
Quarter-Final
O'Moore Park: Laois 1-22, Dublin 0-23

Sunday, 14th July, 2019 Quarter Final
Croke Park: Tipperary 2-25, Laois 1-18

Under 20 Hurling

This is a peculiar grade played at a peculiar time, sandwiched in the middle of a Joe McDonagh Leinster Senior Hurling championship campaign. Unlike other years, there was only a crossover of four players between this panel and senior. Our opening championship game was against Kilkenny, who kindly travelled to O'Moore Park. Unfortunately, the final scoreline was not a realistic reflection on the game itself, where our side were competitive for large portions of the game, with a far more opportunistic Kilkenny side pulled away for a facile win in the final quarter.

In the coming year, it is anticipated that this competition will be played on around robin league basis, which will at least guarantee a few extra games. The scheduling of the competition during the Leinster Senior Hurling championship, may overburden some of our players in this grade, particularly if involved with our



MFC Emo Courtwood



MHC The Harps

senior panel. It will be interesting to see if this new National Fixture Review committee have any proposals for this grade for the future, whereby consideration may be given to culminating this grade with minor, with a compromise of an Under 19 grade and U17 continuing as a development competition.

Our thanks to David Cuddy, in conjunction with his management team of Enda Meagher and Chris Murray (Selectors), Michael Boyhan (Strength and Conditioning) and Karen Rowe (Physio). For 2020, our outgoing minor management team of Enda Lyons and his backroom team of James Walsh, Sean Conroy, Gary Moore and JJ McHugh (Selectors / Coach), Dermot McGill (Strength and Conditioning), Miriam Harrison (Physio) and Martina Henneberry (Team Secretary) will take charge of this panel.

LEINSTER UNDER-21 HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Monday, 24th June, 2019 Quarter-Final
O'Moore Park: Kilkenny: 5-21, Laois 0-10

Minor Hurling

In a complicated championship structure, Laois were graded in Tier 2, with victories over Westmeath, Kildare and Antrim qualifying them to play Westmeath again to earn the right to play in the knockout stages of the championship proper. Success

achieved and a Leinster Minor Hurling championship quarter-final against Wexford in O'Moore Park. Unfortunately, due to the condensed nature of the now intercounty schedule, this game clashed with the Joe McDonagh Cup game versus Kerry in Tralee, with efforts on both sides failing to reach a satisfactory conclusion. In the game itself Laois proved themselves to be ultra-competitive, where goals at crucial stages proved to be the difference, with eventual Leinster Champions emerging deserving winners at the final whistle. All in all, there has been great work carried out in the development of players at this grade during the past two years and whilst some of our results have been disappointing, performances have been encouraging.

I wish to thank our management team for their endeavours with this panel for the past two years, Enda Lyons (Manager), James Walsh, JJ McHugh, Gary Moore and Sean Conroy (Selectors / Coach), Dermot McGill (Strength and Conditioning), Ursula Breen (Physio) and Martina Henneberry (Team Secretary). In the coming year, circumstances see this management team move up to U20 grade, with the incoming management comprising of Liam Dunne (Manager), Ollie Quinlan, Derek McGrath (Selectors / Coach), Tim Fahy (Strength and Conditioning) and Johnny Fitzpatrick (Team Secretary). Thankfully the competition format is intended to be restructured for 2020 and with great expectations from this panel, we wish them well in the year ahead.



SFC Portlaoise



SHC A Rosenallis

LEINSTER MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP TIER 1

Saturday, 27th April, 2019 Round 1
O'Moore Park: Laois 2-21, Westmeath 0-7

Saturday, 4th May, 2019 Round 2
Newbridge: Laois 1-14, Kildare 2-10

Saturday, 11th May, 2019 Round 3
Dublin: Laois 6-13, Antrim 0-14

Friday, 24th May, 2019 Round 2 Knockout
O'Moore Park: Laois 3-30, Westmeath 0-6

Saturday, 8th June, 2019 Quarter Final
O'Moore Park: Wexford 4-17, Laois 1-16

Senior Football

O'Byrne Cup – This competition was used on an experimental basis, with defeats to Meath and Wexford and a narrow victory over Wicklow seen us exit this competition.

League - Following on from our promotion from Division 4 in 2018, the goal was naturally to continue this progression with promotion from Division 3 for 2019. In our League campaign we had success, albeit with hard earned wins over Down, Sligo, Longford, Offaly and Carlow, with disappointing defeats to both Louth and Westmeath. However, a consecutive League final date in Croke Park was secured and back to back promotion achieved, although the gloss was some way taken away with a disappointing performance and defeat to Westmeath again.

Our Division 2 status in 2020 will be another step up in grade. The recent deci-

sion of Special Congress to introduce a new Tier 2 Football competition comprising of teams from Division 3 and 4 based on 2020 placings, providing those are not involved in their provincial finals, adds further spice to our league campaign. Naturally a Leinster Championship final success or appearance is the ultimate goal, however maintaining our Division 2 status, if we wish to participate in the All Ireland and Qualifier series is now almost of equal importance.

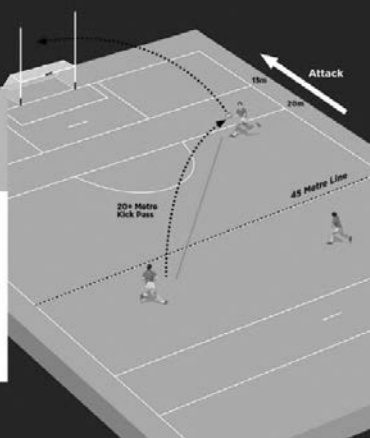
Our County Committee mandated our delegates to vote against the introduction of this new Tier 2 competition, a decision, which was based on the unfulfilled promises made on the introduction of the Joe McDonagh Cup and also that a National Fixture Review committee had been already appointed to review the entire fixture format and schedule. An Irish Independent survey conducted in 2018 on analysis of player drain in 2018 - calculating the number of players who did not return, because of retirement, not receiving game time from management or making their own choice to depart, found that numbers were higher in Divisions 2 and 3. Of the 1,040 players who saw action in the football league or championship in 2017, 366 had departed the panel or not played by the end of the 2018 league. For this reason, I am in favour of a Tier 2 Football competition, whilst not maybe in this present format, I think it is a necessity for all counties to ensure the participation of all their players in the All Ireland Football series longterm, providing of course it meets the aforementioned criteria in promotion, recognition and scheduling within the eagerly awaited new fixture calendar.

PLAYING RULE MOTION 1A THE ADVANCED MARK RATIONALE

AIM: To offer an incentive for the longer kicking of the ball into the opposition's defensive area and reward players who catch the ball cleanly under these circumstances with a Mark.

Supporting evidence and rationale:
During its trialling in the Allianz National Football Leagues 2019, this experimental rule provided for a 24% increase in the number of kick passes in the game (2019 NFL v 2018 C'hip) - 132 v 107 and, furthermore, it resulted in an increase in the number of contested foot passes (6%)

It provided for the first reduction in the ratio of hand passing to foot passing in ten seasons (3.5:1 in the 2018 C'chip to 2.9:1 NFL 2019), meaning teams were inclined to kick the ball more and hand pass it less than had been the case for at least the last decade.



GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG

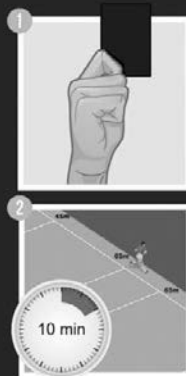
PLAYING RULE MOTION 2A THE SIN BIN

AIM: To reduce a rise in cynical play/'professional' fouling and implement a penalty 'on the day' which encourages behavioural change.

Supporting evidence and rationale:
On average during the 2019 NFL, teams with an extra player scored 2.9 points compared to 1 point for the opposition in the same period (i.e. during the period when an opponent was in the sin-bin).

The average 'ball in play' time during a sin bin throughout the Allianz National Football League 2019 (30 games analysed) was 5:15 - entirely consistent with the remainder of the game.

The proposed introduction of the Sin Bin also offers teams a greater level of equity in that it removes the effect of a strong group of substitutes who, under current rule, would replace any player who received a black card.



Black card is shown

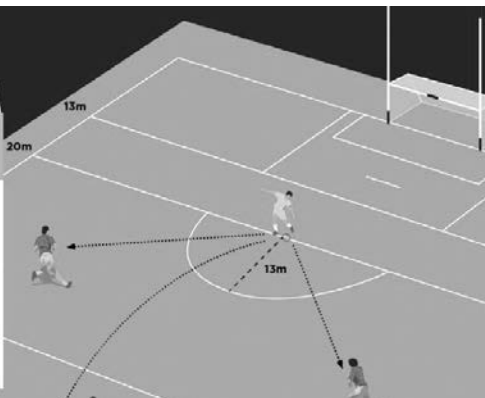
10 minute clock starts once the player has left the field of play. Game will re-commence at the same time that the Sin-Bin period commences.

PLAYING RULE MOTION 3A THE KICK OUT

AIM: To encourage teams to kick the ball further up the field from the kick out; To present opportunities for the skill of clean catching by bolstering the existing Mark rule.

Supporting evidence and rationale:
During the Allianz National Football Leagues, when the kick out was taken from the 20m line, there was an increase in the number of Marks claimed by teams compared to the 2016 Championship.

During the Allianz National Football Leagues 2019 there was also a significant increase in the number of contested kick outs (i.e. between both teams) compared to the recently concluded 2019 All Ireland Championship.



Championship - In our Leinster Championship opener, we renewed league rivalry with Westmeath in Tullamore. The panel having being disappointingly defeated by the same opposition twice in recent League meetings, showed a renewed determination and spirit and ran out convincing winners on the day. The win qualified us for a Leinster Senior Football semi-final versus Meath in Croke Park, where a disappointing performance and lack lustre display seen us exit the Leinster Championship.

Qualifier – In the Qualifier Round 2 route, we faced the long trip to Owenbeg in Derry. To be honest I think anyone that made the journey could only be encouraged by an excellent performance in victory from a rejuvenated Laois team against the home side. In Qualifier Round 3, we were drawn at home to near neighbours and rivals Offaly, who were enjoying a mini renaissance themselves. However another convincing display, seen Laois emerge winners and enter the draw for Qualifier Round 4 and only a game away from qualifying for the “Super 8’s” for the second consecutive year. Our draw pitted us against Cork in Semple Stadium, disappointing performance again I must say, where we were defeated by a far superior Cork team and thus ending our championship aspirations for 2019.

New Football Rules - Our County Committee decided to support the Special Congress motions for the introduction of the “Sin Bin” for Black Card Infractions; all kick-outs to be taken from 20 metre line and the advanced mark for clean catching of the ball on or inside the 20 metre line from a kick on or beyond the 45 metre line without it touching the ground. All these new

rules were experimented with during the Allianz Football league 2019 and seemed to have worked satisfactory. They will now be implemented in all Inter County and Club football competitions, whilst they will be welcome at Inter County level, one must have reservations about the increased workload for our match officials at club level.

Thanks - Our Management and backroom team are also deserving of our thanks – John Sugrue (Manager); Brendan Delaney, Sean Cotter, Francis Finn and William Harmon (Selectors / Coach); Daniel Nelligan (Goalkeeping Coach); Robbie Cannon (Strength and Conditioning Coach); Brian Breen (Liaison Officer); Ian Costigan (Performance Analysis); Eoin Kearns and Willie Power (Statistics); Dr Simon Honan; Sean Gaffney and Joe Morris (Physiotherapist) and of course Servicing Secretary Ollie Byrne, who was ably assisted by Martin Kelly and Pat O’Sullivan. Our panel has made significant progress under John in recent years, however he has unfortunately decided himself not to continue at the helm for 2020 and I wish to take this opportunity to thank him sincerely for his work and achievements with this panel and wish him well in his new role as Kerry U20 Football manager. I also wish to extend my thanks to all our senior panellists during the year for their commitment to the Laois jersey and my gratitude is also extended to the members of the backroom team who will no longer be involved in 2020.

For 2020, another Kerryman, Micheal Quirke has been appointed Senior Football manager and will be assisted by Eoin Kearns, Maurice Browne and Maurice Horan (Selectors / Coach); Daniel Nelligan

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Become a Laois GAA Referee for 2020

"I enjoy many things about refereeing and these include the social aspect, meeting new friends, staying fit and enjoying the game.

The satisfaction you get from refereeing is second-to-none no matter what grade it is. When I started to referee in Laois little did I know I'd end up in three All-Ireland Senior Football Finals. I'd encourage anyone who's interested to join and also follow their dreams."

- Maurice Deegan

(All-Ireland Senior Football Final Referee 2008, 2012, 2016)



Why Does Laois GAA Need Referees?

- 600 games from Under-12 to Under-18
- 1,200 games at adult levels
- Small pool of only 50 referees between Hurling and Football

Phone: 057-86-60674 or e-mail Tomás Moore:
administrator.laois@gaa.ie **for more information.**

(Goalkeeping Coach); Tom Hargroves (Strength and Conditioning Coach); Brian Breen (Liaison Officer); Liam Delaney, Niall Creery and Richard Dunne (Stats / Performance Analysis); Dr Simon Honan; Sean Gaffney and Joe Morris (Physiotherapist) and of course Servicing Secretary Ollie Byrne, who will again be ably assisted by Martin Kelly and we wish them well in their exploits.

BORD NA MONA O'BYRNE CUP

Saturday, 8th December, 2018 Round 1
Portlaoise: Meath 3-11, Laois 0-6

Thursday, 20th December, 2018 Round 2
Enniscorthy: Wexford 2-13, Laois 1-11

Saturday, 5th January, 2019 Round 3
Bray: Laois 2-11, Wicklow 2-10

ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 3

Saturday, 26th January, 2019 Round 1
Newry: Laois 2-15, Down 1-12

Saturday, 2nd February, 2019 Round 2
Croke Park: Louth 3-8, Laois 1-9

Sunday, 10th February, 2019 Round 3
O'Moore Park: Laois 2-18, Sligo 2-10

Sunday, 24th February, 2019 Round 4
Mullingar: Westmeath 0-13, Laois 0-10

Saturday, 2nd March, 2019 Round 5
O'Moore Park: Laois 0-14, Longford 0-12

Saturday, 16th March, 2019 Round 6
Tullamore: Laois 2-12, Offaly 0-15

Sunday, 24th March, 2019 Round 7
Portlaoise: Laois 1-15, Carlow 1-12

Saturday, 6th April, 2019 Final
Croke Park: Westmeath 1-13, Laois 0-13

LEINSTER SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, 26th May, 2019 Quarter Final
Tullamore: Laois 0-12, Westmeath 0-10

Sunday, 9th June, 2019 Semi-Final
Croke Park: Meath 3-13, Laois 0-11

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS

Saturday, 22nd June, 2019 Round 2
Owenbeg: Laois 1-13, Derry 0-12

Saturday, 29th June, 2019 Round 3
O'Moore Park: Laois 0-20, Offaly 0-15

Saturday, 6th July, 2019 Round 4
Thurles: Cork 4-20, Laois 1-15

Under 20 Football

This competition was subject to re-scheduling in the calendar for 2019, with it being now played on dates from May to July. For a county with a limited population and dependent on players at one and maybe two years younger to be competitive, this calendar change caused several problems. Predominantly these issues arose with certain players not coming into the panel due to Leaving Cert commitments, with the competition commencing in or



IFC Rosenallis



IHC Camross

around examination time and also pressure from Clubs who expected all panellists to be released for internal league games at this time, thereby increasing burden and pressure on players in this grade. Central Council also introduced a league competition at this grade, pre-championship.

I am unsure of the criteria for league grading, but was informed it was subject to neighbouring counties and Laois were placed in the Andrew Cordon Cup with Wexford, Tipperary, Carlow and Waterford. All games were won convincingly, with exception of perhaps Carlow and Laois were crowned Andrew Corden Cup champions on defeating Waterford in Lemybrien. This competition had merits, with all panellists receiving game time, but I believe it was an opportunity lost at National level, for to experiment with an All Ireland "Champions League" style competition, with 8 groups of 4, which would have certainly garnered interest for future fixture proposals.

Championship commenced against reigning All Ireland champions Kildare away in Newbridge, where a comprehensive victory was achieved. Next up was Westmeath in Mullingar, where reputations were put to the sword and extra time was required to get the desired result.

Both these games were played without Sean O'Flynn and Mark Barry due to the rule prohibiting Under 20 players that played Senior championship, from participating in Under 20 competition, until their counties conclusion in Senior football championship. In my opinion this rule is definitely prejudicial to our most talented players and a distinct disadvantage to coun-

ties with a small population base similar to Laois, strangely this rule does not apply for U20 hurling. In our semi-final we played Meath in O'Moore Park and with another impressive performance ran out convincing winners to qualify for a Leinster Championship final. In the final, they faced Dublin in Tullamore and the old adage that goals win games certainly applied here, where a more opportunistic Dublin team took their chances and emerging deserving winners in the end.

I wish to thank all players who committed to this grade during the last year, quite a number are again eligible for this grade in 2020 and whilst I may have reservations in relation to some of the post-match celebrations, I believe they are more than capable of being a force in this competition once again. Further to our May County Committee, tensions were high among delegates on the rescheduling of this competition later in the calendar and the addition of a league competition. As a result, representation was made by ourselves along with other counties, and following vote at Central Council meeting, this competition in 2020 reverts to the February / March schedule. Unfortunately, a league competition cannot be accommodated in the schedule, with championship again being run on a straight knockout basis. This calendar schedule will also eliminate the rule prohibiting players from being eligible to play at this grade as senior championship will not have commenced. However, there will be a requirement for player management with Sigerson / Fitzgibbon competitions, Post Primary schools competitions and Allianz League competitions also scheduled for this period.



JFC O'Dempseys



JHC Park Ratheniska Timahoe

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Billy O'Loughlin (Manager) for his commitment to this panel and also his backroom team consisting of Tom Byrne, Billy Delaney and Liam Brophy (Selectors / Coach); Liam Delaney (Performance Analysis); Ria Breen (Physio); Tom Scully (Liaison / Logistics) and Johnny Ramsbottom (Kit). For 2020, Billy has been unable to commit for a further term and will be replaced by Eddie Kinsella (Manager) and Tom Byrne, Pdraig McMahon and Seamas Lawlor (Selectors / Coach); Pdraic McEvoy (Strength and Condition under tuition of Tom Hargroves); Liam Delaney (Performance Analysis) and Tom Scully (Liaison / Logistics) and Johnny Ramsbottom (Kit), all of whom we wish the very best in their endeavours.

LEINSTER UNDER-20 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Tuesday, 25th June, 2019 Round 1
Newbridge: Laois 0-17, Kildare 1-11

Tuesday, 2nd July, 2019 Quarter-Final-AET
Mullingar: Laois 2-20, Westmeath 0-20

Tuesday, 9th July, 2019 Semi-Final
O'Moore Park: Laois 1-13, Meath 0-7

Friday, 19th July, 2019 Final
Tullamore: Dublin 4-18, Laois 0-17

Minor Football

Further to some encouraging pre-season preparations, hopes were high for a promising minor championship campaign. However, a number of injuries to key players resulted in management having to readjust team selections prior to our championship campaign. Our round robin league commenced with a hard-earned draw to Carlow, followed by two narrow wins over Westmeath and Longford. This qualified us for a semi-final meeting with Kildare in O'Moore Park. This was a game we were very competitive in for long periods, with Kildare being that slightly bit more opportunistic in their scoring in the closing quarter and emerge worthy victors.

I wish to thank Donncha Phelan (Manager), Sean O'Shea, Michael Scully and Peter O'Leary (Selectors), Donal Brennan (Coach), Niall Walsh and Mark Delaney (Strength and Conditioning Coach under tuition of Robbie Cannon), Alan Dunne (Physio), Liam Delaney and Richard Dunne (Performance Analysis) and Paddy O'Connor (Kitman) for all their efforts and work over the past year. Donncha is unfortunately unable to commit for another year and he will be replaced by Mark Bates (Manager), a Laoisman domiciled in Dublin who has worked successfully with our talent academy during the past year. He will be assisted by PJ Dempsey, Alan Abbey and Paddy Travers (Selectors / Coach); Niall Walsh and Mark Delaney (Strength and Conditioning under tuition of Tom Hargroves); Alan Dunne (Physio); Donna Byrne (Liaison) and Trevor Riordan (Kit). To date our Fr



JFC B Errill



JHC B St. Fintans Mountrath

Manning Cup performances at u16 grade are encouraging, so we wish the incoming management team the very best of luck in the year ahead.

LEINSTER MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Tuesday, 23rd April, 2019 Round 1
Carlow: Laois 0-11, Carlow 0-11

Wednesday, 8th May, 2019 Round 2
O'Moore Park: Laois 3-6, Westmeath 1-11

Saturday, 18th May, 2019 Round 3
Longford: Laois 2-14, Longford 2-12

Friday, 21st June, 2019 Semi-Final
O'Moore Park: Kildare 0-12, Laois 1-6

Local Championships

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Portlaoise on their success in what turned out to be a very competitive Senior Football Championship and Rathdowney Errill on winning the Senior Hurling Championship. Rosenallis are also deserving of mention in achieving the double in Intermediate Football and Senior "A" Hurling championship success. All our other winners are outlined in the Roll of Honour at the end of my report and whilst not wishing to go through each competition, I congratulate all winners on their championship and league success. I would also like to acknowledge the achievement to date of those Clubs remaining in con-

tention in Leinster Club Championship Semi-finals as I pen this report, Portlaoise (Senior Football), Rosenallis (Intermediate Football) and Rathdowney Errill (Senior Hurling), and I wish them all the very best of luck in their quest for provincial honours.

Thankfully all our Competitions are in the process of running to finish on Schedule. Our Fixture Programme consisted of 1,700 games (excluding U9 & 11 Go Games) and I wish to compliment all our Club Officers for their co-operation in achieving and completing this mammoth programme. Michael O'Brien from our Fixture Planning Committee facilitated a well attended and very successful Club Fixture Forum at the conclusion of our adult competitions and it is envisaged that a number of recommendations from this forum would be put forward to the November County Committee meeting for ratification.

Just a small couple of observations on fixtures and scheduling over the past year:

- Senior Hurling and Football Championship, my views I think are well known, whereby I believe the Senior Hurling Championship reverting to a round robin basis with two groups of four has completely taken the competitive nature out of the competition, whilst the Senior Football Championship, I believe has too many teams and a lesser number of teams, with an arrangement similar to the previous Senior Hurling Championship would create a far more competitive envi-



SHC Rathdowney Errill



Minor Hurling

ronment for all Clubs, with an additional competition creating the opportunity for other teams to see a realistic chance of silverware at the end of the year. Both issues were discussed at the Club Forum and I accept there is no appetite for change with the unanimous approval of Clubs to continue as we are.

- Our Football League, particularly Division 1, has been the subject of criticism during the year from certain quarters, insofar that there are too many games involved in fourteen games and has been deliberated at the Club Forum and I think compromise has now been reached with ten games. I have concerns over the number of clubs struggling to field teams, particularly in football, with almost 200 walkovers during the year. I am not a fan or in favour of implementing fines on clubs, although it is quite clearly outlined in the Official Guide, but I do think there is a distinct lack of planning in a number of our Clubs, whom are entering teams in competitions and then realise they are unable to field. This has happened on numerous occasions during the league and championship and is unfair to other teams in these competitions who wish to play and have a consistency in the number of games they play.

- Divisional Football Competition is the legacy of our now former Senior Football manager John Sugrue. The methodology for the purpose of this competition was to see potential panellists, by giving our elite club footballers the opportunity to play in a more talent concentrated environment other than our club championships and to extend our football season for players, who would normally have finished their season by an additional three weekends. Whilst crowds were disappointing, weather was

atrocious, players were anxious and willing to play in the competition. If I were to make a change, I think the competition is befitting a final and is certainly something we will review at making a permanent fixture in our calendar. Our designated charity, Cuisle Centre, also benefitted financially from gate receipts derived from the competition. I would also like to acknowledge firstly Bryan Breen's entire organisation of the competition, which was top class, all team mentors for their time and commitment, Bosco Ramsbotton for match catering, Mochua Print and Design for programmes, both Annanough and Stradbally GAA clubs for their venues, DS Sports, team jersey sponsors Fir ón Tuaisceart (The Square Bar), Fir ón Deisceart (The Baba's), Fir ón Oirthear (Park Engineering) and 2020 champions Fir ón Iarthar (Midland Steel), our match officials whose fees were donated to the designated charity and finally Gerry Browne Jewellers for their sponsorship of trophy and medals.

- The year the month of April was designated free of Inter County activity for Club fixtures. Our CCC following consultation with our Inter County managers designated a number of rounds of league in each code, whereby all Inter County players were released for club duties. To a point it worked well, albeit the dual player at club level suffered with overload during this period and the demands put on our Inter County players to fulfil club commitments in such close proximity to their Inter County championships is also debatable. Unfortunately, the further condensing of the Inter County calendar as proposed in 2020, to facilitate the All Ireland Club Semi-finals to be played in December, will increase pressure on our own internal club championship structure. I believe initial proposals are under review



JFC C Graiguecullen

for 2020, but there is a strong possibility that come 2021, that the first round of our championships may have to commence in April, to ensure that we have club representatives available for their Leinster Club competitions. The extra time finish on the day regulation being implemented in numerous Intercounty competitions will now also be a necessity in replays, to ensure compatibility with our internal club and Leinster club competitions. I don't necessarily agree with all these new proposals, but they are the consequence of decisions we voted in at Provincial and National level.

- The changes to our underage grades system, whereby a player in the u17 grade is ineligible to play at the adult grade continues to have an adverse effect on many of our rural clubs in fielding adult teams without the services of these players, particularly in league competitions. It is important that CCC make provision in their fixture schedule and put a meaningful fixture programme in place to accommodate these players, now that they are unable to play at the adult grade and to be honest I don't know whether we have fully achieved this and is an area that certainly needs to be reviewed. In 2018, at the bequest of a delegate at a County Committee meeting we played competitions at both u19 and u21 grades, which was an unmitigated disaster and compromise was reached that we revert to u20 for 2019, a competition which was well supported in both codes by nearly all clubs. However, from my experience and liaising with clubs, I would ask for consideration to be given to reverting back to u19 grade again. The reason being that these underage competitions cater for just four age grades in accordance with rule and in my opinion, the player solely in the u20 grade is getting adequate games in adult

competition, whereby the player solely in the u16 grade is receiving none or limited game time at the moment as he is ineligible to play in u20 grade.

- My final concern is in relation to underage grading, whereby Coiste na nOg, our Coaching and Games staff and of course CCC have come in for their share of criticism in relation to recommendations on grading. It is really unfortunate that so many Clubs and Independent Teams do not wish to participate in the higher grade competition, unless they believe they have a realistic chance of winning the competition. This may at times leave only three or four teams applying to participate in the "A" competition, which in my opinion is not a competition. As a result, a self-grading mechanism was introduced whereby your championship grade is determined by your placing in this competition and while it worked reasonably well, lessons were learned and with some tweaks as discussed at Club Forum, it will again be implemented again for 2020. It will only work with the co-operation of our Club Officers and Mentors, but I honestly believe if we have the ambition to develop our players into adult footballers and hurlers they should be competing at the highest grade they are capable of being competitive at. Leinster GAA run very successful cross county underage leagues in February and March and I would strongly encourage all our Clubs and Independent Teams participation in these competitions where they receive further games against different opposition in a more competitive environment to their specific grade.

Referees and Disciplinary Issues

I wish to take this opportunity to thank our Referees and our Match Officials for their assistance and co-operation in completing our Fixture programme. Referees have an onerous task and it is as simple as this without them, we wouldn't have any games.

Our Referee Administrator Jody Conway and his Committee, serviced by our Office Administrator Tomas Moore, are also deserving of our thanks for their efforts and I have no hesitation in admitting that this is the most difficult and thankless position in Laois GAA administration. They made a brave decision early in the year in an effort to try and improve standards and consistency, by deciding that Referees who failed to complete Inservice Training, Garda Vetting and Code of Best Behaviour and reach a required standard on the online Rules questionnaire and Fitness testing, would not be selected for Senior championship games in either code. All active Referees participated in these areas. They also held numerous meetings with referees during the championship reviewing clips of games in an effort to eliminate mistakes and improve standards. While I will admit from a small few incidents I have seen, I believe that some of our officials may have to repeat the Code of Behaviour again, but I believe we're on the right road in setting standards and hope the practice continues, whereby the goal of refereeing senior championship games will hopefully act as a driving factor and motivation for 2020.

I don't think any Club Official understands the difficulties incurred and time spent in trying to ensure there is a Referee in attendance at every Fixture we schedule,

in excess of 1,700 Fixtures in 2019 over a 9 month period works out at approximately 47 referees required per week. In working from a pool of less than 35 referees, it is not rocket science to understand the problems we have. Unfortunately, there is a huge reduction in the pool of officials we were working from the previous year, with approximately 10 referees no longer making themselves available, due to several reasons, but constant verbal abuse from players, mentors and supporters has been a factor in quite a number of cases. It is a huge problem facing the association and reaching crisis point in our county. In 2019, a number of fixtures were cancelled due to the unavailability of referees, and my apologies to the Clubs involved, as it was often at short notice. It amazed me at the Club Forum, where some Clubs were of the belief that it should be permitted to change fixtures by agreement within 48 hours of the fixture, which displays a complete lack of awareness of the present problems involved in appointment of match officials. In 2020, CCC fixture scheduling will have to be more dependent on referee availability, with a more even spread of fixtures during the week, with designated evenings for underage and adult fixtures. This will in all likelihood will eliminate any changes by agreement unless that Referee is available to facilitate such change. I again make my annual appeal and I am requesting each Club in the coming year to provide at least one Referee, who they believe to be both competent and suitable for training next January.

It would be wishful thinking to say that these officials are universally appreciated for the tireless work they do in refereeing our games, and it is alarming at just the level of verbal and sometimes threaten-

ing abuse that is being meted out to them. Unfortunately, there continues to be an escalation and an increasing lack of respect displayed by some of our Club Officials / Mentors / Supporters and Players towards Referees and their Officials. Laois GAA have dedicated GAA men who are doing their best to serve their county and the association and without them our games could not continue. The complexity of GAA rules ensures that they will not get every decision right. There have been numerous occasions during the year where Referees, County Board Officials and Stewards have been subject to verbal abuse from Club Officers, Players and Supporters, both physically and online, in trying to carry out their match day roles, which I might add are being carried out on a voluntary basis, with exception of Match Officials of course. Our Chairperson, on one occasion receiving an unprovoked verbal attack by a club supporter over the performance of a referee during a game, which was one of the worst experiences I have witnessed and is completely unacceptable and cannot continue to be tolerated. Unfortunately there is some who believe that this behaviour in entertaining, in my view it is embarrassing and serves no serves no purpose at a game save to draw attention to themselves and bring their club into disrepute, indeed if any of them were offered a whistle they would run a mile. It is only a matter of time before someone cries enough and hands it over to the Gardai to deal with these individuals. Their conduct certainly does not help Referee recruitment. While suspensions have been imposed for all reported infractions, I'm afraid continued reports of this behaviour seem to be in the ascendancy.

Páirc Ui Mhórdha

During the 2019 season, Pairc Ui Mhórdha hosted 27 Inter County and Inter Club games, as well as almost all our local Senior Championship fixtures. As I have stated in previous reports to Convention, the stadium is now our main source of revenue from rental income received from Leinster and Central Council games, as well as our local gate receipts.

There have been tentative suggestions for playing of local senior championship games outside of O'Moore Park. Whilst, firstly there is a limited number of Clubs, with the necessary requirements in hosting such games, whereby the minimum requirement for senior championship game being turnstiles or facility for collecting admission charge beyond furthest point of parking and consideration of covered spectator and seated accommodation and adequate dressing rooms for double headers. Our Cisteoir can also confirm from recent surveys that there is a significant percentage drop in revenue in comparison to gate receipts from games played in O'Moore Park and Club venues.

I wish to acknowledge the support of our local Gardai for their help on match days, our Event Controller Tom Jones, Safety Officer PJ Kelly, Chief Stewards Jody Conway and Jim Morrin and most importantly our numerous voluntary stewards, without whose co-operation and support we wouldn't be able to host such games. In recent weeks it was encouraging to see 45 stewards attend a National Steward Training Course, accredited by Europlan.

Further to the completion of LOETB Centre of Excellence developmental works

in 2019, the focus will return to upgrading O'Moore Park to ensure the stadium continues to be spectator friendly and meet the standards now required to attract high calibre games to the stadium. The following developments will be reviewed in coming months - upgrading and retro fitting of floodlights; upgrading and replacement of stand seats; upgrading and reviewing disability area and viewing; planting of back of terrace areas and review works required on stand roof. Our present O'Moore Park ground safe capacity is 21,665 and I am hoping this will be reviewed upwards in coming months by Michael Slattery MSA, further to completion of LOETB Centre of Excellence development.

I must pay tribute to our Groundsman Colm McEvoy for the pristine condition in which he continues to keep our pitches in both the stadium and training centre. Our Caretakers Willie Stackpool and Mick Glynn are also deserving of our thanks for ensuring the grounds are opened when required and also our TUS and Leader workers and PCE Group Scheme team for their continued upkeep of the stadium during the year.

“LOETB” Laois GAA Centre of Excellence

Laois GAA has completed the development of Centre of Excellence project in recent months at a total cost of €3.5 million.

For those who haven't yet visited the complex, the new Centre consists of three floodlit pitches (1 x gravel raft and 2 x pipe and slit drained sand based), all with ball catch nets and two of which are enclosed and include a pop up irrigation system, spe-

cifically designed running hills, a machinery and maintenance shed, car parking area (including disabled parking) and building complex incorporating - 4 modern dressing rooms with shower facilities and ice baths, physio /medical room, storage rooms, referee dressing room, public toilets (including disabled), fully equipped gym / training hall (disability friendly), kitchen and catering area, reception and foyer area, GDA and staff office area and meeting rooms.

The family of Gaelic Games in Laois will benefit from this centralised complex. Laois GAA Football and Hurling Talent Academies from Under 13 to Senior panels will use the centre. In addition, the centre will also be used for Primary and Post Primary schools competitions, underage county blitzes, club teams preparing for Leinster Club championships etc., alleviating a variety of over used club grounds currently providing for all of the above activities.

This has to date been financed from our own funding, generous grant aid from Central and Leinster Council, along with Sports Capital and Laois Partnership funding, leaving an outstanding balance of €1.3 million. We have approved borrowings of €1.1 million from AIB, however having decided to complete the final phase of the project now, we have to raise an additional €200k or renegotiate our borrowings by this amount. Whilst our outstanding O'Moore Park Stand Loan is almost clear, our new AIB loan liabilities will likely double to a repayment figure of approximately €110k per annum. This will be challenging, whilst also trying manage the additional funding for the upkeep of the centre and to finance the ever increasing demands of our Inter county panels.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the sub committee responsible for undertaking and completing this project – Gerry Kavanagh, who was assisted by Martin Byrne, PJ Kelly, Peter O’Neill and Sean Mortimer. Our contractors are also deserving of our thanks for a job well done in completing this fabulous new complex – Colm Byrne Civil and Building, the Main Contractor; Peter Lyons from Kenny Lyons and Associates Architects; John Quigley, Engineer; Willie Ramsbottom from Hill Mechanical and Engineering for Electrical Works; Blanchfield Heating for Gas and Plumbing Works and finally Micheal Mahon and David Tobin MGM Partnership who project managed the development.

Finance

As our present financial accounts are only being finalised, I am not in a position to comment on our current financial wellbeing, but I would hope for them to return in a satisfactory state.. I have to say it has been a difficult year financially, particularly in trying to balance our payments towards the new building complex, the decision then to complete the project entirely, meeting our monthly creditor expenditure and the lengthy delay in drawing down our loan. Thankfully all now seems to be in order, with just our Sports Capital Grant remaining to be drawn down.

Up to now, our fundraising and commercial income has been sufficient to meet our previous demands, however our new loan repayments will require additional income revenues and fundraising, with a €110,000 annual surplus now required to meet AIB repayments, which is an increase

in excess of €50,000 on our present liabilities. Our expenditure in excess of €800,000 on Inter County teams continues to be the major drain on our resources. It would be prudent to achieve further savings here, but many of the expenses incurred here are obligatory due to agreements in place between Central Council and GPA regarding player entitlements. Whilst we do receive reimbursement towards these costs from national level, as outlined elsewhere in these accounts, it is huge expenditure. In my opinion for a county with our resources, it is not sustainable and is an area we continue to closely monitor.

Further to national review of revaluation of all commercial and industrial properties for rates purposes, Laois County Council issued Laois GAA a demand of €32k for commercial rates in regard to O’Moore Park stadium. Prior to this demand, Laois GAA has never received a demand in regard to commercial rates and following meeting with representatives of Laois County Council, organised by Paschal McEvoy, this demand has been reduced to €18k. I would stringently argue that for tax purposes Laois GAA is designated as a non-profit organization, with all funding raised and received (including gate receipts generated from games in the stadium) used for the preparation of our inter county teams and most importantly the promotion of coaching and games within our 47 clubs, comprising almost 11,000 members. I would argue that O’Moore Park stadium is not a commercial property, as all income derived from games in the stadium by Laois GAA is used entirely for development projects and coaching and games purposes. I am aware that this is now taking a political avenue at present whereby it is proposed that sporting organisations

will be exempt from rates, but for now we must pay €18k, which is a liability we had not budgeted for.

Thankfully, MW Hires continued sponsorship commitment and agreement to further undertake O'Moore Park Stadium naming rights will help towards easing some of the burden in 2020 and with a commitment for additional commercial sponsorship income from several individuals, I am confident we will meet the continued financial demands on our county, including our increased loan repayments. I would like to particularly thank Laurence Phelan in this regard as he has been to the fore in sourcing almost all this additional commercial revenue. Obviously we will continue to explore the use of the stadium as a concert venue, advertising in both "LOETB" Centre of Excellence and "MW Hire" O'Moore Park, and of course patron subscriptions towards our Club Wall, which is located on the side of the stand as you enter the stadium.

Financial Governance is an issue which arisen in other counties and indeed other sports and is an area our Cisteoir is very conscious of, and is an area we will continue with in regard preparation of budgets for all team expenditure with regular reviews. For 2020, we have also signed up to an online purchase order system, whereby all aspects of expenditure must now be approved.

Our Cisteoir Martin Byrne will outline in more detail our income and expenditure in our Financial Accounts in his presentation to Convention.

Briefly I wish to highlight a number of our fundraising initiatives and thanks

those involved for their contribution to these events –

- Club County Board Draw continues to be our primary fundraising activity and is essential to both our County and Clubs wellbeing, in 2019 Clubs benefitted to the tune of €659,000, while the County profited to almost €112,000. I believe the additional prizes allocated in the draws were beneficial. This Draw continues for 2020, and I would again appeal for your co-operation in making this your Clubs primary fundraiser for the year;
- Our "Golf Classic" in Rathdowney Golf Club, was kindly sponsored by Topcon, in early July. Our thanks to Fergal Byron and Topcon for their generous sponsorship and our organising committee headed by our Chairperson Peter O'Neill and ably assisted by Liam Delaney, Gerry Kavanagh, Fergal Byron and Gareth Keogh;
- Our "Race Day" at the Punchestown Racing Festival in April continues to grow and proved to be very successful in selling almost 23 tables, with all guests thoroughly enjoying the Punchestown "corporate" experience. Our thanks to Glanbia / GAIN for their continued sponsorship of this event, and special mention to Leas Cisteoir Kieran Leavy for his input into the organisation of the event;

Some upcoming fundraisers include –

- "Club Crest", further to proposal at August County Committee meeting where it was proposed that Clubs be invited to erect their Club Crest along the hallway in the "LOETB" Centre of Excellence at a cost of €500, as their con-

tribution towards the project. To date the following Clubs have pair or committed to this fundraiser – Arles Killeen, Arles Kilcruise, Ballyfin, Ballyroan Abbey, Borris in Ossory, Camross, Clonad, Clough Ballacolla, Crettyard, Graiguecullen, Kilcavan, Killeshin, Mountmellick, Park Ratheniska, Portarlinton, Portlaoise, Rosenallis, Slieve Bloom, Spink, St Fintan’s Mountrath, Stradbally, The Harps, The Rock, Timahoe.

- Breakfast Morning which is presently being organised for Midlands Park Hotel in late January;

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our Treasurer Martin Byrne for his continued expertise and professionalism in this area and also for his commitment and dedication to Laois GAA.

Corporate Trusteeship

The Corporate Trustee is a subject I get numerous queries on and is now a genuine option for Clubs when considering appointment of Trustees to Clubs. The Corporate Trustee is a separate legal entity, a Trust Company, called “Iontaobhas Corparáideach Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Teoranta”, set up by the GAA. The Trust Company holds the property for and on behalf of the Club. Clubs can now opt to hold property through the Corporate Trustee. Holding property through the Corporate Trustee does not affect the ownership in any way but can have advantages in the way of continuous amendments to the title is avoided when trustees die or retire. This will save on Legal costs to the Club. This also takes the pressure off indi-

vidual Trustees and avoids the publishing of names should court proceedings take place. The Corporate Trustee is optional.

Our new Training Centre is held in this Trust Company and as part of compliance with our A.I.B. loan, O’Moore Park trusteeship is also being transferred into this Trust Company. In future where there is a requirement for change to Club Declaration of Trusts, Provincial and County representation will also be through this Corporate Trust Company.

There are three options available to clubs:

OPTION 1 – Clubs may elect to do nothing and to continue to hold Club property through personal Trustees.

OPTION 2 – Clubs may elect to introduce a partial change in that case property is held by a combination of personal trustees and the Corporate Trustee.

OPTION 3 – Clubs may elect to have property held only through the Corporate Trustee.

Should Clubs want to know more information or wish to appoint the Corporate Trustee, they should contact either myself or Michael Reynolds in Leinster Council, prior to making any arrangements with solicitors.

GAA Injury Benefit Fund / Insurance

I have had a number of concerns recently in regard to medical costs and the fact that the GAA Injury Scheme will only

provide cover to a maximum of €4,500 per claim and that costs are often in excess of this. I wish to remind Clubs that the GAA entered into Preferred Medical Provider Agreements with a network of hospitals and clinics countrywide in October 2017 and has obtained service commitments from these Preferred Medical Providers which will help in delivering quality healthcare to our registered members and enhance our commitment to Player Medical Welfare. The key aim here was to help reduce medical costs and to deliver quality healthcare to our registered members through the GAA Injury Benefit Fund. This initiative continues to be in operation, so please notify your Club Insurance Officer when they receive a medical claim that they ensure that the player receives a quote from the medical provider and that he states he is a GAA registered member with his Club. The agreed prices will reflect a 5 - 10% saving against prices charged to players' prior to the introduction of this initiative and both players and club officers can now contact the relevant medical providers as regards obtaining the agreed price for a surgery that a player may require.

Whilst on this subject, it is imperative that our Club Officers remind all our players, that the playing of Gaelic Football, Hurling, Handball and Rounders' involves the risk of Injury and it is each individual registered player's responsibility to familiarise themselves with the terms and benefits of the GAA Injury Benefit Fund. Each player needs to ensure that they have adequate cover in place to meet their own individual needs and personal circumstances. The GAA Injury Benefit Fund is only in place to cover benefits which cannot be

claimed elsewhere and is a benefit cover only. Members should not use the fund as their only recourse or be dependent on the fund to compensate them fully for any losses associated with the injury sustained.

The renewal premium allocation for each County is based on their 5 years claims experience on your Liability Insurance, Non GAA Associated Use of Property and Property Insurance and the Claims experience has a huge bearing on these negotiations and in recent years this has continued to deteriorate on both Liability and Property covers. In fairness our claims experience is not too bad, but I would appeal to Clubs to take proactive measures to control risks and manage activities at their properties or premiums will continue to increase.

DWF Claims have been appointed as the new claims administrators for the GAA Injury Benefit Fund with effect from December 1 2019. The reason for this move is as follows:

- Full IT end to end solution for claims from notification until settlement;
- Direct payment of Injury Fund benefits to the affiliated unit;
- Faster turnaround on payments as County Board will no longer be receiving same;
- Dedicated Injury Fund GAA email address for units for the Injury Fund administrator;
- At a glance details of payments issued on claims and documents outstanding for cases to be paid;

- Better reporting capabilities for the use of affiliated units and GAA HQ to make decisions on the future of the Fund and the benefits it provides;

Much correspondence will be issued in relation to this change in the next few weeks and therefore, it is important that all affiliated units read the correspondence issued and share with your executive. This is a major change in terms of the operation of the Fund, it will require a period of transition and your co-operation whilst this change is put in place would be sincerely appreciated.

Local Media

Our games in Laois got more than their fair share of coverage during the year and for this I thank our local press - Laois Today, Laois Nationalist and Leinster Express and their various correspondents; Midlands Radio 103 and their various reporters; Alf Harvey and Denis Byrne who both do a magnificent job on photographs and enhance the work of the scribes; Laois TV an initiative from Michael Egan and endorsed by Laois GAA, which greatly enhances and promotes our championships by way of highlight coverage of the games online; Paul Dargan from our local PR committee must also be complimented for his match day photo albums which are very well received.

Although we may not always be in favour of everything they produce and state, we are fortunate to have press personnel, who are passionate about Gaelic games and

play a role in spreading our message and promoting our games.

We have recently changed our website provider for www.laoisgaa.ie to LD2 and at the time of writing this report I am hopeful that we may be in a position to launch our new website at County Convention. The popularity of our website is highlighted by the fact that we have now increased to 673,000 Website Pageviews in the past 12 months. We continue to embrace social media with 29,000 Twitter Followers, 11,500 Facebook Fans and 7,000 on Instagram. Almost all our Inter County and local Senior Championship games are carried live on Twitter. All our website and social media work is a tribute to the tremendous work of principally Tomas Moore and of course PRO Pat O'Sullivan and his PR Committee.

Sponsors

I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to Mattie Walsh and his company MW Hire Group for their generous sponsorship of all our County teams. MW Hire has been part and parcel of Laois GAA now since 2010 and has been renewed up to 2022. I am delighted to announce that the company have agreed in recent weeks to extend this sponsorship deal for another three years and that this package will also include the naming rights for O'Moore Park stadium. I sincerely hope his company will get the exposure they deserve and desire from our association with them.

Our thanks to Ted Berry and his company The Magni Group for their continued

support as our associate jersey sponsor. This sponsorship will also continue for a further three years.

Our Championships and Leagues are kindly sponsored by Laois Shopping Centre and again we are entirely appreciative of Kevin Doyle and his company for their generous sponsorship.

Midland Park Hotel is sponsor of all our Juvenile Championship and Leagues and our thanks are extended to Colm Neville and Dara Cruise for this sponsorship.

Our appreciation and thanks are also extended to –

- O'Neill's, our official gear sponsors, and my thanks to Tony Towell and Carol Carr for their co-operation and courtesy throughout the year. This sponsorship deal has also been extended for another three years;
- LOETB (Laois Offaly Educational Training Board), sponsors of our Centre of Excellence, a sponsorship package which has been extended to 2021;
- Downey's Autostop, suppliers of our kit vans in both Football and Hurling;
- Mochua Print and Design, our Awards Night sponsor;
- Colgan Sports, for their support of our "Club Laois" shop royalties;
- Browne Jeweller's, Scoreboard sponsorship;

- GAIN / Glanbia, main sponsor of our Punchestown Race Day and Training Pitch Sponsorship;
- Tom Brennan, Trivium Vet / Q1 Scientific, Training Pitch Sponsorship;
- Cathal Jackson, Training Pitch Sponsorship;
- Topcon Ireland, main sponsor of our Golf Classic;
- Freesoul, our Man of the Match Awards;

and finally to all companies and persons who contributed to Laois GAA in some type of sponsorship during the past year.

I would appeal to all our GAA patrons to support our various sponsors in whatever means they can and hopefully their faith in Laois GAA will be justifiably rewarded with the success their investment deserves.

Strategic Review

Our Strategic Review was launched in January 2018 and whilst we all acknowledge that there is a lot of good about the GAA in Laois, the review was instigated in the knowledge that there are a lot of areas which must be improved, particularly in view of the many challenges being encountered by the Association in the County and especially in our Clubs. Implementing the recommendations in the report is the responsibility of every GAA stakeholder in Laois and not just Laois GAA and its ex-

ecutive officers. I was surprised and a little disappointed to hear a couple of delegates demean the review document at a recent forum and I believe I have a duty to briefly update Clubs and delegates of a number of recommended priority actions that have been implemented from the Strategic Review, of course it is a working document and there is more to be done, but some of the priority recommendations which have been completed as a result of the review are outlined below here-

- Mike Henchy appointed as Games Manager;
- Full Review of Coaching and Games Administrators, with each GDA assigned to a Club in a designated area;
- Preparation of annual coaching and games plan, in conjunction with Comhairle Laighean, which outlines the activities of GDAs covering Clubs; Schools; Talent Academies; Go Games; Cúl Camps; Coach Education and Referee Education and submitted to National C & G in Croke Park in January of each year;
- Coaching and Games presentation to Laois GAA Clubs, with recommendations specifically relating to coaching and games development made to Laois clubs on the new structures/operations, which included a Coaching and Games Information evening, Go Games Review meeting and various Turas Regional Workshops for each grade;
- All Laois clubs have appointed a Coaching Officer and a Club/School Liaison Officer (who may be the same individual) who will have a key role in liaising with the GDA allocated to the club and school, with exception of some Clubs who do not have a juvenile structure or primary school;
- Primary and Post Primary Schools – regular meetings and engagement with schools is ongoing;
- Laois Coaching and Games Committee to have responsibility for selecting/appointing Selectors for all Laois under-age Development Squads, consulting with the Coaching and Games Manager and GDAs, were all ratified at October County Committee meeting;
- Laois Coaching and Games Committee set out a clear timetable at the start of the year showing the dates/time of squad sessions, training and fixtures for each Development Squad.
- Laois Coaching and Games Committee to identify qualified coaches (including those with S&C qualifications) to work with GDAs as part of the coaching set-up for each Development Squad. This is being facilitated by Jason Coffey and Tom Hargroves at present, with a number of interns included;
- Laois Coaching and Games Committee that Talent Academies be firstly organised on a regional basis to enable greater numbers to participate and receive qual-

ity coaching is presently ongoing with the U13 & 14 Divisional competitions in each code;

- Underage fixtures taking into account of Talent Academy trials, training and games were incorporated in Master Fixture schedule;
- Cúl Camps Annual Calendar was published in March by Laois Coaching and Games, with all coaches having a minimum of Foundation Award Qualification, Garda Vetted and completed Code of Best Behaviour. Games Manager and GDAs undertook a detailed post-Cúl Camp review/report which was sent to the Coaching Officer;
- Michael O'Brien Carlow appointed Chairperson of Fixture Review Sub Committee to review every aspect of club competitions, including the structure of those competitions at Adult Level and Underage Level, engaging with clubs as necessary, with Club Forum held in October 2019;
- Laois GAA has facilitated a meeting at the start of each year whereby the Laois Senior Hurling and Senior Football Managers hold (separate) meetings with Club Managers (both codes) to outline their plans for the year and when inter-county players will be made available to their clubs (that includes for league games and for training prior to championship games);
- Laois GAA Twitter Account has provided greater promotion of Laois GAA activities and news with all Senior Club Championship games and Inter county games now posted live on Twitter, with an increase in our social media base with 673,000 Website Pageviews, 29,000 Twitter Followers, 11,500 Facebook Fans and 7,000 on Instagram;
- Laois GAA web site presently being redesigned by LD2 to improve its functionality, content and visual presentation;
- Laois GAA organised official GAA Officer Training Courses for all Club Officers in April 2018, Pre-AGM Course in October 2019 and more Club Officer Training in 2020;
- Michael Murphy appointed Chairperson of Infrastructure Facilities and Future Developments Sub Committee specifically for the purpose of setting out a Ten-Year Plan for O'Moore Park, with particular relevance to patron comfort and safety and how the venue might be utilised for commercial purposes without compromising its primary GAA use.
- O'Moore Park - Fibre Optic cable infrastructure in Stadium has been installed; development of two Stats areas, as per Croke Park recommendations, also completed. Whilst the area which currently accommodates wheelchair users to ensure it provides adequate cover from inclement weather is presently under review;

- Laois GAA has afforded access to both Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football to O'Moore Park, for the playing of their respective adult County Finals and also use of their office complex for meetings;
- Laois GAA developed a sponsorship prospectus in March 2018, under the remit of Laurence Phelan, in an effort to establish a specific fundraising remit to develop new sources of funding to cover the costs associated with capital projects. To date this been a tremendous success with an increase in commercial revenue in excess of €50k per annum;
- Urbanisation – the recommendation for a second club (specifically for juvenile players only) should be established in Portlaoise at the Knockmay/ Mountmellick Road side of the town was discussed at a Leinster Urban / Rural Sub Committee on Tues 28 August 2018 and arising from this meeting, a further meeting which included Club representatives from Portlaoise, Ballyfin, Clonad, Park Ratheniska and The Heath was organised and as a result the Portlaoise Urban project was initiated. This project incorporates the coaching of 2,500 children in primary schools in the Portlaoise environ and in time it is hoped that will provide to be a feeder unit to all the adult clubs in Portlaoise and environs.

Na Mairbh

Every year sees the passing of some great GAA people and this year has been no exception. On behalf of Laois GAA I would like to extend sympathy of Laois GAA in particular to the following families that contributed so much to our association at both club and county and readily come to mind – Bill Deegan and John Donohue, Stradbally; Michael Mulloy, Arles Kilcruise; Aidan Kennedy and JP O'Mara, Ballinakill; Liam Linden, Ballyfin; Eamon Brennan, Graiguecullen; Bill Kirwan, Fint Kealy and Brendan Dollard, Borris in Ossory; Joe McCabe and Jack Conroy, Clonad; Pat McNamee, The Heath; Mick Murray, Colt; Bill Bolton and Evan Clancy, Portarlinton; Aoife Mullaney, Castletown; Eileen Kirwan, Emo; Bro. Damien Brennan, Arles Killeen and Kilkenny; Fintan Doran, Killeshin; Billy Murphy, Courtwood; Eoin Fingleton and Kevin Culleton, Portlaoise; Jimmy Bergin, Errill; Phil Duggan, Paddy Dowling, Micheál Moore, Mick Dowling and Fint Lalor, Camross and also to the families of the wider GAA community whom have been bereaved during the year by the loss of those dear to them.

Go ndeanfaidh Dia trocaire ar a nana-macha.

Congratulations

I wish to acknowledge some outstanding achievements by our members in other sectors of the association during the year:

- Kyle GAA Instrumental group comprising of Joseph Keane, Siobhain Buckley, Ciara Mackessy, Aaron Mackessy & Shóna Nevin on their success at the Scór Sinsear Leinster Final held in the Wexford Opera House last March;
- Christy O'Brien, Borris in Ossory on his induction to Leinster GAA Hall of Fame, richly deserved;
- Clough Ballacolla and The Heath on their success in respective Féile Handball and Rounders competitions;
- Joe Brennan on his success in the Men's Emerald Master "B" All Ireland Handball Final in Kingscourt, Cavan.
- Laois U16 and Minor Camogie team on their Leinster success and the Minors on their All Ireland Minor "B" Camogie Final victory over Limerick;
- Scoil Chríost Rí Portlaoise on their All Ireland Post Primary Schools "A" Senior Football Final success over Loreto of Clonmel;
- Knockbeg College on their Leinster Post Primary Schools "A" Junior Football Final success over Marist College Athlone and commiserations on their defeat to St Colemans Newry in the All Ireland Final.

Buíochas

As I conclude my review of 2019 and my observations about the state and structures of our games, I want thank all Club Officers, Players and Voluntary workers who have assisted Laois GAA during the year and who continue to keep our organisation in the County on sound footing through their hard work, co-operation and goodwill.

I wish thank my Cathaoirleach Peter O'Neill for his leadership and continued support, while also acknowledging the huge commitment and dedication he has given the Association in the County during the year.

Likewise, my fellow Executive Members, CCC, Hearings and our other sub Committees for their advice, help and cooperation during the year, each in their own right through their tireless effort and work ethic greatly contribute to the smooth running of the Association within the County. All sub Committee reports are outlined later in this booklet.

Kieran Leavy Assistant Treasurer, Paschal McEvoy and Tom Jones, Leinster Council representatives complete their five year terms this evening and at upcoming Leinster Convention and I want to express my sincere thanks to both for their excellent work in what are difficult officer roles.

Our Office Administrator Tomas Moore, I say special thanks for his work, often I must add above and beyond the call of duty. He has an excellent relationship with our Club Secretaries, and his routinely work in dealing with Referee appointments and reports, handling Ticket Sales,

Programme publication and editing greatly reduces the work of yours truly.

Our Coaching Staff, I thank for their tremendous work under the guidance of newly appointed Games Manager Mike Henchy and presently assisted by Donie Brennan, Peter Hally and Jason Coffey, all tirelessly contribute to the promotion of our games within our Clubs and Talent Academies. In recent months, our other GDA, Andrew Kavanagh has decided to move to other employment and I want to sincerely thank him for work, commitment and expertise in the hurling sphere that has contributed greatly to the enhancement and promotion of our games at grass root level and wish him well in his new employments. I also want to acknowledge Laois County Council for their generous financial contribution towards the employment of our GDA's.

Our Talent Academy Mentors work tirelessly with our academies and are charged with bringing forward the next generation in both codes. In recent years the introduction of athlete development programmes under the tuition of Tom Hargroves and Jason Coffey and new divisional competitions in U14 and 15 grades, the brainchild of Mike Henchy will greatly compliment the coaching work of our mentors in all squads. Our thanks to: U14 Football – Gordon Lawlor, Eamonn O'Connell, Oisín Cawley and Johnny Irwin; U15 Football – Mark Bates, Alan Abbey and Paddy Travers; U16 Football – Noel Coss, Shane Conlan and Mossy O'Connor; U14 Hurling – Declan Qualter, Ollie Hally, Tadgh Doran and Darren Maher; U15 Hurling – Damien Lynch and Matthew Collier; U16 Hurling – Liam Dunne, Ollie Quinlan and Tim Fahey.

One of the most disappointing aspects of Laois GAA is the lack of suitable volunteer coaches willing to mentor with our academies, so to the aforementioned personnel I express a special thanks.

The schools of Laois both Primary and Secondary deserve our thanks for the work they do to promote our games within their jurisdictions. We have developed an excellent relationship with Cumann na mBunscol who do tremendous work in our primary schools.

Thanks to our sister organisations in their promotion of our games, Ladies Football and Camogie. In recent years there has been a greater level of co-operation with both associations, both have been afforded the opportunity to play their respective adult county finals in O'Moore Park for the past two years and whom also avail of our offices for their meetings at no cost. It is a relationship we will continue to promote and allow the use of our facilities whenever available.

Our sincerest thanks go to Michael Reynolds and his staff in Comhairle Laighean CLG for their constant courtesy, support and accessibility. Similarly, Tom Ryan and his staff in Croke Park headquarters are also deserving of our thanks.

In conclusion, I wish you all an enjoyable and successful 2020.

Le meas

Niall Mac Laitimh
Runáí CLG Laoise, Nollaig 2019

2019 Club Roll of Honour – Championship

HURLING

20/10/19: Laois Shopping Centre Senior Hurling Championship Final

Rathdowney Errill 0-17
Borris in Ossory Kilcotton 1-09

20/10/19: Laois Shopping Centre Senior “A” Hurling Championship Final

Rosenallis 1-12 The Harps 1-11

21/09/19: Laois Shopping Centre Intermediate Hurling Championship Final

Camross 3-18
Borris in Ossory Kilcotton 0-14

21/09/19: Laois Shopping Centre Junior Hurling Championship Final

Park Ratheniska Timahoe 4-11
The Harps 2-11

27/08/19: Laois Shopping Centre Junior “B” Hurling Championship Final

St Fintan’s Mountrath 0-19
Camross 0-12

14/08/19: Laois Shopping Centre Junior “C” Hurling Championship Final

Clonaslee St Manmans Forfeiture Of Game, Without Award To Rosenallis

16/11/19: Laois Shopping Centre Under 20 Hurling Championship Final

Camross 3-19 . . Raheen Parish Gaels 1-17

23/11/19: Laois Shopping Centre Under 20 Hurling Championship Shield Final

Borris in Ossory Kilcotton v Rathdowney Errill

05/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Minor (Under 17) Hurling Championship Final

The Harps 3-13
Abbeyleix Gaels 1-11

23/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Minor (Under 17) “B” Hurling Championship Final

Portlaoise 1-13 Castletown 1-08

19/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 15 Hurling Championship Final

Portlaoise 3-19
St Lazerians Abbeyleix 1-12

23/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 15 “B” Hurling Championship Final

Na Fianna 1-14 Ballinakill 1-09

19/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 15 Hurling Shield Final

Castletown 3-09
Park Ratheniska Timahoe 1-10

06/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 15 “B” Hurling Shield Final

Rosenallis W/O
St Fintan’s Mountrath SCR

05/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 13 Hurling Championship Final

The Harps 3-09 . . Rathdowney Errill 1-00

27/09/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 13 “B” Hurling Championship Final

St Fintan’s Mountrath 6-09
Clough Ballacolla 1-05

**12/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under
13 Hurling Shield Final**
Portarlinton 2-10 Castletown 1-08

**12/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under
13 “B” Hurling Shield Final**
Portlaoise 8-13
Clonaslee St Manmans 0-01

FOOTBALL

**13/10/19: Laois Shopping Centre Senior
Football Championship Final**
Portlaoise 0-14 Killeshin 2-07

**23/11/19: Laois Shopping Centre Under
20 “B” Football Championship Shield
Final**
Killeshin v Sarsfields Gaels

**28/09/19: Laois Shopping Centre
Intermediate Football Championship
Final**
Rosenallis 0-14
Clonaslee St Manmans 1-09

**13/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Minor
(Under 17) Football Championship
Final**
Emo Courtwood 2-13
Ballyroan Abbey 2-12

**28/09/19: Laois Shopping Centre Junior
Football Championship Final**
O’Dempsey’s 3-08 Castletown 2-09

**04/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Minor
(Under 17) “B” Football Championship
Final**
Rosenallis 4-07 The Heath 3-09

**22/08/19: Laois Shopping Centre Junior
“B” Football Championship Final**
Errill 3-12 Mountmellick 1-06

**26/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under
15 Football Championship Final - AET**
Portlaoise 0-17 Graiguecullen 1-12

**21/08/19: Laois Shopping Centre Junior
“C” Football Championship Final**
Graiguecullen 6-10 Colt 1-05

**26/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under
15 “B” Football Championship Final**
Stradbally Parish Gaels 1-10
Spink Park Ratheniska 0-03

**30/11/19: Laois Shopping Centre Under
20 Football Championship Final**
Courtwood Emo v Portlaoise or
Portarlinton

**26/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under
15 “C” Football Championship Final**
The Harps 6-05 Camross 3-04

**30/11/19: Laois Shopping Centre Under
20 “B” Football Championship Final**
Clonaslee St Manmans v The Heath or
Spink Park Ratheniska

**26/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under
15 Football Shield Final**
St Joseph’s 4-10 Portarlinton 2-07

**23/11/19: Laois Shopping Centre Under
20 Football Championship Shield Final**
Ballyroan Abbey v St Joseph’s

23/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 15 “B” Football Shield Final
The Heath 3-13. Killeshin 2-09

29/09/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 15 “C” Football Shield Final
Portlaoise “B” 3-06
Clough Ballacolla 3-05

12/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 13 Football Championship Final
St Joseph’s 3-13. Portarlinton 0-03

12/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 13 “B” Football Championship Final
The Harps 5-10. . . Kilcavan The Rock 3-08

12/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 13 “C” Football Championship Final
Clough Ballacolla 1-08
Ballylinan 0-04

12/10/19: MIDLANDS PARK HOTEL Under 13 FOOTBALL Shield Final
O’Dempsey’s 1-09
Stradbally Parish Gaels 1-06

18/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 13 “B” Football Shield Final
The Heath 4-14
Rosenallis 2-07

12/10/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 13 “C” Football Shield Final
Castletown 7-02
Clonaslee St Manmans 2-06

20/09/19: Midlands Park Hotel Under 13 Football Development Final
Stradbally Parish Gaels “B” 1-10
Portlaoise “B” 1-05

2019 Club Roll of Honour – League

10-07-2019 Laois Shopping Centre ACHL Division 1 Final
Camross 0-20 Clough Ballacolla 1-13

27-07-2019 Laois Shopping Centre ACHL Division 1A Final
Rathdowney Errill 0-19
Clough Ballacolla 0-14

11-08-2019 Laois Shopping Centre ACHL Division 2 Final Refixture
Camross 1-17
Borris in Ossory Kiltcotton 2-13

12-07-2019 Laois Shopping Centre ACHL Division 3 Final
Park Ratheniska Timahoe 2-17
Castletown 2-15

13-07-2019 Laois Shopping Centre ACHL Division 4 Final
St Fintan’s Mountrath 0-16
Camross 0-14

13-07-2019 Laois Shopping Centre ACHL Division 5 Final
Colt 2-16 . . . Clonaslee St Manmans 1-17

31-07-2019 Laois Shopping Centre
ACFL Division 1A Final
Portlaoise - Award. . O'Dempsey's - Forfeit

13-07-2019 Laois Shopping Centre
ACFL Division 1B Final
Ballylinan 2-14 Courtwood 1-10

21-07-2019 Laois Shopping Centre
ACFL Division 2 Final
Clonaslee St Manmans 0-18
Portlaoise 2-06

13-07-2019 Laois Shopping Centre
ACFL Division 3 Final
Ballyfin 1-26 The Rock 4-14

13-07-2019 Laois Shopping Centre
ACFL Division 4 Final
Portlaoise 2-16 Graiguecullen 0-09

17-07-2019 Laois Shopping Centre
ACFL Division 5 Final
The Harps 4-12
Clonaslee St Manmans 1-07

29/07/19 Midlands Park Hotel U13
Hurling League Final
The Harps 3-15 Abbeyleix Gaels 1-07

30/07/19 Midlands Park Hotel U13 "B"
Hurling League Final
St Fintan's Mountrath 2-07
Portarlinton 0-02

Midlands Park Hotel U13 "B" Hurling
League Shield Final
Clough Ballacolla 4-07 Portlaoise 4-03

05/08/19 Midlands Park Hotel U15
Hurling League Final
Portlaoise 8-06 The Harps 1-06

21/07/19 Midlands Park Hotel U15 "B"
Hurling League Final
Park Ratheniska Timahoe 3-16
Ballinakill 2-07

02/08/19 Midlands Park Hotel U17
Hurling League Final
Abbeyleix Gaels 3-21
Borris in Ossory Kilcotton 3-12

24/07/19 Midlands Park Hotel U17 "B"
Hurling League Final
Castletown 2-17
Park Ratheniska Timahoe 3-12

12/07/19 Midlands Park Hotel U13
Football League Final
St Joseph's 8-21 Killeshin 0-00

08/08/19 Midlands Park Hotel U13
Football League Shield Final
St Pauls v Portarlinton

11/07/19 Midlands Park Hotel U13 "B"
Football League Final
The Harps 5-10 Graiguecullen 2-06

12/07/19 Midlands Park Hotel U13 "B"
Football League Shield Final
Rosenallis 6-16 Kilcavan The Rock 4-05

12/07/19 Midlands Park Hotel U13 "B"
Football League Plate Final
Ballylinan 2-14
Spink Park Ratheniska 2-11

**20/07/19 Midlands Park Hotel U13 “C”
Football League Final**
O’Dempsey’s “B” 4-11
Stradbally Parish Gaels “B” 2-04

**11/08/19 Midlands Park Hotel U15 “C”
Football League Final**
Camross 5-10
Castletown 2-03

**07/08/19 Midlands Park Hotel U13 “C”
Football League Shield Final**
Portlaoise “B” 5-06
St Fintan’s Gaels 1-13

**06/08/19 Midlands Park Hotel U17
Football League Final**
Portlaoise 3-12
Spink Park Ratheniska 2-04

**29/07/19 Midlands Park Hotel U15
Football League Final**
Portlaoise 5-07
Graiguecullen 1-09

**25/07/19 Midlands Park Hotel U17 “B”
Football League Final**
St Joseph’s 2-18 Sarsfields Gaels 1-04

**29/07/19 Midlands Park Hotel U15 “B”
Football League Final**
St Joseph’s 3-12
Mountmellick Gaels 0-01

Sub - Committees Reports

Coiste Na nÓg Laoise Annual Report 2019

On behalf of the Laois GAA Juvenile Committee, I would like to thank everybody who contributed to the successful running of an extensive programme of games in 2019. It was another busy year which started in March and continued right up to late October. We were treated to some very exciting games particularly during the knockout stages.

A continued feature of the programme is the running of shield competitions for teams that did not make the knockout stages of their grade. While this in the main was a success, it does require some tweaking. The positive is that it meant that teams were in competitive action well into the autumn. However, the merit of running shield competitions in the leagues and particularly in B and C competitions is questionable and will need to be reviewed by the incoming committee. I would like to thank the Midlands Park Hotel who sponsored our championships during the year. They also kindly hosted our draws back in May.

Walkovers and the grading of teams were two of the more controversial issues that arose during the year. To a certain extent both are interrelated and there is no easy solution. A growing phenomenon in 2019 was the number of clubs in the "A" division who appeared to give walkovers for no other reason than they didn't want their team to get beaten. Some felt that they were in the wrong division and just refused to play. This has led to a situation where few teams want to play "A" in both codes. The irony is that the same clubs often don't appear to mind dishing out big defeats when they step down a division. It's getting worse every year and was seen to be particularly

acute at under 13 level. A new championship format was introduced in 2019 to address the issue. While it does require some adjustment to deal with weaker teams, it did go some way to address the challenges involved.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is discipline both on and off the field. We are losing referees and one of the reasons cited is the behaviour of players, mentors and supporters. Without referees, there would be no games and serious consideration will have to be given to reducing the overall number of games and competitions if the decline in the number of referees continues. I also like to express my gratitude to everybody who helped at officiating games during the year in what is often both a difficult and thankless job.

I like to thank the outgoing committee chaired by Danny Gorman. Also, thanks to Barry Murphy and Alan Hartnett, who worked hard at getting the grading right and ensuring that the finals were run off on schedule. The workload of the juvenile committee is eased by Niall Handy and Tomas Moore who take on the brunt of the day to day work. Also, I like to thank the GDAs who organise the go games activities, summer camps and the autumn divisional competitions.

Best wishes for the year ahead to all our players, mentors and officials of clubs who contributed to promotion of games for 2019.

Seán O Conghaile
Runaí Coiste Na nÓg Laoise

Planning, Physical Development & Health and Safety Report 2018

As County Development Officer of C.L.G. Laoise, it gives me great pleasure to present my annual report to County Convention 2019.

It has been a busy year for The Planning, Physical Development and Health & Safety Committee as they continued the trend of previous years. The Committee's responsibilities for 2019 included; assisting and supporting Clubs with their Club Development Grant Applications, Coordinating the new 3 year Strategic Club Planning Programmes, Club Leadership Development Programme (CLDP) and facilitating Safety Inspections & Stewards Training.

Club Development Grant Applications

2019 - The year under review again has seen continuous growth in physical development both at Club and County Grounds. It is expected that 11 GAA clubs will receive Leinster Council grant aid in the coming months. These applications have been processed and submitted to Leinster Council with appropriate recommendations.

Obtained from receipts submitted by the participating clubs, the total spends in Laois for physical development in 2019 was in the region of €370,000.00. At the time of this report going to print, Leinster Council had not finalised a percentage for which clubs will be given on receipts submitted. However, it is anticipated that this

percentage will be in the region of between 7 & 8 percent.

At this juncture I would like to acknowledge and thank the volunteers and staff of Comhairle Laighean, in particular Michael Reynolds (CEO), Jim Bolger (Chathaoirleach), Hannah Horan and Patricia Clear for their continued advice, help and support.

In the present climate I am acutely aware of the limited grant aid available to clubs. G.A.A. grant aid to all counties is again in line with the previous year allocation. However, the Sports Capital Funding announced for Laois, brought joy to some of our Clubs and disappointment for others. A number of clubs submitted, what I considered were worthy applications only to be disappointed and I can only empathise with their sense of disappointment and frustration.

Well done to all the successful applicants. These funds will add to the already impressive facilities dotted around our county.

Club Strategic Development Plan

There are 2 Clubs presently in the process of initiating their Club Strategic Plans while others already have plans in place and are progressing with same. This is a time to reflect on the structures and development of our Club units as they approach their Annual General Meetings. Some Clubs are still finding it challenging to attract

new volunteers. The Club Development Planning process will help Clubs focus on what they are presently doing and what is required to move forward. I would strongly urge each and every club to put a '3 Year Club Development Plan' in place over the coming months.

In supporting the above, Croke Park have recently identified and provided training for appropriate persons (i.e. Club Planners) to deliver and assist clubs in drafting same. The role of GAA Club Planner is to engage with Clubs on an individual basis to facilitate the development of 3-year Club Plans. Planners identified for Laois are Liam O'Neill (Trumera) and Pat Leogue (Portlaoise). Thanks to Liam and Pat Leogue for facilitating same.

Comhairle Laighean has assured all County Development Officer's that they will not consider future grant applications unless a Club Strategic Development Plan is in place.

Congratulations to all Clubs who officially launched their Club Strategic Development Plans during the departing year.

Please note, going forward the Club Strategic Development Plan is be changing to a **3 Year Club Plan**.

Pairc Ui Mhordha/ Centre of Excellence

It is heartening to see the upgrade works completed in Pairc Ui Mhordha and the development of the centre of excellence co-located next to Pairc Ui Mhordha brought to fruition.

Personnel involved in these projects have shown great drive and vision in steps taken to develop and improve our facilities and hopefully this will bear fruit in the years ahead.

Once again we were to the forefront in hosting inter-county games. They all ran smoothly and without any major incident. This is a reflection on the organisation and management of the events and the availability of voluntary stewards. The hosting of such games is an onerous task and it is important that we maintain our high standards and continue providing comfort for spectators and all others involved in order to enhance their 'match day experience'.

I would sincerely like to thank all the voluntary stewards, who helped and made themselves available during the year. Without their support and dedication on a weekly basis, it would have been impossible to stage our games. Once again, thank you.

My sincere thanks also to Tom Jones, Event Controller and to our Chief Steward, Jody Conway for all their help and dedication during the year. Thanks also to Joe Dooley/ Andrew Broderick and the gate staff, Mick Kelly, Willie Stackpool and Ollie Byrne who stewarded in O'Moore Park at every match. It would be remiss of me not to give a special mention to Colm McEvoy and the personnel employed on both the C.E. Group Scheme and Tús Programme, who continue to keep and maintain our grounds to a very high standard.

I want to record and acknowledge the co-operation, help and good will I received from Peter O'Neill, Niall Handy and Tomas Moore and the other members of

the executive, together with the representatives of Comhairle Chontae Laoise and An Garda Síochána, when organising and planning all major fixtures and other pertinent projects.

Health & Safety

Members of the Safety Committee and the County Development Officer visited a number of clubs during the year. Advice on Health & Safety and other relevant issues was given.

Most clubs appointed a Club Safety Coordinator on receipt of the Willis Safety Statement and it is anticipated that the balance will do so during the coming year.

Training

Club Officers Training – The new Club Leadership Development Programme was rolled out for all Principal Club Officers in March 2018. The Principal Officers in each club were given the opportunity to:

- Gain a better understanding of what their role involves
- Develop basic leadership, management and communication skills
- Have an awareness of where to access resources and supports
- Be able to share ideas and solve problems with fellow officers
- Be better prepared for future roles in the Association
- Receive a Certificate of Achievement

24 Clubs, 70 Club Officers circa benefited from the programme in Laois in 2018 and a further 16 clubs, 30 Club Officers circa participated in the Pre Club AGM Module in November 2019. It is envisaged that further training will take place again in 2020.

Steward Training – As ever, additional stewards is always a necessity for forthcoming season(s) and any assistance from your Club in this regard would be greatly appreciated. It is now mandatory that all stewards are competent and accredited by EuroPlan Group to host such events. In this regard I would like to acknowledge and thank the clubs who provided personnel for such training in October just gone. There was in the region of 45 attendees and again I would sincerely like to thank all of them for giving up their time to attend not only this training day but also for their commitment to on-going stewarding.

Leinster GAA Club Development Grants for 2018 (Paid in February 2019).

Club	Grant
Camross	3,500
Kilcavan	1,500
Killeshin	1,500
Rathdowney	6,000
Rosenallis	1,500
St Fintan's Mountrath	1,500
St Joseph's	1,500
Borris-in-Ossory	10,000
Portlaoise	50,000
Timahoe	3,500
Total	80,500

Conclusion

I want to sincerely thank my committee of Tom Jones, Tommy Smith, Michael Lennon and Danny Hanlon, club officers and fellow executive members for their courtesy, help and support during the year. To Niall, Tomas and all the staff in the COE including the Games Manager and

GDA's, it was a pleasure working and dealing with you.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

Le Meas,

Pádraig Seosamh Ó Ceallaigh

Development Officer
C.L.G. Laoise

Coiste Eisteachta (Hearings Committee) Report 2019

This was the second year that the County Hearings Committee (C.H.C.) with its current members was in place. The role of the Hearings Committee in simple terms is to assess the evidence put before it in an impartial manner and to adjudicate on the disputed facts or interpretations in dispute. The C.H.C. must discharge this function fairly and in good faith and always in accordance with the rules of an Treoraí Oifigiúil. In 2019, all members of the C.H.C. gave a commitment to build on the knowledge gained in 2018 and to ensure that all decisions would be transparent. In 2019, it was reiterated to all parties that the Secretary of the committee could be contacted if a referee, individual or club required clarification on any decision reached by the committee (in which they were a relevant party). This offer was taken up by some parties and open and honest meetings took place when requested.

At the beginning of the year the Chairman and Secretary of the C.H.C. met with the referees to outline the role of the committee and the importance of referees submitting good quality, fully completed reports following each match. A summary of decisions taken by the C.H.C. in 2018 was discussed with the referees in attendance and they were assured that their decisions are not overturned lightly and that fair procedures and adherence to an Treoraí Oifigiúil are always the priority of the C.H.C.

Due to competitions now running late into the year there was no natural break or end of season for the C.H.C. with hearings

continuing into December and January. In the interest of providing an accurate report any hearing that took place following the submission of my 2018 report has been included in this report.

Following the submission of transfers in January hearings then took place to hear the appeals to decisions on transfers issued by the Competitions Control Committee (C.C.C.). In total, we had eight appeals to the C.C.C. decisions, which we could uphold, overrule or refer back to the C.C.C. Of these, seven were upheld and one was referred back to the C.C.C. for rehearing, and then appealed again following the second decision of the C.C.C. but was subsequently withdrawn and the decision of the C.C.C. stood. Arising from the C.H.C. decision in six of these transfers the matter was referred to the DRA (DRA Case 07-11/2019) by the players involved, which the C.H.C. and C.C.C. were required to defend. The DRA upheld our decision in all six cases and while it was a very difficult situation, we acted in accordance with Rule and the limitations of these rules. It is worth noting that seven of the eight appeals on transfers related to players under the age of 18 and I would urge clubs who are amalgamated at juvenile level to put procedures in place and to review their current membership forms. Clubs should aim to ensure that parents are aware of which club they are registering their child with initially and the rules regarding transfers. This could avoid the possibility of being in a situation that is very upsetting for the children involved at a later stage.

Requests for disciplinary hearings in response to disciplinary action taken by the C.C.C. continued throughout the year and became more frequent from July onwards. In total, we received 30 requests for hearings this year, which were heard, and decisions issued based on the evidence provided. In all cases we were not aware what penalty had been issued by the C.C.C. and

once we reached our decision the penalty was in accordance with rule in all cases. The number of hearings requested this year increased by 32% on 2018. Following our decision in two of the hearings requested the players subsequently sought reinstatement in accordance with Rule 7.12 and we fully supported their application. A summary of the cases are as follows:-

<p>Players – 23 Hearings Requested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 cases were not heard as they were in relation to first black card offences and this decision was in accordance with Rule 7.3 (p). • 1 request was withdrawn before the scheduled hearing took place. • 10 received a One Match Suspension. • 3 received a Two Match Suspension. • 2 Had No Case to Answer. • 2 received 16 week Suspensions. • 2 had Red Card Infractions Reduced to Black Card Infractions • 1 had Red Card Infraction Reduced to Yellow Card Infraction.
<p>Officials/Supporters – 7 Hearings Requested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 request was withdrawn before the scheduled hearing took place. • 2 Received 4 Week Suspensions. • 2 Received a 12 Week Suspensions. • 1 Received a 16 Week Suspension. • 1 Referred back to the C.C.C. for reprocessing.

In the case of all Appeals and Hearings individual members of the C.H.C. excused themselves if there were any perceived conflicts of interest. All those in attendance at appeals or hearings also have the opportunity to object to any member of the C.H.C.

In 2019, it has become apparent that there are some Club Officers who are not fully aware of the role of the C.H.C. or the Rules relating to Hearings, Appeals

and general procedures. As a result, some players are requesting hearings with the expectation of having the decision of the C.C.C. overturned without them being in a position to prove their case. This in turn leads to disappointment and frustration for those involved. There are also some matters coming before the committee which could be avoided if clubs were aware of and were complying with rules and procedures. In light of this, I would propose that an infor-

mation meeting facilitated by the C.H.C. is arranged for all Club Officers in January 2020 to outline some of the findings of the Hearings Committee over recent times. This will assist clubs going forward to hopefully avoid some of these issues and provide them with the knowledge required to deal with matters that do arise. By sharing knowledge we can reduce some of the pressure involved in the administration of clubs which is all the time becoming more demanding and less enjoyable for those involved.

I would like to thank all of the individual players and club representatives for their courteous co-operation in their dealings with the C.H.C. and the representatives of the C.C.C. for their courtesy and consideration. My sincere thanks to all the referees who replied so promptly and professionally when clarification of their reports was requested to assist the committee in reaching their decisions particularly in light of the increased number of clarifications sought this year. I would also like to acknowledge the role of Niall Handy and Tomás Moore in the preparation of paperwork and for liaising with referees on our behalf when we sought clarification of their reports. Their assistance in this regard is very much appreciated.

My biggest thanks must go to the members of this year's C.H.C, Glen Brennan, Seamus Campion, Michéal Condron, Sheila Devoy, John Kelly, Richard Kennedy, Michael Lennon and Alex Stenson who gave so generously of their time often at very short notice to conduct the hearings and for the professional and courteous manner in which they conducted themselves at all

times. It was a pleasure working with you all again in 2019! And finally on behalf of all of the committee I would like to thank John Hanniffy our Chairman, we are very fortunate in Laois GAA to have someone so approachable with such an in depth knowledge of the Rules of the Association which he endeavours to enforce at all times.

Many thanks to everyone involved in Laois GAA and I wish you all every success in 2020.

Le meas

Adrainne Mhic Cárthaigh

Runáí

Coiste Eisteachta Laoise 2019

Public Relations & Marketing Committee Report 2019

Thank you for taking the time to read our report which will reflect the very busy and successful year we have had as a committee and demonstrate that while we are at an end of year report stage the role of this committee is a constant year round commitment given by a very hard working group of volunteers which I have been privileged to have working with me on this committee. To that end I sincerely want to thank its members, Wayne Fox (Trumera), Eoin Culliton (Mountmellick), Philip Henneberry (Clough Ballacolla), Paul Dargan (Graiguecullen) , Oonagh Maher (Clough Ballacolla), Tomas Moore (Park Ratheniska) and Bosco Ramsbottom.

We did our utmost throughout the year to carrying on what would be considered to be the day to day duties of our group and the need for the GAA community and the public at large to be made aware of what was going on that may benefit themselves and their respective clubs.

We worked this year again with the Print Press: Leinster Express, Laois Nationalist; Online Press: Laois Today and Radio Press: Midlands 103 with Laois TV also on board. Access to teams and managers was arranged in a good and timely fashion pre-competition and pre- games was important and putting in place our media group which ensured any information was been received by all at the one time is I think very important.

The success on the field of play by our Senior Hurling and Senior Football team brought us in contact with the National

Media where we organised events such as press nights, photoshoots, while players and managers were available for interviews as well as arranging press access on match days.

Again it was all very good but while very demanding it was also satisfying when we received very positive feedback. All reporters have very long and sometimes unsociable hours and the provision of much needed refreshments was very welcome in the press box and allows non interrupted work.

I believe we have made strong connections with the National Press and strengthened our links with our local media groups and we thank them all sincerely for the publicity they give all our games and activities.

Facebook: Our Facebook numbers have increased by over 13% which is very positive. This is mainly attributed to Laois TV and the good work they do and try and cover as many matches as possible and provide viewing highlights with commentary in particular to our members living in far off places and also our supporters who cannot make it to our matches for one reason or another. Michael Egan and Brian O Sullivan deserve huge credit and their guest commentators for this FREE service which became available allot quicker to you this year.

The photographs and images that Paul Dargan has brought to us has been phenomenal and for me brings the term volunteerism to a whole new level as he has gone

around the country to capture both our players and supporters in both codes and make them available to you to cherish and keep. I can safely say that Paul's work has been the main reason why our Facebook page has increased in popularity.

Twitter: This platform has shown a marked increase of followers where we have over 29K at present which shows an increase of 3K since the start of the year. Through Twitter we have brought you score by score accounts for our Laois teams in league and championship encounters. While we enjoyed a shorter year at intercounty the condensed fixture schedule saw both our senior and minor teams at both codes playing the same weekends and this was always going to be a challenge in keeping the Laois GAA public up-to-date. We have also provided score by score updates of all matches that took place in O Moore Park in our local championships. Our Twitter is also important to advertise upcoming events and record other GAA events.

Twitter also throws up huge challenges for everyone associated with the platform. We don't engage in conversation on this platform. The tweet which has been composed and posted without been researched which will have its own agenda is hard to take and it seems to just wipe away any good work we think we were doing, it is a cruel word at times but maybe that's my fault for my sensitivity!

Instagram: Had been introduced in 2018 and has become a great hit. It again appeals to a different age group and gets great reaction to our live videos of behind the scenes team areas and activities to action on the field. Again the quality of Paul Dargan's

work has contributed hugely to this success story which has seen a staggering 35% increase in followers.

Laois GAA Website: The website is being redeveloped at the moment where we are in the process of updating and making it more user-friendly in particular to people's mobile phones. Thanks to Tomas Moore who is working on the new format and hope to have the update ready in the New Year.

I would like to put on record my gratitude to all the counties we visited and Croke Park officials who allowed our media team access and cooperation on each and thankfully some joyous occasions this year. Long may it continue and may our trips to the GAA headquarters increase for both codes in 2020.

As you can see we have made terrific use of our Social media platforms with increased traffic on them all. This year again I appeal to all members to take personal responsibility of what you do or post in this regard. I also appeal to all clubs to ensure you monitor and manage your media accounts vigilantly and remind your members of their responsibility. We would have seen a couple of near misses this year alone. While these outlets can be great way of promoting your club and all the good work you do if not monitored can quickly do the opposite if club committees don't keep this to the forefront of their agendas.

I would sincerely like thank all teams' management for their cooperation and timely team sheets in particular Eddie Brennan and John Sugrue who were always giving of their time in a courteous and professional manner and always had players available also. Thanks also to Enda Lyons and

Donnacha Phelan, Billy O Loughlin and David Cuddy and without all of the people my job would have been allot more difficult. Particular praise has to go to Anne Barry and Bryan Breen whom are two tireless workers for Laois GAA.

This committee set about our goals for the year and most have been mentioned in this report however another aim of ours was to try and enhance and make the experience

for our fans who spend their hard earned money to come to O Moore Park a better one and one they would remember for the right reasons. The handing out of our county flags to our young and not so young supporters was positive for us. This aspect has to stay in place and even expanded on as we understand fully the importance of supporting your County and what that day means to you and your families.

AWARD	NOMINEE
Senior Football	Kieran Lillis (<i>Portlaoise</i>)
Intermediate Football	Ruaidhri C Fennell (<i>Rosenallis</i>)
Junior Football	Eoin Finlay (<i>O'Dempsey's</i>)
Minor Football	Paul O Flynn (<i>Emo Courtwood</i>)
Senior Hurling	John Purcell (<i>Rathdowney Errill</i>)
Senior A Hurling	Fiachra C Fennell (<i>Rosenallis</i>)
Intermediate Hurling	Malvin Moloney (<i>Camross</i>)
Junior Hurling	Robbie Foyle (<i>Park Ratheniska Timahoe</i>)
Minor Hurling	Ciaran Burke (<i>The Harps</i>)
Referee	Padraig Dunne (<i>Colt</i>)
Rounders	Pat Barnaville (<i>The Harps</i>)
Ladies Football	Anna Healy (<i>Park – Ratheniska</i>)
Camogie	Claire Fitzgerald (<i>Camross</i>)
Scór Award	Padraig Dunne (<i>Courtwood</i>)
Hall of Fame	John Taylor (<i>Portlaoise</i>)
Lifetime contribution award	Joe Dooley (<i>Borris in Ossory Kilcotton</i>)
Under-20 Football	TBC
Under-20 Hurling	Eoin Gaughan (<i>Camross</i>)
Handball	Joe Brennan (<i>Monavea Handball Club</i>)
Special Achievement Award	Scoil Chriost Ri (<i>All-Ireland PP Senior A Champions</i>)

Laois GAA Awards Function; Once again another very successful night and congratulations to all the deserving winners listed below. Particular thanks again to Mochua Print and design for their sponsorship of the event. To our MC Will O Callaghan a big thanks. It was particularly pleasing to be able to honour the great Senior Hurling panel and their management and back-room team of 2019 as our guests of honour and to see them receive their well earned medals which they richly deserved. Thanks to the Midlands Park Hotel for hosting the event . We could have filled the room twice over such was the demand again this year, and although some people may have been disappointed we can only comfortably accommodate a certain number. To all our contributors on the night thanks to you and to our hard working committee who organised the night. Can I also thank the selection committee which was made up of representatives from all local media outlets and County board members of each code for their work in the selection of award winners. Thanks to the Ladies County Boards of both Football and Camogie and also both Rounders & Handball associations.

Match Programmes: We have endeavoured to maintain and improve where possible the high quality programme available to you all and to ensure when you buy a programme you are getting an accurate and informative booklet that you value and appreciate. This takes hard work for both County and club programmes and I want to particularly thank Tomas Moore for his patience and diligence in this regard. His job would have been much harder without the support of the various County board secretaries and PROs who have to get the information to us in a timely fashion which isn't an easy task

sometimes. To all the local club contributors a big thank you again deadlines have to be met and in all cases you have greatly helped and assisted us. Our programme is greatly enhanced by the quality of material in particular photos from Paul Dargan again credit where it is due. The concept of a multi match programme introduced by my predecessor is a great idea and also offers good value for money. I would like to thank all the contributors, the programme sellers who have braved all the elements and gave up their free time to assist, to Mochua print in particular Andrew for his professionalism. Again to both Niall Handy and Tomas Moore appreciate your time and effort. To you the person who bought the programmes I hope you have enjoyed what we have provided and will continue to support us into the future.

In conclusion I would like to thank the following: The players at every level because without your efforts on the Hurling and football fields we would have nothing to report or promote. Your participation in this years meet and greet was also a great success. Special mention to the Senior Hurlers who have covered the length and breath of this county visiting schools , camps and clubs promoting the game the love while showing their spoils to our future players the coveted Joe Mc Donagh cup.

To the Managers of all the teams both at county and club level thanks for your courtesy and time.

To all the club secretaries and Pro for your assistance and cooperation in particular on match days a sincere thanks.

To County Secretary Niall Handy and my fellow county board officials for your support and advice thank you.

To the Laois GAA administrator Tomas Moore for his work and attention to detail my gratitude.

I have been truly blessed by the unique and diverse committee that willingly volunteered to come on board this year. Each with their own area of expertise and people whom I have relied on constantly.

I will not be seeking another term as Laois GAA PRO instead I will challenge for the position of Leinster GAA PRO after receiving the nomination from the Laois GAA executive of which I am very thankful, I

will continue to help out wherever possible. I wish my successor all the best and I will support them anyway possible regardless of whether I am successful or not.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to thank sincerely my wife Pauline and my daughters who have made it possible for me to make as much time as I am committing to Laois GAA ,a job I love doing and hope my work has been a positive to all in Laois GAA.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Pat O Sullivan
Laois GAA P.R.O.

Coaching and Games Report

Convention 2019

As the curtain comes down on another busy GAA year it's time to look back and reflect on what has been achieved and what we need to focus on for the coming year.

I would just like to take the opportunity to thank one individual for their contribution to Coaching and Games in our County over the last number of years. I would like to thank Andrew Kavanagh for his hard work and dedication to his role as a GDA for Laois, Andrew was a pleasure to work with and I'm sure that anyone who had the good fortune to deal with Andrew would have the same opinion. Andrew has decided to move on to the pastures new and I would like to wish him the best of luck in his career.

As the landscape of Laois GAA changes I would like to welcome Mike Henchy to Laois GAA as our new Coaching and Games Manager, Mike has been on board with us since March of this year and has settled in well to his new position, Mike has made many changes to the way we operate our Coaching and Games division in Laois and we are already beginning to see the benefits of many of those changes and we will continue to see those benefits over the next number of years. I hope you will all join me in wishing Mike and his dedicated team of GDAs all the best for the 2020 season and thank them for their work and dedication to Laois GAA during 2019.

As I complete my second year in the role of Coaching and Games Officers, I feel

that we have made progress in implementing many of the recommendations of the Strategic Review that was commissioned by Laois GAA and published two years ago at the beginning of my term, I have to say that the foundation blocks for the future development of Laois GAA both at Club and County level are well and truly laid, but it's now time to build on those foundations and I have every confidence that together we can build a solid future for Laois GAA.

1. Primary School Activity

I have a firm belief that primary school GAA activity is key to getting young people involved in Gaelic Games at an early age which in turn should see club's benefit from an increase in membership going forward.

At this point I would just like to mention the club school link, I think that this is a facility that clubs do not avail of enough and it's a facility that we would encourage every club to take up, not only does it give the club a chance to provide some coaching in the school but it also gives a club the opportunity to promote itself within the school which hopefully will also lead to increased membership.

At the November Club Support meeting and during the Primary School meeting in October the GDAs outlined the importance of a strong club school link relationship. The benefits sought from both the club and the school are and will be seen in the numbers of children being recruited,

but more importantly retained within our GAA structures. The GDAs will offer support on the key ages of focus i.e. junior to first class and on how to develop the club nursery alongside the work being carried out in the schools

The gradual introduction of 6th class led; ABC programs will be a major asset for the development of the younger kids. The GDAs will outline the fun games-based approach involved in coaching, to the teachers and 6th class students. The GDAs will coach the 6th class kids how to in turn coach the junior, senior and first-class children through the program

The GDAs can also assist in the development of the Cuman Na mBunscoil teams, by engaging with the teachers by providing coach education and offering direct coaching assistance where possible

If you require any further information on the club school link I or Mike Henchy would be very happy to share this information with you and your local GDA will assist you in getting this setup.

At this point in time I would like to sincerely thank Shane Ó Meachair who has being very involved in GAA activity in our Primary Schools and he departs that role I would like to express the gratitude of Laois GAA to him. He ran a very successful Cumann Na mBunscol Development squad program for Boys and Girls in 6th class last year which saw over 50 Boys and girls get the opportunity to play in Croke Park on Leinster Final Day.

2. Urban GAA Participation

It was identified in our strategic review that we needed to have more urban participation in our Gaelic Games and one of our GDA's Peter Hally has being leading the way in this regard. Peter has organized a Town League in Portlaoise for Primary schools as a pilot scheme which will see a football town league take place this side of Christmas and hurling town league take place after Christmas. See below the detailed schedule and organization that has gone in to this program.

The town league program of games will continue for the 2019/20 school term. During the last school term 1,200 approx. children took part in the town league. This year changes to include those in 3rd and 4th class i.e. the non Cuman na mbunscoil classes, along with those not taking part in the main competition from 5th and 6th. Below is an example of how a scheduled day of games would operate, along with a table of the overall schedule.

Primary School Football Town League 2019/20**LOETB Centre of Excellence****Wed Nov 13****3rd and 4th**

	Boys	
	Pitch 1	Pitch 2
9.45am	Holy Family 1 vs Scoil Bhríde 1	Gaelscoil 1 vs Ratheniska 1
10.15am	Holy Family 1 vs The Heath 1	Gaelscoil 1 vs Ballyfin 1
10.45am	Scoil Bhríde 1 vs The Heath 1	Ratheniska 1 vs Ballyfin 1
	Pitch 3	Pitch 4
9.45am	Educate Together 1 vs Holy Family 2	Barnashrone vs Maryborough
10.15am	Educate Together 1 vs The Heath 2	Barnashrone vs Scoil Bhríde 2
10.45am	Holy Family 2 vs The Heath 2	Maryborough vs Scoil Bhríde 2
	Pitch 5	Pitch 6
9.45am	Ratheniska 2 vs Ballyfin 2	Educate Together 2 vs Holy Family 3
10.15am	Ratheniska 2 vs Gaelscoil 2	Educate Together 2 vs The Heath 3
10.45am	Ballyfin 2 vs Gaelscoil 2	Holy Family 3 vs The Heath 3

	Girls	
	Pitch 1	Pitch 2
9.45am	Holy Family 1 vs Scoil Bhríde 1	Gaelscoil 1 vs Ratheniska 1
10.15am	Holy Family 1 vs The Heath 1	Gaelscoil 1 vs Ballyfin 1
10.45am	Scoil Bhríde 1 vs The Heath 1	Ratheniska 1 vs Ballyfin 1
	Pitch 3	Pitch 4
9.45am	Educate Together 1 vs Holy Family 2	Barnashrone vs Maryborough
10.15am	Educate Together 1 vs The Heath 2	Barnashrone vs Scoil Bhríde 2
10.45am	Holy Family 2 vs The Heath 2	Maryborough vs Scoil Bhríde 2
	Pitch 5	Pitch 6
9.45am	Ratheniska 2 vs Ballyfin 2	Educate Together 2 vs Holy Family 3
10.15am	Ratheniska 2 vs Gaelscoil 2	Educate Together 2 vs The Heath 3
10.45am	Ballyfin 2 vs Gaelscoil 2	Holy Family 3 vs The Heath 3

5th and 6th		
Boys		
	Pitch 1	Pitch 2
11.30am	Barnashrone vs Maryborough	Holy Family 1 vs Scoil Bhride
12noon	Barnshrone vs Holy Family 2	Holy Family 1 vs Ballyfin
12.30pm	Maryborough vs Holy Family 2	Scoil Bhride vs Ballyfin
	Pitch 3	
11.30am	The Heath vs Gaelscoil	
12noon	The Heath vs Educate Together	
12.30pm	Gaelscoil vs Educate Together	

5th and 6th		
Girls		
	Pitch 1	Pitch 2
11.30am	Barnashrone vs Maryborough	Holy Family 1 vs Scoil Bhride
12noon	Barnshrone vs Holy Family 2	Holy Family 1 vs Ballyfin
12.30pm	Maryborough vs Holy Family 2	Scoil Bhride vs Ballyfin
	Pitch 3	
11.30am	The Heath vs Gaelscoil	
12noon	The Heath vs Educate Together	
12.30pm	Gaelscoil vs Educate Together	

Football Dates	
Wed Nov 13	Town League Football Blitz 1 3rd/4th and 5th/6th
Wed Nov 20	Town League Football Blitz 2 3rd/4th and 5th/6th
Wed Nov 27	Town League Football Finals Day 3rd/4th and 5th/6th

Hurling Dates	
Wed Feb 19	Town League Hurling Camogie Blitz 1 3rd/4th and 5th/6th
Wed Feb 26	Town League Hurling Camogie Blitz 2 3rd/4th and 5th/6th
Wed Mar 4	Town League Hurling Camogie Finals Day 3rd/4th and 5th/6th

2nd Class Hurling and Football	
Wed May 27	2nd Class Football Town League Blitz
Wed June 10	2nd Class Hurling Camogie Town League Blitz

Thanks to Peter for all his hard work on this project and we wish him every success with it.

3. Secondary School Activity

Transition Year Program

Our GDA's have started an initiative to help the link grow between our Secondary Schools the Primary Schools and the Club. This initiative is carried out with Transition year students we have four major Secondary Schools which have engaged in this program, Mountrath CS, St. Fergals College, Portlaoise CBS, Scoil Christ Ri. Over 65 students have taken part in this program which involves several training days within the school and then the students visit local schools and provide coaching, blitzes and fun days for the schools throughout the year. This type of involvement and engagement helps to build relationships between the schools and helps to promote Gaelic Games within our Secondary Schools. Our GDAs continue to support schools with both teams and the organization of blitzes. Thanks to all the school principals and teachers that have welcomed us into their schools and continue to promote our games. We will continue to strengthen our relationship so that all primary school kids get an opportunity to experience our games, they may or may not stay at them but they all must have had the opportunity to play and participate. The large number of competitions continue to be available and we hope schools will participate in as many as possible.

The Post Primary Sector is a major focus for the GDAs in 2019/20. The TY courses are up and running in seven of our secondary schools with the aim of encouraging young coaches to take up positions in our clubs. Along with, post the completion of the course the TY students will continue to be integrated into our primary schools

The GDAs are on the ground in all our schools primarily focusing on the coaching of the 1st and 2nd year groups. The schools have engaged with the GDAs in this regard, having the players on the pitch when the sessions are taking place.

A new initiative this year is the introduction of S&C work in a select number of schools. Our Athletic Performance GDA Jason Coffey is currently in five of the schools working with 1st and 2nd year groups to develop their physical conditioning. The coaching and S&C work being carried out in the schools has a direct link to our Development Squad players in particular. The same cohort of players are being engaged with at school and here in the COE. There is the added advantage in the school of getting to develop the club players who are not involved in our squad structure.

Weekly the GDA team are engaging with 400 players approx. across all the three areas of focus i.e. direct coaching, education and S&C

A schedule of games and blitz within the county have been put in place to allow the schools to prepare for their Leinster competitions. The dates and schedule of the internal Laois games are planned to cater for the needs of the schools, to allow for the best possible preparation.

4. Cùl Camps 2019

Once again, the Cùl Camp program has been a huge success in Laois with the number of participants up from 3193 in 2018 to 3,385, thanks to all our GDA's for promoting the events and a huge word of thanks to the clubs who facilitated the Cùl Camps without your cooperation these

camps could not go ahead. A word of thanks also must go to the Camp coaches who run these camps daily while being overseen by a GDA, these young coaches do a great job and we owe them a huge Thank You. Jason Coffey done an excellent job in coordinat- ing the event for the County

Thanks also to all our other GDA's who run Easter Camps and development squad camps during the year.

This Halloween a three camp was held in the COE with an attendance of 160 kids. The potential is there to develop our camp schedule during school holiday breaks. I would like to thank the coaches for all their help.

Cul Camp Bookings		2019	2018	2017
Abbeyleix	1 to 5 July	109	112	132
Killeshin	1 to 5 July	78	83	68
Park/Rathenisca	1 to 5 July	114	118	124
Portlaoise	1 to 5 July	164	159	96
Mountmellick	1st - 5th July	90	74	79
Rathdowney/Errill	1 to 5 July	111	100	106
Ballyfin	8 to 12 July	114	98	0
Ballyroan	8 to 12 July	151	114	108
Barrowhouse	8 to 12 July	76	75	80
Castletown Slieve	8 to 12 July	92	111	112
Emo	8 to 12 July	108	65	57
St.Fintan Gaels	8 to 12 July	67	46	62
Ballinakil	15 to 19 July	53	53	43
Borris/Kilcotton	15 to 19 July	67	64	67
Clonaslee	15 to 19 July	73	70	0
O'Dempseys	15 to 19 July	119	119	92
Stradbally	15 to 19 July	104	134	146
The Harps	15 to 19 July	113	122	120
Ballylinan	22 to 26 July	94	124	98
Camross	22 to 26 July	105	126	134
Clonad	22 to 26 July	57	41	37
Rosenallis	22 to 26 July	94	106	115
Clough Ballacolla	22 to 26 July	63	73	70
The Rock	22 to 26 July	124	127	94
Graiguecullen	29 to 2 Aug	46	60	31
Mountrath	29 to 2 Aug	103	98	69
Portarlinton	29 to 2 Aug	140	85	59
Timahoe	29 to 2 Aug	99	90	82
The Heath	29 to 2 Aug	126	145	110
Arles/Killeen	12 to 16 Aug	80	65	54
Crettyard	12 to 16 Aug	88		
Kilcavan	12 to 16 Aug	70	72	81
Park/Rathenisca	12 to 16 Aug	78	61	49
Portlaoise	12 to 16 Aug	145	147	66
The Harps	12 to 16 Aug	70	56	34

5. Coach Education

In Laois we put a lot of emphasis on coach education and over the last number of year Laois GAA have being up there as one of the counties that has the highest number of coaches who have achieved, foundation level and Award 1 and Award 2 accreditation this is down to the hard work of our GDA team who are running these courses and are also out in the clubs delivering the new TURAS program which had being compiled by Leinster GAA under the guidance of one of our own Laois Men Michael Dempsey.

The TURAS program continued this year through which we have engaged with over 430 coaches in Laois through regional workshops and club visits. This figure does not include formal coach education e.g. Foundation and Award 1.

During 2019 the following course took place

Award	Code	Date	Attendance
Foundation	Football	Mar-19	25
Foundation	Hurling	Mar-19	23
Foundation	Football	Apr-19	14
Foundation	Hurling	Apr-19	10
Foundation	Football	May-19	12
Award 1 Youth/Adult	Hurling	2019	20
RT Course	Both	2019	22
			126

In April the GDA office held a club meeting at the Midlands hotel to advise the clubs on their areas of work. 120 club officials and coaches attended on the night. The key points from the agenda were to outline the following

- Coach Education, Development Squads, Primary and Secondary Schools and Camps

Special guest on the night was Nicky Brennan who opened the night by advising the audience of some of the new initiatives currently being rolled out by the GAA at a central. A big thank you to Nicky for his presence on the night

A Go Games Program review meeting took place in October. It was great to see the very strong attendance on the night; it shows the wiliness from the coaches to engage with the Go Games structures in the county. This season approx. 2,200 players took part in Go Games. The O Moore Park experience nights and the end of year mega blitz, held in the COE were very well received.

A Club Support meeting held in November had three key objectives. The focus was on the establishment and development of club nurseys, the benefits of a club/school link and the development of Go Games coaching standards.

6. Development Squad/Talent Academy

As always, a huge amount of work is going in to our development squads and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteer coaches very much for their hard work and dedication to their role as mentors to our developing players. These coaches have roles that reach further than just coaching them in the skills of Hurling and Football they play a huge part in the development of these players both as men and as athletes. Sometimes we have success at these grades in National Competitions and sometimes we don't but that should not define these players our goal is to develop these players and give

them the full skill set that they will need to be able to compete and win at senior level.

This year we have taken a slightly different approach and direction in relation to our development squads we have appointed two GDA's to oversee the whole development squad process and to assist and guide the development of squad coaches so as we can deliver a unified and focused approach to the coaching and development of our players and that we have a progression pathway that these players will follow under the guidance of their coaches. Donie Brennan will be overseeing Football Development Squads and our new Hurling GDA will oversee Hurling Development Squads and the two of them together will be responsible for the needs and requirements of our development squad players and coaches.

The following are the key areas of focus for the GDA team for the 2020 season along with the roles they will perform

A full season of S&C development is planned from U14 through to U16 squads. This area of work will be led by Jason Coffey. Jason has outlined a plan to cater for the squads from early December 2019 through to September 2020. A six-week break from the official squad will be implemented for the players. Jason will supply the groups with off season work to perform.

Donie Brennan will continue in his role as the lead GDA for the football squads. Donie will be available to assist all the squad managers and coaches. This will include admin responsibilities, on field assistance along with facilitating meetings to track each squads progress. The new hurling GDA will perform the same role for the three hurling squads

Coach Education is another vital factor to aid the development of our coaches. In 2020 our coaches will be offered the opportunity to develop their skills by attending the various courses provided for by the county and province

The introduction of a divisional based championship at U13 and U14 level this year had the following objectives:

- To allow all clubs players the opportunity to take part if they chose to do so.
- To provide a higher standard of games for the players
- To allow the players familiarize themselves with being on a team of mixed clubs
- To provide the squad management groups to view the players within the county. To aid in the selection of the U14 and U15 Development Squads for 2020
- To provide competition to the players in the Autumn, early Winter period

The numbers attending have been positive, with on average 110 players involved at football, 90 playing hurling. A selection of 20 approx.. Dual players took part. There is potential to increase these numbers and to develop this competition.

We hope that this new approach will pay dividends in 2020, we will be as much coach focused as player focused and when a coach comes in at U13 level that we give him the support and education that he may need as a coach and offer him a development pathway also so as he can ultimately develop and become our U17, U20 or senior coach in the future.

Education is a huge part of our development squad players lives now and we welcome the support of the LOETB not only as sponsors of our Centre of Excellence but also in their commitment to helping with the education needs of our players.

Plans are being finalized to further activate our sponsorship with the LOETB. A schedule of events are planned to aid in the education and personal development of our players, parents and coaches alike. This Easter the LOETB in conduction with the GDA office held an Easter revision courses over three days for our Development Squad players. Camogie players in the same age bracket also attended. In total 40 players benefited from Junior and Leaving Cert. Math's, English, Geography and well being classes. I would like to thank the LOETB for the excellent service they provided in particular Joe Cunningham and Pdraig Hennessey for organizing the event

As you can see our GDA's are doing valuable work in the development of our players in conjunction with our coaches.

7. Other Projects

In John Horans acceptance speech as our new Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael he pledged a review of all development squad activity in the country he has put a committee together to consult with the stake holders of this matter i.e. The County Boards, the GDA's the Mentors and Coaches the Coaching Officers, the Parents and the players and this committee is being lead once again by a Laois Man Michael Dempsey.

A delegation from this committee met with Laois officials and stake holders last year in a meeting that was chaired by Brian

Cuthbert and it was a very informative meeting which also challenged our thinking on how developments squads should be run. The results of this consultation process are now available and we have being invited to a meeting in the Leinster Council office to inform us of the findings and recommendations of this Committee.

The seminar will take place in **Áras Laighean, Portlaoise, on Thursday 21st November at 8.00pm.**

The meeting will outline the key recommendations of the report in relation to;

1. The Player Pathway Framework
2. The alignment of the Coach Education Framework
3. The Youth Games Programme (and Implications for 2020)
4. Governance
5. The meeting will be attended by Ciarán McLaughlin (Chair GDC) and representatives of the Talent Academy & Player Development Review Workgroup.

Review Committee:

Michael Dempsey (*Chairman, Laois*)

Jenny Duffy (*Secretary, Cork*)

Jeffrey Lynskey (*Galway*)

Jason Sherlock (*Dublin*)

Shane Flanagan (*Leinster GAA, Kildare*)

Dr. Eugene Young (*Ulster GAA, Derry*)

Ray O'Brien (*Third Level, Kerry*)

Garrett Coyle (*Ulster Post-Primary Schools, Monaghan*)

Brian Cuthbert (*Cork*)

Fergal O'Donnell (*Roscommon*)

Jamesie O'Connor (*Clare*)

Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me during the year, I would also like to thank the clubs for their continued support of myself and our GDA's and I would like to wish

all of our players in every age group from Nursery to Adult in both Football and Hurling every success in the coming year and I hope it's as enjoyable year in 2020 as it was in 2019. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Eddie Brennan and Michal Quirk the very best of luck for the season that lies ahead.

Mise Sa Spórt

Fearghal Ó Beirn

Coaching Officer Laois GAA

Children's Officer Report 2019

2019 saw a proportional increase in the number of Garda vetting applications in Laois. This year also recorded an increase in the number of Code of Behaviour courses. All clubs reported that they had appointed a Child Welfare Officer. In 2020 a lot of the pervious vetting certificates are now running out (5-year time frame), I anticipate an increase in vetting applications for 2020.

Throughout 2020, we in Laois, will be working to develop good practice by all officials in the games and during training sessions. It is important that, as players, officials, mentors we are role models for our young players, supporters, and families that attend our games.

An issue that arose several times throughout 2019 was the use of inappropriate language at games and training sessions in the presence of young and not so young children. This is not a welcome development and I would encourage all clubs, officials and team mentors to consider how they interact with our members. If we continue to develop this negative trend in our behaviour I fear that this will encourage this behaviour in all members, young and old, and not thereafter it will be difficult to challenge.

Throughout 2019 I received up to 10 formal complaints that required the clubs to manage each compliant in accordance with the code of behaviour. This was a marked increase from 2018. Whilst it is positive that people are now complaining about this behaviour it is also disappointing that this behaviour is continuing.

I would therefore request that all clubs place this item on their AGM's agenda for 2019/20 and begin the process of challenging and preventing this behaviour. We need to remember that it is not acceptable in any circumstances.

On appointment of any coach, official working with children, they are required to have completed a coaching qualification, code of behaviour training, and garda vetting. These requirements are in line with Children First and all relevant legislation and are not optional.

Finally, I would like to thank all clubs, officials and players for their commitment in 2019 and wish ye all well for 2020.

Séamus Laibheartaigh
Children's Officer

AGM

The AGM for the 2019/20 year took place on 5th September in the Midlands Park Hotel. We have increased participation with 60 schools now taking part in Cumann na mBunscol Laoise activities. We were delighted to welcome Scoil Phadraig Naofa, Portarlinton, into our organisation this year. They'll be a wonderful addition. Kevin Gorman, principal in Newtown NS and a member of Portlaoise GAA Club has assumed the Chairperson's role with Martin Carroll, teacher in Clough NS and a member of St Fintan's Mountrath GAA Club currently serving his second year as secretary. Pádraic Bourke (Portlaoise ETNS) and Mark Delaney (Ballyroan NS), two Park/Ratheniska club members, will serve in both roles when Kevin and Martin's terms end.

Football Leagues

Our Football Leagues recently concluded with two days of Finals in O' Moore Park. We amended our format again this year and continue to strive towards a system that provides a balance between providing opportunities for all our pupils and maintaining the integrity of our Finals day.

About 40% of the schools who competed in our football leagues got through to a Final. This is far above the national average.

Our thanks to the clubs of Laois for the continued goodwill they show towards Cumann na mBunscol Laoise. Particular thanks to Laois GAA for allowing us access to O'Moore Park and the LOETB Centre of Excellence.

- The full list of winners for 2019 are on the final page of this report.

Hurling and Camogie Leagues

The 2019 hurling and camogie leagues were a big success as we piloted our new format. Our Finals were run over three days in May and all our Finals were played as stand-alone games in O' Moore Park. The average winning/losing deficit in our finals remain much lower under our Championship/Shield format. We believe this has enhanced the enjoyment for players and spectators.

The full list of winners for 2019 are on the final page of this report.

Our 2020 Hurling Leagues will kick-off in March and will run along a similar format to our football leagues. A number of schools from traditional-football areas have entered teams and this year we will again see our highest number of entries.

Table Quiz

Our annual Table Quiz took place in the Holy Family Senior School last March. We thank Sean Mullaney (former principal of Paddock NS) for his continued role as quizmaster on the night. Congratulations to Killenard NS who were worthy winners in 2019.

We will be entering a team into the inaugural Leinster Quiz in 2020.

Handball and Rounders

Our GAA Handball Blitzes were held in Cullohill Handball Hall in January. The number of schools participating has dipped in recent years and we have taken steps to redress this moving forward.

Last year, we held our One-Wall Participation Blitz in Clough/Ballacolla Handball Club, Ballacolla. This was a wonderful day and we hope to offer something similar in the new year.

In January, we will again run our U11s and U13s Singles and Doubles competitions for boys and girls.

Successful players will be selected to represent Cumann na mBunscol Laoise at Provincial Level next March.

Our Rounders blitzes continue to grow from strength to strength with over half of our schools now competing.

The blitzes take place over 4 days in June in Mountmellick, The Heath and Emo.

INTO Mini-7s Skills Days

We organized INTO Skills Days for Football and Hurling/Camogie last April. With new changes at National Level, we now send pupils from 5th Class forward to play mini-games at All-Ireland Hurling and Football Finals and Semi-Finals.

Well done to our 4 boys and 3 girls who represented their families, their schools, clubs and county with distinction.

Representative Panels, Games and Blitzes

Last year, we again ran Development Panels for all 4 codes. In total, almost 500 6th class pupils took part in trials, trainings, mini-games and blitzes.

The hurling and football panels received an excellent introduction to Strength and Conditioning training and the quality of the sessions thereafter were hugely encouraging.

Unfortunately, we didn't get as many half-time games as we would have liked. We had half-time representation for our two Leinster Football Championship games; 10 boys travelled to play Westmeath with 10 girls playing in Croke Park against Meath.

We remain, frustrated, however, in that our young hurling and camogie players did not receive an opportunity to play at half-time in any of the Joe McDonagh Cup games. Most disappointingly, there was a half-time game at the Final in Croke Park but it was two Dublin camogie teams playing instead of ourselves and Westmeath. It's something we will continue to raise moving forward.

3rd / 4th Class Blitzes

We successfully revived our 3rd and 4th class blitzes last year and will seek to ensure that they are an integral part of our calendar moving forward. Last year, we provided schools with the option of entering school teams or of sending players forward to make composite teams.

The aim of these blitzes will always be to improve participation and engagement with our Gaelic Games.

The timing of these blitzes, in March and April, should coincide with juvenile clubs getting back to the field and hopefully this will help with club membership.

Our Relationship with Laois GAA

We would like to place on record our appreciation for the positive working relationship we enjoy with Laois GAA. Sadly, this is not replicated across all counties and is something we do not take for granted.

We vehemently believe that playing our Finals in O'Moore Park is a wonderful opportunity for the pupils in our Primary School and we are most appreciative for this continued privilege. Moreover, we believe the LOETB Centre of Excellence will prove an invaluable asset for the develop-

ment of our Gaelic Games. We hosted representative blitzes again in 2019 and the wonderful facilities were praised by everyone who attended.

We are working more closely than ever with our County Secretary, Games Manager and the Laois GDAs and we believe this close relationship will strengthen the quality of opportunities Laois as a county can provide for our future players.

Thanks to the referees in Laois who continue to support us and without whom, we could not offer so many competitions.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the clubs in Laois for their continued support.

The vast majority of our matches take place in club grounds and we are most-appreciative of this access. Particular thanks must go to Portlaoise GAA Club who allowed us access to their club grounds in Rathleague for semi-finals and our inter-county camogie blitz in May.

We wish all clubs in Laois the very best of luck for the 2020 sporting year.

Shane Ó Meachair,

Cathaoirleach

Cumann na mBunscol Laoise

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Laoise

2019 Finals Results

2019 Hurling Leagues:

Roinn 1 Championship: Durrow NS defeated Abbeyleix NS
Roinn 1 Shield: Rathdowney NS defeated Portarlington BNS
Roinn 2 Championship: Rushall NS defeated Paddock NS
Roinn 2 Shield: Clonaslee NS defeated Borris-in-Ossory NS
Roinn 2 Plate: The Heath NS defeated Knock NS
Roinn 3 Championship: Killenard NS defeated Ballyadams NS
Roinn 3 Shield: Timahoe NS defeated Stradbally NS
Roinn 3 Plate: Rath NS defeated The Rock NS
Roinn 4 Championship: Ballacolla NS defeated Clonaghadoo NS
Roinn 4 Shield: Shanahoe NS defeated Errill NS
Roinn 4 Plate: Ardough NS defeated Castlecuffe NS
Roinn 5 'B' Final: Emo NS defeated Abbeyleix NS

2019 Camogie Leagues:

Roinn 1 Championship: Cullohill NS defeated Castletown PS
Roinn 1 Shield: Abbeyleix NS defeated Camross NS
Roinn 2 Championship: Killadooley NS defeated Paddock NS
Roinn 2 Shield: Errill NS defeated Derrylamogue NS
Roinn 3 Championship: Raheen NS defeated Mountrath NS
Roinn 3 Shield: Knock NS defeated Castlecuffe NS
Roinn 4 Championship: The Rock NS defeated Killenard NS
Roinn 4 Shield: Ballyadams NS defeated Ballyfin NS
Roinn 4 Plate: Gaelscoil Phortlaoise defeated The Heath NS
Roinn 5 'B' Final: Abbeyleix NS defeated Portarlington GNS

2019 Boys Football Leagues:

Roinn 1 Championship: Killenard NS defeated Killeshin NS
Roinn 1 Shield: Portarlington BNS defeated Ballyadams NS
Roinn 2 Championship: Ballylinan NS defeated Clonaghadoo NS
Roinn 2 Shield: Mountmellick NS defeated Ratheniska NS
Roinn 3 Championship: Durrow NS defeated Gaelscoil Phortlaoise
Roinn 3 Shield: Paddock NS defeated Derrylamogue NS
Roinn 4 Championship: Mayo NS defeated Newtown NS
Roinn 4 Shield: Killeen NS defeated The Swan NS
Roinn 5 Championship: Shanahoe NS defeated Borris-in-Ossory NS
Roinn 5 Shield: Portlaoise ETNS defeated Clonenagh NS
Roinn 6 'B' Final: Portarlington BNS defeated Holy Family NS

2019 Girls Football Leagues:

Roinn 1 Championship: Holy Family NS defeated Graiguecullen NS
Roinn 1 Shield: Ratheniska NS defeated Killeshin NS
Roinn 2 Championship: The Rock NS defeated Ballyadams NS
Roinn 2 Shield: The Heath NS defeated Ballyroan NS
Roinn 3 Championship: Scoil Bhríde Knockmay defeated Clonaghadoo NS
Roinn 3 Shield: Killeen NS defeated Castletown PS
Roinn 4 Championship: Shanahoe NS defeated Knock NS
Roinn 4 Shield: Cullohill NS defeated Durrow NS
Roinn 5 'B' Final: Holy Family NS defeated Portarlington GNS

Laois Membership Registration Report 2019

Club	Registered									
	Full	Youth	Honorary	Social	Adult	U21	Minor	Juvenile		
Abbeyleix St Lazarians	318	93	198	7	20	54	31	0	193	
Annanough	155	76	77	0	2	40	12	8	67	
Arles/Kilcruise	119	72	47	0	0	41	10	3	44	
Arles/Killeen	169	80	89	0	0	46	0	3	85	
Ballinakill	204	103	101	0	0	60	23	10	91	
Ballyfin	520	226	237	0	57	76	26	6	229	
Ballylinan	239	67	156	0	16	37	7	3	112	
Ballypickas	167	95	70	2	0	62	6	7	63	
Ballyroan Abbey	473	237	234	0	2	109	76	23	206	
Barrowhouse	329	209	111	5	4	40	10	2	90	
Borris In Ossory	98	89	1	8	0	48	11	0	0	
Borris in Ossory Kilcotton	132	21	111	0	0	0	0	10	99	
Camross	333	196	117	11	9	82	21	5	112	
Castletown	325	172	153	0	0	66	16	9	132	
Clonad	98	57	32	0	9	37	3	13	18	
Clonaslee St Manmans	285	164	121	0	0	110	16	21	100	
Clough-Ballacolla	170	89	81	0	0	63	21	10	71	
Colt/St Fintan's	157	98	29	7	23	47	13	5	23	
Courtwood	194	107	85	2	0	62	12	23	62	
Crettyard	209	55	100	0	54	41	6	6	82	
Emo	259	240	19	0	0	53	24	6	13	
Errill	96	91	0	0	5	62	3	0	0	
Graigucullen	304	126	128	23	27	49	22	3	106	
Kilcavan	313	129	164	3	17	49	11	0	163	
Kilcotton	89	82	0	7	0	44	8	0	0	
Killeshin	196	93	95	0	8	45	9	13	81	
Kyle	61	48	4	0	9	31	1	3	0	
Mountmellick	285	142	124	15	4	76	25	7	113	
O'Dempseys	524	250	250	0	24	65	15	11	188	
Park Ratheniska	366	166	200	0	0	53	29	26	171	
Park Ratheniska-Timahoe	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portarlinton	371	146	186	39	0	15	10	7	154	
Portlaoise	1123	576	537	1	9	147	56	24	505	
Rathdowney	159	154	5	0	0	42	21	5	0	
Rathdowney Errill	139	1	138	0	0	0	0	13	125	
Rosenallis	377	166	211	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Shanahoe	150	92	57	1	0	2	0	0	41	
Slieve Bloom	123	98	25	0	0	43	14	2	22	
Spink	336	76	211	10	39	39	19	34	162	
St Fintan's Mountrath	176	47	87	6	36	9	2	7	68	
St Joseph's	275	142	120	1	12	56	27	22	94	
Stradbally	241	118	114	9	0	39	13	7	99	
The Harps	321	199	95	25	2	47	12	14	76	
The Heath	358	161	197	0	0	57	10	11	165	
The Rock	319	162	154	0	3	71	12	6	139	
Timahoe	240	102	132	0	6	29	11	5	120	
Trumera	130	67	62	0	1	31	7	6	55	
Totals	12028	5983	5465	182	398	2275	681	399	4539	

Irish Cultural Officer Report

Tuairisc Oifigeach Cultúr & Gaeilge CLG Laoise Cruinniú Chinn Bhliana CLG Laoise 2019

A chairde,

Ba mhór an onóir dom bheith tofa arís mar Oifigeach Cultúr & Gaeilge Laoise ag an Crinniú Chinn Bhliana anuraidh.

As Oifigeach Cultúr & Gaeilge I chair the Scór Committee and preside over the allocation of Gaeltacht scholarships. Scór na bPaisti is an outstanding success, great talent, and huge numbers participating and while it may not be appreciated in certain circles it is my opinion that beyond that age group Scór is in serious decline, if not worse. I would like to thank the Committee which worked so well with me organising these competitions at County level and adjudicating on the awarding of the Gaeltacht Scholarships: Michael Martin (Runai), Christine Kealy (PRO), Paddy Connolly, John Paul Nevin, Monica Middleton, Donal Deegan, Siobhan Byron and Julia Stapleton.

Bilingual signage was distributed to all clubs earlier this year and I hope they are in use.

Please try to promote usage of our native language in the day to day business of your club. I am available to help your Club's Officers to make some little changes in using the "Cúpla Focal" should you wish. I am reminding you again in the run up to your club's Annual General Meeting to present a little of all reports in our native language. Thank you to my fellow County Board Officers, Officers of the clubs of Laois agus an foireann san Oifig.

Monica Bn Uí Dhubhshláine

Referee Administrator Report

We carried out hurling & football rules test, this was completed by all the active referees in the county. This was a vast improvement on the previous year.

All referees completed a in-service course which was facilitated earlier in the year by John Rossiter, Wexford.

We also carried out, code of ethics course, fitness course and we asked for all referees to submit Garda Vetting forms.

We also looked at reviewing clips during the summer with the referees which was very successful and we felt the referees were more engaged.

Overall the year was a quite a demanding year, we had quite a number of retirements earlier in the year which made it difficult in respect of appointing referees in both hurling and football.

We had a fitness pass rate of 15 (Yoyo test) We would like to reduce this to 14.5 as quite a number of referees didn't make this pass rate. As a result they missed out on refereeing senior championship matches. Although this year we were very strict on the pass rate, I feel by lowering to 14.5 as previously suggested, referees will put a

little more effort into their fitness prep and with the proposed new pass rate, the achievement goal of refereeing prominent matches such as senior championship matches, will be a driving factor and motivation for the coming year.

Another area of concern is recruitment of referees. As you are aware a small number of games had to be cancelled due to lack of referees available. We would ask the clubs of Laois to consider setting a goal of at least 1 referee per club.

At this time I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Appointments Committee, all of our Assessors, Laois County Board, and our Referees. I would like to give a special mention to Maurice Deegan and Thomas Moore for their time, effort and dedication.

Finally I would like to express condolences to the family of Phil Duggan (Camross GAA) a valued member of our team who sadly passed away during the year.

Jody Conway

Referee Administrator

Ainmniúcháin (Nominations)

Cathaoirleach (Chairperson):

Peter O'Neill (O); Kieran Leavy.

Leas Cathaoirleach (Vice Chairperson):

Tom Clear (O).

Cisteoir (Treasurer):

Martin Byrne (O).

Leas Cisteoir (Asst. Treasurer):

Canice McCarthy; Paschal McEvoy.

Ard Comhairle (Central Council Delegate):

Gerry Kavanagh (O).

Comhairle Laighean (Leinster Council Delegate):

John Kealy; PJ Kelly; Richard Kennedy;

Oifigeach Oiliúna (Coaching Officer):

Fergal Byron (O).

Oifigeach Cultir agus Gaeilge (Cultural and Irish Officer):

No Nominee.

Oifigeach Caidrimh Poiblí (P.R.O.):

Pat O'Sullivan (O); Paul Dargan.

Congress Delegates (3 to be elected):

(Cathaoirleach, Runaí & Ard Comhairle delegate automatically attend):

Martin Byrne; Tom Clear; Tom Jones; PJ Kelly; Kieran Leavy;

Paschal McEvoy.

Leinster Convention Delegates (5 to be elected):

(Outgoing Comhairle Laighean delegates automatically attend): Tom Clear,

Gerry Kavanagh; John Kealy; Kieran Leavy; Pat O'Sullivan;

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