

Mayo GAA Bórd na nÓg End of Year Review 2023



The committee,

Chairperson: Charlie Lambert

Secretary: Brian O'Malley

Hurling Secretary: Donal O'Brien

East: John Clancy, Cathal Duffy, Gareth O'Donnell and Declan Traynor

North: Pdraig Doherty, Dermot Kenny, Seamus Smyth and Sean Tolan

South: Brian Harte, Pat Kennedy, Liam Nyland and Stephen Mullin

West: Martin Costello, Martin Golden, Kevin Kelly and Willie McDonagh.

Kieran Kilkenny was our Academy Liason.

Ar son Coiste na nÓg, Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghlacadh do gach duine a bhí i láthair Ag an 2023 Cruinniú Léirmheas anseo i bPáirc Mhic Eil anocht. I 2023 d'fhill muid ar aoisghrúpaí fiú san léig agus craobhchomórtais i Maigheo Eo.

Is mór an pribhléid a bhí ann dúinn mar coiste tacaíocht a thabhairt do na clubanna, traenálaí faoi aois agus oibríthe deonacha san seachadadh dó clár chómh fairsing lé haghaidh na h-imreoirí óga sa chomtae.

Welcome | Fáiltiú

A dhuine uaisle agus a chairde gael, Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur roimh gach éinne go dtí an chruinniú athbhreathnaithe seo, I bPáirc Mhic Éil, Caisleán an Bharraigh.

After 5 years as Chairman of Westport GAA Club it was a surprise when Chairman Mayo GAA Seamus Tuohy rang me in February 2023 to see if I might be interested in taking up the role of Bord na nOg Chairperson.

After considerable thought I was both delighted and a little apprehensive to accept the nomination, the massive depth of the Bord na nOg operations and structure was not apparent to me until I got involved at this level.

The Bord na nOg Secretary Brian O Malley outlines these operations in the below report but on my own behalf and the entire Bord na nOg committee I would like to say a massive thank you to Brian for his outstanding work since I came into the position. Its fair to say that I just wouldn't have been able to cope with the role without Brians input and also that of the Bord na nOg county committee.

Over 2,000 games taking place across all age groups was a massive achievement but a particular highlight for me was the County U8 & 10 blitz days in the Connacht Centre of Excellence. A word of thanks to our Bord na nOg committee, Mayo GAA executive committee, divisional boards, referee committee, Stewards/ gate personnel, Mc Hale Park staff, sponsors, Mayo GAA Coaches and of course the clubs / volunteers for all your help and assistance over the past year. Without the support of volunteers across Mayo GAA we would just be unable to provide the vast programme of underage football, a massive Mile Buiochas to you all.

Is Mise Le Meas

Iarla Laimbeart | Charlie Lambert

Cathaoirleach - Bord na nÓg Mhaigh Eo.

Secretary;

This was my first year in the position of county Assistant Secretary and Bord na nÓg secretary. Having spent two years organising the games in South Mayo previously, I wasn't without knowledge, but it wasn't long before I realised that there is a lot of work in organising over 2,500 games in seven months.

First job was to meet with Ronan Kirrane and get the keys off him. Then we met with Daithí Gallagher. These meetings were long as we tried to get a calendar together. It was all turned upside down when the Táin Hurling leagues got moved from a Monday to Wednesday. One of the rules of these hurling leagues is we can't schedule games that would compete for the use of that age player. The headaches were already starting and we were only in January. Daithí had already signalled that he wished to step down from his role as Chairperson of the Bord na nÓg. All credit to Daithí, he did an enormous amount of work over the last few years during Covid to keep the games coming for the clubs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his efforts and wish him and his family all the best in his retirement. The search was on to find a replacement for Daithí. Charlie Lambert was the man to take the post. I had only ever briefly met Charlie passing in the halls of Hastings Insurance McHale Park as he had served as chairperson of Westport St. Patrick's for the previous five years.

Charlie came on board in the middle of February and took to the role like a duck to water. We quickly set up a meeting with the rest of the committee and this turned out to be a schooling for both of us. The honeymoon didn't last too long. We went on to have 14 meetings this year and no less than 60 other times where a Bord na nÓg officer was to be present to present a trophy or organise a blitz. It was certainly busy this year.

This year the CCC took over the running of the Minor games in Mayo much to the disappointment of our committee members. But, we pressed on this year with putting more structures in place for some of our younger members in U8/10 age brackets. In this report we will outline what has happened and what we hope will happen in 2024.

Is mise le meas,

Brian Ó Mhaille | Brian Ó Malley

Rúnaí Cúnta Mhaigh Eó | Assistant Secretary Mayo



Game Statistics;

U12 Total	U13 Total
526 games	175
11 Not Played	6 not played
97.9% completion rate	96.6% completion rate
U14 League	U14 Championship
426 games	186 games
14 Not Played	4 Not Played
96.7% completion rate	97.8% completion rate
U14 Total	U15 Total
612 games	138
16 Not Played	2 not played
97.4% completion rate	98.6% completion rate
U16 League	U16 Championship
371 games	150 games
14 Not Played	2 Not Played
96.2% completion rate	98.6% Completion rate
U16 Total	U17 Total

521	125
16 Not Played	6 not played
96.9% completion rate	95.2% completion rate

96.8% of all uneven age games played.
 97.4% of all even age games played.
 97.1% of all competitive games played this year.

We will issue 78 sets of medals this year at a cost of over €12,000. In 2024 we need to try and minimise wastage. In certain cases where clubs have less than 24 players on panel we may only send the exact amount of medals rather than 24. We played league games at the uneven age grade under lights on 6 different venues in Mayo and none of these were in the C.O.E.

These numbers do not represent the divisional games played. All divisions have fully completed all of their games again this year. Well done to all involved in those.

Playing of Games;

In 2023, in over 3 competitions organised by the Bord na nÓg, **97.1%** of all competitive underage games were played. All our leagues and championship finals were played as per our Calendar dates set out earlier in 2023. This high return is the result of clubs communicating with each other over postponements and re arranging fixtures. By showing each other respect and communication we can avoid concessions as much as possible. Some clubs have struggled with fielding teams at certain age grades this year. As each year progresses, we will see it more often among the rural clubs to field at certain age grades. I would encourage clubs to make contact with us for help and support in this regard. I would also encourage clubs to be mindful of this fact when a postponement is being asked of you.

In the upcoming calendar you will see where we have taken great care in adding more weeks off to allow for the unforeseen circumstances that may arise in 2024.

It was felt that the structures in place for the U12 competition were not adequate for some of larger clubs. To this end we are proposing a change to the U12 competition format for next year. In 2024 we will see the U12 play on two days a week. A break down is at the end of this report.

Gradings;

One of the items we set on the agendas is the small matter of gradings for the upcoming leagues and championship. Coiste na nÓg spent almost 6 hours over the year just debating the grading for this year's competition. It's not something we just skip through. This was very evident in all our U14 and U16 finals which were all well balanced.

Appeals;

This year saw the repeat of an open appeals policy. We send the grading to the clubs, and they will have 3/4 days to fill out an appeals form. The Bord na nÓg committee then meet again and go through each appeal, one at a time. For our leagues we had 9 appeals and two were upheld. For our championships we had 14 appeals and two were upheld. After the appeals meetings were done, we emailed each club and laid out the reason why their appeal was or was not granted. This is to show transparency on all the

matters for grading. One of the policies we did agree early on is, if a club wishes to go up a division, then we will do our utmost best to ensure this happens. Appeal deadlines are set to ensure that the games get underway as quickly as possible. In 2024, we will continue with the appeals process. Forms worked well and clubs are used to them now.

Silent Sidelines;

We pushed forward a new Silent Sideline initiative this year which was proposed last year. We started at U14 down. most clubs respected this initiative, alas some didn't. If we continue to allow our children and referees get abuse at games, we will have no future. The Silent Sidelines are an attempt to assist the referees. If he/she feels that there is too much abuse on the sideline, then they will stop the game and approach the managers for them to sort it out or seek a club officer to sort it out. Introducing these initiative has not eradicated the serious issue of abuse at children's matches but it has certainly made things better. In 2024 we will need to see a new push by all clubs to get this message across.

I want to acknowledge the help and support from Celia Rattigan in getting the Silent Sidelines up and going and promoting this initiative.

Mayo Underage Hurling:

2023 saw 18 underage clubs and schools finals hosted this year. This was the largest number of hurling finals in a single year to date. Seven different clubs took home silverware with Tooreen and Westport leading the way with 4 titles each, followed by Moytura and Caiseal Gaels with two each and Ballyhaunis and Claremorris each bring back some silverware also. Ballyhaunis CS and Rice College picked up the remaining schools finals.

In total, 11 clubs were represented in the various finals. Many new referees came on board for the year making for a very smooth year fixture wise. None of this would have been possible were it not for the Trojan work done by Adrian Hession in background as usual. Below find all winners runners-up and referees.

<u>Competition</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Runner-Up</u>	<u>Referee</u>
U18A Hurling Championship (Connor Cup)	Tooreen	Castlebar	Sean Granahan
U18B Hurling Championship	Westport	St Ciarans	Eadhmon MacSuibhne
U16A Hurling Championship (BRB Cup)	Tooreen	Castlebar	Sean Granahan
U16B Hurling Championship	St Ciarans	Claremorris	Eoin Shaughnessy
U15 FeileA Hurling (Freeman Cup)	Westport	Castlebar	Mel Kenny
U15 FeileB Hurling	Claremorris	St Ciarans	Sean O'Neill
U14A1 Hurling Championship (Morley Cup)	Westport	Claremorris	James Judge

U14A2 Hurling Championship (Morley Shield)	Tooreen	Ballyhaunis	Eadhmon MacSuibhne
U14B1 Hurling Championship	Moytura	Ballina	Sean O'Neill
U14B2 Hurling Championship	Caiseal Gaels	Ballyvary	Peter Cassidy
U12 A1 Hurling Festival Final	Westport	Claremorris	Lucian Brooks
U12 A2 Hurling Festival Final	Ballyhaunis	Castlebar	Michael Herr
U12 B1 Hurling Festival Final	Moytura	Ballyvary	Peter Cassidy
U12 B2 Hurling Festival Final	Caiseal Gaels	Ballina	Joe Greaney
U12 B3 Hurling Festival Final	TooreenB	Gaeltacht Iorrais	Nick Carolan
Mayo GAA Post Primary SeniorA Final	<i>Ballyhaunis CS</i>	<i>St Colmans</i>	<i>John Walker</i>
Mayo GAA Post Primary SeniorB Final	<i>Rice College</i>	<i>St Pats</i>	<i>Sean Granahan</i>
Mayo GAA Post Primary JuvenileA Final	<i>Rice College</i>	<i>St Pats</i>	<i>John E Burke</i>

Social Media;

Social media is a wonderful invention. It is brilliant at keeping us all updated on what's happening around us. The communication aspects are outstanding. Unfortunately, it can also go the other way. Sometimes as volunteers we get abuse online. It's not nice. It does hurt and the worst part is that most of these people just don't understand what it takes to do these jobs. Sometimes the clubs come in for abuse. To try and minimise the abuse towards clubs, we will be encouraging clubs to stop posting the scores of games from U14 down, on social media. We would encourage the clubs to just say things like "it wasn't our day" when loosing and "we showed great resilience to come out on top" when winning. There is no need to remind your neighbours child that they lost heavily in a children's game. By removing the scores on the website in our U12 Spring and Summer leagues this year, we helped to soothe the players feelings when they lost a game. Hopefully this will keep them interested in playing football and hurling for many years to come. I would like to give a special mention to John Walker for all his help this year as county PRO. He always had someone at our finals to take photos.

County U17;

Sean Deane and the county minor (U17) team got the defence of their Connacht title away to Roscommon on Friday 14th April. A good win on the road and we were back in Hastings Insurance McHale Park for Galway on Friday 28th but unfortunately, we failed to beat them and lost by the narrowest of margins. The plan was back in action again when we went over to Leitrim and got the win. Back home to play Sligo and that win out is into a semi-final where we played Roscommon again but in Hastings Insurance McHale Park. We won by one point and it set up a Connacht final against Galway in Tuam. A daunting task but the lads were up for it, and we won well in the end. Connacht champions again. The dream though ended in Leitrim when we lost to a very physical team in Monaghan. Congratulations to Sean Deane, selectors Shane McCann, Colm Boyle, Martin Costello and Danny O'Toole. Goal Keeping coach Mattie Flanagan, Medical Dr. Pat O'Toole, physio Saoirse Walsh, strength and conditioning Kieran Killkenny and Dan Kelly, Liason officer Shane Quinn, player Liason Michael Gallagher and of course the kit man P Egan. Sean has a fine job done, in winning back-to-back Connacht titles. We wish him the best in the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Tom O'Reilly and David Heaney as joint managers along with coaches Ciaran McDonald, Pat Clarke and Brian Kilkelly into their new roles over the U17 squad in 2024.

Referees;

None of our games would have gone ahead without our wonderful bunch of referees in the county. We struggled to get two/three referees to attend our U12 Spring League games and this just highlights that we definitely need more volunteers. It became quite evident in 2023 that we are not able to play two completions on the same day as the availability of referees and pitches are not there. The U12 in 2024 will be getting an overhaul and the referees themselves have an excellent motion in for convention this year. We ask all clubs to support their motion.

We would like to sincerely thank Sean MacHale, our referees administration in Mayo for all his hard work with appointing referees this year. We would like to thank our four divisional secretaries for their support in organising referees, East-Stephen Mooney, North-Mick Herr, South-Mary Lydon, West-Chris McGowan.

Development Leagues;

The introduction of the development leagues at U16 and U14 a few years ago was a wonderful idea. The clubs who have teams in these competitions do embrace it for what it is. This year we embraced this competition and expanded it further. Unfortunately, it is also the biggest part of the games that are conceded in the year but in a whole a sizeable majority are played. Sometimes though a rouge manager will play an illegal player. This is a person who was named by the club as only permitted to play with the A team. Who do we punish for this, the player, who doesn't even know it's wrong, the club for who, unwittingly don't know it's happened and fine their members, or do we punish the manager but inadvertently by doing so we punish the team. We must come come up with solution to this in 2024. Any feedback is welcomed. We encourage any club who would have over 24 players available at U14 or U16 to look at entering a team into the development league also. In 2023 we have 59 U14 teams and 48 U16 teams in all our competitions.

John West Feile;

The John West Feile county competition took place in Mayo over the weekend of May 6th and 7th. 8 teams competed in Division A. 16 teams competed in Division B and 11 teams competed in Division C. The national John West Feile finals were held in the Connacht GAA C.O.E. On Saturday 1st July. The Division 5 Feile was held in Castlebar Mitchels and Islandeady GAA grounds. This was one of the largest

groups in the feile. Parke Keeloges Crimlin won the shield in this group. Westport St.Patrick's narrowly lost the A final.

Connacht Go Games;

On Monday and Tuesday August 14th & 15th the Connacht GAA Go Games in Croke Park were held. Well done to Béal an Mhuirthead, Erris St.Pats, Crossmolina Deel Rovers, Castlebar Mitchels, Westport and Claremorris who all were asked by Connacht GAA to take part. This is a wonderful initiative and one we look forward to again next year.

Divisional U-13 Skills;

Congratulations to the winners of the U13 skills teams who had a top 6 finish in Connacht skills in October.

East- Swinford. North-Ardmoy. South- Balla. West- Breaffy.

Academy Teams Review for 2023

- U14 manager Patrick Hopkins (The Neale)
- U15 manager Diarmuid Byrne (Castlebar)
- U16 manager Tom Reilly (Castlebar)

U14s

As with every year the academy season for the U14s started in the first Saturday of March in the 4 regions. Numbers this year were greater than ever seen before with a total of 282 players presenting for trials in the 4 regions. The regional session continued until 19th of August which gave all players a 24-week window to stake a claim for a spot in the academy proper. Over this period 4 regional teams competed superbly in both the Connacht and National competitions. See fixtures in Table 1 below. On the 26th August was the first get together of the U14 academy with 56 players selected. (See break down of players in table 2) They continued to train for 12 weeks with some games and training. On 17th November they commenced a 4-week introductory athletic development programme which after a winter break will be continued into the new year.

U15s

The U15 season commenced with a county cup starting on 4th of March with the view to getting a squad selected for the first National academy day on the 1st of April. This period was very challenging due to the unavailability of pitches. This was all due to the poor weather we experienced in this period. However, Diarmuid and his crew managed to get this completed and a squad selected for the Connacht day on 15th of April. It was great to see a number of new players make the squad who hadn't been selected for the U14s in 2022 however this did mean some players didn't continue on their journey. The group continued to train and play games up until the 11th of November where their final game was against Cork in Limerick. At that stage they embarked on their Athletic development programme.

U16s

Like the other squads the U16s commenced on the last Saturday of February with a view to the first national academy day on the first of April. Our U16 group trialled and trained in Swinford Amenity Park for the duration of the Season and we are very grateful to Philip Durkan and his crew there for

their support in a time when pitches are difficult to come by. Our group trained there for most of the season which ended up with an excellent Ted Webb Cup win on 12th of August against North Kerry in Tuam. The group continue to train and prepare for their transition into county minor next year. We would like to thanks Tom and his team of coaches for the hours and hours of work they have put into the academies over the last number of years and we wish they every success with their endeavours for 2024.

<i>Official Fixtures for our academy squads 2023</i>					
Date:	U14s	u15s		u16s	
	4 teams	Team 1	Team 2	Team 1	Team 2
01/04/2023	No game	Away Donegal (TBA)	Away Donegal (TBA)	Away Meath	Away Tyrone
15/04/2023	No game	Connacht fixtures (COE)	Connacht fixtures (COE)	Connacht (COE)	Connacht (COE)
29/04/2023	4 teams COE	Home vs Derry	Home vs Derry	Home vs Laois	Home vs Derry
27/05/2023	4 teams COE	Away vs Tyrone	Away vs Tyrone	Home vs Kerry	Away vs Donegal
17/06/2023	4 teams COE				
24/06/2023		Away to Donegal	Away to Donegal		
08/07/2023	4 teams nationally	Away vs Dublin	Neutral vs Down	vs Cork in clare	Home vs Armagh
29/07/2023	No game	Connacht fixtures (COE)	Connacht fixtures (COE)	Connacht (COE)	Connacht (COE)
12/08/2023	4 teams nationally	Neutral vs Down	Home vs Monaghan	Tuam vs Kerry	vs Dublin in Athlone
19/08/2023	No game	Connacht fixtures (COE)	Connacht fixtures (COE)	Connacht (COE)	Connacht (COE)
14/10/2023	2 teams vs Roscommon				
02/11/2023	2 teams vs Clare				
11/11/2023		In Limerick vs Cork	In Limerick vs Cork		

Table 1

Players Selected for squads in 2023							
	U17s		U16s		U15s		U14s

Region	No. Players	Percentage	No. Players	Percentage	No. Players	Percentage	No. Players	Percentage
1	6	18%	15	31%	13	25%	9	16%
2	7	21%	15	31%	15	29%	17	30%
3	11	32%	8	17%	9	17%	10	18%
4	10	29%	10	21%	15	29%	20	36%
Total	34		48		52		56	

Leagues;

Our league competitions started on March 20th which turned out to be one of the wettest weeks of the Spring but after a rocky start, we got going and all our leagues were finished on time before the exam break. Some clubs were not aware of the rules and procedures as regards a pitch which is not fit to play on and I would encourage all the clubs to check these rules out. They are there to help and ensure our games get played on time.

We would like to give a special mention to all our host clubs who held all our league finals in their venues. We would like to acknowledge the support of the county treasurer, Valarie Murphy and her finance committee who allowed the host clubs to keep the takings from the gates. We hope they were all a successful fundraiser.

Championship;

After the exam break, we were quickly into the Championship and wouldn't you know it, they kicked off with one of the wettest weeks ever recorded in July. Credit to all the the clubs though who worked on solutions and got the games played. Sinead McLoughlin was on hand to help and organise all our gates for our championship games. Thank you to Gerry Bourke for organising stewards for all of the games in Hastings Insurance McHale Park.

We had all our U16 and U14 championship finals in Hastings Insurance McHale Park. Again, we sought the hospitality of host clubs around Mayo to hold the shield finals and they were permitted to keep the gates again.

A shout out to James Rocke who was very helpful for every single game in manning the scoreboard and on PA for the championship finals.

We would like to sincerely thank Phil Heneghan and his team for having the pitch and facilities on top condition for all the games.

U10 and U8 Go Games;

We set all the clubs up on fixtures to be played every other week over a four-month period. With 4 or 5 clubs in each group and all games played home and away. The clubs would organise amongst themselves who would ref the games and no scores kept or results.

For the first time ever, we organised blitzes within the county for all the clubs. Feedback from clubs re the U10 and U8 blitzes was good. A lot of clubs embraced the new organised blitzes. Some managers did struggle to figure it out, but we had over 75% turnout for most of the blitzes.

The all-county blitzes in the C.O.E. Were an outstanding success.

U10 All-county blitz September 9th.;

We had 72 teams of over 800 children attended. This would have been over 900 but we were missing 5 clubs. We would like to thank Liam Horan for helping us get the county players of Diarmuid O'Connor and Paddy Durcan to help with some photos.

U8 all-county blitz September 16th.

We had 91 teams of almost 1000 children attended. We also had St. Brigids from Roscommon who joined us for the day. It was a great experience to see the big yellow bus!

We had David McBrien, Jack Coyne and Paul Towey bringing the league trophy to every team for a photo. Trust us, this was a challenge as it took us 2 hours to get every team in a photo.

A Special mention to Jerry Higgins from Knock Order of Malta who attended both days of the blitzes and gave us medical cover.

Also, want to thank our four Divisional boards who when asked to pay for the pitch hire on the two days did not hesitate to help us. In fact they were very enthusiastic about it and we want to thank the four Divisional chairpersons, East Mayo, Michael Daly, North Mayo, Michael McKinzie, South Mayo, Donal Walsh and West Mayo, Shane Quinn.

A special mention also to Sinead McLoughlin who organised all of our gates for our Bord na nÓg finals and was on hand to help out at our underage Blitzes in the C.O.E. (She also made the sandwiches and fed us at the blitzes).

All of these blitzes wouldn't be possible without the service from our dedicated G.P.O.'s in Mayo, Billy MacNicholas, Kieran Kilkenny, Martin Costello, Denise Fahy, Eugene Lavin, Eoin Sweeney and Michael Fitzmaurice. The amount of work these people put in each week is incredible.

The one thing we will probably change for next year is, no county players at the blitzes. It was certainly an experience having them present, but it did cause a health and safety issue, which we will try and avoid in future.

(Unless it's the Sam Maguire they have!)

Uneven age grades;

At our June review meeting, the clubs asked could we organise an uneven age grade competition. This was never on our schedule as we Voted at county convention to return to even age grades. We duly obliged and organised a grading league. We were contacted by Connacht GAA after the competition had started if we intended to add teams to the U17 A and B Connacht championship. They wanted teams who won their A and B U17 championships to compete. We requested that our U17 grading leagues be accepted as a form of championship and they agreed to allow us enter. Congratulations to Castlebar Mitchels won the A Connacht title and to The Neale won the B Connacht title.



Homeland

Mayo Post Primary Schools report;

Chairperson: Joe McCabe

Secretary: Mick Herr

PRO: John Holian

Treasurers: Kevin Shannon + Brendan Prendergast

Mayo Post Primary schools organise 21 competitions in Mayo. 18 football and 3 Hurling in the 25 second level schools. 23 of these schools are based in Mayo along with Summerhill and St. Attracta's Schools from Sligo. the competitions are Flanagan Cup at A, B, C and D levels. Junior (u17) are Colleran cups at A, B, C and D. O'Haire Cups (u15) at A, B, C and D. First year at A, B, C and D grades. Also run a first year B for the larger attended schools. Smaller schools are accommodated in the 1st and 2nd year combined competition. We will only run the Colleran cup after the Connacht Junior Cup is finished sometime around February.

Hurling is Senior A and B. One Junior competition.

Presently all competitions are up and running, we are down to the semi finals in all with the exception of the Flanagan B as this is at final stage between Ballyhaunis and Balla. The Flanagan C is also at a final with Gortnor Abbey v Sancta Maria Louisburg. The First year A is also in a final between St. Muredachs V St. Gerarld's.

We would also like to thank Elverys for their sponsorship of all 27 Post Primary Schools in Mayo.
Mick Herr secretary.



Cumann na mBunscol report;

Chairperson- Richie Goggins Fahy NS

Secretary- David Gordon - Shrule NS

Treasurer - Michael Bracken Carracastle NS

Connacht Council - Aodán O Caoimh Kilmaine Ns & Declan Kirrane Ballindine NS

PRO - Brian McDermott Charlestown NS

GAA Delegate - Neil Reilly

Then each of our 9 areas have their own committees and representatives

Dear All,

I am pleased to report to Bord na nOg for and on behalf of Cumann na mBunscol Maigh Eo for the year 2022/2023 as County Board Delegate.

Everyone was keen to get back to normality following the pandemic and Cumann na mBunscol was able to fully resume all competitions which had been played prior to the pandemic years. We completed a full jam packed schedule of football, hurling, rounders, handball and quizzes.

Our teachers did trojan work to facilitate the competitions by giving of their time generously to the children after school hours for training and practice purposes and I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work that is done quietly and behind the scenes by so many teachers in County Mayo.

We were delighted to begin the year by running the Mini 7's competitions which were a huge success.

The children were delighted to be able to participate in competitions and for many children, this was their first opportunity to compete in Gaelic games. The teachers in all participating schools gave of their

time willingly and enthusiastically to ensure the smooth running of the competition. Our finals took place in November 2022 at Centre of Excellence. We are currently in the final stages of the 2023/2024 Mini Sevens competition. The winners of this competition have the honour of nominating players to play at the half time exhibition games in Croke Park on All Ireland Sunday. The winners in each area nominated a player to play in the Mayo -v- Roscommon exhibition game in McHale park.

We were also able to run all of our Cumann na mBunscol competitions for boys and girls in both football and hurling over the year and were delighted to present 14 cups in boys and girls competitions and 4 shields. There were also a number of other localised football competitions and qualifiers for county finals. Many of the games were played in McHale Park which was hugely exciting for the players and fulfilled a dream for many of them.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the considerable contribution and assistance given to us by Billy McNicholas and all of the coaching team.

Most importantly, we would like to thank the County Board for the considerable support it has always given to Cumann na mBuncol Maigh eo. We are delighted to have an excellent working relationship with the County Board and we believe that relationship is now more important than it has ever been at a time when our gaelic games are in competition with an increasing range of activities in the lives of our children.

It is easy to forget but very important to remember that not every child has access to a GAA club, to kit or to a pitch. Not every child is taken to Club training at weekends by their parents. Some children in rural areas are many miles away from a club. Others quite close but without the means or parental support to allow them to participate. Playing in Cumann na mBunscol games at school is the only opportunity some children get to play football and hurling and compete in competitions. School participation is the only taste of Gaelic games that some children have and for that reason, in an era of high inflation and the increasing cost of living, Cumann na mBunscol is all the more important. Children can play in Cumann na mBunscol games and competitions at no cost to their parents. They wear school jerseys that do not need to be paid for parents.

We continue to welcome Ukrainian children and children from all around the world to our schools and in turn to our competitions. What a lovely and wonderful way of welcoming these children to our country.

We believe it is of paramount importance, now more than ever, that the relationship between Cumann na mBuncol and the GAA, in particular the county boards around the country, is strengthened as we all strive to achieve our common goal of promoting Gaelic Games among our youth.

In an era of computer games and an ever increasing variety of activities available to our young people, it is increasingly challenging to get children interested in playing gaelic games and to keep them interested. It is also difficult to keep teachers interested and involved given the increasing demands on their limited time and their perception that their work, time and valuable contributions are taken for granted and not appreciated.

It has to be acknowledged that the successes of our senior football team over the past decade has inspired the current generation of children, many of whom dream of wearing the green and red of Mayo. We must build on that enthusiasm we now have and ensure that it is nurtured and encouraged as these young people grow and mature into their teenage years. I have to acknowledge our senior panel who

always give of their time when asked to present medals, sign jerseys and talk to the children. You cannot underestimate the impact that speaking with a senior player can have on a child.

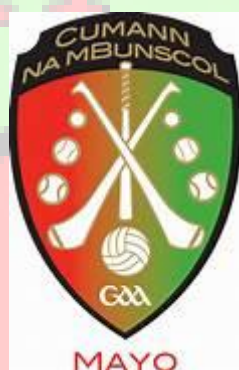
We would like to thank Ronan Kirrane, County Secretary, for his professionalism and courtesy in the past year. We also thank Mick Cummins for his help, guidance, courtesy and professionalism in liaising with us when required which is very much appreciated. Seamus Tuohy chairperson of Mayo County board is always willing to listen to our needs and concerns and we really appreciate that. Phil Heneghan, grounds man in McHale park is always on hand to help.

In Summary, we thank the GAA and the Mayo County Board in particular for your tremendous and unwavering support of Cumann na nBunscol Maigh eo. We ask you to continue supporting us and helping us in whatever way that you can and we, in turn, will continue to nurture the youth and develop and promote our historic gaelic games in our schools in a modern, progressive and inclusive manner.

Neil Reilly

County Board Delegate

Maigheo Cumann na mBunscol



Bord na nÓg Review;

In Early March Donal Walsh was asked to do a review of the Bord na nÓg as some felt it wasn't working as well as it should. He formed a committee and set about this task. During this time the Bord na nÓg also took time to do a review. We held a meeting with the clubs in June for a mid-year review and it was very informative. I met with my fellow Bord na nÓg officers from other counties during the Feile finals in the C.O.E. This year. I also had face to face meetings with some of them. I was surprised to find out that we are not as bad as you might have thought at Bord na nÓg level.

The Review Findings;

Both the Review committee and officers from Bord na nÓg met and agreed on the following points. Both reviews were very similar. Both agreed that we need to make the workings of the Bord na nÓg more efficient while decreasing individual voluntary workload.

It is suggested to go with the following members on the Coiste Na OG: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, County Assistant Secretary, Pro, County Assistant Secretary Assistant (now known as an ASA) , member of the hurling committee, a member of the referees committee, 4 delegates from each from the

divisions as before with a primary officer from each division holding proxy for a divisional delegate, PRO, Childrens Officer and Games Developments officer.

Chairperson and Secretary roles as before but with the workload now spread down. The Coiste Na OG ASA will have responsibility for Gates, Medals and Cups. Vice Chairperson will have responsibility for presentations. Pro will have responsibility for updating website, promoting underage games. Referee administrator committee member to assist in appointing referees (Has access to serva sport). Hurling committee member as before. One/two from each division to be given responsibility for Go Games coordination.

If a person is not voted into the Coiste Na OG by clubs or divisions then the positions must be filled by appointments by the county committee.

The role of PRO, Member of the referee administration committee, and Hurling committee member, to be appointed by their relevant Committee's as is currently done for some of these positions in our by-laws.

BNN position set up;

1. **Chairperson:** duties as before but diluted
2. **Vice Chairperson:** takes on some of the chair person duties, *appointed by BBN executive from within the committee*
3. **County Assistant Secretary:** duties as before but diluted
4. **ASA:** takes on some of the county assistant secretary duties, *appointed by BBN executive from within the committee*
5. **Pro:** *If possible to liaise with divisional PRO's along with County PRO committee*
6. **Member of the hurling committee:** liaise with hurling/ help with format
7. **Member of the referees committee:** help with referee allocation
8. **North Divisional Officer / delegate:** grading / format
9. **South Divisional Officer / delegate:** grading / format
10. **East Divisional Officer / delegate:** grading / format
11. **West Divisional Officer / delegate:** grading / format
12. **North Divisional Delegate:** grading / format
13. **North Divisional Delegate:** Go Games
14. **North Divisional Delegate:** Go Games
15. **South Divisional Delegate:** grading / format
16. **South Divisional Delegate:** Go Games
17. **South Divisional Delegate:** Go Games
18. **East Divisional Delegate:** grading / format
19. **East Divisional Delegate:** Go Games
20. **East Divisional Delegate:** Go Games
21. **West Divisional Delegate:** grading / format
22. **West Divisional Delegate:** Go Games
23. **West Divisional Delegate:** Go Games
24. **Children's Officer**
25. **Games Development Officer to liaise between academies and ASA.**

Rules to be update in our by-laws

1. Rule 3.16 (e) "a member absent without just cause, from three consecutive meeting shall be automatically disqualified from membership of that committee for the rest of the year. They may be replaced by county committee before August 31st."

2. All notifications of amalgamations and cooperation's must be with the county secretary by 15th January. They must be also given to the Demographics Committee for review. The Demographics Committee review findings to be no more than 14 days after or before 31st January.

3. All permission to play to be in by February 15th with the county secretary.
Under rule we have the power to set the permission to play at any time prior to a competition starting but it was felt it should be done once.

4. All notices of club transfers under present by-law rules must be with the CCC by March 15th.

5. Demographics was set up to oversee the necessity of amalgamation and co operations. The Demographics committee giving a recommendation to the coisti banisti on amalgamations and co operations at underage as they would have the knowledge on boundaries and populations, **However** findings by the demographics committe need to be accessed by the BNN executive.

Recommendation;

Time frame for Divisional delegates, maximum time frame. Max 5 yrs inc 2023

BNN review committee to meet sep/oct on a yearly basis, to review and continue improvement of BNN.

Motions;

Ardnaree Sarsfields:

1. Leagues not to start until after time changes in March when there is adequate light to travel and play the fixture.
2. Divisional Championship competitions are to be played after the league.
3. County Championship to start the week after August Bank Holiday. Clubs are still going to lose some players due to holidays. Any team that makes it to a semi-final and final should have their full panel of players as schools will have resumed.
4. As you are using this year's odd age competitions for regrading next year, we feel the regrading should be based on championship standings, example U16 grading for 2025 should be based on U14 standings in 2023.
5. As was briefly talked about and the mid year review, some clubs think the year is too long. You can run an odd age competition in September. If it's not used for regrading, then there is no obligation for teams to play in it, and they can shorten their year if they wish to do so.
6. Go Games rules should be used at county and Diviisional level for all games from u12 down.
Example finals, team sizes, etc

Kilmeena;

1. Kilmeena wish to request Under 8's have dedicated mixed blitzes in 2024.

U12 Format proposal for 2024.

Still to play 13 a side on half pitch from 13m to 13m in temporary goals.

Continue with no scores to be published on social media or our website. Just a one-point win for the winning team.

Under Go Games rules we will continue not to have finals. We need to consider not having medals for all these squads.

All clubs to set up squads,
Each squad to be made up of 13 - 18 players.
Your A squad to be called the Red team.
Your B squad to be called the Green team.
Your C squad to be called the White team.
Your D squad to be called the Orange team.

Red and Green teams to play on Wednesdays. These squads to be made up of primarily U12 players.
White and Orange to play on Fridays. These squads to be used for primarily developing your U11 teams.

We will use the Fridays then to make way for the Táin hurling leagues and swap the Red and Green with the White and Orange during the U13 Táin hurling league.

The white and orange groups shouldn't affect the U13 soccer or the Táin leagues as they are primarily U11 players.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Ronan Kirrane for always being on the end of the phone all year. He has been an excellent help all year. To Con Moynihan whose knowledge of the rule book is profound and was always willing to assist. To Sean MacHale who was a major help in appointing the referees all year. Remember, No Ref, No Game. Give them respect please.

We wish to thank all my fellow officers on the Coiste Bainistí, the CCC and of course the hard-working members of Cóiiste na nÓg.

To Seamus Tuhoy who was very helpful and gave a lot of advice throughout the year, thank you.

To Valarie Murphy and her finance committee, who kept us in check all year as regards spending and was always helpful and we are most grateful for this.

Last but by no means least a very special thanks to Keith in the office and a very special thank you to Michael Cummins in the office for all his hard work. (He prints this, so we always have to be more than nice!)

List of Winners and League toppers in 2023

U16 League Winners,
U16 Division 1. Westport St.Patrick's (Paddy Chambers)
U16 Division 2. Ardnaree Sarsfields (Neil Cooney)
U16 Division 3. Ballintubber (Martin Kennedy)
U16 Division 4. Ballaghaderreen (Vincent Joyce)
U16 Division 5. Lahardane McHales (Sean Tolan)
U16 Division 6. Davitts (John Clancy)
U16 Division 7. Ballinrobe B (Martin Walsh)

U14 League Winners,
U14 Division 1. Westport St.Patrick's (Enda Nolan)
U14 Division 2. Crossmolina (Sean Tolan)
U14 Division 3. Hollymount Carramore (Shane Corcoran)
U14 Division 4. Carras (John Glavey)

U14 Division 5. Shrule Glencorrib (Sean Murphy)
U14 Division 6. Westport St.Patrick's B (Martin Murphy)
U14 Division 7. Parke Keeloges Crimlin (Barry McDonald)
U14 Division 8. Castlebar Mitchels B (Declan Hughes)

U16 Championship Winners,
U16 Division A Crossmolina (Vинny Joyce)
U16 Division B Ballaghaderreen (Martin Walsh)
U16 Division C Balla (Jon Finn)
U16 Division D Lahardane McHales (Padraic Kilboyle)
U16 Division E Swinford (Neil Cooney)

U16 Development winners,
U16 F Westport St.Patrick's B (Shane Corcoran)

U16 A shield Ardnaree Sarsfields (Paddy Chambers)
U16 B shield Béal an Mhuirthead (Peter Geraghty)
U16 C shield Tuar Mhic Eadaigh (John Glavey)
U16 D shield Moy Davitts (Vincent Thomas)
U16 E shield Islandeady (John E Burke)

U14 Championship winners,
U14 Division A Westport St.Patrick's (Sean Tolan)
U14 Division B Breaffy (Mark Tuffy)
U14 Division C Ballaghaderreen (Paddy Chambers)
U14 Division D Burrishoole (Kenny Durcan)
U14 Division E Islandeady (John Clancy)
U14 Division F Claremorris B (Shane Corcoran)

U14 Development winners,
U14 G Ballina Stephenites B (Barry McDonald)
U14 H Breaffy B (Michael McGahon)

U14 A shield Parke Keeloges Crimlin (Michael McGahon)
U14 B shield Claremorris (Padraig Costello)
U14 C shield Carras (Barry McDonald)
U14 D shield Shrule Glencorrib (Enda Nolan)
U14 E shield Westport St.Patrick's C (Declan Hughes)

John West Feile 2023 (U15)
A Westport St.Patrick's (John Glavey)
B Breaffy (John Clancy)
C Parke Keeloges Crimlin (Padraic Kilboyle)

U12 Spring League top team,
Group 1 Westport St.Patrick's and Castlebar Mitchels.
Group 2 Ballina Stephenites.
Group 3 Bohola Moy Davitts, Swinford and Ballaghaderreen.
Group 4 Ballinrobe.
Group 5 Knockmore.

- Group 6 Parke Keeloges Crimlin.
- Group 7 Erris St.Pats.
- Group 8 Kiltimagh.
- Group 9 Tourmakeady.
- Group 10 Shrule Glencorrib.

- U12 Summer League top team,
- Group 1 Ballina Stephenites
- Group 2 Bohola Moy Davitts
- Group 3 Ballaghaderreen
- Group 4 Burrishoole
- Group 5 Erris St.Pats

- U17 Grading League Winners,
- A Castlebar Mitchels (John Glavey)
- B The Neale (John Walker)
- C Davitts (Enda Nolan)
- D Swinford (Kenny Durcan)
- E Burrishoole (Martin Kennedy)

- U17 Connacht Championship
- A Castlebar Mitchels
- B The Neale

- U15 Grading League Winners,
- A Westport (John E Burke)
- B Ballinrobe (Jon Finn)
- C Swinford (Walter Doherty)
- D Tuar Mhic Eadaigh (Mark Tuffy)
- E Louisburg (Paddy Chambers)
- F(Kevin Corcoran)

- U13 Grading League Winners,
- A(Padraig Doherty)
- B(John McHale B)
- C Ardroy (Declan Hughes)
- D Burrishoole (John Clancy)
- E(Sean O'Neill)
- F Claremorris (Pat Conlon)
- G(Declan Leonard)

