

C.L.G. Laoise



Comhdháil Bhliantúil



Monday, 5th December, 2022
7.30 p.m.

Midlands Park Hotel

Laois

shopping centre

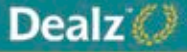
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Standing Orders

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 2021 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 6th. December 2021.

Cathaoirleach Peadar O'Néil presided at County Convention on 06/12/21. The following Coiste Bainistí members were also in attendance: Tomás O'Cleirigh, Mairtín O'Broin, Gearóid O'Caomhanach, PS O'Cealaigh, Risteard O Cinnéide, Fergal O'Beirn, Gearóid O Sleibhín, Pól O Deargáin, Moncha Ní Dhubhsláinne, Maitiu O Coiléir, Ailéin O Langtúin agus Niall Mac Laitimh (Runaí).

Clubs were represented as follows:

N. O'Riain, Mainistir Laoise; M. Mac an Ghaill, Anach; SS. O'Conbhuí Ard Lios Cilchrúis; PS O Cinnéide, Ard Lios Cilín; A. Ni Ghiolla Phadraig, Baile na Coille; N. O Cianáin, Baile Fionn; S. Hovendon, Baile Uí Laigheanáin; M. Ní Fhaoláin, Baile Píocas; A. O Braonáin, Teach an Bhearra; R. O Muirí, Buiríos Mór Osraí; S. O Ceallaigh, Buiríos Mór Osraí Cill Choitín; U. Ní Dhonnchaidh, Camros; M. Mac Pheadair, Baile an Chaisleáin; P. Goode, Cluain Fada; D. O Ceallacháin, Cluain na Slí Naomh Meanmáin; A. Mac Cartaine, Cloch Balla Cholla; L. de Stacaphúil, Coillte; A. O Riain, Coillte Seanchua; R. O Danachair, Coill na Cúirte; S. de Búrca, Crochta Ard; M. O Riain, Ioma; T. O Fiaich, Cill Cabháin; G. Diring, Gleann Uiseann; S. Payne, Mointeach Mílic; C. O Greacháin, Maighean Rátha; B. O Fionnalaigh, Na Diomasaigh; L. O Rannacháin, Páirc Raithín an Uisce Tigh Mochua; C. Conléibhe, Cúil an tSudaire; E. O Fionnalaigh, Portlaoise; M. O'Leannáin, Ross Fhionnghlaise; M. O Berigin, Seanchua; R. O'Nualláin, Sliabh Bladhma; D. O Duibhir, An Spinc; R. O Doinn, Sráidbahile; T. Breatnach, Ná Clairsigh; P. O'Céin, An Fraoch; S. O'hAllúinn, An Charraig; L. O'Rannacháin, Tigh Mochua; B. O'hAllúinn, Tromaire; S. Laibheartaigh (Childrens Officer); S. O'Meachair (Cumann an mBunscol) & O. O'hAilche (Post Primary Schools); Also present were: M. O hAonasa (Games Manager); S. O hAinbhith (Coiste Eisteachta); Nicolas O Braonáin (Strategic Review); S. O Conbhuí & members of the Kelly Family.

Leithscéil: Paschal Mac Fhiobhuí & L. Ní Chonraoi (Health and Wellbeing).

1. **Standing Orders** were adopted on the proposition of Liam de Stacaphúil, seconded by Gearóid O Caomhanach.
2. **Minutes of 2020 Convention** was adopted on the proposition of Briain O hAllúinn, seconded by Caoimhín O Greacháin.
3. **Secretary's Report** was adopted on the proposition of Michéal O Riain, seconded by S O Conbhuí.

Matters arising from Secretary Report:

- M. O Leannáin noted that the reluctance of certain Independent Teams to play in "A" grade championships and that it was imperative that they should be playing in these grades at U17 and U20 also;

- Mochua Print and Design had inadvertently been omitted from our list of sponsors and An Cathaoirleach expressed our thanks to them for their continued support of our annual Awards ceremony;
 - L. de Stacaphúil acknowledged concern and frustration over ongoing delay in receiving written decision from DRA tribunal on DRA 09/2021;
 - M. O Leannáin queried the need to outline the 3 to 4 year age span allowable at underage grades in Coiste na nOg report, stating that it was in rule and was a necessity for rural clubs survival in fielding teams on their own. A. O Langtúin replied;
 - B. O Fionnalaigh noted in Coiste Eisteachta report that it was not always the case where CHC were unaware of the proposed penalty by CCC and that it had been inadvertently revealed in a recent case. S. O hAinbhith replied;
 - Kilcavan GAA Instrumental Music group, An Cathaoirleach congratulated them on their wonderful success in the All Ireland Scór series.
4. **Strategic Review 2018-2020** – N. O Braonáin made a verbal presentation on a review of this report, which had been conducted by members of the outgoing committee in recent weeks. He acknowledged at the outset the difficulties incurred in implementing any report in recent years due to Covid restrictions. He complimented the improvements in Coaching and Games, particularly the appointment of a Games Manager and noted the importance of County Committee signing off on the annual Coaching and Games plan, a functioning Coaching and Games committee; appointment of a Club Coaching Officer in each Club and the requirement for more volunteer involvement in our Academies. He stated requirement for regional competitions in order that our stronger players are allowed develop and warned that independent teams were not a longterm solution for rural clubs suffering with depopulation. He acknowledged issues with local media, which was on both sides and stated the importance of updating our own social media platforms.

He noted the fabulous infrastructural developments in CoE and OMP completed in recent years and the importance of planning and putting money a side for “blue sky development” for maintenance of these facilities in future years. He noted better relationship with Camogie and LGFA, with both associations using OMP for their County finals. He complimented county on our financial governance and acknowledged growing relationships with our sponsors and the importance of their recognition. He stated that one of the main issues not addressed was the growing urban centre of Portlaoise, with a catchment area of 22,000 people and the importance in harnessing and incorporating this population into our association. He warned of the survival of rural clubs due to depopulation and advised liaising with Laois local authority and Croke Park in addressing these issues. He concluded by thanking his working group for their interest and input into this review and wished Laois the very best in the future.

5. **Treasurer's Report** showing an operating surplus of €505,132 in County Committee A/c and a surplus of €60,388 in O'Moore Park A/c was adopted on the proposition of Seán Payne, seconded by Mairtín Mac na Ghaill.

An Cisteoir gave a detailed explanation of our financial accounts, explaining both Income and Expenditure Accounts and Schedules to accounts. He briefed delegates that the reasons for such a surplus were that Intercountry Team expenditure was cut by almost 50% due to covid restrictions on our activities; Government wage subsidy package resulted in minimal expense for Cul Camp coaches, whilst Leinster Council waived our contribution to our Coaching and Games staff for the same reason; Croke Park team expenses and grants were greater than anticipated and our Gate Receipts also showed an increase that had not been budgeted for. He warned that this was an exceptional year on our finances and was unlikely to be achieved again and outlined that as a result of such a surplus, that the management committee had transferred €160k to a capital development fund for provision of completion of projects which included providing a railing and pathway around CoE Pitch 1, to increase spectator viewing; install and replace 2,022 seats in OMP stand and develop a ball wall in CoE. He acknowledged the co-operation and support of our Clubs in our main fundraiser, €130 All Club County Members Draw and appealed for their support again in 2022. 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 and also his family for their understanding in allowing him the time to carry out this role.

6. **Outgoing Chairperson's Address:**

Outgoing Cathaoirleach P. O'Neil stated that it was both an honour and a privilege to act as Cathaoirleach of Laois GAA, thanking Clubs for allowing him fulfil this role for the past four years and hoping his tenure was for the betterment of Laois GAA. He expressed his thanks to his fellow executive members for their work and commitment to Laois GAA, in particular Martin Byrne our treasurer; all our sponsors and in particular Mattie Walsh, MW Hire; our sub-committees and our volunteers; our Players and Mentors for their commitment to Laois; our schools both Cumann na mBunscol and Post Primary for the excellent work they do in promoting games; our Stewards and our Event Control team on Match Days; our groundsman Colm McEvoy, our caretakers Mick Glynn and Willie Stackpool and our TÚS and Community Employment Scheme personnel for their work in the grounds; Laois Gaels under the Chairmanship of Bryan Breen and LaoisgaaTV under the auspices of Paul Dargan, whom was ably assisted by Pat O'Sullivan and Tomas Moore and the many co-commentators on match days; our match officials; our Coaching and Games personnel and Games Manager Mike Henchy, who will hopefully be complimented with a further eight GPO's in the coming year; noted the work of Tom Hargroves during his tenure and wished him well in his new career with Setanta College; the local press for their coverage of Laois GAA affairs; our growing relationship with

Camogie and LGFA; our Office administrator Sile Burbage and Michael Reynolds and his staff in Leinster Council for their assistance when required. He briefly outlined the completion of our LOETB Centre of Excellence and the development work in making MW Hire O'Moore Park a "green" stadium through the retro fitting of the stadium floodlights and the implementation of a biodiversity programme. He followed on from Nickey Brennan's presentation, in relation to the multi-cultural society we are now living in and outlining the importance of the integration and inclusion of the approximate 10,000 non-irish within our county. He congratulated all Clubs on their participation in Leinster Club competitions and wished both Clough Ballacolla and Portalrlington the very best of luck in their respective upcoming Senior Club semi-finals. He concluded by wishing incoming Chairperson PJ Kelly the very best of luck and thanking his family for their co-operation and patience in allowing him serve in this role for the past four years.

7. **Election of Officers: The following officers were elected –**

- Cathaoirleach (Chairman): PS O'Ceallaigh was elected unopposed.
- Leas Chathaoirleach (Vice Chairman): Tomas O'Cléirigh was elected, after defeating Máire Ní Fhaoláin & Seosamh O Conbhuí in a vote.
- Cisteoir (Treasurer): Mairtín O'Broin was elected unopposed.
- Leas Cisteoir (Asst. Treasurer): Paschal Mac Fhiobhuí was elected unopposed.
- Ard Comhairle (Central Council) Delegate: Gearóid O'Caomhanaigh was elected unopposed.
- Comhairle Laighean (Leinster Council) Delegates (2): Risteard O'Cinnéide & Briain O hAlluinn were elected after defeating Máire Ní Fhaoláin & Seosamh O Conbhuí in a vote.
- Oifigeach Oiliuma(Coaching): Fergal O'Beirn was elected unopposed.
- Oifigeach Cultir agus Gaeilge (Cultural and Irish): Monncha Ní Dhubhsláinne was elected unopposed.
- Oifigeach Caidrimh Poibli (P.R.O.): As there was no nominee for this position, this election was deferred to January County Committee meeting, with nomination papers to be circulated this week.
- Congress Delegates (5): This election was deferred January County Committee meeting.
- Leinster Convention Delegates (7): This election was deferred January County Committee meeting.

Chairperson PS O’Ceallaigh addressed Convention as follows -

Delegates, Officers of the County Board and members of the press, Firstly, to my club Timahoe, a big thank you for nominating me for the esteem position of ‘Cathaoirleach Coiste Chontae Laoise’. Likewise, to other clubs who also nominated me, a big thank you as well.

To my club, I would not have developed a love for all things GAA if it had not been for the wonderful people involved there who influenced me through my formative years, I will be eternally grateful to them for that.

Without offending or omitting any one person, I would particularly like to thank our current chairperson ‘Liam Ramsbottom’ and further acknowledge two former Laois County Board Chairmen from Timahoe, in Sean Ramsbottom and Dick Miller. Hard acts to follow perhaps.

For me personally and for my club it is a very proud day. I would especially like to thank my immediate family, my wife Elva and our 3 sons Jamie, Jeremy and Patrick Joseph Jnr for their support to date, and more importantly for offering their patronage going forward. Without this luxury, no doubt the road ahead would be a lot more challenging.

Furthermore, I’ll be forever indebted to my parents for instilling a love of ‘All things GAA’ from a very young age. Thank you, P.J. & Chrissie, and of course to both my sisters for always keeping me in-toe along the way. I think the same sentiment can be attributed to my In-Laws!!

To members of my extended family and some very close friends, Thank You for offering me the time and good wishes for the year ahead, such kind gestures are always welcoming. At this juncture, I would also like to pay tribute to Peter O Neill as he steps away after 4 years at the helm. As we know Peter was never found wanted when it came to leading us as a County. His energy and enthusiasm are some of the many traits his character left on upon the role of Chairperson. Thank you, Peter.

When we look at the values of the GAA, the first that springs to my mind is ‘respect’. For us as a Dual County to progress and flourish, we must first begin by respecting each other, that is ‘club’ and ‘County’, ‘County and club’ -it is a 2-way street. Afterall, the County board is just an extension of the clubs of Laois.

Another value is teamwork and I’m speaking specifically of ‘off the field’ situations, where if we work together as a team in the spirit of respect, I believe there is very little that we cannot achieve. The credit for the achievements is not important, but rather it is the achievements themselves is what’s fundamental.

Once again, this year has presented us with many unforeseen challenges however, the GAA has not been found wanting and has stepped up to the plate once more, particularly with supporting our communities, the communities we are so ingrained in. The one thing

COVID-19 has, and keeps giving us, is an opportunity to reflect on what is really important in our lives - FOR example I asked myself - Why am I involved in the GAA?

Do I represent the ideals and aims of our founding fathers? What sort of Association and example do we want to provide for our young people? These are all important questions and something that we should perhaps not wait until we have another pandemic to ask ourselves.

I don't think tonight is a night for extended and perhaps prolonged speeches, promises etc. However, I think it would be remiss of me not to draw our attention to what I firmly believe is a necessary call to not only support Rathdowney-Errill's Motion before us tonight, but I feel we must as a UNIT promote its necessity. Unfortunately, the misuse of recreational drugs is a growing concern for most, if not All our Entities, particularly the growing cocaine use across rural Ireland as opined heretofore in many medias. This is one area of responsibility I do believe we must explore for the betterment and wellbeing of All our Gaels. To conclude, and whilst I may be repeating myself, I sincerely am privileged and honored that the role of 'Cathaoirleach Coiste Chontae Laoise' is bestowed upon me for 2022.

I believe the start of a thousand-mile march begins with the first step, and in this regard, I look forward to further building relationships, and working with you and for you in 2022. Slan, fanacht sábháilte, agus go raibh maith agat!

Both Liam O Rannacháin Tigh Mochua and Eamann O Fionnalaigh addressed the meeting congratulating incoming PS O Cealligh on his election to office and Peadar O Néil on his successful tenure.

All other elected candidates returned thanks and defeated candidates acknowledged their support.

An Runaí thanked Returning Officer and Tellers – Micheal O Dubhsláinne & Seán de Brún, as appointed by Laois GAA Management Committee, for their help and support in overseeing the election counts earlier this evening.

8. **Motions –**

- (1). Amend Byelaw No. 1 to reflect changes made at Special Congress to the Development officer role and the requirement for an Audit and Risk Committee (amendments in bold print) -
1. In accordance with Riail 3.11, T.O. 2021, the County Convention shall elect the following:
Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Representatives (2) on Provincial Council and one representative on Central Council. It shall appoint a Children's Officer and a County Safety and Facilities Officer as recommended by the outgoing County Committee.

Exception - In accordance with Rule 3.11 (b) (2), T.O, 2021, the Treasurer is not subject to the maximum period of office of five years.

2. In accordance with Riail 3.18, T.O. 2021, the County Committee shall consist of the following: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Planning and Training Officer, Public Relations Officer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Children's Officer, Representatives on Provincial Council, Representative on Central Council, County Referees Administrator, County Safety and Facilities Officer, one named representative each from Primary and Post-Primary Schools' Committees, Handball Representative, Chairpersons of Hurling Committee, Football Committee and Youth Committee and one named representative of each affiliated club. All members, with the exception of the Secretary, shall have voting rights.
3. In accordance with Riail 3.20, T.O. 2021, the following Sub Committees, whose powers and functions shall be as detailed in Riail 3.20, T.O. 2021 and as otherwise outlined in these Bye-Laws, shall be appointed by, and be subject to the County Committees. Members of all Sub Committee shall be named:
 - a) Management Committee: It shall consist of the following: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary (non-voting), Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, County Safety and Facilities Officer, Public Relations Officer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Representatives on Provincial Council, Representative on Central Council and Chairpersons of Hurling Committee, Football Committee and Youth Committee.
 - e. Safety and Facilities Committee: It shall consist of six members including County Safety and Facilities Officer who shall be Chairperson, a Qualified Event Controller. The remaining members, nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee, should be suitably qualified in areas relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee as outlined in R. 3.20 (v) T.O. 2021.
 - o. Planning and Training Committee: It shall consist of five members, the Chairperson of which shall be the County Planning and Training Officer. All members shall, upon appointment, complete the necessary training as prescribed by The National Officer Development Committee and Club and County Planning Committee.
 - p. Audit and Risk Committee: It shall consist of no more than five named members including a Chairperson nominated by the Management Committee and approved by the Provincial Audit and Risk Committee and up to four members nominated by the Management Committee. The Treasurer shall not be a member. (CLG Laoise).

The Motion was passed on a show of hands after being proposed by Seamas Lahart and seconded by Gearoid O Caomhanach.

(2) Amend Laois GAA Byelaw No. 6 (Transfers) to read as follows (amended to exclude criteria referring to “Proximity to Club Base”) –

6. Transfers

- A. A player shall be restricted to playing for a Club in the Catchment Area of his permanent residence as per Rule 6.5 (a) & (b), TO 2021 (Catchment Areas as defined in Laois GAA Rules and Regulations as per Rule 6.3, TO 2021).
- B. There shall be two distinct Club “designations” – Urban and Rural. This will allow the CCC to distinguish between Transfers as follows: (i) Urban to Rural Clubs, (ii) Rural to Rural Clubs and (iii) Rural to Urban Clubs.
- C. Portlaoise GAA Club will be designated an “Urban” Club and all other Clubs in Laois will be designated “Rural”.
- D. Requests for transfer shall not be considered unless submitted to the County Secretary before January 31st in any year. Exception : In the case of an Urban to Rural Transfer, an application may be granted provided the player has not participated in Club Competition (including U12 Go Games) in the year in which the Transfer / Attachment to First Clubs is sought.
- E. A Player from an exclusive Club transferring to a Dual Club must transfer for both codes.
- F. The C.C.C. shall process and make initial decisions on all applications for Transfer within the county, in a timely manner with consideration to the commencement of competitions (Riail 6.5, T.O. 2021). Such decisions shall reflect the ethos of the Association as outlined in Riail 6.1,T.O. 2021 and give due consideration to the negative effect, if any, it may have on the player’s First Club and/or Own Club.
- G. In exceptional circumstances the CCC may, after due consideration, approve the transfer application.

Other Relevant Connection:

(i). Urban to Rural Transfer

A player from a designated Urban Club may, at any time, transfer to, any Rural Club without the necessity of meeting any of the criteria and / or exceptions usually associated with such Transfers, provided the player has not participated in Club Competition (including U12 Go Games) in the year in which the Transfer / Attachment to First Clubs is sought.

(ii). Rural to Rural Transfer

- a) Permanent Residence - An adult player or juvenile player from a family moving to a new place of Permanent Residence, which is within the Catchment Area

of the Club to which he wishes to transfer. In such cases the onus of proof of new permanent residence shall be on the applicant for transfer (by provision of his or his family's ownership of the property or at least three utility bills in his name for the property), as outlined in Rule 6.3, with exception that it has been his principal private residence for at least the previous three months and is likely for at least the ensuing year.

- b) Parentage Rule – A player may apply for a Transfer to a Club in the catchment area in which his Parent was a Player in Adult Competition or a Club Officer or Member, who over a reasonable period of time, made a proven contribution to that Club. Such criteria shall also apply for Transfer applications within Club catchment areas, and /or where other exceptional circumstances may be considered.
 - c) Primary School – A player may apply for a Transfer to a Club in the catchment area where he is presently attending or has attended Primary School. The Primary School rule will only be taken into consideration where the player has been attending this school or has attended for at least one full school year.
- (iii). Rural to Urban Transfer
- a) Permanent Residence - An adult player or juvenile player from a family moving to a new place of Permanent Residence, which is within the Catchment Area of the Club to which he wishes to transfer. In such cases the onus of proof of new permanent residence shall be on the applicant for transfer (by provision of his or his family's ownership of the property or at least three utility bills in his name for the property), as outlined in Rule 6.3, with exception that it has been his principal private residence for at least the previous three months and is likely for at least the ensuing year.
 - b) Parentage Rule – A player may apply for a Transfer to a Club in the catchment area in which his Parent was a player in adult competition, or in exceptional circumstances, a Club Officer or Member who, over a reasonable period of time, has made a proven contribution to that Club. Such criteria shall also apply for Transfer applications within Club catchment areas, and /or where other exceptional circumstances may be considered. (CLG Laoise)

The Motion was passed on a show of hands after being proposed by Seamas O Meachair and seconded by Liam de Stacaphúil.

- (3). Amend Laois GAA Byelaw No. 7 (Permission to Play) to reflect changes made at Congress 2019 to read as follows –

7. Playing Restrictions (Club)

A Club that may be experiencing demographic decline in either or both codes that is threatening the sustainability and vibrancy of the said unit, may apply to Laois CCC to be a “Designated Club” for the purpose of this Byelaw, before 31 January in any year.

(a). Subject to Riail 6.8, (c), T.O. 2021, the CCC shall process and make decisions on applications received on or before 14th. February in any year for permission for an Adult player from an exclusively Football Club to play Hurling with a Dual Club or a player from an exclusively Hurling Club to play Football with a Dual Club. Where players have received permission heretofore to play with another club in the aforementioned circumstances, these existing relationships between players and clubs shall be permitted to continue unless the CCC considers it to be contrary to the promotion of hurling or football within the county or his First Club decides to field a team in that particular code.

A player from an exclusive Football Club may play Hurling with an exclusive Hurling Club, and vice versa, within their catchment area, or may make application as below.

Applications will be decided by CCC based on the following criteria:

- If from an exclusive Football or Hurling Rural Club (as determined in Byelaw 6) with no particular code in that Club, the player shall be accommodated in that code by another Rural Club within his catchment area;
- If there is no Rural Club with that particular Code within his catchment area, the player shall be accommodated in that code by a “Designated Club” or in a bordering catchment area or in nearest proximity to the players First Club;

(b). Subject to Riail 6.8, (d), Exception (1), T.O. 2021, the CCC shall process and make decisions on applications received on or before 14th. February, in any year for permission for a Club’s Underage (up to including U20 / U21) players who may be without an Underage Team in a particular Grade or Code or who may be from an exclusive Football Club to wishing to play Hurling with a Dual Club or a player from an exclusive Hurling Club wishing to play Football with a Dual Club.

All applications must be made by a Club on behalf of its players, to play with the same club or independent team. Any exception, for individual players to go to different clubs, shall be decided by the CCC. Application shall be decided in accordance with the Central Council Code, Guideline and directive policy for the regulation of Independent Team and as outlined in Riail 6.8, (c), Exception (1) (a) & (b), T.O. 2021.

Applications will be decided based on the following criteria:

- If from an exclusive Football or Hurling Rural Club (as determined in Byelaw 6) with no particular code in that Club, the player shall be accommodated in that code by another Rural Club within his catchment area;
- If there is no Rural Club with that particular Code within his catchment area, the player shall be accommodated in that code by a “Designated Club” or in a bordering catchment area or in nearest proximity to the players First Club; (CLG Laoise)

The Motion was passed on a show of hands after being proposed by Maitiu O Coiléir and seconded by Niall O Riain.

- 4). Amend Laois GAA Byelaw No. 5 (Attachment to First Club) to reflect that Laois CCC may no longer adjudicate on an application for Attachment to First Club as per Rule 6.4 and to read as follows –
5. Attachment to First Club
 - a) A person seeking to become a Member of the Association shall be restricted to joining a Club in the Catchment Area of his permanent residence as per Rule 6.4 (a) & (b), TO 2021 (Catchment Areas as defined in Laois GAA Rules and Regulations as per Rule 6.3, TO 2021). Exception; Primary School – A person seeking to become a Member of the Association may apply to join a Club in the catchment area where he is presently attending or has attended Primary School. This exception may only be availed of where the player has been attending this school or has attended for at least one full school year. (CLG Laoise).

The Motion was withdrawn, until written decision of DRA 09/2021 was received.

- (5).Amend Rule 1.16, TO 2021 to include additional section as follows
 - (d) All players must complete an online educational course on Alcohol, Gambling and Substance abuse (AGSA) and GAA’s Anti-doping Education Course, prior to their participation in an Adult grade of Championship and / or within the previous 12 months.
Penalty: A One Match Suspension in the same Code and at the same level applicable to the next game in the same competition, even if the game occurs in the following year.
 - (e) The Association should commit to outlining the comprehensive services in prevention and rehabilitation and conduct a review of the appropriate levels of testing that is currently in place at both club and county level. (CLG Ráth Domhnaigh Airéil)

The Motion was passed on a show of hands after being proposed by Gearóid O Caomhanach and seconded by Monncha Ní Dhubhsláinne.

9. **Aón Ghnó Eile:**

- Stretcher in O’Moore Park- L O Rannacháin queried as to why no stretcher was available in O’Moore Park during SFC Semi-final game, with player having to be carried off due to injury. An Runai apologised for the incident, explaining there is a number of stretchers in our fully equipped medical room in stadium, but in this incidence there was a slight delay in getting stretcher and club officials decided to carry him off pitch. He explained that player was offered all medical assistance available, including ambulance. He stated that provision has been put in place to ensure this does not happen again.
- Videoing of Club Games – C O Greacháin queried as to why it is not sufficient for Club to supply dvd copy of match after game, rather than videographer. M. Mac

Pheadair & E O Fionnualaigh also spoke on this issue. An Cathaoirelach explained reasons why this was being implemented.

- Independent / Group Teams in “B” Competitions – P. O Céin asked for CCC to consider future grading of independent teams with multiple clubs in “B” competitions. An Cathaoirelach stated that this would be noted.

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of Sympathy were extended to the following families:

- St Lazerian's Abbeyleix: Maher, McEvoy (Tullore), Thornton, Bergin (Tonduff), Bergin (Boley), McEvoy (Main St.), Lalwor and Cloney families;
- Annanough: O'Connell, Rowe, Maloney, Nolan, O'Toole and Miller Families;
- Arles Kilcruise: Brophy, Nolan, Conway, Mooney, Murray, Brennan and Kelly Families;
- Ballinakill: Rohan, O'Shea, Cahill, Cass, Delaney and Fitzpatrick Families;
- Ballyfin: Purcell, Scott, Fitzpatrick, Walsh, Kerr, Wheeler, Rice and Conroy Families;
- Ballylinan: Kelly, Farrell, Moore, Hartill, Carter, Cranny and Whelan Families;
- Ballypickas: Carter (Billy), McWey, Dalton, McEvoy, McMahan, Carter (Paddy), Stokes, Dooley, Murphy, Holohan, Gorman, Cahill and Larkin Families;
- Barrowhouse: O'Meara and Whelan Families;
- Borris-in-Ossory Kilcotton: Dooley (Joe), Phelan, O'Hara, Bowe, Kelly, Dollard, Fahey, Delaney, Cronin, Maher, Whelan, Rea and Carroll Families;
- Camross: Cuddy (Lar), Kavanagh, Dooley, O'Donoghue, Phelan, Dunne, Delaney (Chaz), Gleeson, Bergin and Delaney Families;
- Clonad: Goode, Breen, Coss and Daly Families;
- Clough Ballacolla: Davin, Cleere, Doherty, Burke, Bowe and Duggan Families;
- Clonaslee St Manmans: Carroll, Molloy, Culliton, Dunne and Flynn Families;
- Colt: McGill, Dalton, Duff, Lalor/Tynan, O'Callaghan, Stackpool, Dowling, McGowan/Berney and Commins Families;
- Courtwood: Dempsey, Scully, Dunne, Carroll, Fitzgerald and McGill Families;

Crettyard:	Wheatley, Daly, Kennedy, Whelan, Mulhall, Byrne, Moore, Pamaran, McGrath, Rowan, Lynch and Coonan Families;
Emo:	Sheridan, Treacy, Davis, Flanagan, Lawlor, Hyland, Lynch (Billy), Lynch (Joe), Lewis (Bridie), Lewis (Jimmy), Brennan, Sheehan, Knowles, Minnion, Carroll, Walsh, Keegan, Dunne, Molyneaux and Montague Families;
Kilcavan:	Sullivan, Molloy, Dunne and Young Families;
Kyle:	Hudson, Phelan, Kavanagh, Maher, Bergin and Delaney Families;
Mountmellick:	Conroy, Payne, Scott, Rochford, O'Reilly, Fehilly, Young, Lee, Goodwin, Brennan, McCabe, Houlihan and Flanagan Families;
O'Dempsey's:	McCormack, Whelehan, Davis, McGill, Carroll, Barry, Quinn and Keogh Families;
Portarlinton:	Cullen, Murphy, Geoghegan, Gibson, O'Toole and Lanigan Families;
Portlaoise:	Nealon, Dollard, Gorman, Keenan, Lalor, Duggan, McCormack, Dunne, McDonald, Carroll (Peter), Rochford, Lalor, O'Sullivan, Dragan, Cullen, O'Brien and Bartley Families;
Rathdowney Errill:	Kelly, Dowling, Gaffney, White, Fitzpatrick, Tighe, Murray, Finn, Wallis, Somers, Cooke, Cahill, Browne and Bowe Families;
Rosenallis:	Goulding, Fitzpatrick, Leech, Smyth, Friel, Mooney and Poole Families;
Shanahoe:	Lalor, Breen, Kennedy, McDonald and Hiney Families;
Slieve Bloom:	Fitzpatrick, Bartley and O'Riordan Families;
Spink:	Gorman, Fitzpatrick and Dayton Families;
St Joseph's:	Owens, Fleming, Wheatley (Kathleen), Dunne, Hopkins, Knowles, Wheatley (Eamon), Davis, Moore, Daly, Lacey and Campbell Families;

- St Fintan's Mountrath: Rice, Williams, Byrne, Ryan, Wallace (Trevor), Casey, Purcell, Fahey, Browne and Wallace (Betty) Families;
- Stradbally: Delaeny, Keenan, Duggan, Casey, Mulhare, Nolan, Lalor, Dalton, Moore and Kearns Families;
- The Harps: Muldowney, Townsend, Duggan, Kenna, Woods, Barry, Collier, Walsh, McGree, McEvoy, Murphy, Dunne, Mahoney, Moore, Fogarty, Monnelly, Shortall and Conroy Families;
- The Rock: Lynch, Donogher, Davis, Dowling and Storey Families;
- Timahoe: Dalton Family
- Trumera: Dooley, Dowling, Farrell and Dunne Families;

Tuairisc an Runaí 2022

Once again I welcome all delegates to our annual Laois GAA Convention and sincerely hope we can all analyse and reflect on Laois GAA affairs during the past year.

I would have to say 2022 was a challenging year for our Senior Inter-county teams, but displays at U20 and Minor hurling and U20 football grades, do provide some optimism for the future.

Briefly reflect my thoughts on the year past -

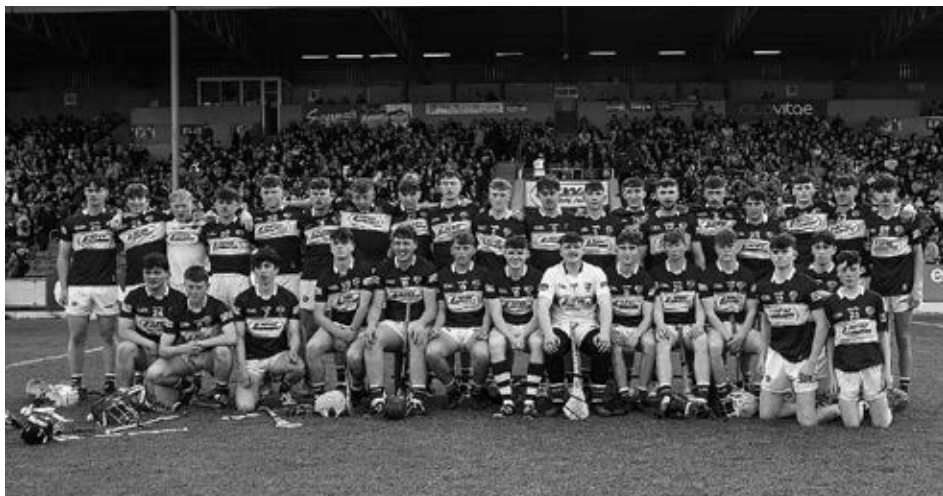
Senior Football

O'Byrne Cup – New management, new panel and a huge turnover in players, this competition was used on an experimental basis, with all panellists getting game time. Our opening game, saw us ship a heavy defeat to Wexford, but successive victories against Meath and Wicklow qualified us for a semi-final against Kildare, which we won in a penalty shootout. The final against Dublin was played three days later and whilst competitive throughout, we lost out to a fresher Dublin side. Whilst the competition was useful in many respects, with many admirable performances, I believe the condensed nature of the competition is a huge issue, particularly when you advance to the knockout stage, and certainly we paid the price accumulating a number of injuries, with fatigue also a factor, which didn't help as we prepared for a league campaign in a week's time.

League - Following on from a disappointing league campaign in 2021, the goal was naturally to progress and earn promotion from Division 3. In our opening game we travelled to Ardee and success

was achieved over a strong Louth team, who would eventually go on to be promoted. Our only other victory came against Wicklow in Aughrim. Disappointment followed with a draw at home to Antrim and defeats to Westmeath, Fermanagh and Limerick. Our destiny remained in our own hands in the final league game at home to Longford, where a result would have seen us avoid relegation. However, a poor performance saw Longford emerge deserving winners and a return to Division 4 football for Laois. Similar to previous years, our inability to finish out tight games, particularly against Antrim and Limerick cost us dearly in the end. In my opinion, a league played over seven games, probably offers a true reflection of where we actually are as a team and whilst it is not the place we wish to be, it will hopefully afford the management the platform to re-build a competitive team once again, as we endeavour to seek promotion at the first attempt.

Championship & Tailteann Cup – Whilst there was much reminiscing of our 1986 ambush in Aughrim, before our Leinster Championship opener against Wicklow, we travelled to this venue confident, particularly after two facile successes over the same opposition earlier in O'Byrne Cup and League. To be honest, the opening half of this game was as an embarrassing Laois performance as we have seen, with an 11point deficit at half time, extending to 15 points, five minutes into the second half and whilst, with the aid of a strong breeze in the second half, we made some inroads, but it was a bridge too far and a rejuvenated Wicklow team were deserving of their vic-



Laois Minor Hurling Panel 2022



Ciaran Flynn and Ben Deegan receive their awards on their selection on Electric Ireland GAA Minor Hurling Team of the Year

tory. Whilst complacency was perhaps an issue, our league relegation was disappointing and obviously had a far more damaging effect on our confidence than anticipated and on reflection there were warning signs in the lead up to this game, with a poor performance in a recent challenge game.

Whilst post mortems were ongoing in many sectors, our Coiste Bainistí supported our Management team and our panel of players, who in fairness all re-grouped and trained hard seeking redemption in the Tailteann Cup. Again we were drawn against old adversaries Westmeath in O'Moore Park, where after a gallant effort and by far our best performance to date, we lost out narrowly to the eventual Tailteann Cup champions.

Without doubt a disappointing season, but the harsh reality is that in excess of 15 players declined to commit to this Laois panel at the outset of the campaign and as a county with our population, we do not have the luxury to be able to play competitively without our best players. In fairness, injuries to a number of key players throughout the year did impact on our results as well.

I am hopeful our management team has learned lessons from the harsh experience of 2022 and with their passion and our players renewed commitment, we can look forward to 2023, where our priority must be for promotion from Division 4. I would warn against complacency again, as from our previous encounters here, nothing should be taken for granted. It certainly won't be an easy task considering we have away games to Sligo, Leitrim, Carlow and London. The new championship formats commence on the week after the conclu-

sion of the league final, where our Leinster Senior Football Championship commences with Wexford in O'Moore Park, with the winners playing Dublin in a quarter-final, with the added incentive of a potential home venue again in Portlaoise. Whilst we may dream, our realistic aim may be in the newly structured Tailteann Cup, a competition that excludes the top 16 teams who play in the All Ireland series based on their League and Provincial Championship grading, and which will be played on a Round Robin series of four Groups of four. The Tailteann Cup will be played in a similar format for remaining teams and whilst it hasn't received universal support of the general public, I believe it to be a very welcome addition to our Inter County Fixture calendar.

Thanks – Firstly I wish to thank all our players who committed to the Laois jersey for 2022 and for their valiant efforts. Our Management and backroom team are also deserving of our thanks – Billy Sheehan (Manager); Chris Conway, Gerry McGill and Tomas Brett (Selectors / Coach); Nigel Pearson (Strength and Conditioning Coach); Pat O'Sullivan (Liaison Officer); Paul Dargan and Martin Corrigan (Videographer & Statistics); Dr Simon Honan; Sean Gaffney and Johnny Lawlor (Physiotherapist) and of course long-serving Secretary Ollie Byrne, who was ably assisted by Martin Kelly. The same management team remains in place for 2023, with the exception of Tommy Mulligan replacing Tomas Brett as a selector and Tom Hargroves taking charge of Strength and Conditioning.



*Clough Ballacolla - Laois Shopping Centre
Senior Hurling Champions 2022*



*Portarlinton - Laois Shopping Centre
Senior Football Champions 2022*

O'Byrne Cup

Saturday, 8th January 2022 - Round 1
Hollymount Wexford:
Wexford 6-10, Laois 0-13

Wednesday, 12th January 2022 - Round 2
Stradbally:
Laois 1-12, Meath 0-09

Saturday, 15th January, 2022 - Round 3
Crettyard:
Laois 2-14, Wicklow 1-11

Wednesday, 19th January 2022 - Semi-final
Netwatch Cullen Park:
Laois 0-09, Kildare 1-06 (AET & Penalties
– Laois Won)

Saturday, 22nd. January 2022 - Final
Netwatch Cullen Park:
Dublin 1-13, Laois 0-11

Allianz Football League Division 3

Sunday 30th January 2022 - Round 1
St Marys Ardee:
Laois 3-09, Louth 1-10

Sunday 6th February 2022 - Round 2
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Westmeath 2-11, Laois 0-11

Saturday 26th February 2022 – Round 3
Brewster Park Enniskillen:
Fermanagh 3-15 Laois 3-09

Saturday 5th March 2022 – Round 4
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Laois 1-08, Antrim 1-08

Sunday 13th March 2022 – Round 5
Aughrim:
Laois 1-17, Wicklow 0-8

Saturday 19th March 2022 – Round 6
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Limerick 0-15, Laois 0-14

Sunday 27th March 2022 – Round 7
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Longford 2-17, Laois 1-13

Leinster Senior Football Championship

Sunday 24th April 2022 – Round 1
Aughrim:
Wicklow 5-15 Laois 4-12

Tailteann Cup

Sunday 29th May 2022 – Round 1
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Westmeath 1-13, Laois 0-13

Under 20 Football

This grade commenced with a National Development Competition, in the guise of the John Kerins Cup, which afforded us quality games against strong opposition – Kildare (draw), Meath (win) and Dublin (loss). The competition was useful and gave management optimism that we could be competitive in the Leinster Championship.

Our opening game in the championship paired us a way to Kildare in their Centre of Excellence in Hawkfield Newbridge. In an intense and competitive game, Kildare were the more clinical side and in spite of an epic Laois comeback, with the ball shaving the post in the dying seconds of injury time, the home side emerged victorious, prior to going on to win a Leinster U20 Football Championship and progressing to an All Ireland Final in this grade.

I will give honour where it is due and acknowledge that this was an excellent Laois performance and note that with the proper management and preparation, that this panel will provide the next generation of Laois Senior footballers. The impetus that those players who progressed to the senior panel on the conclusion of their u20



*Clough Ballacolla - Laois Shopping Centre
Intermediate Hurling Champions 2022*



*The Heath - Laois Shopping Centre
Intermediate Football Champions 2022*

campaign was easily recognised and was significant in our improved display in the Tailteann Cup. Unfortunately, the tug of war between U20 and Senior, despite the best efforts of all management teams, remains an issue, whilst the commitment to other sports also created debate.

I wish to thank all players who committed to this grade during the last year, quite a large number are again eligible for this grade in 2023 and I believe they are more than capable of being a force in this competition once again. The Leinster U20 Football Championship has been played as a knockout competition since its inauguration. For 2023, it will be played on a Round Robin basis, which will certainly condense the fixture calendar further, for our dual players in particular, but is welcome in affording the opportunity for the development of all our players at this grade as they progress to senior panels.

Our outgoing Manager Eddie Kinsella decided not to seek another term and I wish to take this opportunity to thank Eddie and his backroom team of Fergal Byron, Tom Byrne, Sean O'Shea and Seamus Lawlor (Selectors / Coach); Pauraic McEvoy (Strength and Condition); Liam Delaney (Performance Analysis) and Johnny Ramsbottom (Liaison / Kit) for their dedication and work for Laois GAA over the past number of years. In the coming year both Sean O'Shea and Tom Byrne will step up to manage the panel, where they will be ably assisted by Paul Cahillane in the role of Coach / Selector.

John Kerins Cup – Under-20 Football Development

Saturday, 19th February, 2022 Round 1
LOETB Centre of Excellence:

Laois 2-10, Kildare 0-16

Saturday, 26th February, 2022 Round 2
Clonard Meath:

Laois 1-06, Meath 0-08

Saturday, 5th March, 2022 Round 3
Ratheniska:

Dublin 3-10 Laois 1-8

Leinster Under-20 Football Championship

Thursday, 14th April, 2022 Quarter-Final
Hawkfield Kildare CoE:

Kildare 2-16, Laois 3-11

Minor Football

Perhaps one of the biggest tasks we had for 2022 was in trying to appoint a management team for our Minor Football panel. Unfortunately, this panel's academy results in recent years did not encourage any great promise for our championship fortunes and obviously word was out. It is one aspect of the "job" that really disappoints me, whereby on a weekend or maybe a Monday morning, after taking a "beating" at some grade of Inter County level, be it Minor, U20 or Senior, you get the call or hear the jibes from the usual brigade, whether it be the lads at the barstool counter, who seem to have an outstanding knowledge and expertise on football and hurling, to the usual press personnel, and of course the keyboard warriors, as to the faults and tribulations of our panel and management and Laois GAA in general. Now while many would be nowhere near qualified to get involved as a mentor or any other potential role within a team, the real disappointment is the hundreds of



*St Lazerians Abbeyleix - Laois Shopping Centre
Premier Intermediate Hurling Champions 2022*



*St. Lazerians Abbeyleix - Laois Shopping Centre
Junior Hurling Champions 2022*

suitably qualified personnel that have been contacted to get involved in numerous different roles with our Inter County panels and academies in recent years, and offer the same disappointing excuse for not committing. If you were to ask me, what is one of the biggest problems in Laois GAA, I have no hesitation in stating that it is our inability to recruit suitable coaches / mentors for our Inter County panels.

Eventually a management team was recruited and they set about their business in assembling a panel, albeit late in the day. The Leinster Minor Football Championship is played on a round robin basis and they opened their campaign with an encouraging win against Westmeath in O'Moore Park, prior to a disappointing defeat to a more clinical and physical Dublin team in Parnell Park and concluding with another big win against Louth at home. This qualified us for a quarter-final against Offaly in O'Connor Park, with the home side much stronger and deserving winners. As a result, we entered the Seamus Heaney Cup, competition for teams that didn't reach a Leinster Minor Semi-final and with the intention all panellists would get game time, we defeated Carlow, prior to exiting competition at semi-final stage to Wexford.

I wish to thank our players for their efforts and from what I stated earlier in this article, it is all the more reason I wish to thank Conor Gorman (Manager), Billy Delaney and Eamon O'Connell (Selectors), Niall Walsh (Strength and Conditioning); Rory Byrne (Physio) and Peter Kealy (Kitman) for all their dedication and work over the past year. This management will continue for 2023, with Jason Coffey assuming the role of Strength and

Conditioning and also the potential addition of a coach. Thankfully the prospects of our incoming panel are more encouraging, and I am hopeful we will be capable of challenging for honours in this grade in the coming year.

Leinster Minor Football Championship

Saturday, 19th. March, 2022 - Round 1

MW Hire O'Moore Park:

Laois 3-07, Westmeath 0-10

Saturday, 2nd April, 2022 - Round 2

Parnell Park:

Dublin 2-15, Laois 0-04

Wednesday, 20th April, 2022 - Round 3

MW Hire O'Moore Park:

Laois 4-19, Louth 0-12

Wednesday, 4th May, 2022 - Quarter-Final

O'Connor Park Tullamore:

Offaly 0-12, Laois 1-06

Seamus Heaney Cup

Wednesday, 11th May, 2022 - Quarter-Final

Netwatch Cullen Park:

Laois 4-06, Carlow 1-12

Thursday, 19th May, 2022 - Semi-Final

MW hire O'Moore Park:

Wexford 1-11, Laois 1-10

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 stages, we were extremely competitive in games against Wexford and Dublin, and participation was considered a worthwhile exercise.

League – Our ultimate goal was to maintain our Division 1 status, and to be fair



*Portlaoise - Laois Shopping Centre
Junior Football Champions 2022*



*Camross - Laois Shopping Centre
Junior Football "B" Champions 2022*

in recent years we have been consistent in maintaining such status. In our opening game to Tipperary in O'Moore Park, we certainly had opportunities, but the Premier sides experience won the day, albeit an encouraging display from our lads. Our next two games away to Waterford and Kilkenny saw us suffer heavy demoralising defeats after extremely disappointing performances. Next up was Antrim at home, a fixture that would determine our league status for 2023 and in fairness to the players they found a performance and after an intense game of hurling emerged one point victors. Our final game was against Dublin and with league status secured for 2023, management probably didn't show their full hand in this game, as they would be meeting the same opposition in a couple of weeks in the championship, with Dublin proved easy winners.

In 2023, we will again compete in Division 1, away to Tipperary, Antrim and Dublin and home to Waterford and Kilkenny, more daunting tasks in the year ahead. There is the perception that for Laois to progress and bridge that gap, we must compete at Division 1 League level, anyone walking out of Walsh Park after our league defeat earlier this year, will certainly not back that up. I wish I had the answer, there is undoubtedly a gulf between the top "8" and the rest, and the ultimate aim is to be in that top "8". Unfortunately, the number of heavy beatings we take each year in Division 1 is not conducive to improving our hurling standard or ensuring a full commitment to a Laois hurling panel. Perhaps a return to eight team Divisions, with promotion and relegation would be fairer to all teams concerned, although the likelihood that one of

the top "8" not being enamoured with the prospect of having to sacrifice Division 1 hurling for a season is unlikely to see that happen!!

Leinster Championship – Further to a disappointing league campaign, enthusiasm for a Leinster Championship was often better. Our opening game to Dublin in Parnell Park was our best performance in defeat and but for a couple of injuries to key players during the game, it was a result we potentially could have taken. Due to results in other games, it became apparent early that scoring difference would likely decide qualification from the province. In our next three games against Kilkenny on Nowlan Park, Wexford and Galway in O'Moore Park, we paid the price, with heavy demoralising defeats in all games. Our final game against Westmeath, at home, where a win was required to ensure a place in Leinster Championship 2023. The result was evident early with the away side avenging the previous year's result in style and relegating a Laois team devoid of confidence to Joe McDonagh Cup for 2023. Interestingly and thankfully, Leinster Council have sought deviation from rule from Central Council for scoring difference in their 2023 Leinster SHC to be determined by only the teams involved on the same points.

Similar to their football counterparts, the failure of a number of key players to commit to the Laois jersey had an impact. If Laois is to compete in Allianz Division 1 League and Leinster Senior Hurling Championship, we require all our top players on board, we simply do not have the same quality player to replace them, which was clearly evident this year. There were rumours of certain player discontent and lack



*Clough Ballacolla - Midlands Park Hotel
Minor Hurling Champions 2022*



*St Joseph's - Midlands Park Hotel
Minor Football Champions 2022*

of full commitment throughout the year, which is disappointing to say the least. In saying that, I do wish to take this opportunity to thank those players who did commit and whilst we face a daunting league again, I hope with a new management team, that all players will make themselves available for selection. Our performances at U20 grade have been positive in recent years and hopefully these players will be given the opportunity to progress to senior ranks. All in all, we can hopefully prove to be competitive in the Joe McDonagh Cup and relive the memories of 2019.

Thanks - Our thanks to Seamas “Cheddar” Plunkett for his dedication to Laois hurling and his work with this panel during the past two years and also his backroom team which included Francis Forde, Gavin O’Mahoney (Selectors / Coaching), Leo Tiernan (Strength and Conditioning); Conor Bolton and John Sugrue (Physiotherapy); Ross Young (Masseur); Garry Burke (Nutrition); Ciara Losty (Performance Coach); Diarmuid O Gallochobair, Tony Bambrick and Sean Conroy (Stats and Analysis), John Paul Campion (Doctor), Pat Delaney assisted by Jack Harding and John Kealy (Kit), David O’Brien (Liaison & Servicing Secretary).

Once Cheddar announced that he was not seeking a further term at the helm, the search commenced for a new management team, with the appointment of a sub-committee comprising of our Chairperson PJ Kelly, Mattie Collier, Richard Kennedy and David O’Brien to source a new manager. In a difficult and lengthy process, I believe we have unearthed an excellent and progressive Manager in Willie Maher, who will be assisted by Dan Shanahan,

Christy O’Connor, Sean Flynn and Eamon Jackman as Selectors / Coach; Cathal Murtagh Strength and Conditioning; Shane O’Sullivan Performance Coach; John Paul Campion (Doctor), Pat Delaney assisted by Jack Harding and John Kealy (Kit), David O’Brien (Liaison & Servicing Secretary). We wish them well in their endeavours.

Walsh Cup

Sunday, 9th January, 2022 - Round 1
Rathdowney:
Wexford 1-28, Laois 1-16

Sunday, 16th January, 2022 - Round 2
Callan:
Kilkenny 1-28, Laois 0-24

Allianz Hurling League

Roinn 1 Group B
Saturday 5th February 2022
MW Hire O’Moore Park - Round 1:
Laois 1-14 Tipperary 0-21

Sunday 13th February 2022
Walsh Park Waterford - Round 2:
Waterford 7-31 Laois 0-19

Sunday 27th February 2022
UPMC Nowlan Park Kilkenny - Round 3:
Kilkenny 2-28 Laois 0-17

Sunday 6th March 2022
MW Hire O’Moore Park - Round 4:
Laois 1-20 Antrim 1-19

Sunday 20th March 2022
MW Hire O’Moore Park - Round 5:
Laois 1-24 Dublin 2-31

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship

Saturday 16th April 2022 – Round 1
Parnell Park:
Dublin 1-20, Laois 2-15



*Rathdowney - Laois Shopping Centre Junior "C" Football Champions
2022*



*Rosenallis - Laois Shopping Centre Junior "B" Hurling Champions
2022*

Saturday 23rd April 2022 – Round 2
UPMC Nowlan Park Kilkenny:
Kilkenny 2-34, Laois 1-14

Sunday 1st May 2022 – Round 3
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Wexford 6-21, Laois 0-12

Saturday 14th May 2022 – Round 4
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Galway 2-38, Laois 0-21

Saturday 21st May 2022 – Round 5
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Westmeath 5-24, Laois 1-18

Under 20 Hurling

Leinster Council introduced a development league played pre-championship, which was welcome and certainly beneficial to preparations. Further to wins against Carlow and Kildare, Laois qualified for the final, whereby they lost out to a late Offaly goal in the Faithful Fields on St Patrick's Day morning.

The championship played on a tiered basis is also helpful to counties like ourselves, allowing progression on a match by match basis, before meeting previous year's semi-finalists and finalists. In our opening game we dispatched Antrim in Parnell Park, after which we defeated a fancied Kildare team in Newbridge. This qualified us for a Quarter-final game against Wexford in O'Moore Park. In fairness an excellent performance against a Wexford team, where we lost by the narrowest margin, but really a game where we had the opportunity to win. Incidentally this Wexford side progressed to a Leinster U20HC Final, losing to Kilkenny by a point.

In fairness, results at this grade have been very encouraging for past two years

and a special thanks to our panellists and our manager Ollie Hally, in conjunction with his management team of Christy Coughlan and Sean Conroy (Coach / Selectors), Conor Shannon (Strength and Conditioning), Ciara Cuddy (Physio) and Oonagh Maher (Liaison and Team Secretary) for their endeavours. For 2023, I believe we should be competitive again in this grade where our outgoing management team will continue and will be further assisted by Tadhg Doran and Andrew Kavanagh as Coach / Selector.

Leinster Under 20 Hurling League

Saturday, 19th February, 2022 – Round 1
Carlow Training Centre Fenagh:
Laois 3-18, Carlow 1-12

Tuesday, 1st March, 2022 – Round 2
LOETB Centre of Excellence Portlaoise:
Laois 2-22, Kildare 1-13

Thursday, 17th March, 2022 – Final
Faithful Fields Offaly:
Offaly 1-13, Laois 0-13

Leinster Under 20 Hurling Championship

Saturday, 2nd April, 2022 – Round 1
Parnell Park:
Laois 3-21, Antrim 0-12

Saturday, 9th April, 2022 – Round 2
St Conleth's Park Newbridge:
Laois 1-21, Kildare 0-16

Tuesday, 19th April, 2022 – Quarter-final
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Wexford 0-17, Laois 0-16

Minor Hurling

Further to the disappointing results of the previous two years, where there was a greater expectation from the panels involved, our management compiled a panel



The Harps - Laois Shopping Centre Junior Hurling Champions 2022

of players with a hope that we would be at least competitive. The commitment, preparation and coaching of this panel was excellent and performances in an endless amount of challenge games were encouraging.

The Leinster Minor Hurling Championship is also played on a tiered basis, with Laois designated a Tier 2 side, which saw us open our campaign with a facile success against Kildare, followed by a narrow defeat to Offaly in a competitive game in O'Connor Park. This qualified us for a preliminary quarter-final against Westmeath in Cusack Park, a game we eventually won, but possibly lucky to have won. From here we were at home and played Wexford in a quarter-final, with a vastly improved display seeing us deserved winners on the day and the semi-final against Kilkenny, saw another flawless effort, becoming the first team to beat our neighbours since 1964 and reach their first provincial final since 2013.

The final with Offaly, played on a Monday evening on the 16th. May, by agreement, with the venue determined by a lucky toss, proved to be one of those great memorable occasions in O'Moore Park. The meeting of Laois and Offaly really generated the enthusiasm of both counties, where an anticipated crowd of 3,000 people grew by unimaginable proportion during the day and easily exceeded 15,000 by match time, creating a tremendous atmosphere and a wonderful promotion of hurling. In having beaten the two superpowers of Leinster in both Wexford and Kilkenny, expectations were high for a Laois success, but as previously experienced in O'Connor Park earlier in the campaign, Offaly were

also an exceptional side. In the final, Laois never performed to their true level and a more clinical Offaly team deservedly emerged victorious on the occasion. They proved to be a very good side in progressing to an All Ireland Minor final against Tipperary, where they lost out in the most heart-breaking of circumstances to an injury time goal.

In order to facilitate Galway in Connacht, the All Ireland series consisted of a round robin basis with the aforementioned Galway and beaten finalists in Leinster Laois and Munster Clare to determine the All Ireland semi-finalists to play both provincial winners. This series commenced with Galway in O'Moore Park, where a rejuvenated Laois performance saw them push the Connacht side all the way, with some disputable refereeing decision favouring the opposition in the closing minutes. A win against Clare in Ennis now required to advance to an All Ireland semi-final. The home side built an impressive lead in the opening half with a significant wind advantage proving too much, albeit with a more determined second half display, we did make some inroads on their lead.

All in all, a very credible year and certainly some optimism for the future of Laois hurling. I want to take this opportunity to thank our minor hurling panel for the enjoyment they provided throughout the year and for their commitment and dedication to the Laois jersey. Whilst the rumours of post-match celebrations from certain panellists at this age grade was somewhat disappointing, they have certainly shown the requisite desire and skills in their exploits during this year's minor campaign. Laois GAA will certainly provide the pathway

with the current athlete development programmes in place, but it will be up to each individual player to exercise a renewed will and desire to progress to U20 and adult grades.

I wish to thank our management team for their endeavours with this panel – Declan Qualter (Manager), Damien Carter, Tadhg Doran and Derek McGrath (Selectors/Coach), Tomas Hassett (Strength and Conditioning), Laura Langton (Physio), Tom Brennan (Logistics and Planning); James Brennan (Stats) and Tim Bonham (Kit). In particular, I wish to thank Tom Brennan for putting everything in place and his efforts in persuading Derek McGrath in extending his coaching prowess to this panel of players. Notwithstanding Derek's contribution, we had a wonderful manager in Declan Qualter and also an excellent management team.

For 2023, Declan is unable to commit and Derek is also unlikely to be able to give the same commitment and as a result Damien Carter will assume the role of Manager where he will be assisted by 2022 Celtic Challenge Manager Eddie Downey, Chris Murray, Kevin Power (Kilkenny) as Coach/Selectors; Paul Simms Goalkeeping Coach; Tomas Hassett Strength and Conditioning Coach; Adrian Slevin Stats and Analysis; Laura Langton Physio and Conor Doran Logistics and Kit.

Leinster Minor Hurling Championship

Saturday, 9th April, 2022 Round 1
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Laois 4-22, Kildare 0-10

Saturday, 16th April, 2022 Round 2
O'Connor Park Tullamore:
Offaly 1-20, Laois 1-17

Saturday, 23rd April, 2022 Preliminary
Quarter-final
Cusack Park Mullingar:
Laois 2-15, Westmeath 0-17

Saturday, 30th April, 2022 Quarter-final
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Laois 2-13, Wexford 3-08

Saturday, 7th May, 2022 Semi-final
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Laois 1-15, Kilkenny 0-15

Monday, 16th May, 2022 Final
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Offaly 0-21, Laois 0-13

All Ireland Minor Hurling Championship

Saturday, 28th May, 2022 – Quarter-final
Round 1
MW Hire O'Moore Park:
Galway 0-23, Laois 2-14

Saturday, 4th June, 2022 – Quarter-final
Round 3
Cusack Park Ennis:
Clare 0-21, Laois 1-12

Local Championships

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate both Clough Ballacolla and Portarlinton on their tremendous success in achieving three in a row Senior Hurling and Football titles, magnificent achievements from respective Clubs. 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. As I pen this report, Portarlinton (Senior Football) remain our only Club in contention in AIB Leinster Club competition and I wish them the very best of luck in their quest for provincial honours.

Thankfully all our competitions, with exception of U20 competitions, have been completed in accordance with schedule and I am hopeful all U20 competitions will be finalised before the Convention.

Our Fixture Programme consisted of in excess of 1,700 games (excluding U9 & 11 Go Games) and I wish to compliment all our Club Officers for their cooperation in achieving and completing this mammoth programme. Our Fixture Analysts are in the process of conducting a survey from our Clubs on 2022 formats and scheduling, with the prospect of a potential Club forum, depending on the outcome of this survey. This will then formulate the proposals put forward to the County Committee for 2023 competitions, a process which I hope can be finalised before January.

In 2022, we introduced a new football league format for the higher divisions, which I believe was well received, providing a minimum of ten games. Due to issues with the reluctance of hurling clubs participating in lower grade football competitions in 2021, we rescheduled these Junior “B” and “C” competitions on alternative weeks prior to mainstream football and hurling championships and also on a league basis. It worked well, with the hurling clubs proving dominant in both “B” and “C” football competitions. Our U20 championships were also played on a league basis, which was also well received and provided additional games for players at this time of year. The decision of Clubs to enter teams in “B” and “C” competitions and also at U17 and U20 grades and realise at a later stage that they don’t have sufficient numbers or the real interest in trying to gather numbers to field a team and then withdraw from

respective competition does cause havoc to schedule and is unfair to the Clubs who wish to compete at these grades and provide games for their players. I would appeal to Clubs to ensure they have the numbers prior to affiliating their teams in 2023. We continue to expand our games programme, but unfortunately not our referee pool and these extra games did put additional pressures on referee administration during the year.

In relation to Senior Hurling and Football Championship formats, my views I think are well known, whereby I believe the Senior Hurling Championship reverting to a round robin basis with two “ceded” groups of four has completely taken the competitive nature out of the early rounds 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 current Hurling system, with three grades and groups of eight would create a far more competitive environment 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. This has been my opinion for many years, but as the old adage says, “turkeys won’t vote for Christmas!”

“Split Season”

This past year was the first official year of the “split season”, with January to July prioritised for Inter County activities and from July onwards Club games take precedence. From a Laois Club perspective and other counties, who are not challenging on All Ireland weekends, it does not have any real effect on our internal club calendar. In continuing with the alternative weekends

for both codes and keeping Electric Picnic weekend free, it takes thirteen weekends to complete our main stream fixture schedule, which sits comfortably in to the club calendar and prior to commencement of Leinster Club competitions. From a Laois Inter County view, the reduced timeframe for completion of these competitions has potentially seen the promotional value of our Minor and U20 championships devalued, by being played on a mid-weekly basis in March, April and May to conclusion. The new All Ireland Senior Football Championship in 2023 will see the Leinster Senior Football Championship time frame further contracted. The playing of our All Ireland Finals in July has come in for criticism in some quarters and I would be in favour of pushing both finals out another fortnight, simply to ease the current pressure on a condensed schedule. The “split season” has been widely acclaimed by our Inter County players and as well as now having a defined Inter County season, the new football format also has the added incentive of providing more matches.

U17 Age Grade

There has been much debate in recent months in regard to the U17 Age Grade, whereby a decision of Congress back in 2016, agreed that from January 2018, that Minor inter-county age grade be moved from 18 to 17. The knock-on effect was that county minors were no longer eligible for adult club competition (“Decoupling” i.e. at what age youth players can play senior club competition). A number of motions from clubs in the interim, have sought to reverse this decision. At Congress 2022, a Central Council motion sought to replace the current U20 Inter County champion-

ships with U19 championships, was narrowly defeated (received 55% support) and as a result, post-Congress 2022, the Uachtarán set up a Work Group to re-examine the whole question of age grades in the Association.

This group reviewed the relevance of original reasons for changing minor to U17 including the protection and appropriate development of our talented players, the importance of “Decoupling” for Fixture planning/reduces team’s players available for, managers answerable too etc. and player retention and whether age grades can play a positive role in maximising the number of player who transition to adult. They provided a number of options, first whereby reverting to U18 at inter-county, with next grade up to be U20 and necessity of club decoupling at 18 for this model to work, with second option being retaining Inter County at U17, with next grade up to be U19, which is the option the task force strongly recommends and an option our County Committee unanimously supported.

The topic has proved divisive, even within counties where there is an urban / rural divide based on numbers. Whilst there is merit in the proposal to return to U18, where an elongated talent development process would be provided, decoupling is the big issue, with the vast majority of our adult club teams requiring U18’s for their adult teams and I honestly believe this would pose a threat to the viability of some of our smaller clubs. I believe decoupling must be a part of any option to avoid the problems of the past, and as to whether a compromise may be reached in reverting to U18 and decoupling to continue at U17

remains to be seen. For 2023, the status quo will remain, with any decision taken at Congress in February not coming into rule until the 2024 season.

Referees and Disciplinary Issues

I wish to take this opportunity to thank our Referees and our Match Officials for their assistance and cooperation in completing our Fixture programme. Referees have an onerous task and it is as simple as this - without them, there is no match.

Our Referee Administrator Tom Clear, with assistance of Vincent Dowling, Joe Cunningham and Danny Gorman in particular and their committee, and serviced by our Office Administrator Síle Burbage, are also deserving of our thanks for their efforts. I have no hesitation in admitting that this is the most difficult and thankless position in Laois GAA administration. I don't think any Club Official understands the difficulties incurred and time spent in trying to ensure there is a Referee in attendance for in excess of 1,700 games scheduled during 2022 and working from a pool of 47 referees. Admittedly, we did lose some games due to referee unavailability, but I would like to acknowledge the support of those referees, who doubled up with juvenile and adult games on the same evening when requested. Unfortunately this is a precedent that is likely to have to continue.

I admit, referees do make mistakes, but so do players, managers, club officers, we all do. They do not do so deliberately, they call it as they see it, and in real time, often in high pressure situations and under intense scrutiny. But let's be honest, considering the environment, referees do get things right time after time. Occasionally

they do not, but the challenge for us all is to learn from their mistakes rather than to be defined by them.

Unfortunately, during the year several referees received unwarranted abuse which had a profound effect on some of the people concerned and also on their colleagues. There is little understanding from players, mentors or supporters of the challenges of split second on-field decision making. I had occasion to experience such abuse this year from a player and mentor during and after games, and let me tell you it wasn't nice, and was simply due to the fact that they held me responsible for the performance of the referee in one or two of those decisions in those particular games.

In my opinion the penalties for any type of verbal or physical abuse of a match official are not fit for purpose, for example a "One Match Suspension" is hardly a deterrent for "Abusive language towards a Referee, Umpire or a Linesman" and I believe that the definition of a "Suspension" for a non-player requires greater substance than what is presently stated as outlined in "all functions, privileges and competitions under the Association's control". I would appeal for a full review of such suspensions and I would welcome the introduction of on-field penalties such as a 13 metre free for any such infractions of verbal abuse during a game. If Referee's reports containing any type of a report of threatening or physical behaviour towards a match official were dealt with by the respective Provincial Council or even Central Council, it would also be merited. Whilst the aforementioned are probably quick fix methods, the real 'respect' protocols must start with our youth and this is an area our Coaching and

Games sector are exploring for 2023, with the potential introduction of the “Silent Sideline” at Go Games grades.

As the numbers of our games increases, our reliance upon a stagnant and smaller pool of referees is reaching crisis point and there is a real worry starting, that we will struggle to have sufficient referees available to fulfil our fixture programme. Referee recruitment and retention is the responsibility of all units of our Association, so I again appeal for your support in sourcing a suitable candidate within your Club environs that may be willing to take on such an onerous task.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Maurice Deegan on his retirement from Inter County refereeing and I think when discussing the subject of recruiting new Referees, it is worth noting the enjoyment that Maurice has achieved throughout his refereeing career, taking charge of three All Ireland Football Finals and having also officiated nearly every other major final as well. It gives me great pleasure in the knowledge that I played some small part in that recruitment process many years ago. Our congratulations to Maurice on a wonderful Inter County career.

“Laois Hire” Páirc Uí Mhórdha & “LOETB” Centre of Excellence

During the 2022 season, Páirc Uí Mhórdha hosted 26 Inter County and Inter Club games, including Leinster Minor Football and Hurling Finals, Leinster U20 Football Championship Final as well as All Ireland U20 Football Championship Semi-finals and All Ireland Minor Football Championship Quarter-finals. This, with

the fact that almost all our local Senior Championship fixtures are played in the stadium, means it is now our main source of revenue from rental income received from Leinster and Central Council games, as well as our local gate receipts.

I wish to acknowledge the support of our local Gardai for their help on match days, our Event Controller Tom Jones, Safety Officer and Chief Stewards Jody Conway, Andrew Broderick, Danny Gorman, Ollie Byrne, Mick Kelly, Mick Houlihan, Tom Donohoe, Ann Churchouse, Connie Dunne, Billy Behan, Jim Morrin, Red Ryan, our own Coiste Bainistí members and most importantly numerous voluntary stewards, without whose co-operation and support we wouldn't be able to host such games. In 2019, 45 of our stewards attended a National Steward Training Course, whereby they received their Stewarding accreditation from Europlan. This has now expired and it is a necessity for any person stewarding in the stadium to renew this training again for 2023. It is also a condition for Central funding and for hosting games on behalf of Leinster and Central Council. In order to continue to attract profile games and to be able to continue hosting our own games, I would appeal to each Club to submit the name of a suitable person to complete this training course. He or she won't be required to attend every game in the stadium for training, but availability would be potentially required a few times during the year.

During the concluding stages of our local championships, there has been one area of concern, which relates to the number of juveniles literally running wild in the stadium, who seem to be neither ac-

accompanied or attended by parents, leading to numerous complaints from patrons who have paid into to watch the game in the comfort of the stadium environs. Our admission states that U14's are free, once accompanied by an Adult, but there seems to be a trend developing whereby U14's and sometimes older ages are accessing the stadium, unaccompanied by any Adult. There have also been numerous acts of vandalism in our public toilets during games, with suspicion on a number of these individuals, which is worrying and a requisite for additional stewards. At our Senior Football Final, there was a three-year old child reported lost and only after numerous calls on the PA, the parent eventually did turn up. While I wish to encourage and promote our games to our underage fraternity, there has to be a responsibility on their parents to ensure the care and the welfare of their child within the environs of the stadium! If this responsibility is not taken seriously, it is an area that unfortunately will have to be reviewed.

As many of you are aware, we have experienced extensive problems with our playing surface in O'Moore Park over the past two years. Thankfully due to an intensive maintenance programme, under the stewardship of our Groundsman Colm McEvoy and recommendations provided by James Healy, the surface has improved dramatically and is now almost back to a satisfactory condition. In fact, the GAA National Pitch Workgroup, recently selected the O'Moore Park pitch and shortlisted it as one of the top six county grounds in Ireland this season based upon independently verified referee assessments made over the playing season. As a result, the

ground was assessed by their independent adjudicator Dr Stephen Baker of the STRI for Pitch of the Year in late October, who was particularly impressed with the quality of the pitch considering the prevailing weather conditions and the time of year. The robust system of assessments included pitch quality assessment during this technical visit; environmental conditions and usage and resources and management assessment. Unfortunately, no silverware, but the accolade of "highly commended".

We continue to try to improve our stadium, with current development including the removal and installation of an additional 2,600 stadium seats, bringing to a total of in excess of 4,700 seats that have been replaced in the past year at a cost of €250k. We are also in the process of replacing the old "tv gantry" on the terrace, which had been demolished in the terrace development some years ago. We have continued to upgrade our public toilets with provision of new hand dryers in each toilet facility. In our Centre of Excellence, the development of our Ball Wall is in progress and should be completed by Convention. We have also extended the fencing around Pitch 1 to provide enclosure and enhance spectator viewing. I wish to acknowledge the work of contractors involved in these developments Colm Byrne Civil and Building; Winroy Ltd and FRS and also support of Sports Capital funding in financing these projects.

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 re-

quired and also our TUS, Leader workers and PCE Group Scheme team comprising of Dan Sinnott, Eddie Kinsella, Roger McEvoy, Adam Krasinski and Adrian Noszczyk for their continued upkeep of the stadium during the year.

Coaching and Games

The promotion and development of our games is the single most important activity that we undertake. Whilst our Coaching Officer Fergal Byron and our Games Manager Mike Henchy will deliver a more comprehensive report in this sector later in this report, I do wish to acknowledge the phenomenal amount of work being carried out by Mike Henchy, our GDA's and our GPO's in one of the busiest areas of our Association.

Earlier this year, National Coaching and Games issued a template showing our County's new Coaching and Games funding allocation in line with the Association's new Coaching and Games funding model for 2023 – 2026. This new four-year commitment is designed to realign Coaching and Games funding across the 32 Counties. The new funding model permits for the re-allocation of new and existing grant funding and is subject to the acceptance of terms and conditions as part of a broader financial and governance framework that will be introduced. To date we await a full explanation on the details around such and potential development of a business plan supporting the rationale for the proposed spend. Whilst this announcement is welcome, it does now appear that Laois GAA, rather than Leinster Council GAA may now assume responsibility for part payment of GPO's, which with commitment for further GPO's to be hired in the spring.

This will likely diminish any funding for additional Coaching and Games projects. At the time of writing we are seeking meetings with the powers that be for exact clarification on such funding.

Head of Athletic Development

In recent months, Laois GAA appointed Tom Hargroves as Head of Athletic Development for Laois GAA. Tom, a Ballyfin native, has previously worked as Strength and Conditioning course with Laois Senior Footballers in 2020 & 2021, Tipperary Senior Hurlers in 2022, Ealings Traifinders Rugby in 2019, Bristol Rugby Club in 2018 and previously mentored under Buddy Morris with Pittsburgh Steelers & Panthers American Football. He is currently completing a Professional Doctorate in Sport and Exercise science in University of Birmingham and has completed MSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science and BSc (Hons) Sport and Physical Education in University of Wales Institute Cardiff.

He will be responsible for the development and execution of an athletic development plan up to and including Senior Intercounty teams for Laois GAA. He will be responsible for overseeing the implementation and delivery of an athletic development program for our senior inter county team(s); the input in the development of an athletic development programme, for delivery in Clubs, Post-Primary Schools and talent academies to include the creation and development of programme content and testing protocols.

He will be responsible in conjunction with our Performance GDA Jason Coffey in establishing a viable talent academy structure to enhance player development in

the county. He will be required to establish and manage a database of all senior inter-county players to include record of injuries and liaise with medical staff and team management regarding injured player's recovery protocols and implement injury rehabilitation prior to reintegration. He will provide appropriate player education programmes at senior level and, in conjunction with Performance GDA Jason Coffey, at Academy Squad level. He will be responsible for the provision of education and training support to talent academy coaches with particular emphasis on GAA specific strength & conditioning, hydration & nutrition as well as performance analysis.

He will hope to build and maintain excellent working relationships with 3rd Level college(s) and to identify potential students to support high performance programmes. In conjunction with Performance GDA Jason Coffey, provide GAA specific training and technical support to County Talent Academy Coaches and players, to include the components of physical fitness, diet and nutrition. He will also train and develop other full-time staff in relevant athletic development programs, nutrition information, data capture and analysis and support them in taking Strength and physical conditioning sessions.

Finance

At the time of penning this article, our financial accounts are in the process of being audited by our Auditors Mazars. Whilst I am not in a position to comment on our current financial wellbeing, I would hope for them to return in a satisfactory state.

Up to now, our fundraising and commercial income has been sufficient to meet

our previous demands, however our new loan repayments now require additional income revenues and fundraising, with a €110,000 annual surplus now required to meet current AIB repayments, which is an increase in excess of €50,000 on our previous liabilities.

The split-season has seen our expenditure on Inter County teams reduced to something in excess of €600,000, and whilst we willingly would pay additional outcome for success, this expenditure continues to be the major focus 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, which Central Council seem to have little hesitation to committing to on an annual basis. Whilst we do receive some reimbursement towards these costs from national level, as outlined elsewhere in these accounts, it is a huge expenditure and is an area we continue to closely monitor.

Our Gate Receipts will show a significant increase in our accounts, but it must be noted that this is due to the change in our Financial Accounting year changing back from 31 October to 30 September and the fact that it incorporates a large proportion of the receipts from 2021 championship semi-finals and finals, which had been delayed due to Covid.

During 2021, the GAA changed their Ticket provider late last year, with Ticketmaster now our new provider for Club and Inter County games, through their software "Universe", allowing us to use and manage a ticketing system for all such games. Ticketing for all our main

tier club championship games are now by pre-purchased online tickets, which means cash is no longer accepted on admittance. This system also eliminates all the associated risks with cash collections and provides a full accountability and transparency on ticket sales for all our club fixtures. This process has worked well and is here to stay and whilst there has been criticism of the system from some of our elderly patrons, we do now operate an annual 2023 Senior Citizen Pass, which allows these patrons access to all Club games on annual basis and we also provide an annual 2022 Club Championship Pass.

Our new sponsorship deal with Laois Hire, to include jersey sponsorship and stadium naming rights is a huge addition to our finances. Whilst other commercial income from various sponsorship deals and sale of pitchside advertising continues to grow on an annual basis.

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 2022 Clubs benefitted to the tune of €843,000, while the County profited to almost €132,000. I wish to express a huge thanks to Clubs and their members for their support of this Draw, which continues for 2023, and I would again appeal for their cooperation in making this their Clubs primary fundraiser for the year;

- Our “Race Day” at the Punchestown Racing Festival in April continues to grow and proved to be very successful in selling almost 26 tables, with all guests thoroughly enjoying the Punchestown “corporate” experience. Our thanks to John Cummins and his company LSM for their sponsorship of this event. It would be remiss of me not to mention Kieran Leavy for his input into the promotion of this event, which is a fundraiser that we intend to potentially extend in 2023;

- “Laois Gaels” is the fundraising arm, that effectively replaced the old “Club Laois” initiative which was revitalised in 2021, thanks to the trojan efforts of “Laois Gaels” Chairperson Bryan Breen and his committee consisting of Leo Turley, Seamus Dooley, Michael J Tierney, Paul Dargan and Oonagh Maher, whose endeavours have seen membership increase to almost 400 for 2022. The proceeds from “Laois Gaels” provides valuable support for our academy squads, that would not have been available to them heretofore and which includes availability to the RYPT App, access to the Hamstring Solo, mentor training on NAC Sport for game analysis, seminars on Nutrition and sessions with a Performance Coach and Guest Coach.

Our Cisteoir Martin Byrne will outline in more detail our income and expenditure in our Financial Accounts in his presentation to Convention. He has intimated his desire to relinquish this role for 2023 and

after 13 years as paymaster, it would be perhaps unfair in any way to prevent this wish. An interesting document he provided me with recently, outlining a detailed account of our Inter County team expenditure during this 13-year period, which accumulated to €3,870,000 for hurling and €€3,950,000 for football. This expenditure aligned with the many capital developments undertaken in the acquisition and development of our Centre of Excellence and continued upgrade and development of O'Moore Park Stadium are indeed testament to his financial prudence. Personally and professionally, I want 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. Hopefully he will continue at the top table where his presence will be invaluable to the incoming incumbent.

Governance / Audit and Risk

Governance has become a central theme in the GAA and in that regard Special Congress last October 2021 established in rule the necessity for Audit and Risk Committees at County level. The purpose of this committee is to provide guidance and oversight to our Management Committee to fulfil their ever-growing responsibility to deliver and promote good governance, clear financial reporting and risk management oversight within Laois GAA. This is further supported by Michelle McAleer in leading this initiative through her Internal Audit office in Croke Park.

The work programme this year included an initial review and assessment of governance practices and controls in our county, which was completed by County Officers

and Chairperson of our Audit and Risk Committee Richard Dunne. This was followed by a GAA Audit & Risk Committee seminar for County Officers and Audit & Risk Committee members in SETU Carlow on Wed 12 October.

Richard Dunne has been appointed Chairperson of our Audit and Risk Committee and with his committee is tasked with challenging, in a constructive way, the decisions of our Management Committee that impact the financial, reputational and other risk profiles of Laois GAA.

As part of this process a Laois GAA "Procedural Manual" is being compiled and the following policy documents have been approved, as part of this governance document:

- Code of Conduct
- Induction & Handover process for newly elected Officer policy
- Conflict of Interest policy
- Grievance & Disciplinary policy
- Data & Confidentiality policy

Other policy documents & recommended procedures to be carried out in the coming year as part of this Governance Review are as follows:

- Fixed Asset Register
- Risk Register
- Purchase Order / Procurement policy
- Governance Code
- Register of Executive Members Interests

The requirement of good governance also applies to our Clubs. One important tool in this respect is the revised Club Constitution that came into effect in March 2021, with the aim of adoption at all your Club AGM's. If this process has not yet been completed in your Club, please ensure it is adopted at this year's AGM.

Looking to the future, I fully expect that we will apply ourselves with equal enthusiasm in reappraising our structures in order to make sure our Association continues to operate to best effect and strive for better governance, which will make us better at delivering for our members, players and general public.

Registration of GAA units to Central Register of Beneficial Ownership of Trusts

The Office of the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland has met with the GAA at Central level to highlight the new legal obligations for all our GAA Clubs, along with our County and Provincial units, who are now in legal terms deemed to be "Relevant Trusts", i.e. "land" of Club or Sporting Organisations. New European Anti-Money Laundering legislation now requires each Member State to maintain a central register to record the beneficial ownership information of "Relevant Trusts." In Ireland, the central register is called the Central Register of Beneficial Ownership of Trusts (CRBOT) and is being hosted and managed by the Revenue Commissioners. This legislation applies to all GAA trustees and there is a requirement to register this interest on a new Government portal.

As part of this legislation there is a similar but separate requirement for the "Club Executive Committee Members" to also

register on this portal as custodians of the personal property of the Club, i.e. Bank Account and other non-property assets of the Club. If a GAA unit has transferred to the Corporate Trustee company, that is acceptable as the property trustee. It should be noted that for all "unapproved sports bodies or clubs" there is now a requirement that "every" registered member of such a club or unit are deemed to be the beneficial owners and must be registered. Approved sports bodies are clubs that Revenue has issued with a valid games and Sports Exemption number.

Further information on applying for this number is available at Sports Body Tax Exemption on Sports bodies tax exemption (revenue.ie). When a club has determined who the beneficial owners of the approved sports body are, the new regulations require that a trustee of the trust, deliver the following beneficial ownership information for each individual to the CRBOT. The registration can be done either on ROS or my Account on www.revenue.ie or if a club already has a ROS registration, they will automatically have access to Trust Register Functions found in the Other Services section. The club can start the process by clicking on 'Register a New trust in the Trust Register.'

Corporate Trusteeship

In taking into consideration the new Anti-Money laundering legislation and requirements Central Register of Beneficial Ownership of Trusts, the Corporate Trustee model is now a genuine and viable option for Clubs when considering appointment of Trustees to Clubs. It should be noted that all Clubs should ensure their

Declaration of Trust is updated on annual basis.

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 individual Trustees and avoids the publishing of names should court proceedings take place. The Corporate Trustee is optional and it should be noted that they can only act ‘For and Behalf’ of the Club. They cannot act without instruction from the club.

All Laois GAA properties are now held in this Trust Company and as part of compliance with our A.I.B. loan. 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 John Browne in Leinster Council, prior to making any arrangements with solicitors.

Strategic Review

As we emerge from the shadow of covid, it is reassuring to be able to turn our thoughts to planning for the future. Our previous Strategic Review covered 2018-2020 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. Whilst there is a small number of actions that remain unresolved from our last review, I believe the time has come to re-engage in the planning process in 2023, with a view to highlighting a number of focus areas in the next three years.

Local Media

Our games in Laois got more than their fair share of media 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; Denis Byrne and Alf Harvey who both do a magnificent job on photographs and enhance the work of the scribe. Although I am not always 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.

Laois TV is an initiative set up by Michael Egan some years ago, which was endorsed by Laois GAA, and is a communication mechanism I believe we can further develop, particularly if we can get the correct technical skilled personnel on board. It has been used for streaming of our €130 Draws and Championship Draws, but principally used for live streaming of some of our championship games, a product there continues to be a demand for, particularly from overseas. I wish to thank and acknowledge John Moynihan All Rounder Sport for providing the service and our main commentator Tomas Moore, who along with Pat O'Sullivan was ably assisted during the games by a number of our former players, all of whom provided a very professional broadcast service.

Our PR and Communications committee, headed by our PRO Canice McCarthy, are also deserving of our thanks and recognition. This committee, apart from their many essential duties on match days in the stadium, do an onerous job in spreading the word, whether it be Twitter, Facebook or Instagram. The shift from websites to social media platforms has been pivoting once again towards our owned domains and for 2023 we require a renewed need for a focus on updating our website.

Proposed Amendments to Byelaws

A Bye-Law Review sub-committee comprising Adrainne McCarthy (Chairperson), Michael Condrón, Mick Lennon, PJ Kelly and your truly was formed to review Byelaw

5 and 6 as a priority, due to the findings in a number of recent DRA Tribunals. I want to acknowledge and thank the work of my fellow colleagues, and in particular Adrainne, in the preparation of these proposed amendments.

Our two recent DRA Tribunals have been daunting and intimidating at times to say the very least. The workings of the DRA are clearly defined in the Disputes Resolution Code, but I would clearly call for a review in regard the time that it takes from a Claimant initiating a Claim until notification of written decision, for example in DRA 09/21 Kirwan Family, the claim commenced in June 2021, with written decision received in January 2022, a decision which I think with respect to all parties was neither clear or concise and as a result a further claim was initiated; whilst DRA 15/22 Conor Headen was lodged in July 2022, hearing held in October 2022 and to date no written decision received. I think tribunal dealings and decisions should be dealt with more expediently, particularly if they are to continue to hold the trust for which they were initially established. The engagement of legal counsel by claimants is common now and it is now a necessity for any sector of Laois GAA to engage the same in order to defend a case. This is perhaps a little ironic in that one of the reasons for the initiation of the DRA was to prevent individuals or units commencing legal proceedings and seeking high court injunctions!

The proposed amendments have been circulated and widely discussed at a recent County Committee, with in the case of Byelaw 5, Clubs now having the responsibility for Attachment to First Club as per Rule and in the case of Byelaw 6, the crite-

ria for Transfers within the County is more clearly defined.

The committee have endeavoured to ensure all of the shortcomings highlighted in these DRA Tribunals have been addressed, but would suggest it may be prudent and necessary to review Bye-Law 7 in 2023, with regard to definition of a “Designated Club”. It would be the hope that with Bye-Laws being clear and concise and incorporating issues with practices highlighted by the DRA, we can reduce the possibility of members requesting transfers having to progress to the DRA. This is certainly not a position we would like anyone member of Laois GAA including the County Committees to be in going forward.

Sponsors

I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to Matty 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, a dealership which has unfortunately come to a conclusion in recent weeks. On a personal note I wish to thank Matty and his staff in MW Hire, particularly Mick Meagher and in recent years Declan Salter for their friendship and the courteous relationship that was developed during this sponsorship and which I hope will continue in the future.

In recent weeks, Laois GAA has secured a new sponsorship package with Laois Hire for our main jersey sponsorship and stadium naming rights, which is a significant five-year sponsorship package. The company supplies a huge range of equipment and services to many different sectors including DIY, Renewables, Pharmaceutical,

Technology, Civil and Government bodies, in all corners of the country. Having such a hugely successful local company at the helm of our County sponsorship is a perfect match for Laois GAA and will hopefully empower us to achieve the ambition to further develop our County teams from our development squads, right through to our senior inter-county teams. I wish to thank Mick Killeen and his company, Keith McCann and all involved with the negotiation of the sponsorship package and look forward to developing a lasting relationship with the company.

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 our other sponsors –

- 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 four years;
- LOETB (Laois Offaly Educational Training Board), sponsors of our Centre of Excellence;

- ENVA, local company who will carry their brand on our Talent Academies and Underage Divisional Competitions. I wish to acknowledge Richard Kennedy for his support in sourcing this sponsorship, which will also continue for another year;
- John Cummins LSM for their generous sponsorship of our Punchestown Corporate Race Day last April;
- Downey's Autostop, suppliers of our kit vans in both Football and Hurling;
- Mochua Print and Design, our Awards Night sponsor;
- Browne Jeweller's and Colm McEvoy Pitch Maintenance, our Scoreboard sponsors;
- GAIN / Glanbia, for their Training Pitch Sponsorship;
- Tom Brennan, Clough Ballacolla, for his Training Pitch Sponsorship in memory of his Uncle Michael Holohan;
- Dwyer Transport for their "Man of the Match" sponsorship and our appreciation to PJ and Elva Kelly for this sponsorship;

And finally to all companies, particularly those who purchase pitch side signage in the stadium and all other 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.

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 – our former President and Chairperson Sean Ramsbottom, his brother Noel Ramsbottom and our Chairperson's mother Chrissie Kelly, Timahoe; John Conway, Arles Kilcruise; Paddy O'Meara, Barrowhouse; Bill Lawlor and Ollie Payne, Mountmellick; Dinny Kavanagh, Peter Fennell, Paddy Fitzpatrick, Des Browne, Mick McCormack, domiciled in Athy, all Portlaoise; Neddy Mulhall, Emo; Christy O'Brien and Abe Kavanagh, Borris-in-Ossory; Tom Looby, Clonad and The Heath; Mick Fitzpatrick and Mick Doran, Clonad; Abbeyleix native Michael Butler, whom served as Secretary of Laois Dublin Association; Murt Kirwan, Shanahoe; Michael Mulhare, George Brophy and Pete Corcoran, Courtwood; John Woods, The Harps; Margaret Brennan, Arles Killeen; Brendan McEvoy and Sherry Shiel, Stradbally; Dave Smith, Tom O'Shea, David Callanan, Paulie Fallon, Jack Kelly, Willie Monagher, Portarlinton; Paddy Beere, long serving O'Moore Park Steward; PJ Comerford, Clonaslee St Manmans; Sean Page, Mick Scully and John O'Reilly, Killeshin; Gerry Kelly, St Lazarian's Abbeyleix; Seamus Maher, Clough Ballacolla; Dor Whelan, The Heath; Eddie Mulhall, Trumera; Alan Kavanagh, O'Dempsey's;

Paddy Branagan, Graiguecullen; Tommy Brennan, Ballylinan; Barney Dunne, Ballyfin; Leo Brennan and Hannah Kealy, St Joseph's; Tom Storey, The Rock; Bill Fitzpatrick and George Brophy, Crettyard; Mick McDonnell, Spink and St Lazarian's Abbeyleix; John Miller, Spink and Timahoe, 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 nanama-cha.

Congratulations

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

- Laois Ladies Football on their All Ireland Intermediate Ladies Football victory over Wexford in Croke Park last July and all the more satisfying with them being managed by our own GDA Donie Brennan. The recognition of Eimear Barry, Aisling Donoher, Erone Fitzpatrick, Rachel Williams, Ellen Healy, Laura Marie Maher and Mo Nerney on the TG4 Intermediate Team of the Championship is richly deserved;
- Ben Deegan Camross and Ciaran Flynn The Harps on their selection as two of the 15 standout performers from the 2022 Minor Hurling season and selection on the 2022 Electric Ireland GAA Minor Star Hurling Team of the Year;
- Heywood Community School on their All Ireland Post Primary

Schools Senior "C" Football Final success over Ennistymon CBS;

- Laois U16 Camogie team on their Leinster U16 "B" Final success over Carlow and All Ireland U16 "B" Camogie Final victory over Antrim;
- Andrew Dowling and Tómas Lennon (St Brigids) on their success in Men's 40x20 O35B Doubles Leinster and All Ireland Final and also in 60x30 O35B Doubles Leinster and All Ireland Final;
- Úna and Aoife Brophy Cullohill) on their victory in Ladies Junior B Doubles Leinster and All-Ireland Final;
- Eadaoin Whyte and Orla Brophy (Cullohill) on their win in the Girls U17 60x30 doubles All-Ireland final;
- Kilcavan GAA Instrumental group comprising of Brian Ryan, Sophia Ryan, Alain Carroll, Senan Moore and Noel Stapleton on their success at the All Ireland Scór Ceol Uirlise Ghrúpa competition in Claremorris last November;

Buíochas

As I conclude my review of 2022 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, cooperation and goodwill.

I wish to thank my Cathaoirleach PJ Kelly for his leadership and continued sup-

port, 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.

Tom Clear, Vice Chairperson; Fergal Byron Coaching Officer; Monica Delaney, Officer for Irish Language and Culture; Gerry Kavanagh, Central Council representative complete their five year terms this evening and at upcoming Congress. Both our Treasurer Martin Byrne and PRO Canice McCarthy have both announced their intentions not to seek re-election in their respective roles. I want to express my sincere thanks to all outgoing officers for their excellent work in what are difficult officer roles.

Our Office Administrator Síle Burbage, I say a special thanks for her work, her assistance in all administrative matters was greatly appreciated. She had an excellent relationship with our Club Secretaries, and her routine work at reception and in dealing with referee appointments and reports, handling ticket sales, programme publication and editing greatly reduced the work of yours truly. Unfortunately, Síle has moved to greener pastures in recent weeks and I wish her well in her new role and future career. Pam Cooney has replaced her

in recent weeks and I have no doubt will prove be as equally efficient.

Our Coaching Staff, under the guidance of our Games Manager Mike Henchy, who is ably assisted by our Performance GDA Jason Coffey and GDA's Donie Brennan and Conor Shannon, all tirelessly contribute to the promotion of our games within our Clubs and Talent Academies. I wish to acknowledge the work of our GPO's in their respective Clubs - Shane Keegan (Portlaoise GAA); Jamie Moriarty (Portarlinton and Gracefield GAA); Cian Moffitt (Borris in Ossory Kiltotton, Clonaslee St Manmans & St Fintan's Mountrath GAA) and Martin O'Connell (Ballyroan Abbey and O'Dempsey's GAA) and look forward to the employment of additional GPO's in coming months. I also want to acknowledge Laois County Council for their generous financial contribution towards the employment of our GDA's. Our newly appointed Head of Athletic Development Tom Hargroves will work closely with this sector in the development of our academy development programmes and is also deserving of our thanks for his work in his new role.

Our Talent Academy Mentors work tirelessly with our academies and are charged with bringing forward the next generation in both codes. They all work under the supervision of our Coaching and Games sector and the introduction of athlete development programmes in recent years in all grades will greatly compliment the coaching work of our mentors in all squads.

Thanks to our sister organisations in their promotion of our games, Ladies Football and Camogie. As already men-

tioned the success of our Ladies Football team in the All Ireland Intermediate Football final earlier this year was a tremendous achievement. 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 Centre of Excellence when available. It is a relationship we will continue to promote with the view to all three Gaelic Games Associations integration towards a One Association model. On a cautionary note I would urge due diligence to this integration committee to ensure the relevant support infrastructure and facilities, along with the necessary financial commitments promoted by GPA are in place to support this full integration.

The schools of Laois both Primary and Post Primary 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 and thankfully our

relationship with the Post Primary sector, whereby we now have a presence in almost every school, continues to grow on a yearly basis.

Our sincerest thanks go to Michael Reynolds and his staff in Comhairle Laighean CLG for their constant courtesies, 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 2023.

Le meas

Niall Mac Laitimh

Runáí CLG Laoise Nollaig 2022

2022 Roll of Honour

ADULT HURLING COMPETITIONS

Laois Shopping Centre SHC Final

02/10/22

Clough Ballacolla 1-24 Camross 0-16

Laois Shopping Centre PIHC Final

02/10/22

St Lazarians Abbeyleix 1-21

Clonaslee St Manmans 0-13

Laois Shopping Centre IHC Final

01/10/22

Clough Ballacolla 2-14

Mountmellick 2-09

Laois Shopping Centre JHC Final

16/09/22

St Lazarian's Abbeyleix 1-16

Park Ratheniska Timahoe 0-12

Laois Shopping Centre JHC "B" Final

29/09/22

Rosenallis 3-16 Clough Ballacolla 1-07

Laois Shopping Centre JHC "C" Final

01/10/22

The Harps 3-19

Park Ratheniska Timahoe 4-13

Laois Shopping Centre U20HC Final

12/11/22

The Harps 2-11 Camross 0-14

Laois Shopping Centre U20HC "B" Final

19/11/22

Park Ratheniska Timahoe 0-15

Na Fianna 1-12

PRT won on penalties AET

Laois Shopping Centre ACHL Div 1A Final

24/06/22

Rathdowney Errill 2-19. . . . Camross 2-13

Laois Shopping Centre ACHL Div 1B Final

25/06/22

Rathdowney Errill 2-22. . . . Camross 2-19

Laois Shopping Centre ACHL Div 2 Final

24/06/22

St Lazarians Abbeyleix 0-21

Colt Shanahoe 2-13

Laois Shopping Centre ACHL Div 3 Final

01/07/22

Camross 3-17 Rathdowney Errill 2-12

Laois Shopping Centre ACHL Div 4 Final

03/07/22

The Harps 5-13 Rosenallis 1-23

Laois Shopping Centre ACHL Div 5 Final

24/06/22

Clonaslee St Manmans 2-17

Ballinakill 1-13

ADULT FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

Laois Shopping Centre SFC Final

09/10/22

Portarlinton 2-13 O'Dempsey's 0-08

Laois Shopping Centre IFC Final

01/10/22

The Heath 1-13. Arles Kilcruise 0-08

Laois Shopping Centre JFC Final

09/10/22

Portlaoise 1-11. Barrowhouse 0-08

Laois Shopping Centre JFC "B" Final

08/09/22

Camross 3-09 Errill 0-08

Laois Shopping Centre JFC “C” Final
07/09/22
Rathdowney 5-12 Courtwood 1-10

Laois Shopping Centre U20FC Final
25/11/22
Ballyroan Abbey v Emo Courtwood

Kelly Cup Final
29/03/22
St Joseph’s 2-11 Ballyroan Abbey 2-07

Laois Shopping Centre ACFL Div 1A Final
01/07/22
St Joseph’s 1-09. Graiguecullen 0-08

Laois Shopping Centre ACFL Div 1B Final
02/07/22
Killeshin 1-13 Stradbally 1-09

Laois Shopping Centre ACFL Div 2 Final
02/07/22
Park Ratheniska 2-10 Ballyfin 0-10

Laois Shopping Centre ACFL Div 3A Final
08/07/22
Ballyroan Abbey 1-15 Annanough 0-09

Laois Shopping Centre ACFL Div 3B Final
07/07/22
Graiguecullen 2-17 Rosenallis 3-11

Laois Shopping Centre ACFL Div 4 Final
30/06/22
Emo 1-15. Arles Kilcruise 0-06

Laois Shopping Centre ACFL Div 5 Final
08/07/22
Park Ratheniska W/O. Kilcavan SCR

UNDERAGE COMPETITIONS

HURLING

Midlands Park Hotel
U17 Hurling Championship Final
07/10/22
Clough Ballacolla 2-13 The Harps 0-18

Midlands Park Hotel
U17 “B” Hurling Championship Final
06/10/22
Portlaoise 2-08
Park Ratheniska Timahoe 1-09

Midlands Park Hotel
U15 Hurling Championship Final
15/10/22
Castletown 5-09 The Harps 3-08

Midlands Park Hotel
U15 “A1” Hurling Championship Final
15/10/22
Park Ratheniska Timahoe 3-17
St Fintan’s Mountrath 2-14

Midlands Park Hotel
U15 “B” Hurling Championship Final
15/10/22
Ballyfin 4-10..St Lazarian’s Abbeyleix 2-13

Midlands Park Hotel U13 Hurling
Championship Final
10/09/22
Camross 3-10 Borris in Ossory 2-05

Midlands Park Hotel
U13 “A1” Hurling Championship Final
10/09/22
Ballyfin 3-05
Park Ratheniska Timahoe 1-10

Midlands Park Hotel
U13 “B” Hurling Championship Final
06/09/22
Rathdowney Errill 4-08 St Pauls 4-02

**Midlands Park Hotel U13“C” Hurling
Development Competition Final**
29/08/22
Ballinakill Ballypickas 1-04
Portlaoise 0-03

FOOTBALL

**Midlands Park Hotel
U17 Football Championship Final**
30/09/22 St Joseph’s 1-10
Stradbally Parish Gaels 0-11

**Midlands Park Hotel U17 “B” Football
Championship Final**
01/10/22
St Paul’s 2-12 O’Dempsey’s 1-07

**Midlands Park Hotel
U17 Football Shield Final Final**
09/10/22
Portarlinton 1-03 Ballylinan 0-05

**Midlands Park Hotel
U17 “B” Football Shield Final**
29/09/22
The Heath 3-10. Park Ratheniska 0-06

**Midlands Park Hotel
U17 “C” Football Championship Final**
12/10/22
The Harps 4-10
Mountmellick Parish Gaels 3-06

**Midlands Park Hotel
U15 Football Championship Final**
22/10/22
Portlaoise 2-05 Na Fianna Og 0-08

**Midlands Park Hotel
U15 Football “A1” Championship Final**
22/10/22
Killeshin 7-02. Park Ratheniska 2-08

**Midlands Park Hotel
U15 Football “B” Championship Final**
29/10/22
Ballylinan 4-13 St Pauls 3-12 AET

**Midlands Park Hotel
U15 Football Development Competition
Final**
05/08/22
Mountmellick Parish Gaels 8-06
Portlaoise 1-05

**Midlands Park Hotel
U13 Football Championship Final**
17/09/22
Ballyfin 1-11 Kilcavan The Rock 1-10

**Midlands Park Hotel
U13“A1” Football Championship Final**
17/09/22
St Joseph’s 2-13 Portarlinton 2-07

**Midlands Park Hotel
U13“B” Football Championship Final**
17/09/22
Na Fianna Og 6-12. Camross 2-06

**Midlands Park Hotel
U13“C” Football Development
Competition Final**
14/08/22
Portlaoise 4-06 Portarlinton 1-05

AIB LEINSTER CLUB COMPETITIONS

AIB Leinster Club Senior Football Championship

23/10/22 Chadwicks Wexford Park

Round 1

Portarlinton 1-11 . . .Castletown (Wex) 0-10

06/11/22 Newtatch Cullen Park

Quarter-final

Portarlinton 3-19 . . .Palatine (Cw) 0-09

19/11/22 Croke Park Semi-final

Portarlinton

Kilmacud Crokes (Dub)

AIB Leinster Club Intermediate Football Championship

22/10/22 Kennedy Park New Ross

Round 1

St Mogue's Fethard (Wex) 2-10

The Heath 0-11

AIB Leinster Club Junior Football Championship

22/10/22 Crettyard

Round 1

Straffan (Ke) 0-20Barrowhouse 0-10

AIB Leinster Club Senior Hurling Championship

13/11/22 Parnell Park

Quarter-final

Clough Ballacolla 1-12

Kilmacud Crokes (Dub) 2-18

AIB Leinster Club Intermediate Hurling Championship

12/11/22 Echelon Park Aughtrim

Quarter-final

St Lazarian's Abbeyleix 0-16

Bray Emmets (Ww) 0-17

AIB Leinster Club Junior Hurling Championship

29/10/22 Netwatch Training Centre

Fenagh Round 1

Burrow Rangers (Cw) 0-11

Mountmellick 3-17

12/11/22 O'Toole Park

Quarter-final

Commercials (Dub) 1-17

Mountmellick 0-10

Sub - Committees Reports

Coiste Na nÓg Laoise Annual Report 2022

v began its work in January with a survey of clubs to review the previous season and help inform the development of a programme of juvenile competitions to support player development. Key among the findings was the strong recommendation from clubs to see self-grading competitions introduced at U15 and U17, building on their introduction at U13 in 2021. The rationale for the proposal was to encourage teams to compete at as high a grade as possible in both codes. Clubs also wished to have more games, development competitions for second teams, a mid-summer break, and competitions continuing to the end of September/early October.

Coiste na nÓg reviewed the findings and proposed a self-grading, phased competition at all grades in both codes to the Competitions Control Committee (CCC) and for subsequent approval at County Committee. In consultation with Coaching and Games, the competitions were preceded by 7-a-side and 11-a-side games in football and hurling respectively at U13 and U15 and by a development league at U17 while Laois minor teams competed in inter-county competitions. Provision was also made for end-of season blitzes at U13 and U15 as teams exited the main competitions. An open self-grading competition was put in place at U13 while, at U15 and U17, the semi-finalists from two seasons ago were seeded into the four groups for Phase 1. The Féile competitions at U15 took place before the commencement of the club championships and there were two divisions in each code with county winners progressing to represent Laois at regional and national finals.

The club championships got underway in April at U13 and U15 while development leagues commenced at U17 to provide organised games for club players while county panels prepared for Leinster championships. Due to the success of the Laois Minor hurlers in reaching the Leinster final and All-Ireland qualifiers, it was necessary to revise the structure of club hurling and football competitions. A more traditional competition format with two divisions in each code was approved. The round robin format in hurling provided a good programme of games before the knock-out phase while, in football, a Shield competition was introduced to ensure a similar number of games. Development competitions limited to second teams were provided at U13 and U15 as required and this ensured ample game time for clubs with large panels of players.

The competitions progressed well over the season with a short break in early August. By September, most competitions were at knock-out phases with U15 the last age group to complete its programme. Coiste na nÓg was pleased to be in a position to hold all A grade finals in O'Moore Park and every effort was made to give the players, coaches, and supporters a real sense of occasion to mark the achievement of teams reaching an A final. All other finals were held at the Centre of Excellence.

The general consensus was that the self-grading formats worked well at U13 and U15. There is no doubt that a direct grading approach at U13 would not have predicted some of the clubs that ended up contesting the knock-out phases at the A grade. That said, given the open-draw nature of Phase 1 of the competitions (aside from seeding semi-finalists at U15), a number of matches were one-sided and this needs to be considered when considering formats for the 2023 season. The number of games provided at each age grade was above the average as set out in the recent GAA report on juvenile competitions.

Competitions cannot go ahead without match officials and the need for additional referees in the system continues to put pressure on the delivery of a programme of games for our players. Good work is ongoing, led by the Games Development Officers, to encourage 'young whistlers' to officiate at Go Games (U11) and a number of young referees successfully completed training this season and officiated at U13 games. Collectively, we have to be more proactive to get young people involved in refereeing and, equally, we all have a duty of care to support their development as they 'learn their trade'. Respect for match officials at all grades is of paramount importance and it is a source of frustration that, at times, the required standard was not in evidence at some of our juvenile fixtures. Leadership, education, and good example by all involved is the only way forward and Coiste na nÓg will play its part in supporting match officials. One step in that direction was the approval by CCC of the requirement by team mentors to wear same-coloured bibs for all competitive fixtures.

A review process is underway on the 2022 competitions and we look forward to working with clubs to provide a suitable programme of competitions in 2023. It is worth noting the challenges faced by clubs in fielding teams at certain age grades and there is an onus on us all to find solutions so that all players continue to have the opportunity to play in our competitions.

I would like to thank colleagues on Coiste na nÓg for their support and insight during the season, especially Tony Bambrick (Secretary). Thanks to former Chairs, Alan Langton and Danny Gorman, for their help throughout the year and to all the volunteers and other county board officers, without whose help we could not have organised our finals in O'Moore Park and the Centre of Excellence. I would also like to thank PJ Kelly and Niall Handy for their advice and guidance throughout the year and Síle Burbage (Office Administrator) deserves special mention for her assistance in organising communications to match officials and clubs throughout the season and for helping make the arrangements for our finals.

It takes a team effort to successfully organise and run the juvenile competitions. Thanks to the clubs for their cooperation, the coaches for their dedication, the match officials for their commitments, and, most especially, the players for the great enjoyment they have given us all.

Joe Cunningham
Cathaoirleach, Coiste na nÓg

Coaching and Games Report 2022

Coaching and Games are excited to be able to report on an action packed 2022. Several highlights came to the fore, namely in the form of Formal Coach Education, Academy Squads and both the Primary and Post Primary sectors. Details of each along with all other areas of concentration can be seen below. During 2022 staffing numbers increased with the introduction of four new members allied with the four staff currently in position. They work with great initiative, showing a strong level of commitment to the long-term development of Laois Coaching and Games

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the clubs for their help and support throughout my five-year term as Coaching and Games Officer, I think that Coaching and Games in Laois has established itself as the driving force behind player and coach development within our county. I would like to thank all the GDA's that I have worked with during my time in this role and more recently the addition of the GPO's, every person in these roles is 100% committed to the development of Gaelic Games within our county and we owe them all a debt of gratitude for that. As our staff base grows it takes a lot of management to organize and motivate those staff to continually deliver the best quality coaching and education that they can and this leadership and management is delivered constantly by our Coaching and Games Manager, Mike Henchy. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Mike for everything he does for Laois GAA and the support that he personally has given me in my role over the last four years since he started. Mike is well known now by everyone within our county in both hurling and football and I think you will all agree with me that he does a great job.

I would finally like to thank all of the County Board members that I have worked alongside for the last five years I have learned a lot through this experience as I make my transition through the GAA as a player a selector/coach and then a county board member. I would like to personally thank Peter O'Neill and PJ Kelly for their help and support and also a special word of thanks has to go to Niall Handy who is the glue which holds our Laois GAA organization together.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank numerous stakeholders for their hard work and commitment. To all the parents, coaches and club administrators, your efforts and desire to promote our games locally, thank you for the essential work that you do. To Niall Handy for his unwavering commitment to Laois GAA and recognition of key areas of development, to our Academy Structures. To our Office Administrator Sile Burbage for her hard work and support to Coaching and Games. We would also like to thank Mick Glynn and Rose Norton who always look after everyone so well and keep the COE in top class condition and to Willie Stackpoole who is always there to ensure the facilities are open and cared for as the players come and go. Without their commitment the COE could not run as smoothly as it does.

1.0 GPOs (Games Promotion Officers)

This year saw the introduction of the first four GPOs into the county. Welcome to Cian Moffit, Jamie Moriarty, Martin O Connell and Shane Keegan. Their work is concentrated in the clubs and the associated Primary schools. Areas of focus include the development of Physical Literacy, Skill Development, Session, and Season planning to name but a few.

We would also like to thank the clubs for their warm welcome and continuous support to the GPOs as they strive to develop players and educate coaches. Work is ongoing to cater for the remaining clubs due to receive a GPO. Updates will be provided by Leinster GAA as the process develops.

2.0 TURAS workshops (Online/Practical)

In advance of pitch-based practical's a series of online webinar events were scheduled. The events included (1) TURAS Principles (2) Session/Season Planning (3) Technical Skill Development and Nursery Development as a standalone event. The events were scheduled for U7/U9 and U11 coaches across both codes.

U7 football saw 29 coaches from 12 clubs engage with the process, U9 coaches numbered 24, representing 12 clubs with 11 clubs having 19 coaches in attendance for U11. With reference to hurling, 33 coaches from 10 clubs engaged at U7 level, 20 coaches from 8 clubs at U9 level and at U11, 17 coaches from 8 clubs took part. Leading on from the online theory events, pitch-based practicals were held for each age and code in the COE. The practical workshops centered around how the TURAS Principles can be used during training sessions. There was also concentration on Skill Development Techniques and Coaching Principles.

2.1 TURAS Club Visits (Informal Coach Education)

With online theory and county-based practical's complete the GDAs turned their attention to TURAS club visits, the third section of the TURAS program. Carrying on from the work already done, the GDAs focused on the TURAS principles, the coaching ideals surrounding Skill Development and the importance of session planning and season planning. 14 clubs, across both codes took up the opportunity to welcome GDAs to work with their underage coaches. A full review of the TURAS program is due to take place and as we lead into 2023 the hope would be that more clubs would take up this opportunity.

3.0 Coach Education

The forementioned club-based work is all linked to Coach Education. This section will advise on the additional Formal and Informal events carried out this year.

3.1 Formal Coach Education

One of the highlights for 2022, with the number of coaches taking part in the new Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games. The first course in the county took place in January with a total of 16 courses completed and at the time of writing with another four

courses to take place by the mid December. In total, including the Cul Camp coaches, 280 coaches will have received their I.C.G.G certificate. This is very satisfactory. Hopefully this number translates to large numbers of coaches taking up Award 1 courses as the years progress.

This Autumn saw the first Award 1 course take place since Covid coming in the form of Youth/Adult hurling. The course is ongoing with 11 coaches from 4 clubs taking part. We hope to see a lot more coaches take the opportunity to complete this level into the future. Award 1 Youth/Adult football will take place in the new year with details being circulated to the clubs in advance.

3.2 Informal Coach Education (Athletic Development)

Across February, March and April our Performance GDA Jason Coffey held several Informal Athletic Development events. These included the GAA 15 Warm Up process, Conditioning for the Youth player, Speed and Recovery. The education was provided in the form of online theory-based class work, followed up by pitch-based practicals. The overall participation rates are listed below.

GAA15/Warm Up

Online (34 participants)
Practical (12 participants)

Speed Development

Online (49 Participants)
Practical 51 Participants)

Conditioning the GAA Player

Online (23)
Practical (18)

Physical Fitness Testing

Online (15 Participants)
Practical (13 Participants)

Nutrition for the GAA Player

Online (28 Participants)

RT Course

12 coaches signed up, Cancelled due to COVID. Further details to follow on the 2023 course.

4.0 Go Games

Our 2022 Go Games programme, building off solid foundations from 2021, was a resounding success, spanning from April to late October, for U7, U9, U11 football and

hurling, respectively. U7/U9 hurling, and football completed at least 12 games, whilst U11 hurling, and football completed 14 games across the span of the season. We are providing an unprecedented number of games for our young players and provide more games than the minimum recommended by the nationwide Go Games task force. On a given date, up to 480 children took part in our U11 hurling, with over 730 children taking part in U11 football. In U7 and U9 football, we had up to 830 participants, and up to 560 participants for U7 and U9 hurling, respectively. This is a positive sign, as it indicates a growth on the 2021 numbers. We also had continued success in our recruiting teenagers for our Young Whistler programme, where up to 20 young referees helped to officiate U11 hurling and football games. This leaves us in a very strong position leading into our 2023 programme, where we will endeavour to provide a comprehensive programme of games opportunities once again, alongside a range of new initiatives to further drive participation and retention.

The 2022 Go Games programme also saw some new ventures. The O'Moore Park Experience Nights returned for U9 and U11 and were very enjoyable occasions for players and clubs alike. We also saw the founding of the Cross-Border Go Games, whereby 15 Laois clubs took part in two cross-border events, playing against their counterparts from Kildare, Offaly, Westmeath, and Carlow. The aforementioned initiatives were additions to the 2022 programme off the back of feedback from clubs and coaches, and we hope that these ventures will continue to grow and prosper as we lead into the 2023 programme. It should be noted that Conor Shannon took the initiative to contact the forementioned counties above to begin the process on the Cross Border games.

At Go Games level, we are asking clubs to regularly report their playing numbers at each code and grade. It is vital that this continue to be tracked, as it allows us to paint a picture of the growth or decline of playing numbers at a particular age grade or code. In turn, this should theoretically enable clubs to identify potential risk of drop out, or alternatively, identify periods of growth, with the long-term aim to increase the playing numbers, and subsequent standard of both clubs and county.

A review document was recently circulated to clubs and coaches asking for feedback on the 2022 session. The most actionable responses highlighted the need for continual engagement with clubs around the ethos of Go Games; in particular, the importance of small playing numbers, silent side-lines, and the non-competitive nature of the programme, along with continuing to develop the Cross-Border and O'Moore Park Experience night events and finally, creating a greater connection between the senior inter-county hurling and football players and the young players in the county, to develop a grá and pathway to play for the Laois senior teams.

5.0 Football Academy Squads

U16 Football

After three trials in Heywood College the U16 management team settled on 35 panel members for the U16 Football Academy, this did not include the county minor players who

would re-join the academy after their involvement in the minor championship concluded, this would make a total of 43 panel members. 17 clubs were represented on this panel.

This year was the first year we introduced a Laois Player Pathway at Academy level, the purpose of this was that management would have a clear plan for the year and for each individual session, also the players would have a Laois style set in stone across all Academy Football squads with progressions from one age to the next. The focus of the Player Pathway is to ensure that we know what we have worked on and what type of player we want to create to play adult football for Laois. The U16 team showed huge progression from start to finish not just in their results but progression in relation to the Player Pathway which is most important in the player's development. Each of the Academy squads have areas of focus relating to Technical, Tactical, Physical and Psychological. The U16 management focused a lot on moving the ball forward quickly, supporting the player on the ball and getting the players to put the team first. When not in possession of the ball they focused on tucking in denying space.

The U16 team had a busy schedule throughout 2022 during the summer months they trained twice a week once during the day on a Wednesday for a three-hour slot consisting of gym and pitch and educational talks also on a Saturday with games or skill development on the pitch. A big effort was made by all involved in making this work.

They lost some matches to notable counties like Meath, Kerry and Mayo but did manage to defeat Tipperary, Roscommon and Dublin. The most pleasing fact was the progression from start to finish. This team has a lot of potential and can make a big mark in the 2023 Leinster championship. Players have undertaking trials to be part of the 2023 minor panel. Finally, a big thank you to team manager PJ Dempsey St Josephs and his mentors Clifford Ward Portarlinton, Niall English Killeslin and Martin Connolly Mountmellick.

U15 Football

The U15 management team used the four Divisional Championship games as trials to select the Laois U15 panel of 2022. When this process was complete the management selected a panel of 52 players to be involved in the U15 Football Academy panel. 15 clubs were represented on this panel.

This was the first year that Laois put out two even teams to play in all games at U15 level. It was a big success with 30 players playing at the one time and being exposed to high standard of football, this took great effort and organization from the management team and most important gave all players lots of meaningful game time to help them progress.

The U15 sessions focused a lot on kicking the ball and being direct, gaining possession and choosing the right option with everything being done at pace. When not in possession the management focused on having the players bringing intensity to the opposition.

Again, a big effort was made by all involved in making the summer schedule work, which was the same as the process at U16.

The U15 teams had some very good results, defeating Kildare, Cork and Roscommon and had defeats to Cork, Galway and Cavan.

Some of these lads will be trying out for Laois minor panels and trials for U16 2023. It is hoped that this team will stay together and commit to being a successful minor team in two years' time. A massive thanks to manager Ger Slevin O Dempseys and his management team Brian O Sullivan Crettyard, John Connolly Portarlinton, Michael Lenihan The Heath, Donie O Mahony Mountmellick and Adrian Slevin O Dempseys.

U14 Football

The U14 management team used the Divisional games as trials for the Academy Squad. A lot of interest was shown in making this team and we had six Divisional teams. It was decided to enter all six Divisional teams into the first Leinster competition to give every player the experience of playing at this competitive level. After this round of games, a provisional 64 player panel was named with 22 clubs represented. After the next phase of training this was then reduced to 47 Academy players.

The U14 management team focused a lot on getting the players to move the ball forward quickly with the foot and take the man on. Another big focus for this team was to develop all the technical skills of the game using both sides of the body.

Again, a big effort was made by all involved in making the summer schedule work which was the same process as that for the U16 and U15 panels.

The U14 team had good results against Tipperary, Westmeath and Offaly and got to experience some top games against Kerry and Meath.

The next step for these players will be U15 trials for 2023 which began in November. A big thanks to Manager Odhran Gallagher O Dempseys and his management team John Larkin Stradbally, James Kelly Spink, Darach Kennedy Park/Ratheniska, Joe Cunningham Park/Ratheniska, Adrian Slevin O Dempseys and Joe Dunne Colt/Shanahoe.

5.2 Hurling Academies

Our 2022 Academy preparations were heavily impacted by Covid, with a short window provided pre- and post-Christmas, to select our squads. Nevertheless, this had no negative impact on our squads, who have been a credit to themselves and their mentors and have been competitive in their games throughout the 2022 program. Preparations for the 2023 hurling academy squad season are well underway. The 2023 U15 and U16 Hurling squads have been finalised, whilst the U13 7 aside club-based competition has recently commenced, with the aim of selecting the 2023 U14 hurling squad by early December. This

leaves us in a strong position leading into 2023, with a well-structured, holistic programme of work planned for each of the three squads.

Celtic challenge:

The Celtic challenge was an enormous success, running from April to June, and offered cohesion between the U16 and minor groups, with the panel comprised of a selection of the 2022 minor panel, and 2022 U16 panel, managed by the U16 management group. This competition is a great initiative, allowing players more opportunities to play competitive games, as they lead into minor in the coming months and/or year. The 2022 Laois Celtic challenge panel finished top of the group, winning all their games. The team then qualified for the knock-out round, defeating Offaly in the quarter-final, and Roscommon in the semi-final respectively, before tasting defeat to Wicklow in the final, following extra-time in a replay. It must be noted that the Celtic challenge competition is U17, and Wicklow did not enter a minor team (U17) for the Leinster championship, so we effectively faced their minor team in the final and deserved to win on the day. Sincere thanks to the players and their management group, for their hard work and commitment to the cause.

U16 Hurling

Trials commenced for the u16 group in early February, and the panel was selected in early March. The U16 group commenced collective training in mid-March, with 38 players initially selected, training every Thursday evening and Saturday morning until the end of May. The U16 group then began their summer programme of training in late June, whereby the players were invited to train in the Laois GAA Centre of Excellence, from 1-3pm every Wednesday, for gym and pitch sessions, along with their regular Saturday session. In total, the U16 panel completed 52 sessions, and participated in four Leinster organised games, two challenge games and the finals round of the Leinster competition, suffering defeat in the final. Sincere thanks to Eddie Downey, Tom Moloney, Brendan Phelan, Conor Doran and Lorcan Dunne for their hard work with the players not only over the course of this year, but since the players initially began their development squad journey at U14 level a few years ago.

U15 Hurling

Divisionals for the U15 group commenced in early February, with the panel picked in early March. The U15 group commenced collective training in mid-March, with 52 players initially selected, training every Thursday evening and Saturday morning until the end of May. The U15 group then began their summer programme of training in late June, whereby the players were invited to train in the Laois GAA Centre of Excellence, from 1-3pm every Tuesday, for gym and pitch sessions, along with their regular Saturday session. In total, the U15 panel completed 49 sessions, and participated in four Leinster organised games, three challenge games and the Arrabawn tournament, over two Saturdays in August, where the panel was split into two even teams, and produced some great performances on both days, with the one of the selections reaching the Plate final, beating Galway and Wexford on the

way, facing defeat to Clare by 3 points. Many thanks to their management group, Enda Walsh, Gareth O'Brien, Wayne Fox, Robert Orr, Enda Whelan, and Peter Gray for all their hard work with the players throughout the year.

U14 Hurling

Divisionals commenced for the U14 group in mid-March, culminating in a final round of games on April 23rd, where each of the four divisions competed in a Leinster blitz against Kildare, Offaly, and Meath. The 4 divisions represented themselves admirably, and it was fantastic to give over 100 players a chance to represent their county.

Following this, the U14 panel was picked, with 46 players initially selected. The panel commenced training on May 12th, initially once a week, on a Saturday. The U14 group then began their summer programme of training in late June, whereby the players were invited to train in the Laois GAA Centre of Excellence, from 1-3pm every Thursday, for gym and pitch sessions, along with their regular Saturday session. In total, the U14 panel completed 34 sessions, and participated in three Leinster organised blitzes, three challenge games and the Tony Forrestal Tournament, over two Saturdays in August, where the panel was split into two even teams, and produced some great performances on both days. Many thanks to their management group, Brian Flanagan, John Payne, Ryan Denny, Noel Concannon and Cathal Phelan for all their hard work with the players throughout the year.

Leinster Combined Schools:

We also had great success in the Leinster GAA combined 2nd year hurling event. We beat Offaly and Kildare selections on the way to the final, before suffering defeat against Offaly by the smallest of margins following a titanic battle in the Faithful fields. Great credit must go to the players, their families, and mentors for their run to the final.

Other considerations:

2022 provided some green shoots for the fortunes of Laois hurling. We had our triumphant minors, who treated us to a great occasion in an O'Moore Park packed to the rafters. The Setanta program was reinvigorated, thanks to the arduous work of Brendan Phelan and his Setanta group. The numbers of players turning up to trials continues to grow, from under 20 for u16 trials in 2020, to over 60 for u16 trials over the past few weeks. Our O'Moore Park Experience Nights were an immense success for U9 and U11s alike, with some of these players lucky enough to represent their clubs in Croke Park in recent weeks. These occasions and events illustrated the goodwill towards hurling in the county. There is great potential for Laois hurling to prosper, however, we still face some distance to go about coach and mentor recruitment.

5.3 Athletic/Performance Development

2022 saw a lot of gains made in the Performance areas. An outline of these resources is listed below.

RYPT App

The Athletic Development GDAs can monitor a wide range of data with RYPT for U15 and U16 Academy squads, including:

1. Body Composition / Bodyweight, Body Fat %, Lean Mass, Fat Mass
2. Workout Compliance / Workouts Sent, Workouts Completed, Compliance %
3. Records / 1RM, BW:1RM, Max Reps, m/s, Total Distance, Time, Height, Force (N)
4. Training Volume / Total Reps, Total Volume (kg), Intensity (kg/rep)
5. Training Load / Duration, RPE, Total Load (for workouts and other activities)
6. Well-being / Sleep Quality, Mood, Energy Levels, Stress, Muscle Soreness, and Training Readiness
7. Steps / Daily Steps, Average Daily Steps

Hamstring Solo

Hamstring Solo is the safest, most accurate way to objectively monitor hamstring vulnerability in the field. The Hamstring Solo is being used by some of the top rugby, football and sporting organizations throughout the world, including, The All Blacks, English and Scottish national rugby teams, Manchester United, Liverpool, Benfica, the English Institute of Sport, as well as high performance centers from Qatar to Sweden. In addition, multiple GAA teams including Tipperary, Dublin, Offaly, Kerry, All Ireland champions Tyrone, UPMC Sports Medicine and many more.

Several risk factors combine to increase hamstring vulnerability, for example:

1. A lack of muscle strength.
2. A significant left-to-right strength imbalance.
3. Residual fatigue and/or a lack of fatigue resilience in the hamstring muscle group.

In the past, none of these key risk variables could be readily monitored and tracked within a practical context. Today, however, with the evolution of the Hamstring Solo Elite assessment system, that barrier has been removed.

NAC Sport

NAC sport is a sport analysis software which will allow U15 and U16 Academy mentors the ability to provide video analysis to their squads. Training on the software is being provided for in-house by an expert in the analysis area. We hope to continue to develop this area into 2023 and beyond.

Academy Coach Development: Guest Coaches

Due to scheduling and other details, this summer saw one outside coach work with our Academy coaches and players. John Dillon, Kerry GDA, held a workshop on developing the transition from defense to attack and team play. As we lead into 2023 the focus will be on securing additional coaches for this sector.

Performance Coach

A key facet of our summer program for the U16 squads was the provision of sport psychology support. We enlisted David McHugh to deliver practical workshops to our U16 hurling and football groups. David McHugh is a Sports Psychology practitioner based in Ireland. He works with athletes, coaches, and teams on how what they think, do and believe influences their performance in sport.

As Sports Scholarship manager in Athlone Institute of Technology, David supports student athletes in combining sport and education. He has worked with athletes, teams and coaches in the League of Ireland, Inter- County GAA teams and athletics. As a UEFA A qualified coach, he believes working with and through the coach can bring Sports Psychology to life in the performance environment.

David ran 3 workshops with our u16 hurling and football squads during our summer period, around developing confidence and courage and cultural identity on and off the pitch, psychological skills training to improve sporting and academic performance, where he introduced players to techniques such as visualization, positive self-talk and developing task specific goals.

Sub Athletic Development Academy

The Laois GAA Athletic Development Program provides strength and conditioning support during the season to players who have been exposed to the county's underage development squad program, The program also caters for players who may not have been exposed to the underage development squad but have recently shown the potential through club performances as noted by current management teams.

Criteria to be selected for this Athletic Development Group:

- Age: 17 – 24 years old
- Express an ambition to play inter-county hurling or Football
- A willingness to give yourself the best opportunity possible to play inter-county for Laois GAA.

Athletic Development Interns

We would very much like to recognize the work carried out by our Athletic Development Interns across the season. A big thank you to: Darragh O Keeffe – UL and Kilkenny; Niall Heagney (Laois)

We would also like to mention people due to intern with C&G as we approach the 2023 season.

Amy Poole (Laois) – LIT

Cian Bourke (Laois) – LIT

Rachel Yudan (Offaly) – UL

Henry Fingleton (Laois) – Setanta

Management Addresses

Ref: Ger Slevin

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2021 squad for their efforts since the trials last year. We as a management team feel they have made great strides in many areas, and it is apparent that they have grown and bonded together as a group of people. To see the players, hang out with each other when they attend club matches in O'Moore is very encouraging to see.

We had over 50 sessions and played 11 matches. The attendance from Nov 21 - Aug 22 averaged just over 87% and while this fell off because of the club championship in September and October it was a phenomenal effort both by players and parents. The feedback from coaches and staff around the Centre of Excellence is they are a pleasure to work with. Their discipline both in training and on the field has been exemplary and this is something the management team both values and demands as a minimum requirement at this level.

The players experienced for the first time a specific age-appropriate gym program where they were tested and retested, and the results showed an upward trend. They were exposed to new experiences such as GPS monitoring with live data on match day (v Tipperary), ice baths for recovery, nutritional and hydration advice, social media advice, demands around culture, and the expectation and responsibility this brings (attendance, wearing the correct gear, coming to training on time, leaving the facilities and buses the way we got them, respect for their coaches, teammates and those serving them food and that the gym is something that you must do all year round to make gains).

While there are many positives, we still have a huge amount of work ahead to remain competitive. The players need to go to the next level in relation to fitness, nutrition, and execution of skills under pressure. They would have heard from Zach Touhy recently that nutrition was something he did not place enough value on when he was their age. Also, the players need to be doing more work on their own in relation to their skills and endurance. We saw against Cavan, Cork, Galway, and Clare last Tuesday night that the level of intensity and aggression is many levels above club matches and club training, and we need to prepare for this.



Zach Tuohy in O'Moore Park on County Final Day fresh from his AFL Grand Final win with Geelong in Melbourne and who provided valuable insight to preparation of an elite athlete with our Academy Panels.

Zach Tuohy Talk with Academy Players

Ref: Odhran Gallagher

Zach gave a wonderful speech and I hope our lads can take some of his key messages and use them to improve their game. For Zach it hasn't been all plain sailing but with hard work, determination & being a respectful & honest teammate, he has reached the summit of AFL. He also said that only now, at 32 years of age, has he fully got to grips with the game- we have loads of opportunity to make improvements to our game at 14 & 15 as he also highlighted. From the management of both squads, I'd like to thank Zach and we will look to get him back in again in future.

6.0 Schools

This year saw the continued development of work in both the Primary and Post Primary sectors. The Primary school metrics have increased dramatically from those in 2021, with relationships in the Post Primary schools developing to a very productive level thanks to the work of the GDAs but also from members of the county board.

6.1 Primary Schools

It was very pleasing to see the reintroduction of the Club/School link program this year. 13 coaches were part of the scheme this year and were supported in a coach developer capacity by the GDAs via online events and school visits. A huge thank you must go to Darragh O Keffe who joined Laois GAA C&G department from LIT as part of his work placement. It was a pleasure to have Darragh work with us for 9 months. He imparted his love for GAA across numerous schools in the county during the year. This year saw an increase from 34 to 50 schools receiving coaching with a total of 5,427 children taking part up from 3,860 in 2021. A total of 1,670 coaching sessions took place at the time of writing

6.2 Post Primary Schools

Since September work has resumed on the grounds of the Post Primary schools. The key focus areas for September to December 2022 were: 1. Athletic Development be that morning/midday or evening sessions, targeting Academy Squad players. Eight schools are currently up and running with the program. 2. TY Courses. TY courses have been carried

out in Rathdowney and Mountrath & Clonaslee upon request. 3. Coach Developer sessions: The GDA's are currently coaching in Rathdowney, Mountrath, Portlaoise CBS and Heywood.

The academic year C&G looked to further develop the ever growing Post Primary sector. An estimated 270 Academy players were offered Athletic Development work to cater for all 10 of the Post Primary schools. Academy players in Johnstown are being offered Athletic Development through a partnership with Kilkenny GAA GPO Nathan Culliton that caters for our hurlers not in Laois schools. Athy based football squad players were offered a chance to train in a fully equipped gym in Ballylinan pre-school, unfortunately this didn't suit the majority of parents, and to the best of C&G Knowledge out counterparts in Kildare don't have a Post primary Athletic Development offering in Athy.

To date on average, we have over 100 players attending these early morning sessions weekly, some of the schools are scheduled for Mondays, and with the squads been active on Mondays in September & October these numbers would be even higher as we didn't request the players train twice in the one day!

A special mention to Mountmelick GAA, in particular Tom Minahon who have kindly facilitated all our squad players from their club, Kilcavan & Clonaslee in their new state of the art gymnasium

7.0 Cul Camps

This year's Cul Camps saw a total of 3,455 children attend across 44 camps. This is the largest number of children attending Cul Camps in Laois to date, up 150 from the previous largest attendance. Overall, the camps were a success with a big thank you to be extended to all the camp supervisors and coaches. This year saw 80 new coaches begin their Cul Camp journey with Laois GAA. We hope that all the coaches enjoyed their experience and that they will return once again for the 2023 version.

A special mention must go to The Rock GAA and Portlaoise GAA who held Inclusion Cul Camps for children with special needs. These events are fantastic, full of emotion and love for the children who may not be able to take part in mainstream activities.

A big thank you to Laura White (The Rock GAA), Aine O Sullivan and Sal O Dwyer (Portlaoise GAA) and Catriona Slattery (L.S.P) for their amazing work.

7.1 Easter/Halloween Camps

240 children took part in a three-day event in the LOETB, Centre of Excellence during the Easter holidays. 16 coaches with experience from the Cul Camp program made themselves available to ensure the event could go ahead. Even do the weather was not as kind as it had recently been, the spirits of the children and coaches remained high. Over the

Halloween break, 50 children took part in the COE camp. Along with camps in the COE, some clubs also held Easter and Halloween camps across the county.

7.2 Inclusion Club Activities

It is hugely important to not let the report pass by without a very strong recognition of work currently taking place within two GAA clubs in the County. Both The Rock GAA (Rock for All) and Portlaoise GAA (Town All Stars) have established inclusion GAA session for children with disabilities. Great credit is due to both clubs for the support they have provided to these initiatives with a special word going to the work carried out by Laura White from The Rock GAA and Aine O Sullivan/Sal O Dwyer, Portlaoise GAA. Their planning and ability to execute the events is a credit to them and their clubs.

8.0 Seven a side Super Games

To coincide with the Academy season 2022 a 7 a side Super Games events were held at U13 /U15 grades for hurling and football. Overall, the event was a success, allowing all players the opportunity to continue playing the games into the Winter months. A big thank you to all the clubs who entered and your cooperation in having the games played on club grounds.

9.0 County Board Departments

The cross departmental alliances are vital to any business, this applies to Laois GAA as much as any other. For all our players, coaches, managers, administrators to have a fulfilling experience within the organization it takes a lot of joined up thinking and effort to strive to ensure this happens. Without having to mention departments and for the fear of leaving a group out, could I thank everyone for their willingness to engage with the Coaching and Games department across 2022.

10.0 LOETB

We would like to acknowledge the excellent relationship between Laois C&G and the LOETB. Each season we are provided with a range of activates and programs to cater for the needs of our players and their parents. 2022 saw us undertake programs on Easter Holiday revision courses. Suicided awareness, Building Resilience in Youth players and Guidance counselling. We look forward to developing our relationship even further with the LOETB into 2023 and beyond.

11.0 Leinster GAA

The support offered to the Coaching and Games by Leinster GAA must be recognized. They are always available to provide leadership and understanding to the Coaching and Games department in Laois in all aspects of the job roles. An acknowledgement to James Devane, Alan Mulhall and Michael Reyonlds for their continued leadership and support.

Coiste Iomána Report 2022

Senior: In 2022 our Senior hurling team had a difficult year, commencing with losses in the Walsh Cup to Wexford and Kilkenny.

We had mixed fortunes in the League, with defeats to Tipperary, Kilkenny, Waterford and Dublin. However the team put in a great display against Antrim, when playing with fourteen men for over fifty minutes, they showed great heart and character to get a one point victory. This preserved our Division 1 status for 2023.

In the Championship we opened with a good display against Dublin in Parnell Park, losing by 1.20 to 2.15. However as injuries mounted and confidence drained, we suffered defeats in the following games to Kilkenny, Wexford, Galway and Westmeath. As a result we were relegated to the Joe McDonagh Cup for 2023.

I would like to thank Cheddar Plunkett and his management team for the work and effort they put in with our Senior hurlers over two covid-disrupted years. Cheddar has given a lifetime of service and dedication to Laois hurling. On behalf of Coiste Iomána I want to wish him and his family all the best in the future.

U.20: In the early part of the year our U.20 hurlers took part in the Leinster Development League and they reached the final, only to lose to Offaly by a late goal.

In the Championship we had good wins over Antrim and Kildare, before losing to Wexford by 0.17 to .0.16 in the Leinster quarter-final. It was a case of what might have been, as Wexford subsequently lost to eventual All-Ireland champions Kilkenny by one point.

I want to thank Ollie Hally and his management team for the great work they are putting in with our U.20's and wish them the best of luck in 2023.

Minor: Our Minor hurlers gave us some magical moments and great excitement during 2022 as they played eight championship matches. They beat Kildare, Westmeath, Wexford and Kilkenny (for the first time since 1964) to reach the Leinster Final. On an unforgettable Monday evening in May over 18,000 people crammed into O'Moore Park for the Leinster Final against Offaly. Unfortunately we lost by 0.21 to 0.13 but the scenes with hundreds of boys and girls out on the pitch at half time, dreaming their dreams, will live long in the memory.

In the All-Ireland series we lost to Galway and Clare. We gave our best display of the year against Galway. We looked quite comfortable at this level of hurling which augers well for the future. Congratulations to Ciarán Flynn and Ben Deegan on being selected on the Electric Ireland Minor Hurling Team of the Year.

Thank you to Declan Qualter and his management team. I would like to wish Declan all the best as he takes a break from inter-county management. Also thanks to Derek

McGrath for the work he did with the players both on and off the field. I would like to wish our incoming Minor manager Damien Carter and his team all the best for 2023.

I want to wish our new Senior hurling manager Willie Maher and his management team the best of luck. This is a very exciting time for Laois hurling and I would encourage clubs, players and supporters to give their full backing as we try to compete to the best of our ability in 2023.

On a disappointing note we are still struggling to get suitable coaches and people to volunteer to help out with our development squads. Everyone must realise that if we are to compete seriously at Minor, U.20 and Senior in the future proper foundations have to be built at underage level.

On a positive note I would like to thank the clubs, the coaches and all the people who helped to get the Setanta Programme up and running again this year. Particular thanks to Brendan Phelan, Shane Maher and Tommy Moloney for getting the ball rolling. We hope to improve and expand the Setanta Programme for the U.10's and U.11's in 2023.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the Hurling Committee for their help and ideas during 2022 as we endeavour to promote Laois hurling.

Is mise,
Maitiú Ó'Coiléir.

Coiste Éisteachta Laoise (Laois Hearings Committee) Report 2022

As I submit this report, I am delighted to be able to say that we had a year of normal activity and a full return to competition and games after 2 very uncertain years. It was great to be able to hold meetings and hearings in person instead of via Teams which had made hearings more difficult than they already are for all for those attending.

For the 2021 Hearings Committee (C.H.C) we did not finish until late February 2022 with some Appeals progressed outside the county taking longer than we would have liked. The newly formed 2022 Committee led by our new Chairman Micheál Condrón commenced their duties in March 2022 to hear the appeals to decisions on transfers issued by the Competitions Control Committee (C.C.C.). We heard these on the 8th March 2022. In total, we had three appeals to the C.C.C. decisions, which we could uphold, overrule, or refer back to the C.C.C. Of these, all were overruled. In one case the matter proceeded to the DRA and was referred back and reheard by a different C.C.C and C.H.C. before returning to the DRA and being ruled out of order.

The Hearings Committee were invited to attend a workshop on Rules facilitated by Dick Butler along with the C.C.C. and the Referees in 2022. This was very informative and gave all parties the opportunity to discuss matters from their perspective. Unfortunately, it did become apparent during this meeting that some referees felt their decisions were continually being overturned by the Hearings Committee which I can assure you is not the case. At this meeting it was agreed that if a red card was overturned by the Hearings Committee, the Secretary would notify the relevant referee of this decision as a courtesy, and this has been actioned throughout this year.

Disappointingly, it is evident that this opinion remains with some referees and other members of Laois GAA throughout this year and is something we feel we must address. The Hearings Committee in accordance with rule are an independent committee appointed by the Management Committee specifically to “adjudicate on all Disciplinary Matters where a Hearing is prescribed and requested.” In accordance with Rule 7.3 (aa) (6) the “proposed penalty” shall not be disclosed to a Hearings Committee and finally in accordance with Rule 7.3 (bb) “The Hearings Committee has the final power to determine all matters of fact and all sources of evidence submitted to the Hearing shall be considered”. Put simply a penalty is proposed by the C.C.C., which the member can accept or request a hearing on, the proposed penalty is not disclosed to the Hearings Committee and the Hearings Committee imposes a sanction if appropriate based on the evidence presented at the hearing. A referee’s decision can only be overturned in accordance with Rule 7.3 (aa) (vi) “A referee’s report, including any Clarification thereto, shall be presumed correct in all factual matters and may only be rebutted where unedited video or other compelling evidence contradicts it.” Therefore, the Hearings Committee cannot simply “overturn” decisions, they must hear

the evidence and having decided whether an infraction has occurred imposed a sanction in accordance with an Treoraí Oifigiúil.

For clarification regarding the number of times that referee's decisions in relation red cards are overturned or when no sanction is imposed, please see table below. The Hearings Committee in all cases acted in accordance with Rule and decisions were only overturned on foot of compelling evidence. On the occasions that this has been the case the Hearings Committee can stand over their decisions and note that these decisions are not a personal attack on a referee nor do they in any way disrespect the referee. We understand the role of the referee is already very difficult and the committee has the utmost respect for our referees.

Year	Hearings Requested	Out of Order	Withdrawn before Hearing	Sanctions Imposed	Sanction Not Imposed
2018	21	1	3	13	4 (3 on Video Evidence /1 incorrect player sanctioned)
2019	30	2	2	24	2 (on Video Evidence)
2020	11	4	0	7	0
2021	31	1	2	21	7 (4 on Video Evidence/3 on Referee Clarification)
2022	14 *2 yet to be heard	1	0	8	3 (on Video Evidence)

Our proposal to hold an information meeting facilitated by the C.H.C. for all Club Officers over the last couple of years was a priority for the committee in 2022. At our first hearing we decided that due to the demands for time put in Club Officers and in particular Secretaries and Chairpersons we would produce a handbook with guidelines rather than holding a meeting. We issued the finalised guidelines to clubs in July and thankfully it appears that most clubs have used it as a reference guide which has been very effective in cutting out unnecessary hearings and assisting members with the procedures within hearings. I would urge all clubs to continue to use these guidelines going forward and if at any time a Club Officer or player is unsure of or would like clarification on any procedure or rule in relation to the Appeal or Hearing process to feel free to contact any member of the committee.

Our first disciplinary hearing took place in May 2022 and the requests gradually increased once the championship commenced. To date we have had 14 requests for hearings, which were heard or are due to be heard and decisions issued based on the evidence provided and always in accordance with the rules of an Treoraí Oifigiúil. In all cases, we were not aware what penalty had been proposed by the C.C.C. and any sanctions imposed by the C.H.C. were based solely on the evidence presented in accordance with rule. We understand that there are times when individuals are disappointed with the outcome of

their hearings but hope they will agree that they are always treated fairly and with respect and understand that decisions reached are always in accordance with an Treoraí Oifigiúil.

The number of hearings requested this year decreased dramatically based on 2021 (by more than 50%). All hearings were in relation to disciplinary action taken against players except for three, one of which related to a club and the two to club officials. Following our decision in one of these hearings requested by a club official an appeal was lodged with the Leinster Hearings Committee and subsequently lost. A summary of the cases are as follows: -

Players –	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 - Sanction imposed• 3 - No sanction imposed based on video evidence.
11 Hearings Requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 - Out of Order.• 1 - Hearing Pending
Officials/Supporters - 2 Hearings Requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 - Sanction imposed, appealed to Leinster and lost.• 1 - Pending hearing
Club 1 Hearing Requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 - Sanction imposed

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.

I would like to thank all the individual players and club representatives for their courteous co-operation in their dealings with the C.H.C. this year. My thanks to the representatives of the C.C.C. for their courtesy and consideration in their attendance at these hearings. I would also like to acknowledge the role of our County Secretary, Niall Handy and our Administrator, Síle Burbage in the preparation of paperwork and for liaising with referees when clarification of their reports was requested. Their assistance in this regard is very much appreciated. We will all be sorry to see Síle leave but we wish her the very best of luck in her new position.

My biggest thanks must go to the members of this year's C.H.C, Glen Brennan, Seamus Campion, Tom Jones, John Kelly, Michael Lennon, and Alex Stenson who gave so generously of their time whenever they were called upon. In particular, I want to express my thanks to them for stepping up and covering for me when I had to take time out during very difficult personal circumstances this Summer, it is very much appreciated. As always it was a pleasure working with you all again in 2022! On behalf of all of the committee I would like to thank Micheál Condrón our Chairman who stepped up to fill some very big shoes this year which he did seamlessly, and we are all grateful for his guidance and support.

And finally, as I have decided that 2022 will be my final year as Secretary of the Hearings Committee, I would like to take the opportunity to make a few personal thanks.

To Peter O'Neill for inviting me to take up the role in 2018, thank you for having the confidence in me, to PJ Kelly thank you for trusting me to continue in the role this year. To John Hanniffy who taught me everything I know and who I know is always available if I need assistance. To Micheál Condrón for his support throughout this year and for always answering my many calls and texts. To my family for their support to allow me the time to carry out the role, although I think they enjoy the fact that it keeps me out of their way!! To every member of Laois GAA who I have had the opportunity to meet during my time on the Hearings Committee, thank you for the respect and courtesy you have shown me, and I hope I have always done my best to be fair and supportive to everyone I engaged with.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and all the very best in 2023!

Le meas

Adrainne Mhic Cárthaigh

Rúnaí, Coiste Éisteachta Laoise 2022

Planning and Training Report

The start of 2022 saw the role of Planning & Training Officer introduced in the GAA. The key responsibilities in this role include the implementation of officer training, strategic planning, and demographic planning policies to develop Club and County Officers.

Earlier this year, the clubs completed an online survey identifying any formal training which you felt would benefit a club officer. The plan is to start the roll out of this training in January 2023, after the Club AGM and where new club officers could benefit from any training offered. As in previous years, the training is optional, but I would recommend everyone from the longest serving committee member to the newest committee member attend the training, it allows someone new to a role to network with someone who has a few years of experience.

During the year an updated club strategic planning guide was designed. This guide is for clubs who wish to develop a Club Strategic Plan to help map out the future development of your club. A document like this is paramount for Clubs to aid in the forward movement of their club and to ensure that they don't become stagnant and rely only on their current setup. The only constant is change, be that change in your club grounds or club policies this plan will be there to help.

A new GIS Demographic Software tool is currently in development. It is envisaged that this software will be able to use information from the census to track population growth and decreases to better aid clubs and counties in the creation of Strategic Development Plans. As I get more information on this feature, I will let the clubs know.

I would like to thank all clubs who completed the online surveys throughout the year, without your input it's difficult to obtain the information required to meet the training needs of our club officers. This training goes a long way towards helping our current officer but also in preparing for a change of officer at a Club AGM.

Is Mise le Meas,
Pilib O'Catháin

Public Relations Officer and Communications Group

Report 2022

As 2022 draws to a close I am delighted to be able to submit this year's report on our area of operations within Laois GAA.

Website

The Laois GAA website is similar to a shop window in that it shows all the things that Laois GAA does. Fixtures and results, County Board committees and contact details, Coaching and games, Health and Wellbeing, County Draw results, Child welfare, Club finder, Laois GAA TV, Laois Gaels supporters club, Ticket purchase area and social media feeds. A veritable treasure trove of information at your fingertips but it's an area in which we have very few people who have the ability or training to maintain it. So we need your help! Are there people in your club who are tech savvy? Send them our way!!

Match Programmes

Laois GAA prides itself on producing a top quality programs at all times and 2022 saw no change in standards compared to other years. Thanks to our County Secretary Niall Handy and County Administrator Sile Burbage who handled all the communications and checked the proofs sent over from our printer - Mochua Print, who produce such a great product. Our National League programs were enriched by the addition content from Eoin Culliton (Mountmellick) who regularly put together a page of history/stats on the 2 team's previous encounters for all our home programs

Laois GAA TV

Laois GAA TV proved to be a great success once again with an increase in revenue showing a larger interest for our product. We had relatively few operational problems this year as the purchase instructions were simplified on the purchase page and this clearly helped. Our intended commentators were Tomas Moore and Pat O Sullivan but Pat was snapped up by Midlands 103 for their live commentary so the bulk of the broadcasting was done by Tomas. We thank them both for their invaluable contributions. After a very successful Hurling Final, the Football final was televised at very short notice by TG4 after the Donegal final was postponed due to the tragic events in Creeslough. The drop in live stream revenue for the Senior Football final as a result of this was counterbalanced by the broadcast fee received from TG4. An interesting statistic from the Football Final viewing figures was that 75% of the viewers were abroad. At the end of the viewing season a copyright paragraph was added to the purchase page in which Laois GAA asserted its ownership and reserved all rights in relation to the Laois GAATV Content.

Facebook

We use Facebook as our "Go to" social media to distribute all our content other than live scores. It is used for distribute content to approximately 14k followers at present but is increasing all the time. Facebook is very useful in that it can distribute text rich content

with no limit as well as video and pictures which are retained and easily accessible. It would be regarded as the social media platform which is most accessible to those who may not be tech savvy and of a certain age. A feature of Facebook which we used to greater effect this year was the live broadcast feature which we used for the All County Laois Draws and also next round Championship draws .

Instagram

This visually rich social media platform would be regarded as having a younger audience and presently has approximately 10.5K followers with more joining nearly every day. Nearly all our content would be as per Facebook, sharing our content and others using posts and story features. A handy feature was the ability to create a dedicated ticket purchase button on match advertisement posts which was used to good effect for all our Championship matches

Twitter

Our largest social media audience is on Twitter and is presently at 34.5K and growing and its here that we put all our live score updates from the matches we attend. This year we started off using laptops for twitter score reports but found them to be too slow so we switched to a GAA Score App which I initially used on my phone but I then bought a touch screen tablet which I downloaded the same app to . This app enabled us to input player panels for the various Championship matches and put more info in the tweet faster. I would hope that the County executive would consider buying a tablet and continue using this app for the future. A new feature of twitter which we used this year is “Twitter Spaces” which enables an audio broadcast of a match to those twitter followers who wish to listen in. This feature was brought to my attention by Tomas Moore and he used it to great effect with 1 game which he commented on having in excess of 900 listeners. Perhaps something to take on the road for better coverage of games in the future.

Stadium announcing

At any given match we can be asked to call out starting team changes, starting teams , substitutions, extra time announcements, public safety announcements, Moments of silence character statement and National Anthem call to stand .

Club and County teams

I would like to thank the Management of the various County teams I interacted with during the year for their time and courtesy and wish new and continuing management the very best of luck in 2023. To the Club officials and team management I had occasion to interact with during the year I also wish to express my thanks for your time and good spirits.

Sponsors

To our sponsors I wish to extend my thanks for your continued faith in our county’s efforts to achieve excellence across the spectrum of operations. Thanks goes to our departing main sponsor MW Hire who I always found to be easy to deal with when I was on past

Communication Groups etc and I wish to extend my best wishes to our incoming main Sponsor Laois Hire in their first year of what I hope will be a long and fruitful relationship with Laois GAA. Thanks to our competition sponsors who play a vital role, Laois Shopping centre for Adult and Midlands Park Hotel for Juvenile. Thanks also to the LOETB who sponsor our Centre of Excellence where the seeds of our county's future success are nurtured. Thanks to Mochua Print for their ongoing sponsorship of our annual awards night.

Summation

After coming to the party late with nobody being elected to be County PRO at County Convention last year I was lucky to be able to keep the same personnel on the Communications Group from the previous year but it became a challenge to find people to run the score board in Laois Hire O'Moore Park as they were all very busy people in their own right. Thanks to Paul Dargan, Tomas Moore, Wayne Fox and Oonagh Maher for their help during the year but a very special thanks goes out to Eoin Culliton, his son James and my own son Conor McCarthy without whose assistance I would have struggled greatly. Special thanks to Sile Burbage our County Administrator who will have departed for greener pastures by the time you read this- I wish her every success in her future endeavours.

As 2022 draws to a close with our County Convention I have decided not to seek re-election for 2023 and so wish to thank all those who I interacted with this Year - Chairman PJ Kelly, County Secretary Niall Handy, Treasurer Martin Byrne and all the members of the County Management Committee and CCC with whom I spent many an hour – I hope my forthright manner didn't ruffle too many feathers !!

To all the previous County Pro's who I had occasion to ring regarding various matters - Paul Dargan, Pat O Sullivan and Tom Clear- thanks for all your help. To all the members of the media both local and National who I had occasion to work with - Thanks for all your hard work and courtesy. To those who work behind the scenes in Laois GAA, programme sellers, stewards, caretakers – thank you all for your work

Laois GAA Awards 2022

When this report was being submitted the Laois GAA Award Winners for 2022 had just been announced and I hope that all the winners enjoyed their richly deserved acclaim and had a great night in the Midland Park on November 18th.

Senior Football	Paddy O'Sullivan (Portarlinton)
Intermediate Football	Dylan Kavanagh (The Heath)
Junior Football (A)	Mickey Dowling (Portlaoise)
Junior Football (B)	Mathew Collier (Camross)
Minor Football	Jeremy Kelly (St. Joseph's)
Senior Hurling	Darren Maher (Clough Ballacolla)
Premier Intermediate Hurling	Enda Rowland (Abbeyleix)
Intermediate Hurling	Canice Coonan (Clough Ballacolla)
Junior Hurling (A)	Declan Phelan (Abbeyleix)
Junior Hurling (B)	Sean Dunne (Rosenallis)
Minor Hurling	Jer Quinlan (Borris Kilcotton)
Laois Senior Football	Mark Barry (O'Dempsey's)
Laois Senior Hurler	Paddy Purcell (Rathdowney Errill)
Rounders	Chloe Keenan (Emo)
Handball	Andrew Dowling & Thomas Lennon (St. Brigid's Monavea)
Scór	Michael Martin (Ballinakill)
Camogie - Intermediate	Jessie Quinlan (St. Brigid's)
Camogie - Junior	Karla Whelan (Naomh Éamann)
Camogie - Minor	Gráinne Delaney (Camross)
LGFA - Intermediate	Mo Nerney (Timahoe)
Hall of Fame	Kieran Brennan (St. Joseph's)

It has been my great honour to be the Laois GAA Pro for 2022 and I hope my work has helped our organisation in some small measure. Acta Non Verba

Is Mise
Cainneach Mac Cárthaigh

Tuairisc Oifigeach Cultúr & Gaeilge CLG Laoise

Cruinniú Chinn Bhliana CLG Laoise 2022

Ba mhór an onóir dom bheith tofa arís mar Oifigeach Cultúr & Gaeilge Laoise don bhliain 2022.

At the time of Committee reports going to print in 2021 the most satisfying event of my tenure had not yet happened so bear with me please to recall the fantastic evening in the Dome in Beacán near Knock Co Mayo when the Kilcavan Ceol Uirlise Team raised the All Ireland Scór trophy after an outstanding performance. The All Ireland final on November 20th will be a day to remember for all involved especially the musicians: Brian Ryan, Sophia Ryan, Alain Carroll, Senan Moran and Noel Stapleton.

2022 Scór activities were back to normal and our first event was Scór na nÓg with good competition in most events. Our representatives then proceeded to the Leinster semi finals in Birr on Sunday March 27th. Those who competed that day were: Laura Scott (Borris in Ossory Kilcotton), Katie Dowling (Castletown) and unfortunately the Ratheniska Ceol Uirlise team of Grace & Matthew Cunningham, Cillian Dunne & Jack Murrell had to withdraw due to a member being ill. Next event was Scór na bPáistí held in Mountrath's St Fintan's Hall on Friday June 10th. This was a great night with competitors and talent aplenty. A special word of thanks to Mountrath and especially Monica Middleton for helping to organise this event. Claire Ann Kearns from Offaly was our adjudicator and commented on the wealth of talent in our primary school aged children.

This is where it goes downhill and there's no point papering over the cracks. As previously mentioned Scór na nÓg and Scór na bPáistí competitions are alive and well in Laois but adult completion Scór is most definitely not. At the Laois final in LOETB CoE on October 7th we had one entrant in Solo singing and Ceol Uirlise and three teams in the Quiz. That said our representatives the new Kilcavan Ceol Uirlise – Tiernan Morris, Ciarán Campbell, Jamie Troy, Darragh Ryan and Declan White, the Park Ratheniska Quiz team – Patrick O'Connell, John Boland, PJ Kelly and Brian Nolan and Solo singer Portlaoise's Clíodhna Nic Ghearrailt represented us admirably in the Leinster competition.

I would like to thank my Committee: Michael Martin (Runai), Christine Kealy (PRO), Paddy Connolly, John Paul Nevin, Monica Middleton, Donal Deegan, Siobhan Byron, Julia Stapleton, Mick Lillis and Jody Conway.

As is my annual request to you, the clubs of Laois please try to promote the use of our native language in the day to day business of your club. Please make your club signage and road signs at least, bilingual. I am reminding you again in the run up to your club's "Crinniú chinn bhliana" to present a little of all reports 'as Gaeilge'.

My 5 year term of Office ends tonight and it has been an honour to serve with you the gael of Laois. Ráth Dé ar obair CLG sa Chonndae as seo amach. Is féidir linn.

Thank you to my fellow Couny Board Officers, Officers of the clubs of Laois agus an foireann san Oifig.

Monica Bn Uí Dhubhshláine



The Kilcavan Team



The Courtwood Team

Referee Administrator Report

I want to take this opportunity to thank our referees and match officials for their assistance and co-operation in completing our 2022 fixture programme. I have said before our referees have an onerous task and it is as simple as this without them, we wouldn't have any games. Over the course of our season we had some referees doubling up on games and other official duties in the same day, just to get all our games and competitions completed on time.

54 officials completed the annual in-service training also participated in the required Garda vetting and code of best Behaviour early in the year. While other practices which have become normal, such as rules and fitness testing. I do believe there is an onus on a referee in all our games to try and at least get the BIG decisions correct and from what we witnessed this year it is an area open to significant improvement with some of our referees.

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. Our referees are very dedicated to the GAA who are doing their best to serve their County and the association and as stated earlier without them, our games could not continue. The complexity of GAA rules ensures that they will not get every decision right, but they do not deserve the level of verbal and sometimes threatening abuse that is being meted out at them. While referees keep reporting verbal and threatening abuse the CCC will continue to give out Club Fines or Suspensions to mentors and aggressors and will have to show that they are Garda vetted, Code of Best Behaviour course and

produce certificate of completion of their respective Coaching course. This information on completion must be submitted to our Children's officer, prior to resuming mentor duties.

We again make our annual recruitment appeal and we request each club to least make an honest effort in the coming months to source at least one referee, who they believe to be both competent and suitable for training in January 2023. This recruitment drive is open to both Male and Female, It would be great to see more of our female members take up the roll of referee. In 2022 I am delighted to say we recruited six new referees including our first female referee, they have been very active in our Juvenile program making great gains for their first year. We have already received some good interested from people looking to become a referee and will run a training programme early in the new year.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Maurice Deegan for his outstanding achievements in refereeing at national level and wish him the best for the future. Maurice is retiring from inter county refereeing at the end of this year.

Finally I would like to thank my committee Vincent Dowling, Danny Gorman, Joe Cunningham, JP Cahillane, Mattie Collier, Tom Donohoe, Kieran Kehoe and Tony Banbrick for the hours of work they put in this year. This must be the most thankless position in Laois GAA. I would also like to thank Sheila our Office Administrator for her outstanding work and help. I would like to wish all our clubs the best for 2023.

Tomas O Cleirigh,
Referee Administrator.

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Laoise



Report October 2022

AGM

The AGM for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 school year did not take place due to Covid-19 Restrictions. This is the first AGM that we could hold since September 2019. The AGM took place in the Midlands Park Hotel on 6th October 2022.

Leagues

Cumann na mBunscol activities were greatly affected by Covid-19 over the past three school years.

We saw the return of Cumann na mBunscol activities in March 2022 after the go ahead was given by the National Committee. In total 60 schools took part in Cumann na mBunscol games including Hurling, Camogie, Boys' Football and Girls' Football.

The Leagues were played off over a shorter time period with the football leagues starting in March and the finals running over two days on the week we returned from Easter holidays. The hurling and Camogie leagues were played off between Easter and the finals played over three days before the June bank holiday weekend. This decision was made to play the finals before the bank holiday weekend to avoid fixtures clashing with school tours and other school activities that happen throughout the month of June.

Thank you to all the schools for their co-operation and help running the leagues over such a short period of time.

Huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped out during the football and hurling finals days. Thank you also to the schools who sent TY students to volunteer. The finals days are hugely enjoyable and memorable for the children involved but they cannot run with the help of the volunteers.

Rounders/Handball/Table Quiz

Rounders: Our Rounders competition returned in the month of June and it picked up where it left off with popularity with a record number of teams entering the competitions. An enjoyable two days for all involved with the finals taking place in the LOETB Centre of Excellence, Portlaoise.

Handball: 2022 also saw the return of our handball competitions which took place in Cullohill and thanks to Phil Ryan for organising the competition and all who helped him.

Table Quiz: Our table quiz night took place in June also with 25 teams entering this year. Again, a very enjoyable night for all involved. Congratulations to the Heath NS on winning over extremely tight competition. Special thank you to Holy Family Senior School for hosting the quiz and to Garret Malone our Quizmaster for the night.

Representative Games

We saw the return of the INTO Mini 7's this year with seven children chosen to represent Cumann na mBunscol Laoise in Croke Park over the semifinals and finals of the All Ireland Hurling and Football in July.

Cumann na mBunscol Laoise took part in the Carlow Lift and Strike Competition and the Dublin Leinster Girls Football Competition. On the chance of forgetting somebody, I would like to thank all that were involved with those panels that helped out in any way.

Cumann na mBunscol Week June 2022

During June every school in the country were once again encouraged to run a “Cumann na mBunscol Week” within

their school. This took many forms from skills competitions to inviting club and county players to take over training sessions with classes. This again is a very welcome initiative as it gave more children the chance to play hurling, football, camogie etc. in school.

Mark Delaney

Rúnaí

Cumann na mBunscol Laoise

Safety & Facilities Report 2022

Club delegates and fellow officers, it is indeed a great honour as County Safety and Facilities Officer of C.L.G. Laoise, to present my annual report to Laois County Convention 2022.

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the clubs and fellow county board officers, for the commitment, dedication and, support shown to me in my three years as County Development/Safety and Facilities Officer.

The role, formerly known as Development Officer, and the Planning, Physical Development and Health & Safety Committee continues to evolve as the responsibilities become increasingly vast and varied. For the 2022 GAA season, this role was spilt in two and I accepted the role as Safety and Facilities Officer. The role of the Safety and Facilities Officer is to provide advice and support to clubs and the County Management & Finance Committee on best practice in several key areas including ground health & safety, the protection of Association property (including title), trusteeship, insurances and the development of grounds and facilities (including funding available for these developments).

The Committee's responsibilities for 2022 included upgrade, development, and maintenance of Páirc Uí Mhordha and the Centre of Excellence (COE), assisting and supporting clubs with their club plans and developments, and ensuring all clubs provide health and safety standards within all GAA grounds throughout Laois that are fit for purpose.

Páirc Uí Mhordha/ Centre of Excellence (COE)

It was an extremely busy year around Páirc Uí Mhordha and the Centre of Excellence (COE). The volume of work in presenting our facilities to the highest standards continues to bring an increased workload. The high number of games taking place in both the COE and Páirc Uí Mhordha brings many challenges (trying to turn around the facilities to a high standard in such a short timeframe is a constant logistical challenge). The volume of rubbish continues to escalate, and this brings its own challenges. For example, every player continues to bring their own water bottle and with twelve teams potentially playing in Páirc Uí Mhordha on any given weekend this alone leads to a large accumulation of rubbish. If teams and supporters could use the bins provided it would be a huge benefit to facilitate managing our current standards.

In 2022, for the first time in my three years, anti-social behaviour has raised its head. We experienced a few incidents where the toilets were vandalised. This is a worrying trend and apart from the cost incurred it also requires extra stewarding on match days.

Throughout 2022, we consistently upgraded parts of the COE and stadium to enhance the supporter and player experience while attending and watching our games. Our priority projects were the installation of new seating in the stand where required, the completion of fencing around Pitch 1

to facilitate supporters to watch games on both sides of the pitch and the ball wall at the top of pitch 2. I am delighted to say that these projects will all be completed by the end of 2022.

I would like to thank all the voluntary stewards who made themselves available throughout the year. It is a huge commitment to be available every weekend when people are so busy in their personal day to day lives. I would also like to thank Tom Jones, Event Controller, Chairman PJ Kelly, and to our Chief Steward, Jody Conway for all their help and dedication during the year. Special thanks to Andrew Broderick, Danny Gorman, Micheal Houlihan and the other gate staff and Willie Stackpool for his continued commitment. It is no easy task to execute a match day plan with so many variables being encountered so well done to all concerned.

I would like to thank Colm McEvoy and the personnel employed on both the C.E. Group Scheme and Tús Programme for their exemplary work that is done daily, to ensure that the highest standards are being maintained. We have a wonderful facility in Laois but the work to maintain the standards we strive for takes a huge commitment and we are most grateful for the efforts from all those concerned. We continue to receive excellent feedback both from club and county teams all over Ireland and the local and national media in relation to the facilities we have, and this feedback was very much appreciated. Like most counties, our biggest critics seem to come from within, but I am confident these people will eventually see the improvements that are being made are substantial and for everyone's benefit.

I would also like to thank all those who continue to sponsor signage in both Páirc Uí Mhordha and the COE. This sponsorship is invaluable to the running of our games and is very much appreciated.

Club Development

I would like to acknowledge and compliment all those club delegates and volunteers that have shown great vision and leadership in taking on the purchase of land and development projects at their clubs. We had a few clubs this year who completed major projects to a very high standard and others who are either in the process of starting or are in the middle of projects. This is no easy task as fundraising events have become more difficult due to unfavourable economic circumstances driven by the worldwide energy crisis.

The clubs around Laois are currently very proactive on the development side and the executive would like to compliment the clubs for this. However, club grounds with lights continue to be an issue with an over reliance on the COE for floodlit matches and training. This has a knock-on impact on the continuous management and care of the three pitches in the COE.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the volunteers and staff of Comhairle Laighean, in particular, Michael Reynolds (CEO) and John Browne for their advice and support throughout 2022.

Health and Safety

I would like to thank all clubs who have their health and safety documentation up to date. While this may have been an onerous task it is extremely beneficial for the safety of your club and its members.

I would like to thank Laois GAA Chairman PJ Kelly for all his advice and help in relation to health and safety matters throughout the last two years. This is PJ's area of expertise and to have access to this level of knowledge is invaluable in our engagement with clubs. We visited several clubs throughout 2022 and we hope that the advice given was both helpful and beneficial. I would also like to acknowledge the guidance from Comhairle Laighean and Croke Park and in particular Sinead Leavy. Sinead's advice and direction was invaluable on various health and safety queries throughout the year.

I would like to thank Niall Handy and the staff in the COE for their help and assistance throughout the year. They were always very receptive and supportive of what we were trying to achieve.

Finally, I would like to thank County Treasurer, Martin Byrne for all his assistance throughout my three years in the role. We got his full support on all projects which was very much appreciated. In the last three years, Laois GAA have spent in excess of €750,000 on upgrading the COE and O'Moore Park without going into debt on any of these projects. This is a significant achievement and one that should not be taken for granted.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh agus fanaigí slán.

Le meas,

Gerard Slevin

County Safety and Facilities Officer

Laois GAA Health & Wellbeing Report 2022

The Health & Wellbeing Committee would like to thank all the clubs within the county for their remarkable and ongoing efforts in addressing the growing needs of our members. The previous 2yrs of work to support and improve the well-being of our members is evidence of the outstanding sense of community that permeates every club in the county.

Health Club Project

We are delighted that five additional clubs will participate in Phase 5 of the GAA's Healthy Club Project. On successful completion of the steps on this 18month journey, these clubs will receive their healthy club status. The clubs are:

Crettyard GAA
O'Dempsey's GAA
Portarlington GAA
St. Joseph's GAA
The Harps GAA

As the clubs continue on their path to become healthy clubs, we are looking forward to working with them. We anticipate that the proactive work of the Healthy Club project and the new organisational frameworks will improve the preventative elements necessary for good health and wellbeing and decrease some of the negative effects that these issues have on our communities. We must strengthen each of our members if we are to help them both on and off the field. If we make honest efforts, this will enhance our clubs, which will subsequently benefit our communities. As a committee, it will be our responsibility to help the clubs in Laois realise this goal and implement

health-improving programs and policies that will benefit people of all ages.

Wellness Boards Initiative

In March 2022, the H&W Committee In partnership with the HSE and Healthy Ireland Laois designed and printed the 'Someone is always there to listen to you' wellness boards. The GAA Health and Wellbeing boards initiative aims to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing supports through the promotion of the 24/7 support and crisis helplines. The boards, which will be on display in the clubs and contain information and phone numbers on mental wellbeing, will serve as a crucial informational resource for our members and communities.



Laois GAA Website & Social Media

To keep all our members and clubs informed about all aspects of health, we continue to use the Health Section (www.laoisgaa.ie/health) to promote projects and programs that promote health. In 2022 we created a dedicated section on our website www.laoisgaa.ie/supports which lists out all the supports and services that are available

locally and nationally. This compliments the signage that we made available to clubs to erect in their own club grounds and will serve as a one-stop-shop for all the essential services offered. A QR code was created which will be circulated as posters and wallet cards so clubs can erect within their club grounds and coaches/mentors and officials can use to gain quick access to these vital supports.



We are very thankful for the assistance this year from our county PRO who helped us disseminate information via our communication channels.

Community & Health Information

In May 2022, the H&W Committee organised a Community & Health information evening in the Killeshin Hotel. This was organised in collaboration with the Midlands Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force (MDATF) and the HSE.



The purpose of the informational event was to raise awareness of the variety of services and supports available in the area of addiction services and mental health promotion so that clubs and communities can access professional advice and support when necessary.

There is a growing concern about the increase of drug use within modern society and no town or village has been spared from the negative and devastating effects that this can have on the person, their family and their communities. Gambling is another major concern especially among young people and the ease of access to online betting. Mental health issues and suicide in particular has unfortunately become an area where the GAA has had to assist clubs in responding to such incidents. The H&W Committee have been contacted by clubs who feel somewhat helpless in this area, not knowing where to turn and want to be more proactive. They want to help their members; they want to educate and create awareness on the dangers and pitfalls of these issues, and they want to have the confidence that they are signposting their members to the relevant supports out there.

The evening was very well received with those in attendance walked away more informed, more educated and more aware of what supports are out there for drug, alcohol and gambling related issues and on the preventative and postvention supports for mental health. In 2023 we hope to follow up with educational and awareness training around these issues.

Only by hosting these events and following up with educational and awareness training can the GAA play their part in creating

sustainable and vibrant communities where health and support of each individual is at the centre of that.

Critical Incidents

In 2022 the Health & Wellbeing Committee has supported a number of clubs in dealing with critical incidents. The adoption of a Critical Incident Plan is an urgent requirement for all clubs, and one which we strongly encourage all clubs to implement. The GAA are currently carrying out a review of the existing policy and an updated policy along with training will be made available in early 2023. The H&W Committee will be available to assist clubs in the adoption of this and will circulate out details via the nominated club Healthy Club Officers.

Substance Use & Gambling Policy

The number of clubs requesting information and assistance in these areas increased in 2022. In light of this, we held an informational event to spread knowledge about these problems and provide clubs with access to the resources and support they might require.

All clubs were urged to adopt a Substance Use and Gambling Policy which will help put the supports and structures in place. A copy of these policy templates can be downloaded from our website.

Some of our plans for 2023 include:

- 1) A dedicated Healthy Club Officer in every club who has undergone the necessary training.
- 2) All clubs must adopt a critical incident plan and a substance abuse policy.
- 3) Work in partnership with the Coaching & Games Committee and the Children's Officer to promote and raise

awareness on the 'Give Respect Get Respect' initiative

- 4) Launching educational programs and efforts related to good mental health, awareness of drugs, alcohol, and gambling, diversity and inclusion among other topics.
- 5) In partnership with the HSE and Laois Healthy Ireland to promote the 'Clean Air Around Us' campaign which encourages as many clubs as possible to go 'Smoke Free'

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who helped us over the year, especially the support of our County Board Executive, Mike Henchy in the Coaching & Games Committee, our PRO as well as to the Croke Park National Health & Wellbeing Committee and the Healthy Club Officers in Laois. In order to make health and wellbeing a bigger priority in all we do as a sporting organisation, we intend to continue building on this work.

The H&W Committee will continue to promote and assist our clubs in implementing health-improving programs in their clubs and communities in 2023. We'll keep strengthening our connections with the Healthy Club Officers and the local and national support services.

The Committee continued to be: Leona Conroy (Chairperson), Grainne McCann (Secretary), Fergal Byron, Tom Jones, Ciara Conroy, Paul Harding, PJ Kelly, Seamus Lahart, Martina Murphy

Leona Conroy

Chairperson
Laois GAA Health & Wellbeing
Committee

“Laois Gaels” Report 2022

As another year comes to a close, I'd like to thank all the 400+ Laois Gaels members who have signed up and given much appreciated support to our development panels and under age county teams.

We began this endeavor in 2020 in the bleak days of covid where we could not come together to support our teams. So, to see a full O'Moore Park for the minors was truly a defining moment for all. This, along with the introduction of match mascots, truly brought a new togetherness and pride which we all have strived for.

Our chosen charity this year was Down Syndrome Ireland “Laois Branch”. Great support was shown to them from a number of Laois Gaels which was appreciated.

We would also like to pass on our congratulations to the Laois Ladies on their Intermediate All Ireland victory. We can only hope the integration of all associations happens shortly to create a completely unified environment for all our future female and male Laois players.

To make all this work, I would like to thank the Laois Gaels executive committee who consist of Oonagh Maher, Paul Dargan, Leo Turley, Sile Burbage, Seamus Dooley and MJ Tierney who have done trojan work to date.

Leo Turley and Seamus Dooley also headed up a host of Gaels living home and abroad who provided a great deal of support to our talent academies.

A special mention goes to the Laois Executive and the Games Development staff who we worked with closely to ensure resources were delivered to the appropriate areas. In particular, to PJ Kelly, Niall Handy, Martin Byrne and Mike Henchy who were always available for guidance and provided a wide range of expertise for us to utilize.

The largest thank you goes to every Laois Gael who signed up - without all of you, none of this progress would be possible.

We are always looking for fresh ideas and new drive to make this a success, so if you feel you can contribute please let us know.

With this in mind, my two years of being chairperson will come to an end. I'm delighted to hand the mantle to Leo Turley who will bring a freshness to our efforts. I will remain as support in the wider Laois Gaels executive.

Mise I Seirbhis,

Bryan Breen, Chairperson Laois Gaels

Supports Laois Gaels have provided in 2022

Rypt App

The Athletic Development GDAs can monitor a wide range of data with RYPT for U15 and U16 Academy squads, including:

- Body Composition / Bodyweight, Body Fat %, Lean Mass, Fat Mass
- Workout Compliance / Workouts Sent, Workouts Completed, Compliance %
- Records/1RM, BW:1RM, Max Reps, m/s, Total Distance, Time, Height, Force (N)
- Training Volume / Total Reps, Total Volume (kg), Intensity (kg/rep)
- Training Load / Duration, RPE, Total Load (for workouts and other activities)
- Well-being / Sleep Quality, Mood, Energy Levels, Stress, Muscle Soreness, and Training Readiness
- Steps / Daily Steps, Average Daily Steps

Hamstring Solo

Hamstring Solo is the safest, most accurate way to objectively monitor hamstring vulnerability in the field, our patented Hamstring Solo is now used in 17 countries and counting.

The Hamstring Solo is being used by some of the top rugby, football and sporting organisations throughout the world, including, The All Blacks, English and Scottish national rugby teams, Manchester United, Liverpool, Benfica, the English Institute of Sport, as well as high performance centers from Qatar to Sweden. In addition, multiple GAA teams including Tipperary, Dublin, Offaly, Kerry, All Ireland champions Tyrone, UPMC Sports Medicine and many more.

A number of risk factors combine to increase hamstring vulnerability, for example:

- A lack of muscle strength;
- A significant left-to-right strength imbalance;
- Residual fatigue and/or a lack of fatigue resilience in the hamstring muscle group.

In the past, none of these key risk variables could be readily monitored and tracked within a practical context. Today, however, with the evolution of the Hamstring Solo Elite assessment system, that barrier has been removed.

NAC Sport

NAC sport is a sport analysis software which will allow U15 and U16 Academy mentors the ability to provide video analysis to their squads. Training on the software is being provided for in-house by an expert in the analysis area. We hope to continue to develop this area into 2023 and beyond.

Academy Coach Development: Guest Coaches

Due to scheduling and other details, this summer saw one outside coach work with our Academy coaches and players. John Dillon, Kerry GDA, held a workshop on developing the transition from defence to attack and team play. As we lead into 2023 the focus will be on securing additional coaches for this sector.

Performance Coach

A key facet of our summer programme for the u16 squads was the provision of sport psychology support. We enlisted David McHugh to deliver practical workshops to our u16 hurling and football groups. David McHugh is a Sports Psychology practitioner based in Ireland. He works with athletes, coaches and teams on how what they think, do and believe influences their performance in sport.

As Sports Scholarship manager in Athlone Institute of Technology, David supports student athletes in combining sport and education. He has worked with athletes, teams and coaches in the League of Ireland, Inter-county GAA teams and athletics. As a UEFA A qualified coach, he believes working with and through the coach can bring Sports Psychology to life in the performance environment.

David is a member of the British Psychological Society, and he has completed a Professional Doctorate in Sports Psychology at Liverpool John Moores University. His PhD research examined talent development in Irish football and the Psychological Characteristics of Elite footballers. This means all interactions are underpinned by evidenced based best practice guidelines.

David ran 3 workshops with our u16 hurling and football squads during our summer period, around developing confidence and courage and cultural identity on and off the pitch, psychological skills training to improve sporting and academic performance, where he introduced players to techniques such as visualization, positive self-talk and developing task specific goals.

Gear bags

With the help of our Commercial team we got the financial backing to provide gearbags for our development squads along with our Leinster final under 17 hurlers.

This is massively important to provide identity, uniformity and pride to our young players.

Laois GAA Handball Report 2022

The 2022 handball season proved a hugely successful one for Laois handball with a number of Leinster and All-Ireland successes to report. In the 40x20 courts, Laois captured two adult All-Ireland titles with success in the Men's Over 35B and the Ladies Junior B championship. In the 60x30 alley, Laois witnessed further All-Ireland success with Andrew Dowling and Tomás Lennon (St. Brigid's, Monavea) completing a remarkable double by adding the Men's O35B 60x30 doubles title to the 40x20 All-Ireland title that they had won earlier in the year. At the Leinster One-Wall championships hosted by Clough-Ballacolla, Laois had five finalists and four championships successes with titles won in the Men's Junior B, Men's Junior, Ladies Junior B and Girls U16 grades. The highlights of the juvenile season proved to be the remarkable success of Féile na nGael 2022 which was hosted by Laois, Carlow and Kilkenny and the magnificent victory by Eadaoin Whyte and Orla Brophy (Cullohill) in the Girls U17 60x30 doubles All-Ireland final against a formidable paring in Tipperary's Christine Percy and Ali O'Kelly.

Adult 40x20 Season:

The 40x20 season opened positively for Laois with three players progressing to Leinster finals in the singles championship. In the Men's O35B, Andrew Dowling (St. Brigid's Monavea) progressed to the Leinster final after an impressive 21-5, 21-18 victory over Fergal McWilliams (Wexford). In the final he faced an experienced opponent in Anthony Martin (Kilkenny). Despite a very good showing by Dowling, the Kilkenny handballer deservedly took the title on a 21-2, 21-16 score line. In the Men's Silver Masters B championship, Ray Fogarty (Cullohill) progressed to the final after a thrilling semi-final victory over David Redmond (Wexford) 21-9, 15-21, 11-8. Ray carried a number of niggling injuries into the final and these proved telling as they hampered his performance on the night resulting in him narrowly losing to Robert Byrne (Wexford) 16-21, 21-2, 11-4. In qualifying for the final, Robert Byrne had defeated Laois' Kevin Brennan (Clough Ballacolla) 21-6, 21-7. Laois' third finalist in the singles championship was Úna Brophy (Cullohill) who faced an exceptionally strong opponent in Holly Hynes (Wexford) in the Ladies Junior B final. In the semi-final, Úna defeated a strong opponent in Dearbhail O'Keeffe (Kilkenny). Úna played some excellent handball in the final but eventually lost out on a score line of 21-12, 21-8. In the other semi-final, Holly Hynes defeated Úna's sister Aoife (Cullohill) 21-8, 21-9. Holly Hynes would go on to impressively capture the All-Ireland title at this grade level, with the Laois girls providing her with her two sternest tests along the way.

Selected Results:

Men's O35B Leinster Final: Anthony Martin (Kilkenny) defeated Andrew Dowling (Laois) 21-2, 21-16.

SMBS Leinster Final: Robert Byrne (Wexford) defeated Ray Fogarty (Laois) 16-21, 21-4, 11-4

LJBS Leinster Final: Holly Hynes (Wexford) defeated Úna Brophy (Laois) 21-12, 21-8

In the Leinster 40x20 doubles championship, Laois handball celebrated two Leinster successes with Andrew Dowling and Tómas Lennon capturing the Men's O35B Leinster title after victory over Michéal O'Neill and Fergal McWilliams (Wexford) in the semi-final and, due to injury, receiving a walkover from Anthony Martin and Diarmuid Burke (Kilkenny) in the final. In the Ladies Junior B doubles, Úna and Aoife Brophy played outstanding handball to impressively defeat Dearbhail and Roisin O'Keeffe (Kilkenny) 21-18, 21-8. Paddy Donovan and Joe Brennan (Monavea) were exceptionally unlucky to lose out to Paul Dowling and John Brennan (Kilkenny) in a tense tie-breaker in their Emerald Masters A doubles semi-final. Having won the Leinster title at this grade in 2020 they unfortunately never got the chance to compete for an All-Ireland title as Covid-19 saw the cancellation of that year's finals. Eddie Dunne and Tommy Kelly also bowed out at the semi-final stage going down to John Maguire and Gerry Murphy (Kilkenny) in the Diamond Masters B.

In the All-Ireland series, Andrew Dowling and Tómas Lennon playing superb handball to defeat Shane Hayes and Darren O'Neill (Clare) in a rip-roaring semi-final contest 14-21, 21-15, 11-9. Aoife and Úna Brophy matched the exploits of the Monavea handballers in their semi-final, recording an impressive 21-10, 21-6 victory over Sile Spain and Eleanor Percy (Tipperary). In the Men's O35B All-Ireland Final, Andrew and Tómas made home court advantage count when defeating Monaghan's James Gavaghan and Mickey Duffy 21-11, 21-12 while in the Ladies Junior B All-Ireland Final, Úna and Aoife showed tremendous skill and handballing talent to defeat Siobhan Tracey and Laura Mannion (Roscommon) 21-7, 21-9. This was an especially sweet victory for Úna Brophy, who had suffered a heart breaking 11-8 tiebreaker loss to Siobhan Tracey in the Girls U17 All-Ireland Final the previous November.

These were two fantastic All-Ireland successes for Laois GAA handball and each of the players much be commended for their commitment and dedication in preparing for these championships.

Selected Results:

Men's O35B Doubles Leinster Final: Andrew Dowling & Tómas Lennon (Laois) w/o Anthony Martin & Diarmuid Burke (Kilkenny)

Ladies Junior B Doubles Leinster Final: Úna & Aoife Brophy (Laois) defeated Dearbhail and Roisin O'Keeffe (Kilkenny) 21-18, 21-8

Men's O35B Doubles All-Ireland Final: Andrew Dowling & Tómas Lennon (Laois) defeated James Gavaghan and Mickey Duffy (Monaghan) 21-11, 21-12

Ladies Junior B Doubles All-Ireland Final: Úna & Aoife Brophy (Laois) defeated Siobhan Tracey and Laura Mannion (Roscommon) 21-7, 21-9



Ladies Junior B 40x20 Doubles All-Ireland Final winners Úna & Aoife Brophy (Laois)

Adult 60x30 Season:

The 60x30 season kicked off in Wexford with the Softball Nationals. Laois had success at Softball Nationals with Aoife Brophy partnering Cliódhna O'Connell of Wexford to win the Ladies B Nationals Final against Roscommon and Wexford opponents.

The Leinster 60x30 Handball championship season started promisingly for Laois with two players qualifying for the singles finals. Tómas Lennon qualified for Men's O35B Leinster Final after a pulsating 21-12, 13-21, 11-10 tie-breaker semi-final victory against Shane Terry (Wexford) while Úna Brophy faced a daunting task when she was pitted against big alley specialist Cliódhna O'Connell (Wexford). In the Men's O35B final, Tómas agonisingly lost out to Diarmuid Brennan on a 21-20, 21-15 score line while Úna Brophy was comprehensively beaten 21-2, 21-0 by the excellent O'Connell in the Ladies Junior B final.

In the Men's O35B Doubles Leinster championship, Andrew Dowling and Tómas Lennon teamed up once more to great effect to take the Leinster title with resounding victories over Colin Redmond and Keith Deveraux (Wexford) 21-7, 21-19 and Diarmuid Brennan and Brian Bourke 21-13, 21-4. Unfortunately, despite a fantastic effort, Aoife and Úna Brophy were unable to complete a 40x20 and 60x30 Leinster double of their own when they were defeated 21-15, 21-8 by Cliódhna O'Connell and Cora Doyle (Wexford) in the Ladies Junior B doubles Final. With their Leinster Final success, Andrew Dowling and Tómas Lennon advanced straight through to an All-Ireland Final meeting with Galway's Trevor Donovan and Brendan McDonagh. The Laois handballers produced their best performance of the year to impressively outgun their Galway opponents on a score line of 21-11, 21-8. This victory capped a fantastic year for the Monavea pairing who completed a remarkable 40x20 and 60x30 All-Ireland Final double success.

Selected Results:

Men's 60x30 O35B Leinster Final: Diarmuid Brennan (Kilkenny) defeated Tómas Lennon (Laois) 21-20, 21-15.

LJBS 60x30 Leinster Final: Cliódhna O'Connell (Wexford) defeated Úna Brophy (Laois) 21-0, 21-2

Ladies 60x30 Junior B Doubles Leinster Final: Cliódhna O'Connell & Cora Doyle (Wexford) defeated Úna & Aoife Brophy (Laois) 21-15, 21-8

Men's 60x30 O35B Doubles Leinster Final: Andrew Dowling & Tómas Lennon (Laois) defeated Diarmuid Brennan & Brian Bourke (Kilkenny) 21-13, 21-4

Men's 60x30 O35B Doubles All-Ireland Final: Andrew Dowling & Tómas Lennon (Laois) defeated Trevor Donovan & Brendan McDonagh (Galway) 21-11, 21-8



*Men's O35B Doubles 40x20 & 60x30 All-Ireland Final winners
Andrew Dowling & Tómas Lennon (Laois)*

Leinster One-Wall Handball Championships:

On October 30th, Clough-Ballacolla played host to the finals of Leinster One-Wall Championships. Laois had five players advance to finals with Aoife Brophy facing Katie Barret (Carlow) in the Ladies Junior B final, Orla Brophy (Cullohill) facing Katie Brennan (Kilkenny) in the Girls U16 final, Kevin Brennan (Clough Ballacolla) pitted against Cathal McNamee (Offaly) in the Men's Junior B final, Andrew Dowling facing Kevin Barret (Carlow) in the Men's Junior Final and CJ Brennan (Clough Ballacolla) up against Thomas Finn (Longford) in the Boys U14 final. Laois were incredibly unlucky not to have a sixth finalist when Paddy Donovan was pipped 11-9 in a dramatic and tension filled tie-breaker by Declan Kilmurray (Offaly).

In the Ladies Junior B final, Aoife Brophy mounted an impressive comeback to defeat Katie Barret in three games 9-15, 15-8, 11-4. Further success soon followed when her sister Orla Brophy gave a dominant display in the Girls U16 final to dispatch Katie Brennan on a score line of 15-10, 15-7. In the Men's Junior B Final, Kevin Brennan edged Cathal McNamee 15-14 in the opening game before impressively securing the title with a 15-3 vic-

tory in the second game. Andrew Dowling's Men's Junior Final with Kevin Barret proved to be a thrilling encounter with little separating either player throughout. Andrew shaded the contest to record a 15-13, 15-12 victory. In the Boys U14 final, CJ Brennan played bravely throughout but ultimately lost out to his impressive Longford opponent 15-11, 15-0.

The winners in each of the grades progress to the All-Ireland One-Wall Finals which will be played in mid-November.



Leinster One-Wall Junior B Finalists- Kevin Brennan (Laois) & Cathal McNamee (Offaly)

Juvenile 40x20 Season:

The Laois juvenile handball season kicked off with the Boys' Juvenile championships held in January. With handball severely impacted in 2020 and 2021, it was fantastic to see a large number of entries in each of the age groups. The standard of handball on display was excellent throughout with some of the games decided by very close and exciting tie-breakers. In the U12 county final, Michael Brennan (Monavea) defeated Dara Brennan (Monavea). In the U13 final, Fionnan Brennan (Monavea) overcame Mark Dowling (Monavea). The U14 final saw Eoin Delaney crowned champion with victory over Jack Doyle (Monavea). Ross Deegan (Cullohill) was victorious in the U15 decider defeating Jimmy Whyte (Cullohill). The U16 final went the way of John Delahunty (Cullohill) who beat Donal Deegan (Cullohill).

Leinster 40x20 Juvenile Championships:

Laois had four finalists at this year's Leinster 40x20 Juvenile Championship finals. Unfortunately, all four finalists were defeated by Kilkenny opposition. Sinead Kirby was defeated in the Girls U13 singles final while Ellie Lafferty and Aoife Kelly lost out in the Girls U13 doubles final. In the Girls U15 singles final, Orla Brophy was beaten by the highly talented handballer Katie Jordan while the Girls U17 pairing of Eadaoin Whyte and Emma Delaney finished runners up to Aisling Cooney and Amy Cody.

Leinster 40x20 B Juvenile Championships:

Laois had a sizeable number of players compete in the Leinster 40x20 B championships held last December. In the Girls U17B Emma Delahunty and Bríd Drennan (Cullohill) both performed admirably. Emma finished these championships as runner-up to Amy Cody of Carlow. In the Boys U17B Jack Dunphy (Cullohill) showed huge potential with some very encouraging performance in a division that was eventually won by Luke Flanagan (Kilkenny). In the Boys U15B, Laois were well represented by Ross Deegan, Donal Deegan, Óisín Deegan, Simon Comerford, Ethan Lafferty, John Delahunty and Jimmy Whyte while in the Boys U13B, Eoin Delaney (Cullohill) finished runner-up to Matthew Murphy of Kells.

Girls 40x20 Interprovincial Team of 10:

Orla Brophy was selected as part of the Leinster team for this year's Girls Interprovincial Team of 10 which was played in Clarecastle on Sunday, 3rd April. Orla teamed up with Katie Jordan (Kilkenny) and the girls gave a truly fantastic performance to defeat Carmel Kelleher (Cork) who was the All-Ireland 40x20 U-16 singles runner-up and Lucy Gould (Tipperary) 21-11. This victory proved crucial in helping Leinster win the interprovincial team of 10 title on a final score line of 90-77.

GAA Handball 40x20 Féile na nGael 2022:

In June, there was great excitement with the return of GAA Handball Féile na nGael after a two year hiatus due to Covid-19 with approximately 350 players and nearly 60 clubs from right across the country descending on Laois, Carlow and Kilkenny venues to take part in this year's competition. St. Brigid's, Monavea hosted the Boys' 40x20 Division 7 competition, Cullohill hosted the Girls' 40x20 Division 2 competition and Clough Ballacolla was the main venue for the Wall-Ball section of the competition.

Girls' One-Wall Division 1:

In the Division One final, Clough Ballacolla faced ModSCOILE (Limerick) hoping to avenge an earlier group stage loss. Amy Daly and Mairead Ryan were the opening pair for Clough Ballacolla and they performed brilliantly, matching their opponents score for score. ModSCOILE took a narrow 15-12 lead into the deciding game. Elizabeth Pearson and Oonagh Byrne were next into action, needing to overcome the deficit to capture the title for Clough Ballacolla. ModSCOILE were to lead for the majority of the game, however Elizabeth and Oonagh remained calm throughout and they showed phenomenal determination, skill and composure to win the vital aces to claim an 18-11 ace victory and ensure that the Féile na nGael Girls' Division 1 title went the way of Clough Ballacolla. Added to this success, Amy Daly also took the gold medal in the Girls' One-Wall skills competition.

Boys' One-Wall Division 1:

Clough Ballacolla were strong favourites for this division and were expected to compete an historic treble and retain the titles they previously won in 2018 and 2019. In the final they faced Naomh Eanna (Antrim). Liam Ryan and CJ Brennan were first into action for

Clough Ballacolla and gave a brilliant display, delivering several kill shots and deep court serves and deservedly won the opening game 21-12. Up next were brothers Colm and Fergal Brennan who gave an equally outstanding display of handball. Colm delivered multiple deep serves landing the ball with unerring accuracy each time while Fergal took several aces with his power serves. Thanks to these performances, Clough Ballacolla were crowned convincing winners with a final score line of 21-12, 21-7.

Clough Ballacolla Girls' Team: Elizabeth Pearson, Amy Daly, Oonagh Byrne, Mairead Ryan, Meabh Rafter and Kate Ryan. Clough Ballacolla Boys Team: CJ Brennan, Jim Hyland, Colm Brennan, Liam Ryan and Fergal Brennan.

Girls' 40x20 Division 3:

Cullohill Handball Club hosted Division 2 of Girls' competition with their team of Orla Brophy, Ellie Lafferty, Aoife Kelly, Sinead Kirby and Sarah Kavanagh competing in what proved to be the most dramatic and competitive division of this year's Féile na nGael. After the group stages were completed, three teams found themselves level on the same number of points, Breacach of Tyrone, Toonagh of Clare and Cullohill of Laois. Unfortunately, on accumulated score difference, the Laois handballers found themselves narrowly missing out on a place in the final with Breacach and Toonagh edging out the Laois side.

Cullohill Féile na nGael Girls' Team: Orla Brophy, Ellie Lafferty, Aoife Kelly, Sinead Kirby and Sarah Kavanagh

Boys' 40x20 Division 5:

The Cullohill Division 5 team of Ethan Lafferty, Jimmy Whyte, Eoin Holland, Eoin Delaney and Jamie Fogarty travelled to Borris where they were pitted against strong opposition in Mallow (Cork), Conna (Cork) and Mícheál Breathnach (Galway) in Division 5. The Cullohill team made it to the final where they faced Mícheál Breathnach's. First into action for Cullohill were Eoin Holland and Eoin Delaney. The two Cullohill handballers produced an excellent performance to give Cullohill a 5 ace lead with a 15-10 victory. Next into action for Cullohill were Jimmy Whyte and Ethan Lafferty. In a see-saw battle, the Cullohill players were beaten 15-21, resulting in Mícheál Breathnach's pipping the Cullohill handballers to the title by a solitary ace. In the skills competition, Ethan Lafferty captured a silver medal after an excellent display of skill and court craft.

Cullohill' Feile na nGael Boys' team: Ethan Lafferty, Jimmy Whyte, Eoin Holland, Eoin Delaney and Jamie Fogarty.

Boys' 40x20 Division 6:

St. Brigid's, Monavea's Division 6 team of Cian O'Sullivan, Mason Neale, Tiernan Patterson and Aaron Kearney gave two very commendable performances against Nenagh (Tipperary) and Ballydesmond (Cork) but failed to advance from their group. Fionnan Brennan captured the Division 6 skills competition bronze medal.

St. Brigid's, Monavea Feile na nGael team: Darragh Brennan, Aaron Brennan, Mark Dowling, Michael Brennan, Oisín Dowling, Cian O'Sullivan, Mason Neale, Tiernan Patterson, Fionnan Brennan and Aaron Kearney

Boys' 40x20 Division 7:

St. Brigid's, Monavea hosted the Division 7 competition and cheered on by a vocal home support, their young but promising team of Darragh Brennan, Aaron Brennan, Mark Dowling, Michael Brennan and Oisín Dowling exceeded expectation to qualify for the Division 7 final. However, Kells (Kilkenny) proved far too strong on the day, winning the final 21-4, 21-5. In the skills competition, Darragh Brennan performance magnificently for Monavea to take third place and a bronze medal.

Laois play big role in success of Féile na nGael 2022:

There was a fantastic atmosphere at each of the Laois venues and this was testament to the great work undertaken by the Laois clubs in preparing everything for this year's Féile. GAA Handball Uachtarán Dessie Keegan, GAA handball manager Tom Maloney and Tom Keane of the National Féile na nGael Committee visited each of the Laois venue's over the course of the Féile and were highly complementary of the efforts of Monavea, Cullohill and Clough-Ballacolla in ensuring that this year's GAA Féile na nGael proved a resounding success.



Girls' Division 1 Wall-Ball & Boys' Division 1 Wall-Ball Winners Clough-Ballacolla

The Three County Coaching Academy 2022:

The 2022 Three County Coaching Academy made a very welcome return this year for juvenile handballers in Laois, Kilkenny and Carlow. This initiative is organised to help with the development of the game of handball within these counties. The format for this year we see the juvenile players receive seven weeks of consecutive coaching commencing Friday, 28th of October right through to Friday, 9th of December. This coaching is open to girls and boys from U12 right through to U16. The players will be introduced to and encouraged to develop and execute a variety of skills of the game of handball.

Juvenile 60x30 Season:

60x30 Softball Féile na nGael:

Wexford hosted this year's Féile na nGael 60x30 at the end of August with Cullohill taking part in Division Three of the boys' competition. In the group stages they recorded impressive victories over St. Brigid's and Mullingar. Unfortunately they could not overcome a very strong Ballydesmond team in the final. In the skills competition, Ethan Lafferty showcased his handballing talents to secure the silver medal for the Cullohill club.

Leinster Juvenile 60x30 Championships:

Laois had two pairings reach the Leinster 60x30 juvenile championship finals. In the Girls U17 Leinster doubles final, Orla Brophy and Éadaoin Whyte (Cullohill) defeated Kilkenny's Aisling Cooney and Orlaith O'Shea 21-10, 21-11 in a high quality final to capture a fantastic Leinster title for Laois. Unfortunately, Jimmy Whyte and Ethan Lafferty (Cullohill) fell just short in their quest for a Leinster title when they were defeated 15-6 15-4 by Wexford's Jamie Moran and Sean Fitzharris in their U15 doubles final. Despite the loss, the Laois pairing showed great promise in the big alley this year, most notably in their semi-final victory over Kilkenny's Oisín Farrell and PJ McHugh.

All-Ireland Juvenile 60x30 Championship Finals:

Having claimed a hugely impressive Girls U17 doubles Leinster title success, Eadaoin Whyte and Orla Brophy travelled to Cashel to face Christine Percy and Ali O'Kelly (Tipperary) in the All-Ireland Final. The Laois pairing played scintillating handball on the day to record a hugely impressive and well deserved 21-4, 21-10 victory. This is a remarkable achievement by the Laois girls, considering the fact that there is no 60x30 alley within the county.



Girls U17 60x30 Doubles All-Ireland Finalists: Laois (Orla Brophy/Eadaoin Whyte) defeated Tipperary (Christine Percy/Ali O'Kelly)

Children's Officer Annual Statement

In 2022 we returned to in person safeguarding training. This was a very successful year and Deirdre Hurley was always available to all clubs and to the county board to facilitate this training, sometimes at short notice. She was also available to clubs throughout the year for discussion around what is acceptable behaviour and what is not acceptable. Unfortunately, Deirdre broke her foot in the latter half of 2022 and I want to wish her all the best for a full recovery. She is a great support to me this year as always.

In 2022, we completed two training sessions for club Children's Officers and club Designated Liaison Persons (DLP). These were two very successful sessions and created a lot of debate on each night and afterwards for conversations within each group and to me as Laois Children's Officer and Assistant DLP.

In 2022, all clubs successfully completed the Sport Ireland Assessment. Although some clubs required extra time with an extended deadline to complete this work. This is an important document for all clubs and going forward it is important to complete it and other assessments in a timely fashion and not seek extra time for this as this may result in a club being unable to partake in games / training for a duration while the assessments are being completed and approved. In 2023, we will be required to complete the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment (last completed in 2021). This assessment is completed every two years. It is important to remember that without an updated approved statement on show in every club grounds that club will not be able to host games and training once the deadline is reached. This statement is a Legal Requirement as defined in 2015 Children First Act and is not an opt in or opt out requirement.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all clubs of the requirement for up-to-date vetting certificates in 2023. Only vetting approved in 2021, 2022 & 2023 is valid for the 2023 season. Only vetting letters provided by the GAA, LGFA and or Camogie are acceptable. As primary schools are welcoming back our coaches in the new year they will also be requesting a copy of the vetting letter, so please be ready and have an in date letter or you will be refused entry to train your club members.

In 2022 all vetting applications are now approved locally by each Children's Officer on Foireann. This helped streamline all applications locally and enabled greater club accountability for vetting application approvals and follow up.

From 2021, it is now in rule that no coach can be appointed to a club or county without having first completed all relevant paperwork and training central to role. It is essential that all clubs where they participated in Independent teams have open communication with the lead club and ensure that only suitably approved coaches / officials are in place for all games and training sessions. In the same way where an official is recruited from outside the club(s) each executive is responsible for ensure that all officials (coaches / mentors / referees / umpires etc) are suitably vetted and trained.

It is essential (as part of legislation) that all clubs have appointed a Children's Officer and a Designated Liaison Officer. These are not optional appointments.

Also we have secured a Children's Officer email address and this should be used by all clubs as this is the only method of approved communication in line with good governance and GDPR rule for communication especially of person's personal data.

A disappointing aspect of 2022 for me is the increased use of negative / abusive language on the side-lines and in games in Laois by supporters, players, game officials and appointed officials. In 2022 the incidence of physical violence in our games increased. This is an unacceptable behaviour and I would encourage all clubs not to accept this behaviour. We need to remember that we are playing our games with either young people playing and or watching and we are role models for all our young players and supporters.

I would implore all clubs to ensure that this behaviour is not accepted and that any club where this behaviour occurs manage it in accordance with the Safe Guarding protocols. We need to remember that our players / mentors / official's do not deserve / expect to be a recipient of any abuse (verbal or physical) and it is not necessary. As a parent would you accept your child being verbally abused? Would you allow them to be in the environment where verbal aggression is ok? If no is the answer to these questions then we need to better manage our behaviour at games, training sessions and stop this negative behaviour. There is no place in the GAA (and our sister organisations or any other sporting environment or society) for this behaviour. If this behaviour is not accepted in normal everyday society it is not accepted within the GAA in any form.

Ainmniúcháin (Nominations)

Cathaoirleach (Chairperson):

PJ Kelly (Outgoing).

Leas Cathaoirleach (Vice Chairperson):

Kieran Kehoe.

Cisteoir (Treasurer):

Paschal McEvoy

Leas Cisteoir (Asst. Treasurer):

Bryan Breen; Adrainne McCarthy.

Ard Comhairle (Central Council Delegate):

Brian Allen; Martin Byrne; Tom Clear.

Comhairle Laighean (Leinster Council Delegate):

Brian Allen & Richard Kennedy (Outgoing); Tom Clear; Kieran Leavy.

Oifigeach Oiliúna (Coaching Officer):

Alan Langton.

Oifigeach Cultir agus Gaeilge (Cultural and Irish Officer):

Noel Stapleton.

Oifigeach Caidrimh Poiblí (P.R.O.):

No Nominee.

Congress Delegates (3 to be elected):

Cathaoirleach, Runaí & Ard Comhairle delegate automatically attend:

Brian Allen; Martin Byrne; Tom Clear; Paschal McEvoy.

Leinster Convention Delegates (5 to be elected):

Outgoing Comhairle Laighean delegates automatically attend: Martin Byrne;

Tom Clear; PJ Kelly; Tom Jones; Paschal McEvoy.

Na Rúin (Motions)

1. To amend **Laois GAA Byelaw No. 1** to reflect that Children’s Officer is not subject to “Exception – In accordance with Rule 3.11 (b)(2), T.O. 2022, the Treasurer and Children’s Officer are not subject to the maximum period of office of five years.” (CLG Laoise)
2. To amend **Laois GAA Byelaw No. 5 (Attachment to First Club)** - To reflect that Laois CCC may no longer adjudicate on an application for Attachment to First Club as per Riail 6.4 T.O. 2022 and DRA decision to read as follows:

5. **Attachment to First Club** - In accordance with Riail 6.4 (c), T.O. 2022, a person seeking to become a member of the Association shall be restricted to joining a Club in the Catchment Area of their Permanent Residence or where they have Other Relevant Connection as below. (Catchment Areas as defined in Laois GAA Rules and Regulations as per Riail 6.3, TO 2022).

Other Relevant Connection to assist Clubs when deciding an applicant’s eligibility to join Club to be used in conjunction with an Treoraí Oifigiúil:

a) Parentage Rule – A player may apply to join a Club in the catchment area in which their Parent was a Player in Adult Competition or a Club Officer or Member, who over a reasonable period of time, made a proven contribution to that Club.

b) Primary School – A player may apply to join a Club in the catchment area where they are presently attending or have attended Primary School. The Primary School rule will only be taken into consideration where the player has been attending this school or has attended for at least one full school year. (CLG Laoise)

3. To amend **Laois GAA Byelaw No. 6 (Transfers)** as follows:

6. Transfers

A. A player shall be restricted to playing for a Club in the Catchment Area of their permanent residence as per Riail 6.5 (a) & (b), TO 2022 (Catchment Areas as defined in Laois GAA Rules and Regulations as per Riail 6.3, TO 2022).

B. There shall be two distinct Club “designations” – Urban and Rural. This will allow the CCC to distinguish between Transfers as follows: (i) Urban to Rural Clubs, (ii) Rural to Rural Clubs and (iii) Rural to Urban Clubs.

C. Portlaoise GAA Club will be designated an “Urban” Club and all other Clubs in Laois will be designated “Rural”.

D. Requests for transfer shall not be considered unless submitted to the County Secretary before January 31st in any year. Exception: In the case of an Urban to Rural Transfer, an application may be granted provided the player has not participated in Club Competition in the year in which the Transfer is sought.

E. The C.C.C. shall process and make initial decisions on all applications for Transfer within the county, in a timely manner with consideration to the commencement of competitions (Riail 6.5, T.O. 2022). Such decisions shall reflect the ethos of the Association as outlined in Riail 6.1, T.O. 2022 and give due consideration to the negative effect, if any, it may have on the player's First Club and/or Own Club.

F. In exceptional circumstances the CCC may, after due consideration, approve the transfer application.

Other Relevant Connection to be used in conjunction with an Treoraí Oifigiúil to assist CCC in their deliberations:

(i). **Urban to Rural Transfer**

A player from a designated Urban Club may, at any time, transfer to, any Rural Club without the necessity of meeting any of the criteria and / or exceptions usually associated with such Transfers, provided the player has not participated in Club Competition in the year in which the Transfer.

(ii). **Rural to Rural Transfer**

a) Permanent Residence - An adult player or juvenile player from a family moving to a new place of Permanent Residence, which is within the Catchment Area of the Club to which they wish to transfer. In such cases the onus of proof of new permanent residence shall be on the applicant for transfer (by provision of their/ their family's ownership of the property or at least three utility bills in their name for the property), as outlined in Riail 6.3 T.O. 2022, that it has been their principal private residence for at least the previous twelve weeks and is likely for at least the ensuing year.

b) Parentage Rule – A player may apply for a Transfer to a Club in the catchment area in which their Parent was a Player in Adult Competition or a Club Officer or Member, who over a reasonable period of time, made a proven contribution to that Club. Such criteria shall also apply for Transfer applications within Club catchment areas, and /or where other exceptional circumstances may be considered.

c) Primary School – A player may apply for a Transfer to a Club in the catchment area where they are presently attending or have attended Primary School. The Primary School rule will only be taken into consideration where the player has been attending this school or has attended for at least one full school year.

(iii). **Rural to Urban Transfer**

a) Permanent Residence - An adult player or juvenile player from a family moving to a new place of Permanent Residence, which is within the Catchment Area of the Club to which they wish to transfer. In such cases the onus of proof of new permanent residence shall be on the applicant for transfer (by provision of their/their family's ownership of the property or at least three utility bills in their name for the property), as outlined in

Riall 6.3 T. O. 2022, that it has been their principal private residence for at least the previous twelve weeks and is likely for at least the ensuing year.

b) Parentage Rule – A player may apply for a Transfer to a Club in the catchment area in which their Parent was a player in adult competition, or in exceptional circumstances, a Club Officer or Member who, over a reasonable period of time, has made a proven contribution to that Club. Such criteria shall also apply for Transfer applications within Club catchment areas, and /or where other exceptional circumstances may be considered.

4. To amend “That Rule 6.17 - Games & Competitions - Age Grades - Official Guide – Part 1 be amended to read as follows:

Club

Adult

A player shall have celebrated his 18th birthday prior to January 1st of the Championship Year.

Under - Age Grades

A county shall determine its internal Under-Age Grades for competition purposes within the parameter of Under 21 down to Under 11, subject to the stipulation that competitions at Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 must take place within each County together with one further underage competition above the Under 18 grade.

The rest of the Rule to remain unchanged.

MAIN CHANGE – “subject to Central Council Policy” – is removed, and stipulation that competitions must take place at U14, U16 and U18 level.

For counties of larger populations, there is the provision to provide additional competitions at U15 and U17 if required within this rule change. (Na Clairsigh)

Laois Membership Registration Report 2022

Club Name	Full	Youth	Honourary	Social	Full Player	Youth Player	Full Non-Player	Youth Non-Player	>21 Player	21 Player	20 Player	19 Player	18 Player
Abbeyleix St Lazarians	135	207	0	0	102	206	33	1	61	8	14	10	15
Annanough	69	96	0	0	53	96	16	0	42	2	4	2	3
Arles Kilcruise	50	34	0	2	46	33	4	1	42	0	3	1	4
Arles Killeen	71	87	0	0	62	87	9	0	47	0	2	2	1
Ballinakill	66	88	0	0	65	88	1	0	49	2	8	4	9
Ballyfin	251	226	0	1	68	226	183	0	52	5	4	7	8
Ballylinan	79	141	0	28	47	134	32	7	34	2	1	4	5
Ballypickas	72	92	0	0	71	92	1	0	55	2	7	4	3
Ballyroan Abbey	216	205	0	0	61	205	155	0	37	3	9	10	4
Barrowhouse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Borris In Ossory	108	0	0	0	89	0	19	0	65	0	1	6	0
Borris in Ossory Kilcotton	0	153	0	0	0	153	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camross	179	125	0	0	82	125	97	0	71	2	3	5	6
Castletown	36	128	0	17	32	124	4	4	22	3	3	1	3
Clonad	82	163	0	17	60	163	22	0	46	5	4	4	4
Clonaslee St Manmans	225	85	0	0	133	85	92	0	97	6	9	9	2
Clough/Ballacolla	174	163	0	0	92	163	82	0	74	3	6	9	2
Colt	63	3	3	0	40	3	23	0	32	2	1	0	0
Colt Shanahoe	119	96	0	0	75	96	44	0	62	5	1	1	1
Courtwood	80	76	0	0	53	76	27	0	40	7	2	3	1
Crettyard	43	74	0	37	34	74	9	0	28	2	1	1	4
Emo	52	108	0	57	50	108	2	0	37	0	4	6	7
Errill	37	0	0	76	33	0	4	0	25	1	3	1	0
Graiguecullen	60	235	0	10	42	235	18	0	36	0	1	2	4
Kilcavan	258	162	0	0	59	121	199	41	43	5	3	7	7
Kilcotton	63	0	3	39	63	0	0	0	45	2	6	1	0
Killeshin	147	200	0	0	83	187	64	13	61	7	5	2	7
Kyle	26	33	0	42	26	33	0	0	21	2	1	2	0
Mountmellick	97	84	1	0	71	84	26	0	56	0	2	2	6
Mountrath St Fintans	70	38	1	40	70	37	0	1	61	2	1	6	6
O'Dempseys	149	222	0	49	73	190	76	32	62	2	5	4	2
Park Ratheniska	105	165	12	0	64	159	41	6	40	5	9	5	4
Park Ratheniska-Timahoe	68	126	0	0	24	122	44	4	17	0	5	1	5
Portarlinton	210	238	7	0	40	227	170	11	29	6	2	3	2
Portlaoise	313	434	0	55	137	430	176	4	103	5	12	10	7
Rathdowney	71	2	0	129	60	2	11	0	44	4	5	6	1
Rathdowney Errill	87	128	0	14	87	128	0	0	65	4	8	7	10
Rosenallis	282	247	0	0	122	207	160	40	84	12	10	15	15
Shanahoe	48	4	0	0	4	4	44	0	4	0	0	0	0
Slieve Bloom	73	1	0	0	35	1	38	0	28	1	1	0	0
Spink	31	102	0	110	30	78	1	24	16	2	9	2	10
St Joseph's	139	117	0	0	66	117	73	0	49	5	5	5	4
Stradbally	125	120	1	0	88	111	37	9	66	2	8	4	5
The Harps	103	153	0	0	73	150	30	3	48	4	9	8	6
The Heath	186	187	0	0	53	187	133	0	36	4	6	4	4
The Rock	317	165	0	0	121	164	196	1	107	3	5	4	0
Timahoe	79	72	0	0	36	72	43	0	30	1	0	2	5
Trumera	90	78	0	0	84	78	6	0	67	3	5	2	3
TOTAL	5,404	5,663	28	723	2,959	5,461	2,445	202	2,236	141	213	194	195

Laois Membership Registration Report 2022 (contd.)

17 Player	16 Player	15 Player	14 Player	13 Player	12 Player	11 Player	10 Player	9 Player	8 Player	7 Player	6 Player	<6 Player	Unknown Age Player	GAA 2022 Total	GAA 2021 Total
16	17	10	16	21	15	13	20	12	13	11	12	10	12	342	340
5	0	3	7	2	5	10	6	5	9	5	16	19	3	165	144
1	2	2	3	0	4	2	6	1	4	4	0	0	0	86	186
1	1	3	4	6	4	7	8	10	10	17	7	8	11	158	3
9	3	2	5	3	16	8	5	8	15	5	0	0	2	154	0
6	5	13	11	10	16	14	19	23	23	25	21	30	2	478	426
9	1	9	7	4	17	12	12	6	8	13	9	21	7	248	308
2	2	2	8	11	7	3	12	7	6	4	13	12	3	164	164
11	10	7	12	26	9	12	16	18	13	12	22	29	6	421	330
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	108	131
14	5	10	12	7	9	12	10	12	20	11	11	20	0	153	140
15	2	10	7	13	8	10	8	3	14	10	13	6	1	304	197
8	6	10	7	9	6	7	12	5	8	13	11	19	3	181	384
3	7	5	6	14	7	15	21	16	21	13	14	16	1	262	204
3	3	1	12	12	8	6	12	4	9	12	1	0	12	310	9
20	6	17	29	8	11	11	3	19	10	12	10	3	2	337	198
2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	69	146
3	4	9	5	7	8	5	10	9	8	14	5	8	6	215	429
2	9	4	4	6	6	9	9	4	3	10	6	3	1	156	166
3	1	6	6	3	11	2	3	5	8	3	7	12	2	154	295
4	2	5	8	10	18	4	10	10	10	13	5	2	3	217	210
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	113	82
7	13	14	11	12	14	11	14	19	20	19	16	60	4	305	309
9	11	8	7	9	16	16	21	6	4	3	3	1	1	420	251
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	105	100
12	10	18	3	7	12	15	18	9	21	13	16	26	8	347	381
0	0	0	0	0	6	5	3	4	8	2	3	2	0	101	93
2	4	4	2	4	8	18	7	8	7	8	2	3	12	182	369
4	6	0	3	3	1	1	3	1	5	0	0	3	0	149	336
12	9	10	11	11	15	8	17	17	15	13	13	37	0	420	526
9	6	10	14	12	9	10	8	13	12	18	12	20	6	282	328
5	13	5	11	9	11	9	13	8	12	13	2	5	2	194	0
9	7	17	17	17	25	13	24	21	21	24	13	17	0	455	317
15	4	31	18	25	29	28	43	27	65	55	40	43	7	802	477
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	202	181
9	9	9	9	7	11	10	6	12	7	10	10	7	4	229	120
8	27	7	15	16	22	20	30	9	13	17	5	3	1	529	600
0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	52	80
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	74	48
6	3	2	4	6	10	7	7	6	3	7	1	6	1	243	271
8	9	8	11	11	8	11	11	9	4	6	12	5	2	256	204
6	5	3	7	5	5	6	11	12	8	13	11	14	7	246	208
8	11	6	10	14	21	14	11	9	10	17	9	3	2	256	295
10	7	5	10	9	11	16	16	9	18	16	18	35	4	373	405
6	5	1	8	6	18	20	28	22	20	16	5	9	2	482	12
0	2	10	4	1	16	7	6	1	5	3	3	9	2	151	352
1	1	5	7	6	9	6	12	6	7	7	4	4	7	168	176
283	249	301	351	363	464	413	511	407	497	488	381	530	188	11,818	10,931



*Weddings
Meeting Rooms
Carvery Lunch
Bar Food
Kellys Steakhouse
Triog Restaurant*

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