

# **Cumann Lúth Chleas Gael Coiste Chontae Mhaigheo**



**Comhthionól Bhliantúil 2022**

**De Domhnaigh - 5ú Nollaig 2021**

**Arás Comhairle Connacht**

**Béacán – Co Maigh Eo**

**Ar tosnú - uair 5 tráthnóna**

Contents	Page(s)
Clár	3
Standing Orders	4
Minutes 2021	5
Secretary's report	9
Competitions Control Committee Report – CCC Report	54
Public Relations Report	68
Chairperson Bord na nOg – Report	72
Secretary Bord na nOg - Report	89
Health and Wellbeing Report	108
Coaching Officers Report	112
Cumann na mBunscoil	133
Secondary Schools Report	135
Hurling Report	137
Handball Report	146
SCÓR & Cultúr	149
Hearings Committee	151
Development Report	153
Mayo Audit & Risk Committee Report	169
Connacht Council Report	172
Central Council Report	173
Childrens Officer Report	174
Infrastructure Report	176
Club Development Draw	178
Nominations to elected office	179
Voting Allocations	180
Motions	181

Clár 2022

1. Opening address and remembrance of deceased members
2. Óráid an Uachtaráin
3. Adoption of Standing Orders
4. Óráid an Chathaoirleach
5. Miontuairiscí 2021
6. Tuairisc an Runaí
7. Tuairisc an Chisteoir
8. Toghachán na hOifí
9. Ruin

## Standing Orders

In order that the proceedings of the Convention are carried out without delay, the following Standing Orders will be strictly observed.

1. The person proposing the Motion/Resolution or Amendment may speak for not more than five minutes.
2. All accredited delegates must not exceed three minutes.
3. The person proposing the Motion/Resolution/Amendment may speak a second time for not more than 3 minutes.
4. The chairperson may at any time consider a Motion/Resolution/Amendment has been sufficiently discussed and call on the proposer for a reply after which a vote must be taken.
5. With the consent of the Chairperson, a delegate may move 'that the question be now put' after which the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
6. Any motion seeking to amend existing bye laws must have a majority equal to two thirds of those present and entitled to vote and voting.
7. Standing orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering a matter not on the Clar except by the consent of a majority of two thirds of those present and entitled to vote
8. The chairperson may change the order of items on the Clar with the consent of a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote and voting
9. A motion may be withdrawn with the permission of the convention.
10. Voting procedures as per Official Guide.



## **2021 MIONTUAIRISCÍ**

Cumann Lúth Chleas Gael Chontae Mhaigheo Comhthionól Bhliantúil 2021 was held via Microsoft Teams from McHale Park. This was a first for Mayo GAA but was necessitated by the onset of the COVID Pandemic

Apologies were received from, Sean Feeney

Chairman, Liam Moffatt welcomed the delegates to Convention and formally got Convention underway with a prayer in remembrance of deceased members. Jerry Henry was wished a speedy recovery.

### **Óráid an Uachtaráin:**

Sean Feeney was unable to attend Convention and, in his absence The Runai, Dermot Butler, read out a speech on behalf of Sean.

Sean thanked Mayo GAA for allowing McHale Park to be used as a Testing Centre.

Sean congratulated Mayo on winning the Connacht Title for the first time in 5 years, he wished the Board all the best for 2021 and wished everyone a pleasant Christmas and a Covid free 2021.

### **Standing Orders:**

Standing Orders were adopted on the proposal of Con Moynihan and seconded by Paul Cunnane

### **Óráid an Cathaoirleach.**

Liam Moffatt in his address to Convention covered the following:

- The Senior team winning the Connacht Title.
- Thanked James Horan, Derek Walsh, Mike Solan, Thaigh Morley and all the Academy Managers for their hard work and dedication to Mayo GAA.
- Thanked the Hurling Review Committee.
- The Club Championship winners were all congratulated.
- All committees were thanked for the work they carried out throughout the year.
- All referees were thanked.
- Clubs were thanked for their help in combating Covid
- Mayo GAA TV had worked very well during the year all involved were thanked.
- The Mayo Associations in London, Dublin and Galway were thanked for their tremendous support.
- All his fellow Officers were thanked along with Michael Cummins and the Press.
- The Cathaoirleach spoke about the difficulties the Board had endured from outside influences which cannot be tolerated.
- Thanked his family for their support over the year

### **Minutes.**

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the previous year's Convention.

The minutes were adopted on the proposal of V. Murphy and seconded by P. Cunnane

### **Tuairisc an Runaí.**

In his report to Convention, An Runaí covered all the following points;

- U-17's, U-20's and Hurling Teams along with their respective team managements were all thanked.
- The Senior team winning the Connacht Title and their run in the Championship culminating in a Final appearance against Dublin. James Horan and his backroom team were thanked.
- The Club Senior, Intermediate and Junior Championships, Connacht Colleges,
- Sub-Committees
- Our Sponsors
- Our Volunteers
- COVID 19

The Runaí thanked our Administrator Michael Cummins, John Prenty and the staff in the Connacht Council Office, Croke Park, County, Divisional and Club Officers for all their help during the year.

The Runaí's report was adopted on the proposal of Johnny Hopkins and seconded by Con Moynihan

**Tuairisc an Chistéoir.**

The Cistéoir Valerie Murphy delivered the Financial report to delegates at Convention. Valerie thanked our Accountant and our Auditors for all their work in preparing the accounts for convention.

The Treasurer's report was adopted on the proposal of V. Neary and seconded by D. Gallagher.

**Toghachán na hÓifig.**

The following Officers were returned for 2021. Proposed by V. Neary and seconded by M. Hegarty.

Nominee	Position	Nominating Club
Sean Feeney	President	Ballintubber/West Board
Liam Moffatt	Chairperson	Crossmolina Deel Rovers
Con Moynihan	Vice- Chairman	Ballaghaderreen
Dermot Butler	Secretary	Crossmolina Deel Rovers
Ronan Kirrane	Asst Secretary	Davitts
Valerie Murphy	Treasurer	Charlestown
Michael Diskin	Asst Treasurer	Castlebar Mitchels
John Walker	PRO	Cill Chomain
Declan O'Reilly	Coaching Officer	Castlebar Mitchels
G. Kelly-Frayne	Cultural Officer	Aghamore
Paddy McNicholas	Central Council	Kiltimagh
John Hopkins	Connacht Council	The Neale
Paul Cunnane	Connacht Council	Davitts

**Ruin:**

**Motion 1.**

For senior Club Championship, a clause is inserted to ensure as far is possible, that teams coming out of the same group should not face each other until the final. (Westport). (being referred to CCC)

Motion 2. In the Club Championships a referee shall not be assigned to referee matches involving the same team on two consecutive rounds. (Westport)

(being referred to CCC)

**A.O.B.**

The Kilmaine Delegate, Donal Walsh, questioned the reasons behind the removal of Tom Reilly as our Commercial Manager. Donal also raised concerns in the proposed appointment of a Financial Controller. The Chairman, Liam Moffatt, outlined that Tom Reilly was not sacked. Tom's contract had not been renewed as Mayo GAA could not afford to retain his services due to the Financial constraints placed on the Board by the onset of COVID 19. The Chairman also outlined the need for a Financial Controller as the workload on volunteers within Mayo GAA was no longer sustainable.

That concluded the business of the meeting.







## **Secretary's Report 2021** **Tuarascáil an Runaí** **2021**

The past 12 months have been strange to say the least, sandwiched in between two Conventions Mayo played in two ALL-Ireland Senior Football Finals and a Nickey Rackard Senior Hurling Final, with the Mayo Hurlers the only team to claim silverware.

In the 2020 Football decider Mayo came up against the mighty Dubs who were simply too good on the day and ran out easy five-point winners with a strong second half performance. In the 2021 decider Mayo faced Tyrone with our lads entering the game as favourites. The expectation amongst the supporters was huge but alas, Tyrone proved too strong on the day and won the game by five points. We had their chances but didn't take them. The torrent of abuse aimed at players on social media in the aftermath of the 2021 Final was nothing short of scandalous.

There is no justification for the abuse. There were other people calling for James Horan's head, others saying that Ciaran Mc and James Burke had walked away, God will we ever learn in this County?

We went through 2021 retaining our Connacht Title, we gained promotion and qualified for an All-Ireland Final but still some elements out there were not satisfied.

What is remarkable is that these people claim to want the best for Mayo GAA but I seriously doubt that. It is very easy to set up a fake twitter account and abuse people from behind a "mask".

Over the past weeks the abuse aimed at Officers of the Board from these very same “key-board” is also unacceptable.

If these so-called people can do a better job let them put their names on the ballot paper, but it’s easier for them to hide behind the afore-mentioned mask and take “pot shots” at people trying to discredit them.

They claim to be Mayo people to me they are cowards.

### **FBD League**

The FBD League was not played in 2021 due to COVID.

### **Allianz League**

Mayo began life outside of Division 1 for the first time since 1997 with a game against Down in McHale Park on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. The silence was deafening as both teams ran out onto the pitch as COVID regulations directed that no spectators were allowed to attend the game.

In truth this game, as the score-line suggested, was very one sided.

Mayo were in command in all sectors of the field and the debutants on show were not out of place.

Mayo’s starting full forward line had a very productive afternoon scoring 2-12 between them. Tommy Conroy and Ryan O’Donoghue were a constant thorn in the side of Down’s defence. Tommy Conroy burst forward in the 13<sup>th</sup> minute showing pace, showing strength and skill to put the ball into the Down net.

Mayo led by 1-10 to 6 points at half time. Mayo continued to pile on the pressure on the restart with early points from the excellent Mattie Ruane, Cillian O’Connor and Bryan Walsh. The game was slipping away from Down and when Ryan O’Donoghue scored Mayo’s second the game was now out of their reach.

The score line now read 2-13 to 6 points in favour of the home side. Torrential rain in the second made it difficult for both teams but Mayo ran out easy winners on a score of 2-21 to 1-11. James Horan was justifiably happy with his team’s performance and if they continue to

play like that their stay in Division 2 will be short lived. Next up for Mayo would be a trip to Cusack Park in Mullingar to take on Westmeath on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of May.

Mayo entered the game against Westmeath as overwhelming favourites after their easy victory the previous week.

Mayo had initially named the same 26 that had lined out against the Mourne men but by the time we arrived in Cusack Park there were 5 changes.

This led to some very unsavoury comments on social media in relation to some players. These comments are unnecessary and do little to support our players who put in a huge effort through-out the year.

Enough said about that and onto the game, Westmeath got off to a flier and had the ball in the Mayo net after 3 minutes. Mayo slowly got into the game but found it difficult to break down a packed Westmeath defence.

At times during the first half there were as many as 28 players inside the Westmeath half. Mayo scored some excellent long-range points in that first half from Eoghan McLoughlin, Conor Loftus, Jordan Flynn and Matthew Ruane.

Paddy Durcan had an excellent afternoon and would go on to score 3 points while also picking up the Man of the Match award.

Westmeath scored their second goal from the penalty spot which resulted in Diarmuid O'Connor receiving a black card for which he can have no excuses.

Westmeath led by 2-5 to 10 points at the break after which Kevin McLoughlin, Bryan Walsh and Colm Boyle were introduced as James Horan attempted to change our fortunes.

All three made significant contributions in the second half.

Westmeath continued to pack their defence during the second half.

Mayo gradually wore them down and entering the home stretch we were 4 points clear.

As the game went into injury time there was only a point between the teams, but Mayo's experience was crucial and we went on to win on a scoreline of 21 points to 2-12.

This game was not won as easily as some people thought. On a more positive point Mayo had qualified for the League semi-final and are one victory away from returning to Division One.



Round 3 of the League would see Mayo go to battle with old rivals, Meath in McHale on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> of May.

As it stood both teams had qualified for the semi-finals so the only issue to be decided was who would top the group.

James Horan rested both Conor Loftus and Paddy Durcan for this encounter with Meath making several changes to their starting 15.

Mayo tore into Meath from the start and would go on to score an impressive 3-11 in the first half. Meath had no answer to the strength and pace of Mayo. James Carr enjoyed his return to a Mayo shirt scoring 2-1 in the first with our third goal coming from the penalty spot thanks to our ace marksman, Cillian O'Connor.

Mayo's defence was solid in that first half and with Mattie Ruane and Diarmuid O'Connor dominant at midfield, our sharpshooters up front including the impressive Darren McHale were scoring with ease.

Mayo emptied the subs bench during the second half.

Paul Towey can be pleased with his return of 3 points. Colm Boyle continued to give a solid display having replaced Lee Keegan at the break. Aidan O'Shea made a welcome return to Mayo colours and added a point to the scoreline.

Mayo appeared to take their foot off the pedal in the second half and allowed Meath back into the game.

Meath outscored Mayo in the second half by 1-8 to 6 points but to be fair the result was never in doubt. Mayo had won the game and topped the group and had done so with relative ease which I'm sure pleased James Horan and his backroom team.

Mayo and Clare were to contest the League semi-final with the winner guaranteed Division One football for 2022.

Mayo travelled to Cusack Park in Ennis on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June to take on Clare.

Mayo never do things the easily was as was the case in Ennis.

Mayo were in complete control during the first half. Goals from Oisin Mullen and Cillian O'Connor eased Mayo into a 2-13 to 8 points lead at half time.

Clare had no answer during that first half to Mayo's pace and physicality.

Aidan O'Shea started his first full game of the season and he proved his worth in that opening half out fielding Clare's Darren O'Neill on numerous occasions.

Lee Keegan, Tommy Conroy, Mattie Ruane, Paddy Durcan, Kevin McLoughlin attacked in waves at every opportunity. The only downside to Mayo excellent first half were the injuries to Cillian and Diarmuid O'Connor.

Cillian's injury would prove to be a season ending one with damage to his Achilles Tendon.

Mayo began the second half as they finished the first and stretched their advantage to thirteen points. The game was done and dusted or so the Mayo faithful thought, but Clare had other ideas, they weren't going to lie down.

Clare struck two goals from long balls that should have been cleared by the Mayo defence. Suddenly the lead had been reduced to 7 points and the longer the game went on the closer Clare were getting.

Clare were getting the upper hand in most sectors of the field and it took the likes of Paddy Durcan, Lee Keegan and Aidan O'Shea to steady the ship.

Mayo went on to win by 2-22 to 2-18.

It is never easy following Mayo as was the case on this occasion, but we had achieved our goal of returning to the top-flight at the first attempt, bigger tests in the weeks ahead would tell us more about what the team have learned during the League campaign.

There would be no League Final meeting with Kildare as it was too close to the Championship opener against Sligo.

Overall, James Horan could be happy with the teams performance during the League, a number of players made their first Senior starts for the County which would stand to them. Well done to the team and Management on getting back to Division 1 next up would be a trip to the Yates County to take on neighbours Sligo.



### **Championship**

Mayo headed to Markievicz Park on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of June to take on Sligo.

The game took on extra significance as Sligo were Managed by Tony McEntee and Coached by Joe Keane both former members of Stephen Rochford's backroom team when Stephen Managed Mayo.

The game itself was really a non-event with Mayo on top in all sectors of the field. This was as poor a performance from Sligo that I can remember.

This was Aidan O'Shea's 70<sup>th</sup> appearance for Mayo and he certainly enjoyed his afternoon scoring 2-2 from play and duly picked up the "Man of the Match" award.

Darren McHale also turned in a fine performance scoring 1-5.

Ryan O'Donoghue took over the free taking duties from the injured Cillian O'Connor and did so to great effect.

This was little more than a work-out for Mayo who thankfully came through the game without any injuries.

Enda Hession was making his Senior Championship debut for Mayo and he can be pleased with effort he put in during the game.

It was hard to see what the Management team learned from the game such was the lack lustre performance from Sligo.

Mayo went on to win on a scoreline of 3-23 to 12 points and if there ever was an argument for a second tier Championship well then this was it.

The game itself will live short in the memory but it will be remembered for two things the first been the game marked Kevin McLoughlins 150<sup>th</sup> appearance in a Mayo shirt a truly wonderful achievement and the second was Robbie Hennelly lining out with his jersey on back-to-front as his normal jersey clashed with Sligo. Next up for Mayo would be a home game against Leitrim on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July.

Mayo took on Leitrim in the Connacht semi-final in McHale Park and the only positive thing to say about the game was that in excess of 2,000 spectators were in attendance.

If ever there was an argument for a second and possible third tier Championship, then this game was surely it.

Physically and tactically, Leitrim were outgunned by a Mayo side that included four Championship debutants. Even a COVID scare within the Mayo Squad couldn't help Leitrim. Even Terry Hyland, the Leitrim Manager, admitted after the game that his charges were outclassed in every sector of the field and they just couldn't deliver.

One could only feel sorry for Leitrim and a trouncing like that will do nothing for their confidence going forward.

Mayo to their credit never lost their focus and went about the game in a workman like fashion. At the end of the first quarter Mayo led by 8 points to 1 and really the game was over. Tommy Conroy, Ryan O'Donoghue and Darren McHale were causing mayhem in the Leitrim defence. The Mayo full forward line scored a combined total of 4 goals and 10 points which was a good return for the afternoon. Mayo were 3-11 to 4 points clear at half time and as much as Leitrim tried to make a game of it in the second half they failed to do so.

Rory Byrne, who was making his long-awaited Championship debut, will never have such a quiet afternoon between the posts for Mayo.

James Horan emptied his bench during the second half where Colm Boyle, James Carr, Fionn McDonagh, James McCormack and Jack Coyne got some much-needed game time.

Mayo went on to win by 5-20 to 8 points, the dejection on the faces of the Leitrim players was evident when the referee blew the final whistle.

Mayo would now turn their attentions to a Connacht Final on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July where old rivals Galway awaited. The talk around McHale Park was that this game could be moved to Croke Park.

16,000 spectators at a sun soaked Croke Park on Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup> were treated to a performance of two halves by Mayo.

The first half that was unforgettable and a second half in which they were truly sublime and brushed Galway away with ease.

Mayo opened the scoring through Mattie Ruane but for the remainder of the half Galway took a vice like grip on the game.

Shane Walsh, Damian Comer and Paul Conroy were pulling the strings that were making Galway tick.

It was Walsh and Comer that scored Galway's goals in the opening half.

Galway were dealt two blows in the first half when they lost Sean Kelly and Robert Finnerty to injury.

Padraig Joyce must have been extremely happy with his sides first-half performance and they led at the break by 2-5 to 6 points.

As both teams ran down the tunnel a brief exchange of handbags took place as players from both sides exchanged pleasantries.

Mayo introduced Kevin McLoughlin and Eoghan McLaughlin at half time for Darren McHale and Bryan Walsh.



Mayo, a totally different team in the second half and outscored Galway by 2 – 8 to 3 points, with all of Galway’s points coming from frees.

Mayo sublime in the second half where Mattie Ruane turned in a man of the match performance.

Indeed, it was a close call between him and Ryan O’Donoghue who also put in a scintillating second half.

Padraig O’Hora had one of his finest games in a Mayo shirt until he was stretchered off in the second half.

Ryan O’Donoghue scored Mayo’s first goal in the second half from the penalty spot after Mattie Ruane was pulled down. Ruane scored Mayo’s second goal after he cut open the Galway defence.

Mayo’s second half performance certainly pleased Manager James Horan but a repeat of their first half exploits in the All-Ireland semi-final will certainly not be good enough.

When referee Conor Lane blew the full-time whistle Mayo had claimed their 48<sup>th</sup> Connacht Title on a historic day in GAA Headquarters. The sizable Mayo contingent in attendance were hoping that it wouldn’t be the last time this year that they would see Aidan O’Shea climb the steps of the Hogan Stand to collect some silverware.

Mayo would move on to play the Leinster Champions in the All-Ireland semi-final.



Mayo returned to Croke Park on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August for an evening throw in against the six-time All-Ireland Champions, Dublin.

A crowd of 24,000 were in attendance.

Dublin went into the game as odds on favourites and many “pundits” predicted that they would simply brush Mayo aside.

Dublin hit the ground running and were dictating the pace of the game. It took Mayo 12 minutes to register their first score from the impressive Mattie Ruane.

By the time the water break came along Dublin led by 6 points to 2.

The absence of Oisín Mullen was obvious and his pace out of defence was sorely missed.

Mayo were guilty of some wayward foot and hand passing and this contributed to Dublin leading by 9 points to 2 approaching the 30<sup>th</sup> minute. At this point Rob Hennelly came forward to land a long-range point only for Ciaran Kilkenny to score Dublin’s 10<sup>th</sup> point of the half.

Mayo were in trouble but Conor Loftus tagged on Mayo’s 4<sup>th</sup> point which was crucial.

As referee Conor Lane blew the half time whistle many people feared what might be in store for Mayo in the second half.

Dublin had cruised through the first half, were 6 points up and as one TV pundit remarked “Mayo might as well pack up and go home”.

There was a sense of calm in the Mayo dressing room at the break, the players knew they hadn’t played well.

As Mayo emerged for the second half no knew what lay in store, Dublin came back onto the pitch with their usual arrogance, but they were about to get a wake-up call like they had never experienced.

The third quarter belonged to Mayo as Ryan O’Donoghue, Lee Keegan and Robbie Hennelly reeled off points for Mayo.

Mayo were right back in the game but were dealt a huge blow when Eoghan McLaughlin was stretchered off in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute after a terrible tackle from John Small.

How the referee didn't issue Small with a straight red card is baffling, how his sideline official Maurice Deegan, didn't advise him on the seriousness of the tackle is also beyond belief.

If ever there was an argument for "VAR" to be introduced into the GAA then this was it. Players should be protected from this type of behaviour.

The incident certainly unsettled the Mayo players and when Dublin extended their lead to five points with twelve minutes remaining it appeared that they had steadied the ship and would see out the game.

However, Mayo were far from done and when Diarmuid O'Connor got his outstretched leg to a Robbie Hennelly free kick and somehow divert it back to Kevin McLoughlin who duly obliged with a superb point it signalled a come-back for Mayo who appeared to be dead and buried. Jordan Flynn, Ryan O'Donoghue and Tommy Conroy landed points for Mayo to leave the minimum between the sides heading into injury time. Dean Rock scored Dublin's 3<sup>rd</sup> point of the half in injury time to leave Dublin 2 points clear.

Ryan O'Donoghue tapped over a free kick leaving 1 point between the sides. Dublin were playing "keep the ball" in near their own goal and when Conor O'Shea forced Dublin to concede a '45 it provided Mayo with one last gasp chance.

Up stepped one of Mayo's hero's Robbie Hennelly, his first effort drifted wide and Mayo's fate appeared to be sealed, however Conor Lane blew his whistle for the kick to be retaken and Mayo were thrown a lifeline.

Robbie placed the ball took his customary steps back, strode forward and struck the ball straight between the posts to leave the scores locked on 13 points a-piece.

Mayo had come back from the dead and we headed for extra time. Mayo now had the bit between their teeth, and they could sense that the Dubs were a bit uneasy.

Sean Bulger got Dublin off to a great start in extra time by scoring the first point but amazingly this would be Dublin's last score of the game.

Mayo were immense in extra time.

Tommy Conroy scored 2 fabulous points, Darren Coen landed one from the sideline at the Cusack Stand and Ryan O'Donoghue finished off the route with a fine point that matched his overall performance.

Neither side scored in the second period of extra time.

Conor Lane finally found his cards and issued 3 black cards to Dublin's Basquill, McCarthy and Lahiff.

As the final whistle blew the crowd erupted into song, the players embraced each other, Dublin's reign as All-Ireland Champions was brought crashing down to earth by the team that earned the right to do so.

Mayo's second half performance was simply superb, who would have thought that they would restrict Dublin to 4 points in 55 minutes of football.

Defensively Mayo choked Dublin in the second half and it was no surprise to see both Pdraig O'Hora and Lee Keegan getting man of the match awards from RTE and SKY Sports.

Mayo had hero's all over the field and we were now 70 minutes from an All-Ireland title.



## All Ireland Final 2021



Mayo headed to GAA Headquarters on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 to take on Tyrone in the All-Ireland Final.

Expectation was high within the County that we would finally cross the line and claim the biggest prize in GAA.

Mayo got off to a flier with Tommy Conroy scoring a point within 14 seconds of the throw in. Ryan O'Donoghue added a close in free a few moments later and you could sense the expectation in the crowd that this was finally going to be our day, however the expectation was short lived.

Tyrone began to get a grip on the game, a grip they would not release.

Turnovers by Tyrone gave momentum to the Ulstermen and three unanswered points had them in front. In the 14<sup>th</sup> minute Mayo were gifted a goal chance when Ryan O'Donoghue found Bryan Walsh in front of goal but his effort was blocked and rebounded to Conor Loftus who's goalward bound effort was blocked by Niall Sludden.

O'Donoghue did level matters a few moments later but another turnover by Tyrone had them 1 point ahead at the first water break.

Kennedy and Kilpatrick were winning the mid-field battle.

Oisín Mullen, Paddy Durcan and Stephen Coen began to drive forward and were causing a few problems for the Tyrone defence.

In the 26<sup>th</sup> minute Mayo were presented with another glorious goal chance when a long ball over the top found Aidan O'Shea who had the goal at his mercy as the Tyrone keeper, Niall Morgan, was off his line.

As O'Shea shot his effort was blocked by Ronan McNamee who dived full length to divert the ball away from goal.

At the other end a few moments later, Robbie Hennelly pulled off a good save to deny McCurry a goal scoring opportunity.

The Tyrone keeper strode forward and converted the resulting 45'.

At the break Tyrone led by 2 points, 10 to 8.

Mayo had, in their previous two games, turned in heroic displays to win both the Connacht Final and All-Ireland semi-final.

Matters seemed to be going to plan, in the 38<sup>th</sup> minute, when Tommy Conroy bore down on goal only to see his effort go wide of the post.

Mayo continued to push forward and in the 41<sup>st</sup> minute were awarded a penalty. The Mayo supporters held their breath as Ryan O'Donoghue strode forward only to see his effort clip the outside of the post and go wide.

A goal would have put Mayo ahead and would have asked questions from Tyrone, but alas it wasn't to be.

A few moments later a long ball in over the top was flicked into the Mayo net by Conor McShane and the momentum of the game changed.

Mayo continued to battle and were only two points behind in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute. A moment later Tyrone delivered a killer blow when McCurry palmed the ball into the Mayo net.

That goal certainly sealed Mayo's fate, there would be no comeback. In the closing moments of the game Mattie Ruane was red carded.

This was borne out of pure frustration.

As Joe McQuillan blew the final whistle Mayo players fell to their knees and the reality of losing another final began to sink in.

This was a game that many had expected Mayo to win but alas our failings came back to haunt us.

Four goal chances missed and some wayward shooting aided in the loss, a loss that is still hard to take.

No stone was left unturned by the Management or indeed the County Board in an effort to finally cross the winning line.

Yes it can be said that the loss of players of the calibre of Cillian O'Connor, Jason Doherty and Eoghan McLoughlin didn't help our cause but we still had enough chances to win the game.

Were we beaten by the better team?, yes we were, Tyrone were extremely well organised and they kept our big players quiet.

Lee Keegan and Stephen Coen were exceptional for Mayo. Stephen has come in for some unwarranted criticism from Mayo fans in the past but he answered those with an outstanding performance.

What can be said about Leeroy that hasn't been said already he is surely the greatest player ever to pull on the red and green jersey.

As one journalist said "one of the most disappointing and shameful aspects of Mayo's defeat to Tyrone has been the level of personal abuse aimed at a small number of Mayo players on social media and in one National paper".

The National paper, which I will not name, nor, will I name the excuse for a journalist who made the comments because, they were totally unnecessary.

These Mayo players owe us nothing, yes we have lost 6 finals in 10 years but nobody feels that pain more than the players themselves.

I have seen at first hand the personal sacrifices that these players have made, and it saddens me that people can react to the players in such a vile manner.

These players have family and friends who read these vile comments and it has a bearing on them as well. It would be bad enough if our players were getting paid like some players across the water, but they are not paid they are considered amateurs and deserve better from a section of our "so-called" fans some of whom I doubt ever kicked a ball in their lives.

I wonder how many of the so-called experts would say the comments they have posted to the faces of the players, I doubt if any of them would because they are cowards.

I would urge people to think twice about posting comments on social media, they may think that some of it is funny, but I can tell you it is not, they wouldn't like it if it was them on the receiving end.

As I've said earlier these players owe us nothing and our day will come I'm sure of that.

To James Horan, Ciaran McDonald, Tom Higgins, James Burke and Martin Lally, I thank you most sincerely for the time and effort you have all put in in an effort to get the team over the line.



To the remainder of the backroom team I also thank you for your efforts during the year, I wish to give special mention to our medical team who as always do a tremendous job.

To the Players I say, hold your heads up high, you have as always done Mayo proud, yes it is extremely disappointing but our day will come and when it does all of the pain will be gone.

Thank you one and all for the effort you put in during the year, it wasn't a bad year we retained our Connacht Title and gained promotion back to Division 1.

A number of players announced their retirements, David Clarke, Chris Barrett, Seamus O'Shea, Keith Higgins, Tom Parsons, Donal Vaughan and in the last two weeks Colm Boyle also hung up his Inter County boots.

To each and everyone of them I say thank you for your loyalty and commitment over the years. If any group of players deserved "Celtic Cross" it was this bunch of players. I also thank your respective families for allowing you time to train and play for Mayo.



### **Junior Team**

This competition was not played in 2021

### **U-20's**

Maurice Sheridan took the reins as Mayo U-20 Manager at the start of 2021 after Mike Solan had stepped down.

Mayo's first outing in the competition was against old rivals Galway in Tuam.

Mayo went into the game as underdogs as Galway were the reigning All-Ireland Champions in this age group.

Mayo were the better team throughout and in reality should have closed the game out in normal time.

This was not a high scoring game and after 22 minutes the teams were deadlocked. The teams would go in at half time with Galway marginally in front by 3 points to 2.

Within 10 minutes of the restart Mayo had tagged on 4 points and were justifiably in front but only just.

When referee John Gilmartin blew the whistle at the end of normal time the teams were level and were heading for extra time.

Galway got off to a flyer in extra time when they converted a penalty kick. This would prove to be Galway's only score in extra time as Mayo fought bravely to reel them back in.

At the end of extra time the teams could still not be separated, and we were heading for penalties for the second year in a row.

Jack Mahon, Connell Dempsey, Conor Flynn, Paddy Heneghan and Cian McHale were the five players selected by Maurice Sheridan to take the Mayo penalties. After five players from each team had taken 5 penalties each, they were still level on four goals a-piece and we went to sudden death.

Both teams scored their first two penalties in sudden death before Galway Captain Tony Gill, whose parents are both from Crossmolina, had his penalty brilliantly saved by Mayo Keeper Ronan Connolly.

Conor Flynn was up next for Mayo and he had to walk nearly out to the corner flag to retrieve the ball before he calmly placed it on the spot and blasted it to the net.

Mayo had done to Galway what they had done to Mayo on a rain-soaked McHale Park twelve months earlier.

The excitement and relief among the Mayo players and Management was understandable.

They would now go on to face Roscommon in the Connacht Final.



Mayo were favourites to win the Connacht U-20 title after defeating All-Ireland Champions Galway in the semi.

Mayo dominated the first quarter and really should have been more ahead at the water break. On the resumption of play Roscommon were a totally transformed outfit. They scored the next five points and didn't allow Mayo any time on the ball.

Mayo looked totally bereft of ideas and were unable to produce the football they had played before the water break. Roscommon led by five points to four at half time and the Mayo supporters lucky enough to get tickets were hoping for a much improved performance in the second half.

The improvement never materialised and Mayo were a pale shadow of the team that had defeated Galway a week earlier.

Roscommon's first goal arrived in the 42<sup>nd</sup> minute and when luck is on your side everything goes your way, it appeared it should have been a free out to Mayo.

Mayo were handed a life line moments later when we were awarded a penalty after Connell Dempsey was fouled in the square.

Mayo Captain Jack Mahon, stepped forward to take the spot kick but his effort was saved by the Roscommon net minder.

The penalty save drove Roscommon on as Mayo wilted.

At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Roscommon were 7 points ahead. Roscommon's 2<sup>nd</sup> goal came courtesy of forward James Fitzpatrick but in fairness the game was well and truly over before that goal.

Mayo were awarded a second penalty late on which was converted by the impressive Connell Dempsey but it was too little too late for Mayo.

Roscommon ran out comfortable winners on a score line of 2-11 to 1-7.

It was truly a disappointing evening for the Mayo players and Management who would have had eyes on a possible All-Ireland final after disposing of the All-Ireland Champions a week earlier.

Hopefully, the Players will learn from the experience and that it will stand to them in the future.

I would like to thank the Players, Maurice Sheridan and his backroom team for the effort they all put in in a very short year, COVID restrictions certainly did not help with preparations.



### Hurling

Mayo's League campaign began with the visit of Derry to McHale Park.

Keith Higgins who had retired from Inter County Football threw his lot in with the County Hurlers for 2021 and was team Captain.

Derry went into the game as favourites as they had nine players from the Slaughtneil Club in their ranks.

At the end of the first quarter Mayo led by five points to two and were, helped by the strong breeze.

Mayo tightened their grip on the game for the remainder of the half and led by ten points to five.

Derry started the second half with a flourish and scored 3 points without reply. Mayo managed to steady the ship with scores from Sean Regan and Keith Higgins.

Mayo held on in the end to win by two points on a score line of 0-21 points to 1-16 with Shane Boland turning in a man of the match performance. One of the talking points after the game was the point scored in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute by Mayo Goalkeeper Gerald Kelly.

Kelly played a short puck out to Stephen Coyne, got the return, and launched a missile, from just outside the edge of his own square, it sailed over the bar at the other end.

It is probably the longest score ever in McHale Park and there's many the amateur golfer, including yours truly, who would be happy to drive the ball that distance. Next up for Mayo would be a trip to "The Hyde" to take on the Rossies.

Mayo took on Roscommon in Round 2 of the League on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> of May. Mayo made it two wins from two outings with a confident display against our near neighbours.

A strong burst in the minutes leading up to half time laid the foundations for Mayo's victory. Mayo led by eleven points to five at the break. The win put them in a strong position to retain their Division 2B status. Keith Higgins was obviously relishing his return to County Hurling turning in another impressive performance scoring 1-4. Keith was ably assisted by Stephen Coyne, Cathal Freeman and the highly impressive newcomer to the Mayo ranks, Pearse McCrann.

Mayo ran out comfortable winners on a score of 1-20 to 1-9.

Derek Walsh was pleased with the way his charges applied themselves during the game.

Mayo's next outing would be a trip to Letterkenny to take on Donegal.

A win against Donegal would set up a top of the table clash against Kildare in McHale Park



Mayo travelled to Donegal on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of May and were hoping to turn the tables on the Tir Chonaill men who had robbed them of All-Ireland glory in December 2020.

Mayo were dealt a huge blow before the game and were forced to line out without their Captain Keith Higgins.

Mayo were no match for Donegal's physicality.

Donegal were well in control when they had the ball in the Mayo net twice within 30 seconds in the first half.

It took all of twenty-five minutes for Mayo to register their second score. Donegal led by 3-7 to 6 points at the break.

Things did not improve for Mayo in the second half. Donegal had the luxury of taking off most of their main players and this enabled a disillusioned Mayo side to tag on some needed scores.

Mayo were simply not good enough and the gulf in physicality was evident. Mayo would enter their final League game, against table-toppers Kildare, in the knowledge that only a victory would enable them to progress in the competition.

Mayo took on Kildare in McHale Park on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of June with the winners guaranteed to be crowned as Division 2B League Champions.

Uachtarán Larry McCarthy attended the game and duly presented the trophy to the winning Captain.

Mayo went into the game as rank outsiders against high-fliers Kildare. The game began at a frantic pace and to the surprise Mayo were well worth their eight-point lead as half time approached.

Mayo were dealt an early blow when Conor Daly had to go off injured in the fifth minute. At the water break Mayo led by 1-7 to 4 points with our goal coming from the busy Sean Regan.

Mayo goalkeeper Bobby Douglas pulled off a great save from a Jack Sheridan penalty. Jack Sheridan was one of the class Kildare players on the pitch and he duly showed that class when he converted two side-line cuts.

Kildare got a crucial goal just before half time to leave the scores at the break 1-14 to 1-9 in favour of Mayo.

Kildare came out with all guns blazing in the second half.

They scored 7 points without reply and it was obvious that Mayo were struggling to compete with a physically superior Kildare outfit.

Kildare kept their foot on the pedal and never let Mayo back into the game. Kildare went on to win on a scoreline of 2-24 to 1-19.

Derek Walsh can be pleased with the way that Mayo competed during the League and would now set about getting his charges ready for the Championship opener against Donegal on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June.

Mayo travelled to Letterkenny to take on Donegal in the opening round of the Nickey Rackard Championship.

Mayo would go into the game as underdogs having lost to the same opposition earlier in the League. This was a game that Donegal had in the bag, they led by four points on 69 minutes. Mayo snatched victory with crucial scores from Keith Higgins and Shane Boland.

Donegal to be fair had missed glorious chances in the first half and that came back to haunt them.

Donegal led by four points to 2 at the end of the first quarter and had moved 5 points clear on 26 minutes. Mayo were now struggling to contain Donegal.

Adrian Phillips gave Mayo hope when he scored Mayo's first goal leaving the score at half time 9 points to 1-4 in favour of the hosts.

Mayo gradually got themselves back into the game and were just three points behind going down the final stretch. The game was entering the final minute when Mayo Captain Keith Higgins scored an outrageous point from out near the side-line.

A short-time later the same player scored Mayo's second goal.

Mayo were now in the driving seat and Shane Boland made sure of victory with three unanswered points. Mayo's next opponents would be Leitrim in McHale Park.

Mayo took on Leitrim in Round 2 of the Nickey Rackard Championship in McHale Park on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July.

The game itself took a while to get going and after 17 minutes both teams were locked on five points a-piece.

Mayo took control of the game after that and were 14 points to 7 ahead at half time.

Shane Boland struck three points immediately after the break and this killed off any thoughts of a Leitrim fightback.



Shortly after scoring his third point of the second half Shane Boland received a straight red card from the Referee.

Mayo were dominant in all sectors of the field and had to line out without the injured Cathal Freeman, Pearse McCann and Conor Daly. Mayo went on to a 0-29 points to 0-10 win.

Leitrim were very poor and the game itself was little more than a training session for Mayo. Mayo to their credit stuck to the task in hand and set themselves up for a semi-final on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of July. Derek Walsh and his management would-be justifiably encouraged by the performance of the team and would hopefully have a full squad to choose from for the semi-final.

Mayo travelled to Pairc Sean MacDiarmada in Carrick-on-Shannon to take on Armagh in the semi-final of the Nickey Rackard Cup.

Mayo were hoping for a consecutive appearance in the final of the competition.

Mayo Captain Keith Higgins opened the scoring for the side and a few moments later the same player set up Cathal Freeman for Mayo's opening goal.

The opening half was an exciting game of hurling as the game flowed from end to end and both sides landing wonderful scores.

Armagh led at half time by 2-5 to 1-7 with their second goal coming just before the break.

Mayo upped the ante in the second half and were led superbly by Keith Higgins who scored his side's first five points of the half.

Mayo led by three points at the water break on a score of 1-14 to 2-8.

Mayo, like a team possessed in the final quarter of the game and outscored Armagh by 9 points to 1.

Adrian Phillips put the icing on the cake when he rattled home Mayo's second goal near the end as Mayo overturned a 1 point half time deficit into a 14 point victory.

Mayo through to the final where they would take on Tyrone.



### **Nickey Rackard Final**

Mayo travelled to Croke Park on the last Saturday in July to take on Tyrone in the 2021 Nickey Rackard Cup final.

Mayo produced their best performance to take the honours.

If the truth be known the game was well and truly over at half time as Mayo produced a powerful display in the opening thirty-five minutes.

Keith Higgins, the Mayo Captain rolled back the years and turned in a truly inspiring performance.

“Zippy” has had much heartache in Croke Park but, climbing the steps of the Hogan Stand to collect The Nickey Rackard Cup one could see the joy on his face.

Early points from Shane Boland and Higgins eased Mayo into the game. Five minutes into the game and Sean Regan rattled the Tyrone net for Mayo’s first goal.

Mayo led by 1-7 to 4 points at the water break. Shortly after the restart Tyrone were awarded a penalty and Mayo were reduced to fourteen players for ten minutes as full back Michael Morley was sent to the side-line.

Mayo goalkeeper pulled off a great save from the resulting penalty.

Mayo scored seven points without reply from there to half time and led by 1-15 to 0-5 points at the break and were on the road to victory.

On the restart Higgins scored a sublime point that epitomised his overall display.

Conor Grugan scored a goal for Tyrone inside the opening 10 minutes of the second-half but it did little to raise the spirits of the Ulster men.

Cathal Freeman scored Mayo's second goal and we could afford to miss a penalty at the hands of the same player.

Mayo led by 2-19 to 1-9 by the end of the third quarter, rarely has a Mayo team had such dominance on the hallowed turf of Croke Park.

Mayo used their five substitutes in the last quarter. Mayo ran out the easiest of winners on a score of 2-27 to 1-14. The scenes of excitement as the referee sounded the final whistle will live long in the memory.

What a week it had been, our Senior Footballers had, a week earlier, defeated Galway at Headquarters to retain the Nestor Cup and now we had Keith Higgins climb the steps of the Hogan Stand to collect the Nickey Rackard Cup from GAA President Larry McCarthy.

Mayo Manager Derek Walsh and his backroom team could be justifiably proud of their charges. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Derek and his Management team for all the work they have put in over the past 12 months. I also wish to acknowledge the efforts of the players both on and off the pitch, they represented Mayo with huge pride and dignity throughout the year and got their just rewards by capturing a National Title.



## County Competitions



### Connacht Gold Senior Football Championship

COVID 19 also an impact with our Senior, Intermediate and Junior Championships as attendances were to be limited.

The Championship did not commence until the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.

The Knockmore Team were the reigning Senior Champions and fancied by many to retain their title.

There were some superb games in the round robin series of the Senior Championship most notably Belmullet's win over the Champions in the second round in Tallagh.

There were some interesting pairings in the quarter finals, Knockmore v Ballintubber, Breaffy v Belmullet, Westport v Ballina ad Garrymore v Castlebar.

Belmullet were starting to raise a few eyebrows as they had topped their group and then toppled Breaffy.

In the end Belmullet, Knockmore, Garrymore and Westport would qualify for the semi-finals.

In two closely contested semi-finals Knockmore got the edge on Garymore while Belmullet overcame many people's favourites Westport, to book their place in the decider. This would be Belmullet's first appearance in the Senior Final since 1981.

The Senior Final fixed for Ballina as McHale Park was out of commission.

The atmosphere in the Stephenites on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of November was electric. The crowd arrived early and by the time both teams took to the pitch you could sense the air of optimism especially from the large Belmullet gathering. The game got off to a slow start and at half time the score was 1-2 to 1 point in favour of Knockmore, their goal coming deep into injury time. Belmullet tried hard to get a grip on the game, but Knockmore were on top in most areas of the field. At the end of the game Knockmore had won back-to-back titles which is no mean achievement. They were the better team through out and the Erris men can have no complaints. This is a very young Belmullet side and should they stay together they will bring the Moclair Cup across Corrick Bridge in the very near future.

Kiltane were relegated to the Intermediate grade for 2022 after losing a close Relegation play-off against Balla.



### **Egan Jewellers Intermediate Championship**

The Intermediate Championship got underway at the end of September and would prove to be as exciting as the Senior grade. Ballyhaunis, Louisburgh, Mayo Gaels and Kilmaine won their respective quarter finals. Mayo Gaels overcame a disappointing Kilmaine team by five points while Ballyhaunis had 2 points to spare over Louisburgh in their respective semi-finals. The Intermediate Final was played on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November in Charlestown and those in attendance were treated to an enthralling contest. It seemed for long periods that the Cup would be heading to Ballyhaunis but Mayo Gaels put in a late surge to score seven of the last eight points to snatch victory by two points.

Ballyhaunis led by 0-8 points to 1-1 at half time. Mayo Gaels put in a sterling second half performance and took the lead in the closing stages. Ballyhaunis had two players black carded towards the end of the game which did not help their cause. As the final whistle blew the Mayo Gaels players and supporters alike jumped for joy as they had won the Intermediate title for the first time in 23 years.

Swinford, relegated to the Junior ranks for 2022 after Lahardane beat them by seven points in the relegation play-off Final.



### **The TF Royal Hotel and Theatre Junior Championships**

This year's Junior A Championship commenced at the end of September with Kilmeena being many peoples favourites for the Junior crown.

Cill Chomain, Shrule-Glencorrib, and Islandeady all qualified for the semi-finals of the competition having come through their respective quarter finals.

The Junior A Final was contested between Cill Chomain and Kilmeena on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November in Crossmolina. A large crowd was in attendance and they weren't disappointed as both teams left everything on the pitch.

Kilmeena raced into an early lead, but Cill Chomain weren't there to make up the numbers. After 18 minutes the Cill Chomain men were 2 points up and an upset was on the cards.

However, Kilmeena had other ideas and on the stroke of half time they had the ball in the Cill Chomain net and went in at the break leading on a score line of 1-6 to 1-2. Try as they might in the second half Cill Chomain just couldn't turn the game around, they needed a second goal but it never arrived.

The scenes of elation, when referee Paul Lydon blew the final whistle, will live long in the memory of the large Kilmeena support that was in attendance. Kilmeena had hung on for a famous victory but they were made work all the way for it by a gallant Cill Chomain team.

COVID meant that the Exclusive Junior B Final of 2020 between Kilfian and Tuar Mhic Eadaigh was not played until the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2021.

The game was played in McHale Park and the only pity was that the attendance was limited as Kilfian went on to win by four points (0-15 to 0-11) and claim a first ever County title. It was a truly wonderful occasion and epitomised the values of a small rural Club to a Community, well done to all involved.

The 2022 decider was played between Tuar Mhic Eadaigh and Eastern Gaels on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of September in Claremorris. Eastern Gaels ran out easy winner of this contest despite finishing the game with 12 players.

TuarMhic Eadaigh scored a late goal to bring an air of respectability to the score line 2-12 to 1-8 in favour of the Gaels.

Eastern Gaels led by 1-7 to 4 points at half-time and it was always going to be an uphill battle for Tuar Mhic Eadaigh from there-on.

As in all other Finals there were jubilant scenes among the Eastern Gaels contingent when the referee blew the final whistle.

The other Junior Championship Competition winners were as follows:

New Junior B – Knockmore B, New Junior B – Belmullet B and New Junior C – Mayo Gaels B.

The County League Competitions Commenced on the weekend of the 7<sup>th</sup> of August with Divisions 1 to 5 divided into A and B Sections, Division 6 was divided into Groups A, B, C and D. The winners of the groups were as follows: 1A Ballina Stephenites, 1B Breaffy, 2A Louisburgh, 2B Ballinrobe, 3A Ballyhaunis, 3B Islandeady, 4A Castlebar B, 4B Achill, 5A Claremorris B, 5B Ballycastle, 6A Kiltimagh B, 6B Belmullet B, 6C Parke Kellogues/Crimlin and 6D Balla B.

It was disappointing that so many games were conceded in the Michael Walsh League. The following were the winners in the various Leagues – Senior Charlestown Sarsfields, Intermediate Castlebar Mitchels B and Junior Shrule-Glencorrib

The County Cup Competition was not completed this year again due to COVID restrictions.

### **Comortás Péil na Gaeltachta**

Due to COVID19 this competition was not played in 2021.

### **Bord na nOg**

Bord na nÓg competitions took place throughout the year and I wish to acknowledge the effort of the Bord na nOg Executive Committee with a special mention for Daithi Gallagher and Ronan Kirrane.

The Chairman and Secretary of Bord na nOg, will deal with matters in more detail in their respective reports.

### **Connacht Colleges**

It was extremely disappointing that Croke Park did not allow the All-Ireland D Colleges Final to take place. The two competing Schools, St Josephs from Foxford and St Colmcilles from Leinster took it upon themselves to stage the game without the approval of Croke Park.

I wish to compliment both Schools for taking the initiative in this matter and it speaks volumes on the manner in which Croke Park dealt with the situation.



Schools football has been badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic with no games taking place. The good news is that the Connacht GAA Colleges Championships are due to recommence in January 2022. These competitions will be played on a knockout basis.

In the meantime, the Mayo Post Primary Schools Competitions started back in October with First Year, Juvenile, Junior and Senior levels at A, B, C and D grades all taking place. These championships are now reaching their business end and there have been some great games to date.



### **Féile**

In 2021 Feile celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Special Medals commissioned for the winners of the various Competitions in each County.

Feile Hurling 2021 increased to the U-15 age-group to include the group of players who lost out in 2020. Feile Hurling in Mayo saw five teams take part namely Claremorris, Castlebar, Westport, Tooreen & St Ciarans. Claremorris beat Castlebar in the Feile A final, while Tooreen beat St Ciarans in the Feile B final.

As part of this year's National Feile, one team from each county was chosen to take part in an exhibition game in Croke Park. The lucky team chosen from Mayo GAA was Tooreen Hurling Club and they participated in Croke Park against Ballyea (Clare) on Saturday 23rd October.

### **Scór**

There were no Scor competitions held during 2021 as Covid restrictions for indoor capacity meant our usual Scór competitions could not take place.

Many Clubs got involved with the online quizzes which were very successful.

The 2020 All-Ireland Scor Finals were held in the Dome at the Centre of Excellence in Began on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2021. I wish to thank John Prenty for making the venue available.

I wish to thank Grainne Kelly-Frayne and her Committee for their work during the year.

### **Sub Committees**

The CCC Committee continues to run the Football and Hurling competitions within the County. Con Moynihan continues to Chair the Committee and as in 2020, 2021 was again a difficult year to run competitions due to the Covid pandemic.

The Michael Walsh Competition proved to be a very difficult Competition to run due to the amount of games that were conceded. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of each member of the Committee for the extremely difficult work they carried out during the year.

I wish to thank the Hearings Committee under Chairman Mattie Joe Connolly and Secretary Tod O'Mahony who are always available, sometimes at very short notice, to adjudicate on matters.

### **Coaching**

Declan O'Reilly is our Coaching Officer and works closely with Billy McNicholas on all Coaching matters within the County. A tremendous amount of work was carried out with our Academy teams during the year, and I would like to thank all the Coaches involved. Kieran Kilkenny has been appointed as a Performance GDA for Mayo GAA and he is wished well in his new appointment. A replacement will have to be sourced to fill the Coaching role in South Mayo and this appointment must be prioritised by Mayo GAA.

Declan continues to excel in his role as Coaching Officer and I wish to thank him for all the work he has done in this area over the past twelve months.



**GAA Coach Education**

**Handball-** Mayo GAA handball continues to operate under the stewardship of Michael Heraty. It is sometimes a forgotten piece of the GAA jigsaw and I believe more needs to be done by Mayo GAA to promote the game. I would hope that in early 2022 we can sit down with Michael and plan a way forward for the promotion of Handball.

Thanks to Michael for your work on Handball during 2022.

**PRO** – John Walker is our PRO and has done a great promoting Mayo GAA through Social Media Channels.

Through John's tremendous work the Mayo GAA audience has grown significantly over the past twelve months. This was John's first year as our PRO and he took to his new task like a duck to water. John has built up a good relationship with both Local and National media. Mayo GAA TV continues to broadcast our Championship games and has gone from strength to strength which is in no small part due to John's work in this area over the past twelve months. I wish to thank John and his PR Committee for their work during the year.

**Connacht Council/Central Council** – Paul Cunnane and Johnny Hopkins are our Connacht Council representatives and I thank them for their work through the year. Paddy McNicholas is our Central Council delegate and has been our voice at the Management table in Croke Park. I would like to thank Paddy for his work during the year.

**Planning and Development Committee** – Mary Prenty is our Planning and Development Officer. Mary has done great - work throughout the year in organising various training seminars for Club Officers. As planning and Development Officer Mary was instrumental in streamlining the GAA email addresses for Club Officers. Mary also had the added responsibility of being our Covid Officer which was a difficult task at times. I would like to thank Mary and her Committee for their efforts during 2021.

**Infrastructure** - Michael Diskin has done an absolutely fantastic job as our Infrastructure Officer. Michael has overseen the resurfacing of McHale Park, the Lough Lannagh Project while also having time to run the Club Development Draw and looking after the player expenses. Michael is also a driving force behind the Sustainable Energy Community (SEC)

Plan for McHale Park. This plan will cover the 5 pillars (Energy, Water, Waste, Transport and Biodiversity) of the Green Club initiative and should identify a number of potentially significant savings as well as new income streams possibilities and new funding/grant opportunities. As this is the first SEC involving the GAA, it is seen nationally by the GAA and SEAI as a pilot initiative Thank you Michael for your tremendous work during the year which is very much appreciated.

**Childrens Officer** – Padraig Carolan is our Childrens Officer and he has carried out his duties in exemplary fashion during the year. Padraig dealt with a number of issues during the year in relation to safeguarding, in Clubs around the County. These issues broadly related to disputes between Coaches, young players and parents and in the main were down to a lack of game time given to some players.

**Hurling** – The Hurling Committee under the stewardship of Jimmy Connor continues to do great work in the promotion of Hurling within the County.

A review of Hurling structures was carried out this year and it is hoped to implement many of the recommendations contained in the review.

I would like to thank Jimmy and his Committee for all their work during. I would also like to thank Thaigh Morley who is stepping don from his position as Secretary of the Hurling Board.

Ciara Buckley also stepped down earlier in the year from her position as Hurling PRO, I wish to thank Ciara for all the work she did during her time as PRO.

**Refereeing** - Denis Harrington has done a tremendous amount of work in organising referee's and sideline Officials for games during the year. Denis continues to search for new referees throughout the County so any Clubs that wish to nominate people can they please make contact with Denis. I wish to thank Denis for all the work he has done during 2021.

**Culture** - Grainne Kelly-Frayne continues to do tremendous work as our Cultural Officer. I would like to thank Grainne and her Committee for their work during the year. Work continues to go on behind the scenes in relation to our history project. The Internal picture project for McHale Park has also been carried-out by the Committee and hopefully the pictures will be in place when McHale Park re-opens for games in May of 2022.

**Bord na nÓg** - Bord na nÓg continue to organise underage fixtures within the County. In 2021, the Bord na nÓg Executive administered 1,448 games over a period of 142 days which is a credit to the administration capabilities of the Committee. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Committee throughout the year

**Cairde Mhaigh Eo Fundraising**- I would like to thank our Cairde Mhaigh Eo fundraising Committee who were behind some very beneficial fundraising events throughout the year. The “buy a tile” fundraiser raised much needed funds to enable us resurface McHale Park. There were Golf Classics held in Claremorris and Dublin which were well supported.

It is hoped to expand our Golf Classics in 2022 to the US and Dubai. I would like to thank Ciaran O’Hara and his hard-working Committee for all their work on fundraising during the year. I also wish to acknowledge the significant financial contribution of Cairde Mhaigh Eo in London, your financial support is very much appreciated.

**Health and Well-being** – Niall Dunne continued to lead our Health and Wellbeing Committee in 2021.

Niall and his team worked tirelessly throughout the year to assist Clubs across the County. The promotion of the “Healthy Club programme” was very well-received by Clubs. I would like to thank Niall and his Committee for their work throughout what was a difficult year due to the pandemic.

**Finance** - Valerie Murphy is our Treasurer and as you will see from the accounts that will be presented to Convention Mayo GAA is in a very satisfactory financial position. I would like to thank Valerie for the work that she has done during the year.

The Purchase Order System which Valerie was instrumental in setting up continues to keep a grip on expenditure.

I would also like to thank our Audit and Risk Committee for the very important work they have done throughout the year.

**Club Insurance and Player Injury** - I wish to acknowledge the work that the late Paddy Muldoon carried out in these areas over the years, his willingness and advice to Clubs was invaluable. Paddy will be sorely missed by all.



**Coiste Bainisti** – The backbone of Mayo GAA is our Coiste Bainisti. This group of volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the affairs of Mayo GAA run smoothly. Many of our meetings were held via Microsoft teams which was not always ideal. I want to thank all members of the Committee for their cooperation throughout the year.



### **Congress and Special Congress 2021**

Congress took place on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of February and like our own Convention in December 2020, it took place via video conferencing rather than the usual format due to Covid-19 restrictions.

48 Motions had been drafted, but 10 of those motions were deferred until a Special Congress later in the year when delegates would hopefully, once again able to meet in person.

It was felt that these motions – motions 1, 3, 9, 11, 18, 19, 29, 35, 36, and 37 – were too important to be debated properly in a video conferencing setting.

Larry McCarthy was installed as Uachtarán of Chumann Luthchleas Gael.

GAA Special Congress 2021 was held on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October in Croke Park.

In total there were 10 motions on the Clár that were all deferred from GAA Congress 2021. The two motions that caused the most debate were the one's surrounding the changes in the Championship, motions 18 and 19. Motion 18 was soundly beaten so attention turned to Motion 19.

There were numerous speakers both for and against the motion. Mayo as mandated by our Clubs voted against both Motions. Motion 19 did not receive the 60% required to change the Championship structure and was duly defeated. I believe that Motion 19 was poorly drafted.

While most people will agree that the Championship in its current structure is not sustainable and requires change, the two motions brought before Special Congress were not the answer. Teams winning Championship games by 20-25 points do nothing to promote the game in the weaker Counties. There has to be serious consideration given to having a structure similar to that of our counterparts in the Ladies Association where they have a Senior, Intermediate and Junior Championship and all Counties compete against teams of a similar strength.

The Provincial Championships are an integral part of the GAA calendar and must be retained. It's very easy to have a knee-jerk reaction to situations but I believe the hierarchy in Croke Park must engage in meaningful dialogue to bring about a change in the Championship that will be acceptable to all.

### **Club Development Draw**

The Club Development Draw, as always is an important source of income for both the County Board and Clubs alike. In 2021 a total of 6,615 tickets were sold, up 451 on 2020.

A total of 471 tickets were sold online. A total of 5 Clubs were visited to conduct the draws in 2021. All prize money was paid out to clubs by 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.

In 2021, the value of the Draw to Clubs was €376,020 while value to Mayo County Board was €283,280 of which €111,500 constituted the prize fund leaving a net value of €171,780 to the County Board.



### **Cúl Camps**

Cul Camps this year proved to be very successful with fifty-two camps ran over a six-week period during July and August.

6585 children took part and over 200 coaches were required in order to run the camps successfully. This year the camps were run under the Covid-19 Public Health Guidelines and some of these protocols will be retained into the future in particular the Club/Camp planning processes which worked very well. The policy of all payments made on-line with no walk-ins permitted on the day will also be kept.



Overall the camps were great success. A big thank you must go to our full time and part time Coaches, Clubs, Parents and in particular the children for making them a most enjoyable experience for all concerned.

We have received numerous compliments from parents and club personnel on the very professional manner and excellent organisation of the Cul Camps in Mayo for 2021

During the Halloween Break Mayo GAA Coaching and Games, in conjunction with Mayo Sports Partnership held the first ever “Kellogg's GAA Cul Camp For All” in the Indoor Dome at the Connacht GAA Centre. This proved a very popular camp with 34 children from all over the county taking part.

### **Stewards**

I would like to thank our Chief Steward, Paddy McNicholas, and all Stewards for all their help at our games during 2021. There were a number of new stewards trained this year which was very welcome indeed.

I would like to thank our Development Officer, Mary Prenty, who in conjunction with Paddy and Croke Park organised the training for new stewards.

### **Sponsorship**

A sincere thank you to all our sponsors whose financial support throughout the year has proved invaluable to the County Board.

Connacht Gold sponsored the Senior Football Championship, Eddie Egan Jewellers sponsored the Intermediate Championship and the TF Hotel sponsored the Junior Championship.

Homeland continued to sponsor our underage competitions and Smyths Toys have increased their sponsorship of the underage academies.

To the Companies that sponsor signage around the pitch in McHale Park I thank you one and all for your continued support.

Elvery's continue to be our main sponsor and I want to thank them and Pat Rowland for all their help. I would like to thank Hastings Insurance who are the new Stadium Sponsors and Corduff Travel who are our new Travel Partners. It is hoped to bring new category sponsors on board in 2022.

### **Centre of Excellence**

The Centre of Excellence at Lough Lannagh will now not proceed. Mayo County Council carried out an Environmental Impact study on the site which outlined that the site of the proposed pitches were in the middle of a Special Area of Conservation and also the area was prone to flooding.

When the project was initially mooted it was hoped to build 4-5 pitches with dressing rooms etc. When the Council produced their Study, the pitches were down to two, 250m apart with no room for dressing rooms.

The site, as decided by the Clubs, was deemed unsuitable for the needs of Mayo GAA. I wish to stress that the decision not to proceed with the project at Lough Lannagh is not a "swipe" at any individual or previous Officers of the Board. The site is simply not suitable and while the plans for Lough Lannagh have been shelved, the concept of a Centre of Excellence for Mayo GAA is still very much on the agenda and will be revisited in the near future.



### **Bereavements**

During the past year we lost some people who had devoted their lives to the GAA and more importantly Mayo GAA, we remember them all in our thoughts. It would be remiss of me not to mention our Patron, Paddy Muldoon who passed away, Paddy gave over 50 years of his life both Locally and Nationally, PJ McGrath also passed away during the year and like Paddy, PJ gave a lifetime of devotion both in Administration and also as a Referee. Paddy Prendergast was another that went to his eternal reward, Paddy was the last surviving player from the great Mayo team of 1950 and 1951.

To all those who suffered bereavement during the year may I, on behalf of Mayo GAA, offer our sincere condolences to all.

### **Conclusion**

Convention this year will see a number of changes in Personnel. With that in mind it is disappointing that our Chairperson, Liam Moffatt is stepping down. I have worked closely with Liam over his two years in Office and I will be sorry to see him go. Liam brought a new energy to the office of Chairperson, he quickly set about reforming the way in which Mayo GAA conducts its business. Liam was instrumental in laying down codes of practice in relation to fundraising and sponsorship, the Operations Manual was another brainchild of Liam's and will prove to be a very beneficial document for years to come. I wish Liam, his wife Grainne and

his two girls all the very best for the future and I do hope he continues to be involved in the GAA in some shape or form.

The resurfacing of McHale Park has taken place and it is hoped that the pitch will be ready for competitive Football and Hurling in May of 2022. It does mean that Mayo Footballers will have to play their National League games outside of the County. This is an unfortunate set of circumstances but one that is outside of our control.

It is hoped that our Hurlers will be able to play their League games in either Ballina or Tooreen.

The loan repayments on McHale Park continue to be a huge strain on the finances of the Board. We have actively engaged in dialogue with the Finance Department in Croke Park in an effort to find a repayment plan that is suitable to all concerned.

Overall, it has been a good year for Mayo GAA, our Footballers gained promotion back to Division 1 for 2022, retained the Connacht Title and reached the All-Ireland Final. Our Hurlers won the Nickey Rackard Cup which was a good return for their efforts during the year.

A lot of work has been done by James Horan and his Management team over the past three years and it saddens me that some people are hell bent on dragging Mayo GAA through the mud via social media channels. I sincerely believe that the genuine Mayo GAA supporter pays little attention to these social media outbursts. Yes, we were all very disappointed with the result against Tyrone but that's where it should stop.

Our Senior players have given us tremendous days over the year's and we should be proud of each and everyone of them and not ridicule them in public, these lads have families too and they also feel the effects of the negative commentary.

Let's hope we will all rally around all our County teams in 2022 and stop the negativity.

I wish to congratulate Vincent Neary on becoming Vice President of the Connacht Council an accolade he duly deserves.

To the media, Western People, Connaught Telegraph, Mayo News and Mayo Advertiser I thank you most sincerely for your coverage of both our games and meetings during the year.

A big thank you to Mid-West Radio who continue to broadcast many of our games throughout the year to people at home but more importantly to the Mayo diaspora spread all over the world.

I would also like to thank An Garda Síochána, Murray Ambulance and the Order of Malta who provide a valuable service on match days not only in McHale Park but throughout the County.

I wish to thank Phil Heneghan who continues to have the facilities in McHale Park in tip top condition.

To John Prenty and his staff in the Connacht Council I thank you for your help during the year.

To Tom Ryan, Bernard Smith, Fergal McGill and the staff in Croke Park, thank you for your assistance during the past twelve months.

To my fellow Officers I say a big thank you for your help during the year.

I wish to thank most sincerely our Administrator, Michael Cummins, for all the work he does behind the scenes. Michael, as always, puts in many long hours in the Office in order to keep the operation running smoothly. Michael is an invaluable asset to Mayo GAA and we are lucky to have him.

Finally, I wish to thank my wife Sarah for allowing the time to carry out my duties with Mayo GAA.

If I have omitted to mention anyone I sincerely apologise.

I want to wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2022 and let's hope it's a good one for Mayo GAA.

*Diarmuid de Buitléir*

**Mile buiochas,**

**Diarmuid de Buitléir Runaí**

**Competition Controls Committee Report – Con Moynihan (Chairperson CCC)**

**Introduction**

This is my 7<sup>th</sup> report to Convention and my 2<sup>nd</sup> as CCC Chair. I have found over the years that writing them is a rewarding exercise as it allows you to reflect over the year gone by and look forward to the coming year and reflect on what went right and wrong and to look at ways to improve and learn.

As stated last year everything in our lives has changed utterly.

The “new normal” has become the normal and every one of us as a society has had to alter the way we go about our lives. Our sporting occasions have changed in their scheduling, preparation, running and monitoring. Workloads of volunteers have been added to immensely.

As an organisation the GAA has and continues to respond magnificently to the needs of our communities and of the nation.

A special thanks at the outset to all clubs in Mayo who have made vital contributions to their communities on and off the field in 2021, many continuing the work done in 2020.

CLG Béal an Mhuirthead recently received a McNamee Award in recognition of their work during 2020 and congratulations to them not only on behalf of the CCC but also from all of the clubs in Mayo and beyond who also contributed to their communities in their hour of need.

2021 has seen a magnificent club season despite the early upheaval.

The fact that the Inter County season was initially played and the Club season took priority from August onwards lifted our games to a new level.

Huge crowds, great atmospheres and great occasions in towns all over Mayo have been a feature of this new split season. The hope is that the club championship will start even earlier in 2022 and the momentum gained in 2021 will continue.

Twenty-three different clubs across the county will have been broadcast on Mayo GAA TV by the end of the season giving supporters across the county, country and globe the opportunity of seeing their neighbours battle it out in Championship football.

The future will always be about adapting and learning to live with Covid 19 and if anything has re-inforced our desire and love of our national games.



## U20s

The year began full of uncertainty.

Collective Training was originally scheduled to commence in mid-January and was delayed due to COVID.

Various Dates and Training Schedules were put together and had to be taken apart again.

In Mid-April we received advice regarding Inter County Senior Training but there was still no clarity regarding Underage football. By this stage both Schools and Third level Competitions had been shelved for 2021 and the vast-majority of Underage footballers were now in their 6<sup>th</sup> month with no organised football.

The U20s finally got together in Mid-May for organised Training sessions and challenge games. Hindsight is 20/20 vision but the scheduling of this competition certainly did not take into account 3<sup>rd</sup> Level exams and the Leaving Cert right in the middle of Championship Preparation. As a result this panel had to carry a large amount of players to ensure that meaningful training could take place during these periods.

The team arrived in Tuam on July 13<sup>th</sup> as massive underdogs against the reigning All Ireland Champions. After an intense tactical battle, it was level after extra time and Mayo showed their mettle with a tremendous victory on penalties, providing bittersweet revenge after the Tribesmen had overcome us by the same method 18 months previously.

As Covid restriction were still in place limited tickets were available for the semi-final but there were no issues and indeed there was even spare capacity in Tuam on the evening.

The Connacht Final was in Castlebar 8 days-later on July 21<sup>st</sup> versus Roscommon.

A Ticket frenzy ensued and demand far outstripped supply.

Mayo was gripped by a heat wave and Mayo were suddenly being talked about as potential All Ireland Champions!

On a sweltering evening Mayo opened with all guns blazing but despite dominating the game went in only 0-3 to 0-0 ahead at the first water break.

That was as good as it got for us on the evening as Roscommon grew in confidence and just as everything had gone right in Tuam, nothing went right in Castlebar. We went in at half time only one point down but Roscommon grew in confidence and were worthy winners on a score line of 2-11 to 1-7.

It was a frustrating end to a frustrating season for Maurice Sheridan and his team. Many lessons have been learned from their debut season and this will assist them greatly in planning for the season ahead. Roscommon went on to contest the All Ireland Final which many believe they should have won. On a personal level it was a pleasure to work with Maurice and his backroom team and I wish them well in 2022.

The 2022 campaign begins on Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> next year and The All-Ireland Final is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> May. This slot in the calendar should work much better with players in this age bracket and we wish them well for the season ahead.

### **Covid 19**

As I remarked in 2021, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the clubs in Mayo for their work in the community during this time and also their work on their own facilities in this period. Many clubs took the opportunity to upgrade facilities and hopefully they will reap the rewards.

Also, many thanks to Club Officers, Teams and Management for their co-operation with the Covid 19 Guidelines throughout the year. Once again Clubs in the county went above and beyond the call of duty to look after their players and patrons and it was a pleasure to deal with every club in this regard in 2021. These regulations will be part of all our lives for the foreseeable future and the GAA has played a huge part in ensuring that our members are aware of the precautions around Covid 19 and how to ensure that we can all play our part.



### **Calendar**

Throughout the early part of the year we were still unsure as to how our season would shape up. Many drafts of Club calendars were drawn up and then binned as the dates kept altering given the fluid nature of the Covid situation

All through this period, with an effort to maintain some semblance of normality, the work of Mayo GAA continued, albeit in a different way than before. Microsoft Teams and Zoom meetings became a part of the “new normal” and various meetings were held over this period with various stakeholders to prepare for the return of play. As a result, upon the announcement of Return to Play we were ready, willing, and able. Our main sponsors were on-board and we had done a large amount of preparation in relation to Streaming and refining the Mayo GAA TV product.

At this stage I wish to Thank our Covid Officer, Mary Prenty and all of the Club Covid Officers in the county who took on their onerous tasks and applied themselves over the period when we had club competitions and who ensured that our showcase competitions were completed.

In early May we were finally able to send out a revised calendar to clubs and our Revised league Structure for 2021 and League and Championship Regulations were ratified at the Co Board meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>. All we needed now was to play.



### **Club Competitions**

Our Club Competitions commenced on the Bank Holiday Monday June 7<sup>th</sup> with the 2020 North Mayo Junior B Final. Club competitions started in earnest on the Wednesday with Divisional Junior Competitions and Divisional Senior Competition on the weekend of June 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>. A minimum of 200 spectators were allowed and 500 post July 5<sup>th</sup>. Our New Junior A, B and C Championships commenced on weekend June 19<sup>th</sup> /20<sup>th</sup>

Junior Championship Draw took place Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Championship Draws took place on Monday June 14<sup>th</sup>. Michael Walsh draw was determined by Championship Draw – initially conceived by the CCC as a Knock-out Competition it was agreed by clubs to have a Group stage. U19 League was drawn on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

By end of July all Divisional Semi Finals were completed at Senior and Junior level in all divisions bar North Mayo Junior. The Senior Divisional Finals took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The Junior Divisional Finals took place where possible in mid-August.

Michael Walsh Leagues were down to Semi Final stages by the end of July. Finals were played over the Bank Holiday weekend where possible.

If a team was involved in a M Walsh Final and/or a Divisional Final/Junior Final the M Walsh Final in that grade was deferred until after what was the original All Ireland Final Weekend. Despite some clubs indifference towards the competition the vast majority of fixtures were played – see below. The New Junior A B and C finals were also played on the August Bank Holiday weekend. This competition proved to be a success in its first full year and will hopefully bring on players in their respective clubs up to playing at a higher level.

The 2020 Exclusive Junior B Final was the last fixture played in Hastings MacHale Park before re-surfacing commenced and Kilfian and Tuar Mhic Eadiagh treated us to one of the best footballing occasions of the year and which saw Kilfian win their first ever County Championship Senior Divisional Finals took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend and Junior Divisional Finals took place over the months of August and early September.

### **Michael Walsh Leagues**

#### **Michael Walsh Senior Final**

27<sup>th</sup> August – Charlestown 2-9 Castlebar 1-9 in Aghamore Ref R Gurren

19 out of 24 games played

#### **Michael Walsh Intermediate Final**

31<sup>st</sup> July – Castlebar B 6-12 Swinford 2-16 in Charlestown Ref S Tolan

16 out of 27 games played

Michael Walsh Junior Final

31st July Shrule Glencorrib 0-12 Eastern Gaels 0-10 in Ballinrobe Ref M Murphy

23 of 27 games played.

Despite some club's indifference towards the competition the vast-majority of fixtures were played. The CCC pressed for this competition to be knock-out but clubs expressed a wish for group stages. We will be recommending a knockout competition in 2022.

U19 League

Competition completed. The late withdrawal of some clubs was a disappointment and will be dealt with by the CCC in updated regulations in 2022. Again clubs pressed for this competition strongly at the beginning of the year. This competition will be reviewed at year end.

U19 Division 1

Thursday Sept 9th Castlebar 2-12 Ballina 1-13 in Knockmore Ref V Neary

12 of 13 games played

U19 Division 2

Wednesday Sept 8th Knockmore 5-11 Davitts 2-10 AET in Breaffy Ref K Corcoran

14 of 17 games played

U19 Division 3

Wednesday Sept 8th Crossmolina Deel Rovers 2-8 Neale 1-6 in Kiltimagh Ref F Flynn

13 of 15 games played

U19 Division 4

Wednesday Sept 8th Islandeady 4-9 St Murdeachs 2-8 in Parke Ref S Reilly

26 of 29 games played



### New Junior Championships

This competition commenced in mid-June and was completed on schedule over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

#### New Junior A Championship

Monday 2nd August Knockmore 1-15 Aghamore 1-5 in Charlestown Ref N Cooney

14 of 16 games played in this competition

#### New Junior B Championship

Sunday 1st August Belmullet 3-7 Bohola Moy Davitts 0-12 in Crossmolina Ref D O'Boyle

19 of 19 games played in this competition

#### New Junior C Championship

Friday 30th July Mayo Gaels 4-11 Ballyhaunis 2-13 in Claremorris Ref M Walsh

28 of 31 games played in this competition;

The CCC met after the All-Ireland Final was re-scheduled from Aug 28<sup>th</sup> to Sept 11<sup>th</sup> and issued a revised Calendar for the remainder of the year in mid-August. Thanks to the Connacht Council who acceded to our request that the 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> of December would be the weekend that Mayo Clubs will play Provincial Semi-Finals. It was decided that The Club Championships will commence 2 weeks after the All-Ireland Final.

The Adult Leagues were completed on the revised schedule and the results are attached below;

The issue of some B teams' capability to fulfil fixtures is a serious issue and must be addressed in 2022. It was also decided to play the Exclusive Junior B Championship as a knockout competition, which was well received.

Due to the new calendar it was also decided that due to calendar restraints there would be no U21 Championship in 2021.

### **Adult Championships**

Our Adult Championships took centre stage in the latter part of the year. Once players were knocked out of the Championship it meant the end of their season.

This is a much-needed improvement in the calendar as finally there is a defined club season. In my opinion we as a county need to copper fasten this concept in 2022 and play all competitions to a finish before our main leagues and Championships begin. This will allow us to define the season even more clearly.

Four of our fixtures were featured on National TV and allowed us to promote our games to a national audience. We are grateful to the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence for being able to host our double header quarter Final bill this year.

With Hastings MacHale Park being closed we had very little options for evening venues as there are very few pitches capable of hosting these games and if they can, it is only as a stand-alone fixture.

Venues were a constant source of frustration for the CCC in 2021. We are grateful to all of the clubs that hosted games this year, especially our Finals. The atmosphere in these grounds on certain days and night had to be experienced to be believed.

Some of my own personal highlights were the Round 3 Fixture under lights in Aghamore between Ballaghaderreen and Castlebar Mitchels, The Round 2 Junior fixture in Kilmovee between the hosts and Cill Chomain, the quarter Final in Claremorris between Garrymore and Castlebar Mitchels, The Intermediate Semi Final and Finals involving Mayo Gaels and indeed the 3 games that I attended that involved Beal an Mhuirthead.

The decision to keep teams separated from the group stages until the final of competitions proved to be a wise one as once again 2 teams from the one group made the semi-final stages of the Senior Championship and indeed met in the final.

Our Hurling Final took place in on November 13<sup>th</sup> where Tooreen emerged victorious over Ballyhaunis. Despite the constraints of the calendar in 2021 the CCC felt that a balance had been achieved for our dual players and we will endeavour to continue to do so in 2022.

On the weekend of November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> we had a festival of football with a wonderful Junior Final with Kilmeena just edging Cill Chomain in an enthralling encounter in Crossmolina. A few short hours later Mayo Gaels defeated Ballyhaunis in Charlestown in an epic game in a pure cauldron of atmosphere.

On Sunday we had a comprehensive Exclusive Junior B Championship win for Eastern Gaels over Tuar Mhic Eadaigh in Claremorris followed by another historic day when Knockmore completed back to back titles when lifting the Moclair Cup. A tremendous 2<sup>nd</sup> half performance by Ray Dempsey's men saw them overcome a gallant Beal an Mhuirthead team whose quest for a first Senior Title goes on. The winners are wished all the best in the Connacht Series and the losers will no doubt be back as they have a vibrant young team and brought great joy and atmosphere wherever they went this year.

The issue of lack of floodlit facilities did hamper us on County Final weekend as we had to set fixtures at certain times of the day to ensure daylight in the event of a draw and/or penalties.

It will be great to have Hastings MacHale Park open for fixtures next year.

However, there is also an argument to be made for playing certain semi-finals and finals outside the venue due to the atmosphere created and the boon it gives to local economies right across the county

The competitive nature of this Championship is reflected in the fact that fourteen of the sixteen teams in the Senior Championship in 2022 will have been in the knockout stages in the past 4 years, the exceptions being Balla and Mayo Gaels, the last 2 IFC winners.

It was a great achievement to get our Championships completed on schedule and again I have to pay tribute to my fellow CCC members, the Clubs who gave us their venues for fixtures, our stewards and club officials and stewards for all their work, Michael Cummins for his help with Hearings, The Hearings Committee for their diligent work all season, all of our referees and other match officials.

Overall, what was a difficult year came to a fantastic conclusion and while it lasted it was a superb advertisement for the health of Mayo club football.

### **Streaming**

In 2021 Mayo GAA put together a tender process for Streaming our games.

Stream-Sport Ireland won the tender process and broadcast a number of games over the season.

I must thank Liam Moffatt, Dermot Butler, John Walker, Paul Cunnane and Ciaran O'Hara for their assistance with this project in the early parts of 2021. John and Paul remained on to assist me throughout the season.

We set the season pass price for €60 and while many people thought this was too cheap, we as a committee felt that it was more important this year to get the product right and break even rather than concentrating on revenue. That we managed to do both is a credit to Stream-Sport, our teams of commentators and co-commentators and, also, our loyal fanbase throughout the county, country and globe who contributed to the success of Mayo GAA TV.

We at Mayo GAA will continue endeavour to improve the streaming of our showcase games and, also, to help as many clubs as possible get as many fixtures online as possible. In a post Covid world this looks like it will be the way forward for many people to see our games at all levels.

### **Discipline**

Thankfully season incidents were isolated in relation to discipline and collectively we are working well in protecting our games. Some disappointment has to be expressed with clubs and players appealing decisions to see if they can get off on various technicalities. I wish to thank Tod O'Mahony and his Committee for their work on the Hearings Committee this year. In my opinion they went about all of their business in a fair-minded manner.

**Refereeing:**

I would like to thank the referees for their support during the year. Without your dedication and time, we would not be able to fulfil games. Your professionalism and support to our county is very much appreciated by all members within our organisation

Thanks To Denis Harrington, Referees Co-ordinator, who has again been a great addition to the CCC and has done a Trojan amount of work. We would hope to again encourage all clubs to recruit new referees. Recruitment of Referees has remained static during Covid but it must return to the top of the agenda in 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to clubs to try and source refereeing recruits in the New Year. Without Officials we cannot have games.

**Mac Hale Park and the Grounds Committee**

I would like to thank the MacHale Park staff for their work and support namely Michael Cummins our Administrator who does a huge amount of work and an invaluable support to a number of committees.

A special thanks to our grounds man Phil Heneghan who has performed miracles time and time again in relation to keeping our main surface playable up to the re-surfacing in August. Hopefully with the new surface his work will be made easier in 2022.

Thanks also to Paddy Mc Nicholas for all his organising of stewards for all our games in MacHale Park.

I would also like to thank Paraic Murray and his staff, who were present at all our games in MacHale Park, a service that is critical in today's game, thanks also to the Order of Malta for their assistance when called upon. Thanks to James Rock, Event Controller for all our big events in MacHale Park and Mary Prenty, Covid Officer, all of whom are vital requirements in today's games.

**Media**

I would like to thank the local media in Mayo for the co-operation and professionalism at all time during 2021 in what were difficult situations for them. Through Mid West Radio, Local Newspapers and the many podcasts available on all social media platforms there is an intense hunger for all Mayo GAA related activities and we hope that this relationship continues in 2022.

National Media is an issue that I feel compelled to return to each year.

Without TG4 we would have very little GAA Club games on National Television.

They did fantastic work in broadcasting our Round 1 fixture between Breaffy and the Neale and, also, the fantastic occasion that was our County Senior Final. The game itself possibly did not live up to expectations but the atmosphere and sense of occasion was captured brilliantly by them.

Covid 19 has opened up to our National broadcaster that the club game is worthy of coverage also. The coverage of our double header of quarter finals from the CoE by RTE was exceptional and the huge crowds and wonderful football on what was a difficult day weather-wise lent to the occasion.

I also hope that in 2022 that this extends to coverage of the Joe McDonagh, Christy Ring, Nickey Rackard and Lory Meagher Hurling Competitions also. Without streaming very few people would have seen our Hurlers play in 2021 and this situation is a national issue. Again, this year I would ask the GAA at National level to explore the possibility of setting up their own TV Network to help Counties and Clubs to show matches. There is enough local expertise in each county, along with local broadcasters to make this happen.

Social Media is now a huge presence in getting the GAA message out to the wider world. Used positively it is a fantastic resource and is highly valued in promoting our games. However, there is the small minority who use the cloak of anonymity to use it maliciously. Our Senior Team reached yet another All-Ireland Final in the process dethroning one of the greatest teams of all time. They fell short against a superior Tyrone team who answered all the questions aimed at them on the day.

The majority of the subsequent commentary was fair and reasonable, especially at a local level. However certain National Publications and indeed our National Broadcaster and certain aspects of Social Media made statements and written articles that have been nothing short of disgraceful.

It appears that the “Vera Duckworth School of Journalism” is very much alive and well.

### **Schools and Bord Na Nóg**

Both of these topics are covered in other reports but I would just like to add my opinion that it was a shame but probably the correct decision that the Schools Competitions were not played this year. The window of opportunity simply did not exist. Thankfully we have Schools Football up and running this autumn and I would like to wish the best of luck to all our schools in the coming months.

In relation to the U17 Championships while the season was a disappointment on the field I believe that a lot of these players will go on to represent their counties. Thankfully the U17 competition has been restored to a round robin competition in 2022 and these players will gain much more experience than their predecessors.

A lot of credit has to go to Sean Deane and his team in relation to their handling of this group of players and no doubt due to their efforts many of these players will go on to represent Mayo at Adult level. Many thanks also to Daithí Gallagher, Ronan Kirrane and the 4 Divisional Secretaries for their work in running off Bord Na Nóg Competitions this year

### **LGFA and Camogie**

In 2020 MacHale Park hosted the Mayo LGFA Finals for the first time in a number of years. It was not possible in 2021 due to the revamp of MacHale Park but I would hope that where possible this would be a permanent fixture on our calendar.

Mayo Ladies had a mixed year but gave us great enjoyment and Congratulations to our Camógs who lifted the Nancy Murray Cup in Carrick on Shannon earlier in the year. It was a fantastic game and it was a wonderful occasion to attend.

### **Mayo Senior Teams**

Dermot has covered the progress of our Senior Teams in his report. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate our Senior Football Team on their Connacht Final victory, the amazing day they gave us in the All Ireland Semi Final victory over Dublin and their subsequent All Ireland appearance.

Our Senior Team reached yet another All-Ireland Final in the process dethroning one of the greatest teams of all time. They fell short against a superior Tyrone team who answered all the questions aimed at them on the day.

Their reaction to Covid 19 has been an example to many other county set-ups and their performances in the National Football League and Championship lifted the gloom around the county for a short while – this is the essence of sport.

Our Hurlers came up short in the League Final versus Kildare in Hastings Mac Hale Park, a fixture attended by Uachtarán Larry McCarthy but played superbly throughout the Nickey Rackard Cup and gained their just reward when lifting the trophy after a magnificent victory over Tyrone.

On a personal level my thanks to both James Horan and Derek Walsh for their co-operation with myself and the CCC throughout the year.

### **2022 Outlook**

What we have learned from 2021 is that a split season is not only possible, but it is the way forward for the association.

At the time of writing, it looks like the National Fixtures Calendar will be released shortly and the All- Ireland Final will be in late July next year.

The Inter County season will be played first followed by Club. This would allow us to play Michael Walsh Leagues, Divisional Competitions, the New Junior Competitions and the majority of our League fixtures prior to Championship football which would begin with 3 games in September and 3 games in October.

My personal opinion would be to revamp our League Structure in 2022 and also to take a look at our grading structure in the New Junior Championships

The CCC will again be communicating with all stakeholders early in the New Year to ensure that we get to a situation where we guarantee our players games as scheduled in our calendar and a defined closed season.

We will also endeavour to enhance the development with the updated Demographic Study which will be issued to clubs in January which will fit in to our strategies going forward. We must do all we can to protect our rural clubs who often struggle for their existence sometimes plagued by emigration for generations and in recent time's migration to the bigger cities. To assist clubs at all levels is one of the core values of the GAA.

We must be cognisant that our clubs are the nursery grounds for all our Inter County Players and must be treated with respect.



**Executive Members:**

I wish to thank Liam, our Chairperson, for his support, effort and work that he has put in throughout this most difficult of years. I thoroughly enjoyed working with him over the past 2 years and while I understand his decision to step down it is with a heavy heart.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish him and his family the best of luck in their future endeavours.

To Dermot our County Secretary thanking you for your on-going support, honesty and your availability whenever I called on you. To Valerie our treasurer thanks for her hard work and dedication this year.

To all our County-board officers a big thank you for your on-going support. Your support and commitment to the county makes life a little easier when issues arise.

Our board worked tirelessly throughout the year with our CCC committee in the promotion, development, and scheduling of our games in this County, it goes without saying that every one of them deserve your appreciation for their time and effort over the last 12 months.

To our PRO John Walker thank you for your tremendous work over the past year with the CCC, Mayo GAA TV and the countless pieces of advice and support that you gave to clubs over the year.

**CCC Members**

Our CCC worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that games went ahead in our county in 2021. For that alone every one of them deserve your appreciation for their time and effort over the last 12 months, Dermot Butler, our County Secretary, John Walker, PRO, Ronan Kirrane, Assistant Secretary, Denis Harrington Referees Co-ordinator, Daithí Gallagher Chairperson, Bord Na Nóg, Thaigh Morley, Hurling Board Secretary, John Hopkins , Connacht Council and Fixtures Analyst, Mary Prenty, East Secretary , Brian O'Malley, South Secretary, Mick Herr, North Secretary, and Chris McGowan, West Secretary. The final 3 members mentioned were all in their first year on the CCC and were of invaluable assistance.

I look forward to working with all of them in any future capacity within Mayo GAA and thank them for their immense work and achievements over the past year.

To you, the clubs, recognition must be given to your continued dedication, efficiency, and hard work over the last year, great credit goes to the clubs of this County.

As we prepare for the 2022 season I have no doubt that the incoming CCC committee will be looking forward to continuing to work with you and I wish all of us the very best in working with you for the 2022 season.

To all of the people in the county who have lost loved ones in 2021 we remember them at this time of year. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

On a final note I wish to thank my wife Mary and my children for their unwavering support. Their patience as calls were made, meetings attended both on Microsoft Teams and on the road has made my life much easier. Their interest in GAA is almost as great as mine and this is invaluable and we had some great days up and down the road following Club and County in all codes.

Wishing all of our clubs Continued success and best wishes for 2022.

**Con Moynihan**  
**Chairperson,**  
**CCC**



**Competition Winners 2021**

<b><u>Competition Name</u></b>	<b><u>Winner</u></b>	<b><u>Runner Up</u></b>
Connacht Gold SFC	Knockmore	Belmullet
Egan Jewellers IFC	Mayo Gaels	Ballyhaunis
TF Royal Theatre JFC A	Kilmeena	Cill Chomain
TF Royal Theatre JFCB 2021	Eastern Gaels	Tuar Mhic Eadaigh
TF Royal Theatre JFCB 2020	Kilfian	Tuar Nhic Eadaigh
Division 1	A-Ballina Stephenites	B-Breaffy
Division 2	A-Louisburgh	B-Ballinrobe
Division 3	A-Ballyhaunis	B-Islandeedy
Division 4	A-Castlebar B	B-CLG Acla
Division 5	A-Claremorris B	B- Ballycastle
Division 6	A-Kiltimagh B	B-Beal and Mhuirthead B
Division 6	C-Parke Keellogues Crimlin B	D-Balla B
M Walsh Senior League	Charlestown Sarsfields	Castlebar Mitchels
M Walsh Intermediate	Castlebar B	Swinford
M Walsh Junior	Shrule- Glencorrib	Eastern Gaels
New JFC A Championship	Knockmore B	Aghamore B
New JFC B Championship	Beal an Mhuirthead B	Bohola Moy Davitts B
New JFC C Championship	Mayo Gaels B	Ballyhaunis B
U19 Division 1	Castlebar Mitchels	Ballina Stephenites
U19 Division 2	Knockmore	Davitts
U19 Division 3	Crossmolina Deel Rovers	Neale
U19 Division 4	Islandeedy	St Murdeachs

**CCC Committee Members:**

Con Moynihan	CCC Chairperson /Vice Chairperson
Dermot Butler	Secretary
John Walker	PRO
Ronan Kirrane	Assistant Secretary/Bord Na Nóg Secretary
Thaigh Morley	Secretary Hurling Board
Denis Harrington	Referees Co-ordinator
John Hopkins	Fixture Analyst/Connacht Council
Daithí Gallagher	Chairperson Bord Na Nóg
Chris McGowan	West Board Secretary
Mary Prenty	East Board Secretary
Michael Herr	North Board Secretary
Brian O'Malley	South Board Secretary



**GAA Values**

**Community Identity**

- Community is at the heart of our Association. Everything we do helps to enrich the communities we serve.
- We foster a clear sense of identity and place.

**Amateur Status**

- We are a volunteer led organisation.
- All our members play and engage in our games as amateurs.
- We provide a games programme at all levels to meet the needs of all our players.

**Inclusiveness**

- We welcome everybody to be part of our Association.
- We are anti-sectarian.
- We are anti-racist.

**Respect**

- We respect each other on and off the playing fields.
- We operate with integrity at all levels.
- We listen and respect the views of all.

**Player Welfare**

- We provide the best playing experience for all our players.
- We structure our games to allow players of all abilities reach their potential.

**Teamwork**

- Effective teamwork on and off the field is the cornerstone of our Association.
- Ní neart go cur le chéile (There is no strength without working together).

## Public Relations Report 2021 – John Walker



First and fore-most I would like to thank all the Mayo GAA clubs for their unwavering support over the past twelve months.

Your input, advice and constant support made my job as PRO so much easier.

In particular, I would like to thank all the club PRO's who were never found wanting and always dealt with my questions and queries effectively and efficiently. They were always available to provide team sheets, score updates and importantly club information and news that kept the Mayo GAA public and indeed the press up-to-date on all the activities happening within the Mayo GAA family.

Also, to the four divisional PRO's for the great work they have done in their divisions throughout the year. This engagement and teamwork is one of the main reasons why Mayo GAA is today one of the most successful and supported counties in the country. We have witnessed phenomenal growth across all of our media platforms in the past twelve months and it is the GAA clubs in every corner of the county that have driven that remarkable interest and extraordinary engagement levels.

**Headline figures:**

1. The Mayo GAA Facebook following has grown in the past twelve months up to 68,100.
2. The Mayo Twitter following has increased to 77K
3. The Mayo GAA Instagram following has increased from 24,000 to 39,000.
4. Instagram has grown significantly in the last 12 months.
5. [www.mayogaatv.com](http://www.mayogaatv.com) broadcast a record 16 games LIVE without a single glitch or streaming problem in 2021.
6. Every single Mayo GAA County Final in both football and hurling from U12 to Senior featured on our media platforms with score updates, pictures, video reports, presentations and celebrations all featured.
7. One video clip from the Mayo GAA Intermediate Football Semi Final between Kilmaine and Mayo Gaels was viewed over 135,000 times. The clip featured a brilliant penalty save from Kilmaine goalkeeper Brian Maloney.

**Mayo Senior Football & Hurling teams:**

I would like to thank James Horan and his entire backroom team for their courtesy and support over the past twelve months. At the start of the year, there was enormous media interest in Mayo GAA due to the number of high profile retirements from the panel and James and indeed the players were always available when I requested an update or comment.

As the year progressed and as the fortunes of Mayo GAA improved reaching back-to-back All-Ireland football finals, the demand on PR once again increased.

Again, James, the players and the clubs were always supportive and made themselves available to me when requested and I thank them sincerely for that.

It was also an extremely busy year for the Mayo Senior Hurlers and I would like to congratulate Derek Walsh and his team on winning the All-Ireland Nicky Rackard Final in Croke Park.

Derek was excellent to work with and his willingness to talk to the media is one of the reasons why the profile of the game continues to grow in the county.

**Mayo Underage Teams:**

While our underage teams did not have the same level of success as previous years, again I would like to thank the management teams for their support during the year. They were always willing to respond to requests from myself and the media and I thank them sincerely for their cooperation.

**Mayo GAA TV**

Mayo GAA appointed new broadcast partners at the start of the year and I would like to thank StreamSport for their expertise, proficiency and attention to detail over the past five months.

In total 16 games were broadcast live on [www.mayogaatv.com](http://www.mayogaatv.com) and all games went to air without any technical difficulties. I would also like to thank the clubs that hosted live games over the past five months for providing excellent facilities for the StreamSport team ensuring access, power, equipment and all broadcast requirements were in place and met.

I would also like to thank all our commentators and analysts who greatly added to the overall production values.

**National TV Partners**

Mayo GAA continues to develop strategic relationships with our national broadcasters and I was delighted this year to secure national coverage for our games on both RTÉ and TG4.

RTÉ covered the Mayo GAA Senior Football Quarter Final between Westport and Ballina Stephenites and also the quarter final game between Ballintubber and Knockmore live from Began. TG4 were on hand to also cover two live games. They featured the Breaffy vs. The Neale in an opening round tie in the Senior Football Championship and they also broadcast our Senior Football County Final live between CLG Bhéal an Mhuirthead and Knockmore. Getting national coverage for our games showcases the outstanding work that is taking place in our clubs and I would like to thank them for their continued support and interest in our games. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

**National and Local Media**

I found the local and national media to be very supportive over the past twelve months and we developed a very good working relationship. At times it was challenging to provide all the information that was required but I always did my best to accommodate everyone when requests were presented. I would like to thank the local and national media for their understanding and cooperation throughout the year. I hope we can build on this relationship going forward and as PRO I will always endeavour to respond to your requests.

**Mayo GAA new sponsors:**

Mayo GAA welcomed two new sponsors this year with Portwest and Hastings Insurance coming on board. Both partnerships required a lot of media attention and I would like to thank both companies for their support. It is important that all Mayo GAA sponsors be that club or county are recognised in the media for their valuable contribution to the development and promotion of all our games.

**Going forward:**

Early in 2022 I will be hoping to organise a special training seminar in conjunction with Croke Park and Connacht Council for all the club PRO's in the county. The seminar will introduce the PRO's to all the new online applications that are currently available to enhance and improve club communication. I will also hope to further develop and enhance the Mayo GAA TV offering in the coming months with club features, player profiles and exclusive interviews with county managers. I will also be addressing the issue of copyright ensuring that the Mayo brand is protected going forward.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow officers and my PR Committee who provided so much assistance and support over the past twelve months. Their expertise, advice and knowledge greatly added to the media experience of our loyal supporters, media partners and all the GAA community.

Ní neart go cur le chéile – Partnership is the key to success

Mise le meas,

John Walker.

## Bord na nÓg

### Tuairisc an Chathaoirligh

2021



Welcome | Fáiltiú

A Chairde Gael,

Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur roimh gach éinne go dtí an chruinniú athbhreathnaithe seo, agus chomh maith leis sin, ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil libh, ní hamháin as an iarracht a rinne sibh chun freastal ar an gcruinniú seo, ach ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil libh as an sár-iarracht atá déanta ag gclubanna Mhaigh Eo le linn na bliana chun cluiche a chur ar siúil do dhaoine óige thar fud an chondae. Ar ndóigh, bhí dúshlán ar leith curtha ós ár gcomhar arís i mbliana agus is léir nach mbeidh deireadh leis an dúshlán sin go luath, ach is mór an méid oibre a rinne gach club agus na coistí riaracháin ar fad i Maigh Eo. Ar son Choiste Bhord na nÓg Mhaigh Eo, ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil libh ar fad.

You are all very welcome to our review meeting tonight in what are yet again quite challenging circumstances. From the outset, I wish to thank you all. Not only for joining us for this end of year review, but also for the exceptional effort you have made in supporting the development of our games over the past 12 months and the effort made by all of our clubs and volunteers.

When faced with yet another year of limitations; limited playing time, limited capacities, limited playing numbers and limited patience, our clubs responded with abounding enthusiasm, dedication and commitment, to ensure that the 142-day window of opportunity we were given for football this year was packed full of fixtures.



We all know of the exceptional work our clubs do, but never has that been more apparent than facing the trials and tribulations of the past two years. We have no stronger way to say it other than, go raibh céad míle maith agaibh.

The administration of our underage county games is a mammoth task, and one which can only be tackled with the collective effort of volunteers across the county. Our games could not go ahead without the support of our extremely experienced Bord na nÓg Executive Committee, our divisional secretaries, chairpersons and officers, our referees, sponsors, gatemen, stewards and every club volunteer who takes the time out of their daily schedule to assist in the provision of underage football for our young county athletes.

This year was challenging. The road map for reopening the country had initially indicated that we would see a return to Gaelic Games at the end of June/ beginning of July. However, an announcement on June 2<sup>nd</sup> informed us that games could resume from June 7<sup>th</sup> in the 26 counties. Just three days later, our U13 competitions began on June 10<sup>th</sup> and this was subsequently followed by our U17, U15, U11, U9 and U7 competitions.

In 2021, we administered 1,448 games over a period of 142 days between June 10<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, with an average completion rate of 97%. This was exceptional. Just to contextualise these figures, in 2019, what would be considered a 'normal' year of football, Bord na nÓg administered 1,650 fixtures over a period of 243 days. Despite the fact that we had a 42% reduction in playing days, Bord na nÓg successfully fulfilled 87% of what would be a normal calendar year of football. While these figures are a great achievement on paper, they are unsustainable from a practical point of view. The result of setting this volume of fixtures was a 62% increase in the average number of fixtures per week. That is not only a 62% increase in games, it's an huge increase in the administrative expectation of Bord na nÓg, an increase in the demand for referees and pitches, an increase in the work load of volunteers, stewards and officers in each club, and above all else, it is an increase in the demand and expectation of our underage players across the county.

While I would like to thank all parties for their tireless work in providing the maximum amount of football possible this year, I would air a note of caution and assure all clubs that this level of activity is not sustainable and we hope to achieve a more balanced return to football next year.

This year also saw the return of our Féile competition, where U15 players from across the county had the opportunity to display their skills at the exceptional facilities in the Centre of Excellence (COE) in Began. This was without doubt one of the highlights of the underage calendar this year and culminated in what was a thrilling day of football.

The introduction of a new grading process for 2021 saw the provision of extremely competitive fixtures at uneven age grades, and while there will always be unbalanced fixtures, we always work towards providing competitive, balanced fixtures for fair and equitable competitions. For the most part, clubs embraced the new process where each club was allocated to a grouping based on a rationale devised from results of the previous year. With some exceptions, clubs also engaged with the online process for lodging appeals and we look forward to full adoption of this structure in 2022.

I would like to acknowledge Tuar Mhic Éadaigh who organised ‘Lá na Gaeilge’ this year.

This unique competition saw clubs from Gaeltacht regions in Mayo and Galway compete against one another, where the promotion of our games and promotion of our language took pride of place.

Not only were our native games and native tongue on display throughout this very special weekend, but there were also performances in music and dance staged in local venues at the same time. The day was exceptionally successful and was publicised on national media.

I commend Tuar Mhic Éadaigh for their efforts in hosting this special event.

Tá sé mar sprioc ag Bord na nÓg Mhaigh Eo tacaíocht breise a thabhairt don chomórtas seo i 2022. Ní go ró-mhinic a fheictear an peil, an cheol, an teanga agus an cultúr á chéiliúradh ag aon ócáid amháin, agus is ceart go mbeidh CLG Mhaigh Eo ag tacú go mór le hócáidí den chineál seo amach anseo.

The greatest challenge of the year came with the general easing of restrictions from late July into August and September. When our competitions were in full flow, Covid outbreaks became common place and resulted in the postponement of fixtures and the extension of competition deadlines. Our intention was to have our U13/15/17 competitions closed out by mid-August with a view to starting U12/14/16/18 one week later. However, with the rise in cases and delays to competitions, our even age competitions in divisional format did not commence until mid-September. This resulted in a very short window of opportunity to play the divisional competitions, which would also run alongside a busy calendar for adult football.

The administrative challenges in managing these competitions was evident from the outset, and in some cases there was considerable pressure on clubs to fulfil fixtures. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Bord na nÓg committee, the divisional secretaries and the divisional chairpersons for their engagement and support in reviewing those administrative challenges and working together to find a solution.

Our divisional secretaries brought the competition to divisional final stage with the unyielding support of the Bord na nÓg secretary, and the competitions reached county final stage by the end of October.

Across the board our finals were fantastic. We as spectators and fans were treated to a masterclass by our underage athletes. These athletes displayed great talent, skill and passion and are a great credit to their clubs.

In thanking our administrators across the county, we cannot forget to thank the players themselves, from U18 down as far as U6/7, it is a pleasure for us to see our players progress through the years, and we thank them most sincerely for their commitment and their dedication.

## Comórtais | Competitions

This year, Bord na nÓg administered 1,448 fixtures over 142 days from June 10<sup>th</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>, averaging 71 games a week. The average completion rate of all competitions this year was 96.89%, with just 3.11% of fixtures un-played (45 games). When this is broken down into the uneven and even age grades, a 97.60% completion rate was achieved for the uneven age grades, with a 95.64% completion rate in the even age grade competitions. It is worth noting that in the even age grade competitions some teams did pull out at the start of competition, and this figure would have been even higher had this been avoided.



A summary of the statistics in relation to fixtures is included below:

2021 Season - Figures & Facts						
<b>Uneven Age Grades</b>	<b>Total Games</b>	<b>Games unplayed</b>	<b>Unplayed as %</b>	<b>Completion Rate</b>	<b>Summary</b>	
U17	167	7	4.19%	95.81%	Total Games	876
U15	220	7	3.18%	96.82%	Games Unplayed	21
U13	269	7	2.60%	97.40%	Unplayed as %	2.40%
U11	220				Completion Rate%	97.60%
<b>Even Age Grades</b>	<b>Total Games</b>	<b>Games unplayed</b>	<b>Unplayed as %</b>	<b>Completion Rate</b>	<b>Summary</b>	
U18	102	10	9.80%	90.20%	Total Games	505
U16	94	6	6.38%	93.62%	Games Unplayed	22
U14	141	6	4.26%	95.74%	Unplayed as %	4.36%
U12	168				Completion Rate%	95.64%

Season Summary						
	<b>Total Games</b>	<b>Games unplayed</b>	<b>Unplayed as %</b>	<b>Completion Rate</b>	<b>Games per day/week/month</b>	
Championship Games	1381	43	3.11%	96.88%	Total Games	1448
Other Comps	67	2	2.99%	97.01%	Playing Period (days)	142
					Average per day	10.20
Totals	1448	45	3.11%	96.89%	Average per week	71.38
					Average per month	305.92

In 2020, Bord na nÓg administered 452 games over a 72 day period. This resulted in an average of 44 games administered per week. While the playing period for 2020 was much shorter than 2021, when we take the average number of competitions/games played and compare the across 2020 and 2021, we achieved a 62.4% increase on average weekly competitive fixtures when compared to 2020.

This 62.4% increase in games was not simply an increase in fixtures, it was an increase in administration, referee demand and pitch demand. While it was an incredible achievement fitting this amount of football into a short period of time, it is not a sustainable model going forward.

2020/2021 Comparison					
2020 Games per day/week/month		2021 Games per day/week/month		2020/2021 Differences	
Total Games	452	Total Games	1448	Additional games in 2021	996
Playing Period (days)	72	Playing Period (days)	142	Additional playing days in 2021	70
Average per day	6.28	Average per day	10.20	Average per day increase on 2020	62.43%
Average per week	43.94	Average per week	71.38	Average per week increase on 2020	62.43%
Average per month	188.33	Average per month	305.92	Average per month increase on 2020	62.43%

To further contextualise these fixtures, the greatest achievement of the past year is to compare our fixture and completion rates from 2021 to 2019. In 2021, when competitive fixtures were not permitted until June 10<sup>th</sup>, we succeeded in providing our underage players with 87% of the football they played in 2019.

2021/2019 Comparison					
2019 Games per day/week/month		2021 Games per day/week/month		2021/2019 Differences	
Total Games	1650	Total Games	1448	Reduced number of games in 2021	-202
Playing Period (days)	243	Playing Period (days)	142	Reduced no. of playing days in 2021	-101
Average per day	6.79	Average per day	10.20	Average games per day increase on 2019	50.18%
Average per week	50.88	Average per week	71.38	Average per week increase on 2019	50.18%
Average per month	203.70	Average per month	305.92	Average per month increase on 2019	50.18%

Summary against regular season in 2019	
2021 Games played as a % of 2019 season	87.76%
Reduction in playing days for 2021	42.00%
Average completion rate 2019	90.10%
Average completion rate 2020	96.89%
Increase on game completion	6.79%

**Results | Torthaí**

Among all of these fixtures we were treated to fantastic finals across all age grades and levels. I wish to congratulate all of our competition winner as outlined in the tables below and wish them the very best for the season ahead in 2022. Additionally, I wish to offer commiserations to the runners up in each competition. Despite the short season, we witnessed some exceptionally competitive football this year. This is an encouraging sign for the years ahead. I would like to congratulate the winners of the divisional competitions as outlined in the Tuairisc an Rúnaí.

**U17**

Comp	Winner	Runner up	Venue	Referee	Date	Presented
U17A	Westport 2:07	Kilmeena 1:05	Islandeedy	P. Chambers	17.09.2021	K. Kelly
U17B	Eastern Gaels 4:14	Claremorris 1:16	Ballindine	C. Burke	06.09.2021	R. Kirrane
U17C	Ardmoy 3:13	Erris St Pats 1:09	Cill Chomáin	J. Walker	27.08.2021	P. Doherty
U17D	Acla 1:11	Kilmovee 0:11	Islandeedy	P. chambers	10.09.2021	D. Gallagher

**U15**

Comp	Winner	Runner up	Venue	Referee	Date	Presented
U15A	Castlebar 2:15	Claremorris 1:12	Breaffy	G. McMahon	09.08.2021	M. Golden
U15B	Crossmolina 4:11	Parke KC 1:10	Bofeenau	P. Doherty	17.08.2021	No presentation.
U15C	Davitts 4:15	Charlestown 0:06	Claremorris	J. Finn	26.08.2021	R. Kirrane
U15D	Burrishroole 3:11	Mayo Gaels 3:08	Islandeedy	K. Corcoran	13.08.2021	K. Kelly
U15 B Teams	Castlebar 3:04	Aghamore 0:12	Kiltimagh	P. Lydon	29.08.2021	J. Gilmore

## COISTE CHONTAE MHAIGH EO COMHTHIONÓL 2022

### U13

Comp	Winner	Runner up	Venue	Referee	Date	Presented
U13A	Westport 1:16	Balla 2:08	Castlebar	K. Barnicle	26.08.2021	D. Gallagher
U13B	Belmullet 1:07	Neale 1:05	Ardagh	D. O Boyle	13.08.21	N. Reape
U13C	Crossmolina 0:07	Naomh Padraig 0:06	Ballina	C. Reape	26.08.2021	S. Tolan
U13D	Tourmakeady 4:09	Parke KC 4:06	Ballintubber	M. Walsh	12.08.2021	M. Costello
U13E	BMD 4:4	Islandeady 3:05	Ballyheane	S. O Neill	19.08.2021	M Golden
U13F	Ballinrobe 3:07	Balla 2:09	Claremorris	J. Finn	19.08.2021	L. Nyland
U13G	Ardnaree 2:07	Westport 2:04	Swinford	J. Clancy	21.08.2021	J. Dillon

### County Even Age Finals

Comp	Winner	Runner up	Venue	Referee	Date	Presented
U18A	Claremorris 0:11	Castlebar 0:09	J. Walker	COE	G. O'Donnell	G. O'Donnell
U18B	Crossmolina 4:10	Kilmeena 3:07	J. Finn	Mulvey Park	M. Daly	M. Daly
U18C	Bonniconlon 2:13	Islandeady 1:07	J. Clancy	Foxford	S. Tolan	S. Tolan
U16A	Claremorris 2:17	Castlebar 2:09	P. Lydon	Islandeady	K. Kilkenny	K. Kilkenny
U16B	Breaffy 1:15	Holly/Carra 2:10	S. Tolan	Claremorris	R. Kirrane	R. Kirrane
U16C	Ardmoy 2:10	Acla 3:01	G. McMahon	Islandeady	K. Kelly	P.Doherty
U14A	Westport 6:12	Crosmolina 7:09	T. Morley	COE		
Replay	Crossmolina 2:09	Westport 6:10	J. Glavey	COE	D. Gallagher	D. Gallagher
U14B	Shrule G/C 4:11	Parke KC 2:15	S. Corcoran	Ballinrobe	R. O Halloran	R. O Halloran
U14C	Westport B 3:19	Ballinrobe B 3:09	J. Clancy	COE	W. McDonagh	W. McDonagh

We cannot fully assess the positive mental health impact this season will have had on our young players, but I am confident that the provision of underage football this year was instrumental in maintaining the mental wellbeing of children and young men across the county. This would not have happened without our club's commitment to embrace added responsibilities, ensuring government guideline compliance, monitoring the completion of health questionnaires and providing parents and players with a safe return to football. I thank all Mayo clubs most sincerely for your continued dedication to our young players.

**Intercounty**

The intercounty knock out structure for U17 football in 2021 was extremely challenging and was coupled with a very short lead in time for preparation. This was an unenviable task for any management structure and was not the ideal starting format for our new U17 management team. Despite those challenging circumstances, Seán Deane and his team ran an extremely professional preparation campaign ahead of the first championship game in Dr.Hyde Park on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Full opportunity was afforded to some 150 players who attended regional trials ahead of the finalisation of the county panel. While unsuccessful this year, I have every confidence that Seán and his team will take key learnings from the year and continue to develop their structures into 2022 where we hope to return to a more competitive format. I would like to thank Seán, his management team and our U17 panel for their dedication hard work over this past year.

**Hosting | Ionaid Neamhspleách**

Again, this year, clubs across the county accepted the added responsibility of hosting games as a neutral venue. This required the provision of stewarding, printing of programmes and management of Covid 19 restrictions. Having attended a number of games at these neutral venues, I have to say that the level of professionalism with which clubs hosted visiting teams was incredible, and I would like clubs to know that their support did not go unrecognised.

With the upgrade works to the surface in MacHale park ongoing, finding suitable venues for hosting our finals was a challenge, particularly in the latter half of the year when weather conditions deteriorated, and light was limited. I wish to sincerely thank all of our host clubs who facilitated these fixtures and managed to maintain the integrity of their pitches in difficult conditions. I would also like to thank the COE for their facilitation of many of our county fixtures and our Féile competition.

The Bord na nÓg Committee is hopeful that our underage finals in the latter half of next year will return to MacHale Park.



### **Discipline**

Discipline is not simply a guideline for participants, it is a requirement of players, management, officials and spectators. We have an obligation to set an example for our underage players in how they should behave and conduct themselves on and off the pitch. It is important that adults involved in each club ask themselves if they are proud of the example they are setting for their underage players and ask if there are internal structures in place in the club where management teams, players, spectators and officials are held accountable for their actions.

Bord na nÓg are seeking to address the issue of sideline abuse as a key priority of 2022. The vitriol directed towards referees, officers, officials and players is becoming a distasteful characteristic of our games and we must adopt a zero-tolerance approach to this behaviour.

### **Sponsors**

Throughout the last number of years Bord na nÓg competitions have been sponsored by Homeland. We are fortunate to have dedicated sponsors with an innate understanding of what the GAA means to each and every household in Mayo. Their continued support has allowed us to once again provide competitive football this year and I would like to thank them for that.

### **Academy Football**

The Mayo Academy structure was very successful this year and work is progressing with the Winter development programme. Earlier in the year, over 700 players participated in trials for the 3 squads. This was whittled down to 300 players who played in Connacht fixtures across the 12 teams at U14, 15 and 16 levels. 160 of these players have been selected for the winter development programme and we would like to thank Kieran Kilkenny, the Academy Manager, for his continued support and engagement in 2022. On behalf of Bord na nÓg, I would also like to take the opportunity to wish him the best of luck as he takes on the role of new Performance Games Development Administrator in the weeks ahead.

2021 presented a number of challenges in fine tuning our playing days for the uneven age grade competitions. The U17 fixtures hosted on Friday evenings posed a particular conflict with the U16 Academy football on a Saturday morning. The playing days of the week will be reviewed and changed in 2021 and I would like to sincerely thank the academy staff and club officers for their patience and understanding in rectifying the difficulties those fixture clashes presented throughout the year.

### **Looking forward to 2022**

Bord na nÓg is an exceptional organisation with a wealth of experience and knowledge around the table. It is of utmost importance that we use this expertise to the best of our ability, ensuring that officers and delegates have roles that extend beyond the setting of fixtures and agreement of grades.

Bord na nÓg is currently undergoing a structural review to ensure that all aspects of our games are developed in tandem with one another and that as much support and resources are made available to clubs as possible. Following this end of year review meeting, a survey will be circulated to clubs with fundamental questions on competition format for 2022. This survey will also provide clubs with the opportunity to submit general feedback that will be taken into consideration for the planning of our competitions for next year.

At the start of 2022, Bord na nÓg will seek to establish working groups with a specific remit to address areas of grading structures, finance, coaching supports, discipline and games promotion. Bord na nÓg prides itself on the blend of experienced officers who sit on our committee, combined with some new faces who stand to learn from that expertise and knowledge. These working groups should be treated as an opportunity for officers of all levels of experience to get involved in the county structure and offer their own ideas and concepts to a field where they have a particular interest. If there are any club members who would like to get more involved with Bord na nÓg they are encouraged to contact me or the Bord na nÓg secretary.

## **The Volunteer Ethos**

It is widely recognised that the voluntary ethos embodied by the GAA is what keeps the wheels of our organisation moving, and we must do our utmost to protect and support each and every one of those volunteers. Often, we forget that the thing that connects us more than anything else, is a shared passion for Gaelic Games in addition to a shared desire for the betterment of our games across all levels.

At times, our passions can boil over and have negative impacts, and in some instances voluntary officers are targeted with abusive or negative commentary. In more recent years, officers within Mayo GAA have been targeted by anonymous social media accounts who have directed vile personal abuse towards some of our most senior officers.

It is vital that we refrain from engaging with this behaviour, that we avoid sharing screenshots in WhatsApp groups, that we report any tweets or social media posts that would have a harmful impact on any of our volunteers or Mayo GAA staff, and that we avoid giving any unfounded lies and controversies credence in our day- to-day conversations.

I can't help but think that there are capable and competent club officers and Mayo GAA fans who would like to get more involved in our organisation, but who make a measured decision in silencing their interest for fear their names would be dragged through the mud on social media platforms. I hope that we see an end to this aspect of our games sooner rather than later, for the sake of the future of Mayo GAA.

### **Nóta Buíochais**

Mar is gnáth agus athbhreithniú á dhéanamh ar an mbliain atá caite, is gá buíochas a ghabháil do grúpaí agus daoine ar leith.

### **Divisional Committees**

I wish to thank our divisional committees, North, South, East and West. I want to recognise the work of the divisional secretaries who provided instrumental support in the arrangement of fixtures and their continued support in offering advice and council to the Bord na nÓg Executive. We had some tense exchanges during the year when organising the divisional competitions. It a testament to all who sat around that table that we can have robust interactions in our discussions, without any personal animosity leaving the room of debate. I would like to assure all divisions that at no point do we envisage the control of divisional competitions being taken over by Bord na nÓg.

Last year competitions were organised by Bord na nÓg in divisional format in challenging circumstances, which was accepted by all sides. Given that those challenging circumstances remained a reality for 2021, this format was continued, albeit without sufficient consultation with the divisions themselves. We look forward to engaging with the divisional boards more frequently in 2022 and providing support for their administration of those divisional competitions in what will be a more manageable year of competitive football.

I would like to thank the divisional chairpersons, Shane Quinn, Mike King, Mike Daly and Michael McKenzie. I would also like to express gratitude to the divisional secretaries who have been an exceptional support to the work of Bord na nÓg and who were instrumental in the provision of the divisional competitions, Mary Prenty, Chris McGowan, Brian O'Malley and Mick Herr.

## **PRO**

This year our underage games were extremely well publicised across local media and social media channels. The role of PRO incorporates vast disciplines across graphic design, social media engagement, public relations, website development, marketing and more. I want to thank John Walker and his team for their continued work throughout the year.

I would also like to acknowledge our local media outlets, Mid-West Radio, The Mayo News, The Connacht Telegraph, The Mayo Advertiser and The Western People for their coverage and promotion of our games.

## **Mayo Exec**

I would like to thank the Mayo County Board Executive the CCC for their continued support to Bord na nÓg. I want to also thank the Rúnaí, Dermot Butler, Cisteoir, Valerie Murphy and Leas-Cisteoir Michael Diskin for all of their support.

The past two years has seen monumental progress made in establishing more transparent and open structures withing Mayo GAA. With comprehensive fundraising policy, operational guidance with the operations manual, new finance structures and more robust structures in audit and risk, our clubs now have a strengthened organisation built on a foundation of due process and procedure. This significant progress will allow Mayo GAA develop even further in the years ahead.

Our outgoing Cathaoirleach, Liam Moffatt, has leaded this change and on behalf of Bord na nÓg I would like to wish him all the best in the future. On a personal note, Liam appointed me Cathaoirelach of Bord na nÓg in 2020 and I am very grateful for his endorsement. I have also witnessed first-hand the countless hours he has committed voluntarily to improving this organisation. I have also seen the stress implications of a role which has undoubtedly become too demanding and all-encompassing for a part time volunteer. The changes Liam has implemented over the last two years will stand to the organisation well into the future and I wish to thank him for his continued guidance and support over the past two years.

Guímid gach rath air amach anseo.

### **Administration & Upkeep**

I wish to thank Phil Heneghan for his continued work in maintaining standards in MacHale Park. I also would like to thank Michael Cummins who works tirelessly to support the overall admin of Mayo GAA, Michael is always available to officers at all hours and his unwavering support and commitment to Mayo GAA is greatly appreciated.

### **Referees**

To the referees and their teams who were instrumental in the completion of fixtures this year, I thank you most sincerely. It's an unenviable task standing between two teams on match day, and often standing between spectators too. While many of us may claim expertise on how a game should be refereed, there are very few who will step into the void and take on this challenging role.

### **Bord na nÓg Executive**

The duties of the Bord na nÓg committee were demanding yet again this year, and I would like to acknowledge the continued support and commitment of our committee. Bord na nÓg boasts a wealth of knowledge within its extended membership and there were many instances where I had to draw on that knowledge and expertise. Our delegates also travelled across the county to present trophies for our competition finals and when added support was needed at the gates, they were not found wanting. I wish to also acknowledge the outgoing members and thank them for their work.

-

**The Bord na nÓg Executive:**

	North	South	East	West	Hurling
<b>Cathaoirleach-Daithí Gallagher-Castlebar Mitchells.</b>	<b>Padraig Doherty-Ardagh</b>	<b>Liam Nyland-Davitts</b>	<b>John Gilmore-Bohola Moy Davitts.</b>	<b>Martin Costello-Ballintubber.</b>	<b>Thaigh Morley-Ballyhaunis</b>
<b>Rúnaí-Ronan Kirrane-Davitts.</b>	<b>Sean Tolan-Bonniconlon</b>	<b>Kieran Kilkenny-Davitts</b>	<b>Joe Dillon-Ballaghaderreen.</b>	<b>Willie McDonagh-Westport.</b>	
	<b>Dermot Kenny-Ballina</b>	<b>Donal Walsh-Kilmaine</b>	<b>Stephen Mooney-Eastern Gaels</b>	<b>Kevin Kelly-Islandeedy</b>	
	<b>Vincent Thomas-Ballycastle.</b>	<b>Richard O Halloran-Neale.</b>	<b>Gareth O Donnell-Charlestown.</b>	<b>Martin Golden-Breaffy.</b>	

**Bord na nÓg Secretary**

At the start of this report I made reference to the increased administrative output of 62% this year to ensure that our competitions were brought to a conclusion this year. The vast majority of this increased administrative output came solely from our Bord na nÓg secretary, Ronan Kirrane. He has been the first point of contact for clubs with any issues, concerns or fixture complications, and he deals with each query and request in a professional and efficient manner. Over the past two years

Ronan has been a great support to me as Chairperson, but more importantly he continues to be a fantastic support to clubs and officers across the county. I look forward to working closely with Ronan into the future and want to thank him most sincerely for the exemplary manner in which he carries out the duties of his role.

## Conclusion

In last years report I wrote that 2020 would 'go down in history as a year of unprecedented challenge'. Little did we think that the challenges of 2020 would continue into 2021 and that we would find ourselves in the same position as this time last year, hoping that we will return to normality for our games in the year ahead.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those members of the GAA community that we have lost over the past 12 months. Whether due to Covid 19 or general illness, this pandemic has infiltrated our process of grief, and on behalf of Bord na nÓg, I offer my condolence to all those who have suffered loss this year and our thoughts are with the family and friends of Paddy Muldoon, our fellow Coiste Bainistí member who passed away this year.

There are very few reports I write without concluding using the most powerful Seanfhocal I know, 'Ní neart go cur le chéile' ... there is strength in unity. The unity that clubs across Mayo have shown over the last 12 months leave us with no doubt that there is nothing to compare to the strength of the GAA community. I thank you all for your continued support and look forward to working with you in 2022.

Guímím gach rath ar na baill CLG Mhaigh Eo ar fad an Nollag seo. Tá súil agam go mbeidh Nollag suaimhneach ag gach éinne. Tá súil agam go mbeidh cuma níos fear ar an domhan i 2022, agus táim ag súil go mór le bheith ag obair i gcomhar leis na clubanna i Maigh Eo sna míonna amach romhainn.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

**Daithí Gallagher**

Cathaoirleach  
Bord na nÓg Mhaigh Eo  
087 6127214



## Bord na nÓg

### Tuairisc an Runaí

2021

A dhuine uasaile agus a cairde, failte romhaibh go leir go dtí an cruinniú anocht I Phairc Mhic Éil, Casleáin an Bharraigh. Ón dtús tá súil agam go dhearna gach club iarracht iontach sa bhliain dha bhlian fiche is a haon. Ní raibh aon rud shímplí sa bhlian seo ach táim an bhrodúil faoin gach duine a bhí ceangailte ins ár gchluichí agus ár clubanna.

A chara,

I would like to welcome you all to the Bord na Nóg Review Workshop for 2021.

Following on from a very difficult year in 2020 for the stakeholders of our games without doubt 2021 was one of the most difficult years to organise and deliver a cohesive, fluid calendar of games for our players.

There were major obstacles faced by the bord in formulating and organising games.

The delay in starting games was outside of our control and as a result we were starting football much later in the year. Further to this we, as a Bord were reticent about commencing competitions as soon as restrictions were relaxed.

We felt that this would lead to soft tissue injury, player burn out and was not to mind player welfare issues.

As a bord we fully acknowledge that we did not get as much football played as we had anticipated but I fully defend its members in the work they undertook in delivering meaningful, well organised competitions across all grades.

Withstanding the roadblocks faced we still managed to run successful competitions across U17/U15/U13 and U11 Grades with very promising shoots of activity coming from clubs in terms of local blitzes formatted by Bord na Nóg at U7 and U9 level.

The feedback from clubs who participated in the U-7 and U-9 Blitz formats were that they were generally well organised. It was great to move the venues around and bring plenty of games to clubs.

Saturday mornings up and down the county were awash with colour and noise as some of our youngest members engaged in fun games and started to make connections for life. In 2022 I would hope that more clubs would engage in these Blitz days.

Further to this there is no reason why clubs cannot go ahead and organise blitz format games at U7, U9 and U11 grades focusing on the Go Games attitude to games.

We also had a very well received weekend of Féile Football which was played in line with the weekends requested from Croke Park. The success of the Féile Competition was largely due to the correct level of gradings, the regional group stages and the knockout stages which were held in the COE.

Our U-17 competition was held up due to Covid Issues, playoffs and U-17 county team preparation but on the whole, it was a well contested competition with a high standard of quality.

In mid-September we moved on to even aged competitions at the request of clubs. While this caused administrative issues in relation to gradings and format, we were happy to facilitate games for our players and units.

The Even Aged Competitions provided some excellent contests and mouth-watering finals which showed the quality of our club structure. Barring a replay, we completed all our football by the end of October.

I would like to commend our Executive and the four Divisional Secretaries for their assistance in relation to gradings and support offered to me throughout the year. The calibre of those people is evident in the way our games were concluded this year. I would sincerely like to thank Chris McGowan (West), Brian O Malley (South) Mary Prenty (East) and Michael Herr (North) as well as the four representatives from each division (listed under Bord Executive), for their work throughout the year. I would also like to acknowledge the four divisional Chairpersons for their support and assistance during the year, Michael McKenzie (North), Shane Quinn (West), Michael Daly (West), and Mike King (South).

### **Gradings | Rangú**

This year we had very clear and evidence-based data on gradings.

This was done to ensure transparency and eliminate “one sided-games” as much as possible.

I am fully aware this is not always possible as teams develop at different levels and rates and are subject to internal matters within club structures.

On the whole, clubs embraced this new aspect of gradings and this was very pleasing in ensuring fairness across all competitions.

While the vast majority of clubs worked within the system there were a number of clubs who added late submissions or none at all but looked to change groups.

This is a major bug bear of mine as changes to groups require major hours of work on the Servasport system.

No late submissions will be accepted in 2022.

The grading system of 2020 and 2021 has made major games in reducing one-sided contests. While this will never be eradicated, I feel that the bord has made major steps in tightening up our competitions. Not every team will be satisfied with this, but individuals should realise it is about the process and development rather than the winning of games. Some clubs continually operate at a grade that tests themselves and improves the whole team while others are comfortable in keeping lower down.

Over the past four years I noticed that some clubs/individuals are more worried about what division their neighbours are placed in rather than looking at their own team. For me this continues to hold back clubs in achieving their own goals. We should focus on development rather than winning competitions.

### **Competitions| Comortaisí**

Our odd age group competitions started in June meaning that the calendar was always going to be tight for 2021. Obviously, this was out of our hands, but it meant we were already three months behind scheduled.

At times we had stoppages through divisions which impacted on the latter end of the competitions but, our hands were tied.

We liaised and worked with clubs on an individual basis and I feel we were there to support clubs in relation to postponing games and refixing them in a timing fashion.

At this juncture I must also compliment the clubs who worked and supported each other in relation to Covid matters.

Yes, undoubtedly there were issues and tensions but on the whole clubs worked well together. We had competitions at U11 grade that followed the Go Games Model meaning no scores were recorded.

In the U17 Competitions 7 games out of 167 were conceded. 8 more had no results.

-A No game was conceded.

-B1 1 game was conceded.

-B2 No game was conceded.

-C 2 games were conceded.

-D1-2 games were conceded. 2 scores not updated.

-D2 No games conceded.

-D Knockout-2 games conceded.

In the U15 Competition 7 games out of 220 were conceded. 4 more had no results.

-A 1 conceded out of 31

-B1- 1 conceded out of 28

-B2 – 0 concessions

-B Knockout 0 concession

-C1 1 out of 28

-C2 1 out of 28

-C knockout- No concession.

-D 3 conceded out of 28.

-D Knockout No concession.

In the U13 Competitions 8 games out of 269 were conceded. 6 more had no results.

There was a further 220 U11 games sent to clubs.

Please see below a list of the finals played in the odd age grades:

#### Competition Winners Odd Age Grades 2021

Comp	Winner	Runner up	Venue	Referee	Date	Presented
U17A	Westport 2:07	Kilmeena 1:05	Islandead y	P. Chambers	17.09. 2021	K. Kelly
U17B	Eastern Gaels 4:14	Claremorri s 1:16	Ballindine	C. Burke	06.09. 2021	R. Kirrane
U17C	Ardmoy 3:13	Erris St Pats 1:09	Cill Chomáin	J. Walker	27.08. 2021	P. Doherty
U17D	Acla 1:11	Kilmovee 0:11	Islandead y	P. chambers	10.09. 2021	D. Gallagher

COISTE CHONTAE MHAIGH EO COMHTHONÓL 2022

Comp	Winner	Runner up	Venue	Referee	Date	Presented
U15A	Castlebar 2:15	Claremorris 1:12	Breaffy	G. McMahon	09.08.2021	M. Golden
U15B	Crossmolina 4:11	Parke KC 1:10	Bofeenau n	P. Doherty	17.08.2021	No presentation.
U15C	Davitts 4:15	Charlestown 0:06	Claremorris	J. Finn	26.08.2021	R. Kirrane
U15D	Burrishroole 3:11	Mayo Gaels 3:08	Islandeady	K. Corcoran	13.08.2021	K. Kelly
U15 B Teams	Castlebar 3:04	Aghamore 0:12	Kiltimagh	P. Lydon	29.08.2021	J. Gilmore

Comp	Winner	Runner up	Venue	Referee	Date	Presented
U13A	Westport 1:16	Balla 2:08	Castlebar	K. Barnicle	26.08.2021	D. Gallagher
U13B	Belmullet 1:07	Neale 1:05	Ardagh	D. O Boyle	13.08.21	N. Reape
U13C	Crossmolina 0:07	Naomh Padraig 0:06	Ballina	C. Reape	26.08.2021	S. Tolan
U13D	Tourmakeady 4:09	Parke KC 4:06	Ballintubber	M. Walsh	12.08.2021	M. Costello
U13E	BMD 4:4	Islandeady 3:05	Ballyheane	S. O Neill	19.08.2021	M Golden
U13F	Ballinrobe 3:07	Balla 2:09	Claremorris	J. Finn	19.08.2021	L. Nyland
U13G	Ardnaree 2:07	Westport 2:04	Swinford	J. Clancy	21.08.2021	J. Dillon

Our Even Age Competitions started in mid-September.

Unfortunately, due to a number of factors i.e., Covid-19, fading light, return to school, schools' football, pitches, referee availability etc. we had major issues.

For the most part nearly all clubs recognised the issues we faced and worked in a very accommodating and supportive manner in order so that we could get our players engaging in club sport. However, there were some who had issues with how we provided football for our players. I think we all need to take stock of the complexities of football in 2021 and realise that we did as well as we could especially considering we were three months behind at the start of play.

We fully realise that football was in a tight window but the alternative of ceasing football by in the early days of September was not one the Bord was comfortable with. Barring the replay in the U14A final all club activity would have finished in October which I think is a success as for me underage football is difficult to provide let alone enjoy during the winter months.

**At minor level (U18)** we had 3 games conceded out of 32 in the A Competition, 4 games conceded in the B with two further teams withdrawing from the competition and 3 games conceded in the C Competition as one team pulled out.

**At U16 level we had six games conceded.**

There were 2 games conceded in the A Competition.

There were 3 games conceded in the B Competition.

There was 1 game conceded in the C Competition.

**At U14 level we had six concessions out of 141 games.**

There were no games conceded in the U14A Competition.

There were three games conceded in the U14B Competition.

There were three games conceded in the U14C Competition.

Please see below the winners of the Even Aged Competitions:

## Competition Winners Even Age Grades 2021

U12 Group	Winner	Joint Winners	Joint Winners	
A	Castlebar			
B	Parke KC			
C	Ballintubber	Balla	Ballinrobe	3 Winners
D	Ardmoy			
E	Hollymount/Carramore			
F	Tourmakeady			
G	Neale			
H	Crossmolina			
I	Castlebar B			
J	Charlestown B			
K		Ballintubber B	Ballinrobe B	
L		Ardnaree B	N. Padraig B	
M	Not finished. C Teams			

## County Finals

Competition	Winner	Runner up	Referee	Venue	Presented by:
U18A	Claremorris 0:11	Castlebar 0:09	J. Walker	COE	G. O'Donnell
U18B	Crossmolina 4:10	Kilmeena 3:07	J. Finn	Mulvey Park	M. Daly
U18C	Bonniconlon 2:13	Islandeedy 1;07	J. Clancy	Foxford	S. Tolan
U16A	Claremorris 2:17	Castlebar 2:09	P. Lydon	Islandeedy	K. Kilkenny
U16B	Breaffy 1:15	Holly/Carra 2:10	S. Tolan	Claremorris	R. Kirrane
U16C	Ardmoy 2:10	Acla 3:01	G. McMahon	Islandeedy	K. Kelly
U14A Replay	Crossmolina7: 09 Westport 6-10	Westport 6:12 Crossmolina 2-9	T. Morley J. Glavey	COE COE	D. Gallagher
U14B	Shrule G/C 4:11	Parke KC 2:15	S. Corcoran	Ballinrobe	R. O Halloran
U14C	Westport B 3:19	Ballinrobe B 3:09	J. Clancy	COE	W. McDonagh

## North

Grade	Winner	Runner up	Referee	Venue
U18A	Ballina 1:11	Knockmore 3:04	S Tolan	Ballina
U18B	Crossmolina 4:09	Cill Chomáin 0:06	V Tomas	Cill Chomáin
U18C	Bonniconlon 3:11	Ardnaree 2:10	D O Boyle	Bonniconlon
U16A	Knockmore 3:13	Ballina 2:09	J. Walker	Ballina
U16B	Naomh Padraig 3:09	Crossmolina 0:11	V. Neary	Crossmolina
U16C	Ardmoy 4:11	Cill Chomáin 0:08		Ardagh
U14A	Crossmolina 3:16	Belmullet 1:09	S. Tolan	Crossmolina
U14B	Ardnaree 3:18	Lahardane 0:08	V. Thomas	Bofeenaun
U14C	Ballina 6:15	Naomh P 4:08	M. Herr	Ardnaree

## South

Grade	Winner	Runner up	Referee	Venue
U18A Replay	Claremorris 0:06 Claremorris 4:09	Davitts 0:06 Davitts 1:14	S. Reilly C. Burke	Claremorris Ballindine
U18B	Hollymount/C 4:09	Carras 3:10	J. Boyle	Garrymore
U18C	N/A			
U16A	Claremorris 5:14	Ballinrobe 0:07	M. Tuffy	Ballinrobe
U16B	Holly/Carra 2:18	Mayo Gaels 1:09	G. McMahon	Ballinrobe
U16C	N/A			
U14A	Claremorris 4:16	Ballinrobe 1:04	G. McMahon	Ballinrobe
U14B	Shrule G/C 3:19	Mayo Gaels 1:04	K. Connelly	Glencorrib
U14C	Ballinrobe 4:14	Claremorris 3:08	M. Kennedy	Claremorris



**East**

Grade	Winner	Runner up	Referee	Venue
U18A	BMD 4:14	Aghamore 1:04	M. Daly	Aghamore
U18B	Charlestown 3:07	Swinford 2:09	J. Glavey	COE
U18C	N/A			COE
U16A	BMD 4:17	Kiltimagh 1:07	J. Finn	COE
U16B	Kilmovee 3:15	Ballagh 4:08	R. Gurren	COE
U16C	N/A			COE
U14A	Aghamore 4:19	Kiltimagh 2:06	J. Clancy	COE
U14B	Ballagh 4:15	Ballyhaunis 2:06	J. Judge	COE
U14C	N/A			COE

**West**

Grade	Winner	Runner up	Referee	Venue
U18A	Castlebar 3:12	Breaffy 1:04	D. Corcoran	Islandeady
U18B	Kilmeena 2:10	Parke KC 1:10	J. Henry	Ballyheeane
U18C	Islandeady 1:22	Louisburg 3:07	B. Kilkelly	Kilmeena
U16A	Castlebar 3:11	Westport 1:05	K. Corcoran	Clogher
U16B	Breaffy 1;11 Breaffy 5:06	Balla 2:08 Balla 3:09	M. Kenny P. Chambers	Breaffy Breaffy
U16C	Acla 5:09	Burrishroole 4:11	S. Corcoran	Acla
U14A	Westport1:09	Castlebar 0:09	S. Corcoran	Islandeady
U14B	Parke 1:16	Ballintubber 3:06	G. Gibbons	Parke
U14C	Westport 8:16	Castlebar 2:06	S. O'Neill	Castlebar



## **B Competitions | Comortaisí B**

We had sufficient interest from teams in our B Competitions this year which allowed for B Competitions across a number of age grades.

There are now more B Teams playing competitive football than ever before.

While this is brilliant it is providing many logistical issues with pitches, referees and management teams.

This year some of the urban clubs sought to play at higher grades. I feel this proved very successful as players were playing at a higher standard which will hopefully improve the quality of our competitions. I would like to acknowledge the manner in which those urban B teams approached the competitions. Many teams worked well and cooperated with each other during the season sticking to progress which had been made in 2020.

However, there were issues which included:

- Clubs not sending in submissions for B Teams
- Clubs entering B Teams and pulling out once fixtures are made.
- Clubs not submitting first 12 players
- Clubs not issuing teamlists using the Foireann system.
- Clubs changing fixtures and failing to inform referee/County Board.

The five mentioned issues above cause serious headaches for the Bord na Nóg officers as well as creating issues and tensions between clubs.

In 2022 I will be seeking clarification from Croke Park regarding B Team Competitions. While progress has been made in this area there are a minority of individuals who try to alter teams through misuse of players or changing fixtures with no notice given to the Bord.

I will be hoping to share First 12 names to the clubs competing in the relevant division. I would also be requesting that no player in his final year of a grade shall play for a B Team if he is on an Academy Team (At that grade) e.g. A player who is in his final year at U17 can be named on a B Team at U17 if he is on the County U17 Panel.

**Thanks | Buíochas:****Facilities | Aiseanna:**

It would be remiss of me to give my report without thanking the clubs for their support during the year.

The vast majority of clubs were fantastic in sharing their club grounds for neutral venues and finals often at short notice. There were some clubs who went above and beyond in this regard and re-jigged club training or games to facilitate our games.

It is testament to the clubs and the individuals within these units who helped the Bord na Nóg Executive and myself in this regard.

Clubs printed off programmes, enlisted stewards, exceeded standards and welcomed supporters back into our grounds.

I am very pleased with the manner in which clubs have adapted to the programmes online.

It is more transparent and user friendly for all covered. On a personal level I was disappointed in myself for missing one programme but I have taken steps to avoid that in the future.

**New Procedures | Gnáthamh Nua**

This year we brought in some measures to ease the burden on administration and support clubs in doing this. The idea of filling out forms online has been a one that clubs have embraced. We will continue with this going forward. The postponement form will continue going forward. The method in which we provide team lists for finals is one of the administrative advancements I am most satisfied with. It has made my job easier and makes lists more transparent. I would like to thank the almost universal manner in which it was adopted with. To be clear it is the responsibility of both clubs to fill out the teamlists in a timely manner. If for any final I do not send a programme out then get in contact but, it is not the responsibility of host clubs (unless competing) to do so. I would ask that participating clubs complete their team list for a final at least 48 hours before a Final.

**Teamsheets |**

During the year it has come to our attention that clubs and/or individuals are not using the proper team sheets for presenting to referees and opposition teams.

In this day and age this is simply not good enough nor does it show respect towards other teams in the competitions.

In 2022 I will be calling on clubs to furnish team sheets of opposing teams that are not off the Foireann system. Teams who continue to provide hand-written team lists or lists without registration numbers may be withdrawn from competitions in 2022. With regards

to reporting injuries and/or issues it is much easier to support a claim when team lists are supplied in a proper fashion.

### **Covid-19 Response Clubs**

Although the challenges around Covid-19 were huge and placed a major burden of time and energy on the volunteers the manner, in which guidelines were followed and often exceeded was very pleasing.

Clubs did not shirk in their responsibilities in this regard. I am cognisant of the fact that these procedures and practices heaped greater strains on the already over worked members of management and executives throughout the county but the safety of our members required this.

I thank you for the efforts with stewards, return to play forms, protocol around games etc.

I would like to thank Mary Prenty (Development Officer) for her support to clubs and individuals around Covid-19 issues and procedures-It was a difficult role but one in which Mary carried out throughout the season.

### **Challenges for 2022 | Geallaithe 2022**

One of the major issues we faced in 2021 was the timing of our U17 competitions.

Playing these games on a Friday evening caused major issues with academies, coaches and Bord na Nóg.

The academies have used Saturday mornings for the past three years as their main day for preparation and training and the planning of games on a Friday was a mistake.

In 2022 we will have to look at an alternative day for this competition that suits all stakeholders. We must all ask the question of ourselves as to which day suits all parties?

I have heard the idea of having the U17 League campaign as one without county panel members but personally I am not comfortable with telling 16 or 17-year-old players that county comes before club. More conversation will be needed around this area but a compromise will have to be reached in order to maintain the integrity of this competition.

### **Discipline | Disciplín**

Thankfully issues pertaining to serious complaints were less frequent in 2021 than in previous years and while we can never fully eradicate the blight of this in our games it is important that we all remain vigilant around this area. In reporting issues, it is important that a balanced view is taken with a view to resolving an issue rather than inflaming the problem.

One such issue was reported this year and while i won't name the club I would like to thank them for putting their hand up and dealing with the matter in a timely and honest fashion.

It takes courage for a club or individual to admit a wrong-doing but it is also the making of a person and shows excellent club approach to poor behaviour.

As officers of clubs, we all have a responsibility to preventing and reporting behaviour which is not acceptable. If this happens in your club then take action:

- Ensure the underage safety of children is top of the list.
- Remove a player from immediate danger or harm.
- Remove yourself from a volatile situation if you feel it will inflame the matter.
- Report to the referee.
- Make a written report while the matter is fresh in your head.
- Contact your Children's Officer if the matter warrants further reporting.

### **Féile 2021:**

This year's competition was held in celebration of the 50 years of the competition.

It was held at U15 level which was a new age bracket. In Mayo we held three grades of competitions.

Group stages were held in regional venues on the Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of August with the semi-Finals and Finals taking place on the Sunday 29.08.2021 in The Centre of Excellence.

I would like to thank the referees for giving such dedication to the competition and it added greatly to its success. I would like to thank John Prenty for allowing us access to the COE for the latter stages of the competition.

In light of the changes to the competition this year we ran a very successful and high standard of competition considering the challenges posed. The winners were:

A: Claremorris who beat Westport 3:05 to 2:05. Referee S. Tolan.

B: Ballaghaderren who beat Ballinrobe 1:06 to 0:05 Referee S. Corcoran

C: Eastern Gaels who beat Ardnaree 2:10 to 1:02 Referee M. Herr

Well done to the winners and thank you to all the teams who entered.

### **Team Grades and Levels:**

As we prepare for games in 2022, I would request that clubs figure out what players are available to them for next season as soon as possible.

In order for us to do our job in a timely fashion we need to know if clubs are amalgamating at levels or not in a position to compete.

The onus is on the officers of clubs to ascertain whether or not they are able to field teams and the responsibility lies with clubs to ensure that players are getting meaningful football.

I would implore club officers to take steps to address this as a matter of urgency prior to the commencement of work on grades by the officers of Bord na Nóg.

### **U17 Management | Bainistíocht Fé 17**

I would sincerely like to acknowledge to level of application of Sean Deane, his backroom staff and the players this year.

It was a verry disjointed year for preparing a team due to Covid-19 and this severely hampered the preparation for this group.

Initially sixty-four players were looked at based on players from the U15 Panel of 2019.

This followed very successful divisional trials which were attended by over one hundred and fifty players.

Subsequent to these four regional sides of twenty-one players were picked for the County Cup where East Mayo beat West Mayo in a well contested game. At that stage regular training commenced with challenge games against Longford, Kerry, Donegal and Meath adding to the preparation of the group.

Due to Covid the format for the U17 Competition was a straight knock out for the second successive year. Our first and only Championship game took place in The Hyde on 24.07.2021. The team were well prepared and aimed at reaching a provincial decider at least. The game started in pulsating fashion and it was evident that the team with the stronger defensive game would be in pole position.

We leaked a number of scores and when we did get ourselves back into contention, we coughed up possession and conceded scores. This made the task more difficult but credit to the players and management Mayo continued to cause trouble and raise question marks of the Roscommon defence. The game finished on a score line of Roscommon 4:13 Mayo 2:12. It was a very disappointing outcome for 2021.

Parents too played a huge regard in this through the transportation and support of their children in difficult circumstances. Hopefully a less disjointed 2022 will bring better results for the panel of next year.

### **GPO's and Academies:**

I would like to thank the Games Promotion Officers (GPO's) for the work in which they carry out in the county. We are lucky to have such highly skilled and enthusiastic officers working on the ground in our schools and clubs.

Following a year break due to the pandemic we decided to go with 2 distinct phases in our academy programme for 2021.

Phase 1 commenced on June 5th and was the regional phase where we brought all interested players into our 4 distinct regions at the 3 age groups U-16's, U-15's and U-14's. From this each region picked a squad of 24 players for each of the teams meaning that 288 players played on each day.

That meant we entered twelve teams entered into the Connacht competitions,

This process concluded on the final blitz day on 4th September.

The only hiccup on this is that we were unable to play u-16's on the first blitz day due to a clash with U-17's fixtures on the night before.

Other than this all teams exceeded in their relevant games.

Phase 2 then started on 11th September where we commenced a 10-week winter development programme where each of the squads were reduced to approximately fifty players. We have gained entry into the Leinster competitions where games are currently ongoing with 2 teams competing in all age groups. This is due to finish on the first week of December.

A big thank must go to all the GPO's who helped get all regional squads up and running and also all the numerous coaches who have helped in the process both at regional and county level.

I would also like to acknowledge the recent appointment of Kieran Kilkenny as GDA of the county. This exciting new position is filled by the right person and I have no doubt Kieran will bring a high level of knowledge to this role which will greatly improve structures within our clubs and our academies.

#### **Divisional Chairpersons:**

Although we only met once this year the meeting in which we had was probably one of the most heated but needed meetings of the year. It allowed all stakeholders involved discuss some of the major stumbling blocks which were affecting the "even aged" Competitions. This meeting paved the way for all members to be clear on how the competition was to be run. I would like to thank, Shane Quinn, Mike King, Mike Daly and Michael McKenzie for this meeting and for their unerring support over the year.

#### **Executive Bord Members:**

Again like 2020, 2021 followed the system whereby we rarely met in a physical meeting room this year. However, we probably had more interaction than in recent years.

Behind the scenes it takes a monumental effort to ensure the smooth running of competitions. Our aim is to provide as much meaningful football for the underage players in Mayo and I feel that even withstanding Covid we have delivered in this area.

I would like to thank all the Bord Na Nóg Executive members who have come to the end of their five-year term-I thank you for your patience, guidance and support.

I would sincerely like to thank and acknowledge the work of the Cathaoirleach of the Bord Na Nóg, Daithí Gallagher.

This role has morphed over the last number of years and requires someone of the calibre of Daithí to steer the ship and guide development and quality of our competitions.

He has approached the role in a very professional manner and works tirelessly in promote our games. His attention to detail and fairness of decision making is evident in his everyday approach. People should not lose sight of the fact that the last two years have been two of the most difficult years to provide a comprehensive calendar of games for our players and Daithí has worked exceptionally diligently in facilitating this. I look forward to working with you again in 2022.

#### Coiste Bord na Nóg

	North	South	East	West	Hurling
<b>Cathaoirleach-Daithí Gallagher-Castlebar Mitchells.</b>	<b>Padraig Doherty-Ardagh</b>	<b>Liam Nyland-Davitts</b>	<b>John Gilmore-Bohola Moy Davitts.</b>	<b>Martin Costello-Ballintubber.</b>	<b>Thaigh Morley-Ballyhaunis</b>
<b>Rúnaí-Ronan Kirrane-Davitts.</b>	<b>Sean Tolan-Bonniconlon</b>	<b>Kieran Kilkenny-Davitts</b>	<b>Joe Dillon-Ballaghaderr- een.</b>	<b>Willie McDonagh-Westport.</b>	
	<b>Dermot Kenny-Ballina</b>	<b>Donal Walsh-Kilmaine</b>	<b>Stephen Mooney-Eastern Gaels</b>	<b>Kevin Kelly-Islandeady</b>	
	<b>Vincent Thomas-Ballycastle.</b>	<b>Richard O Halloran-Neale.</b>	<b>Gareth O Donnell-Charlestown.</b>	<b>Martin Golden-Breaffy.</b>	

#### Phil Heneghan.

I would like to thank Phil for his continued work at Elvery's MacHale Park. The level of support he offers team managers and clubs is second to none. He keeps the show on the road and is very accommodating in his role.



**Michael Cummins:**

I would sincerely like to acknowledge and thank our Administrator Michael Cummins. The level of work which he carries out on a daily basis is phenomenal. He really is a fantastic support to the Mayo GAA brand, clubs and individuals up and down the county. The respectful manner in which he supports officers of Mayo GAA both at county and club level is exceptional and held in high regard.

**Referees | Réiteorí**

I would like to thank Denis Harrington (Referee Co-ordinator) for his cooperation throughout the year. He has a great knowledge of the work required by referees and the input they have in our games. I would like to sincerely thank our referees for their hard work in 2021.

In 2021 we had a number of referees who hung up the whistle and I thank them greatly for the service they gave to the game. I would also like to share a word for a number of referees who have had health concerns this year. Mayo Bord Na Nóg wish you all a speedy recovery.

I am calling on all clubs to pinpoint individuals who might take up the whistle as we cannot continue on as we are.

We now provide more football and more games than ever before but now with less referees. This is not sustainable. Furthermore, clubs are sometimes quick to complain about the same referees officiating at their club on a frequent basis.

Well I'm afraid, if clubs do not provide new referees then the matter will become even more stark. We all need to work on this but I'm asking you as an officer in your club to find at least one new referee to help lighten the load.

**Why Become a GAA Referee?**

- **Stay involved** with the game as an alternative to playing
- **Fitness**– It's a great way to keep fit
- **Ambition**– could you referee a County Final or even an All-Ireland?
- **Learn more** about the game
- **Give Something Back**– offers players, at the end of their playing days, the opportunity to continue in the sport
- **Personal Development**– helps to develop personal skills that are of value in all walks of life

**What qualities are required to become a GAA Referee?**

- Good knowledge of the playing rules.
- Be physically and mentally fit.
- Have the ability to remain calm.
- Have the moral courage to take decisions which are correct.

**How do I become a Referee?**

The first thing to do, is to contact your local Referee Administrator (Denis Harrington) who will give you details on upcoming GAA Referee Foundation Course in MacHale Park, which you will have to complete before you can referee games. GAA Club Referee Course will take 3 nights to complete and will be delivered by GAA Referee Tutors.

**Sponsorship | Urraíocht**

I would sincerely like to thank Homeland for their continued support especially during these difficult times. The support shown to Mayo GAA by Homeland has been brilliant and I hope this continues into the future.

**PR Committee:**

I would like to acknowledge and thank John Walker and his PR Committee for their promotion of our finals. The interaction online has shown winning moments and valuable memories across various social media platforms. The levels of engagement show a huge market for development in this area.

**Mayo GAA Executive and CCC | Coiste Bainistíocht**

I would like to compliment and thank all the officers and returning officers of Mayo GAA Executive & CCC for their support during the year.

Running an organisation such as Mayo GAA is a difficult onerous task, more often without thanks or acknowledgement instead vilification and abuse especially on Social Media outlets. The level of personal attacks and hatred aimed at officers of the county board is shocking and often leaves me thinking 'Is this level of work worth the hassle?'

The officers of the board work for the betterment of clubs and players. The cheap insults and constant comments online say more about the type of people posting them rather than those who do the work. It is easy sit on the side-line and throw stones but perhaps these people would be better off having a more positive outlook on life.

I would like to thank the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Liam Moffatt, for the huge amount of work that he has carried out in the last two years. The volume of work, level of transparency and professionalism he has approached the role with, will hopefully be a long-standing theme for Mayo GAA.

I wish his successor the very best in the role and I hope that he would continue on with the progress and dedication that Liam afforded the role. I would also like to thank our Rúnaí, Dermot Butler, for his support and assistance during the year, Cisteoir, Valerie Murphy for her hard work & reforms and Chairperson of the CCC Con Moynihan for the support they have shown to me and the Bord in 2021.

In some clubs there will be a change in officers for 2021-I would like to thank those who have moved on and welcome those who will be working with the Bord na Nóg in 2021.

I would like to acknowledge all those who have suffered illness or personal bereavement in 2021. Mayo GAA has lost some great individuals in 2021-people we will not see the likes of again.

The challenges faced by people over the last 24 months have burdened many people and the lack of social interaction has not helped those in need. Hopefully the situation will improve and we can all look forward to celebrating the important parts of our lives with those closest to us.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of Mayo GAA a Healthy and Safe Christmas. I look forward to working with you again in 2022.

Ni neart a cur le chéile.

*Ronán Ó Ciaráin | Ronan Kivraue,*

Rúnaí Bord Na Nóg Mhaigh Eo

**Health and Wellbeing Committee**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

A Chara,

In my final year as Chairperson of Mayo GAA Health and Wellbeing Committee I would like to thank each one of you who have supported both myself and the Committee in what has been an extremely challenging and rewarding two years.

To all the wonderful clubs who have worked extremely hard in strengthening their communities through the work of their Healthy Club Officers is a testament to the strength of our GAA Community here in Mayo.

In October this year we were delighted to report that we have another six clubs successfully graduate to the Healthy Club Status. Mayo has now the highest number of clubs graduated in the country.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow Committee Members and the County Board Executive who provided fantastic support to me as my time as Chairperson when dealing with Critical Incidents that unfortunately occurred in a number of our communities in 2021.

I hope the following report will highlight the great work that has taken place over the last 12 months. Upon reflection, I believe that County Health and Wellbeing Committees must be seen as an integral part within the County Board. The structures and training of such that make up the County Health and Wellbeing Committee must have a broad range of expertise in responding to the Health and Wellbeing needs of our members.

Finally, it was a great honour for me, my family and club to be asked to Chair our County Health and Wellbeing Committee. We have worked with great people and their communities. I will continue to offer any support needed to our Health and Wellbeing Committee from my recent appointment to the National Health and Wellbeing Committee to ensure our counties aims and objectives develop and grow throughout the next number of years.

Is mise le meas,

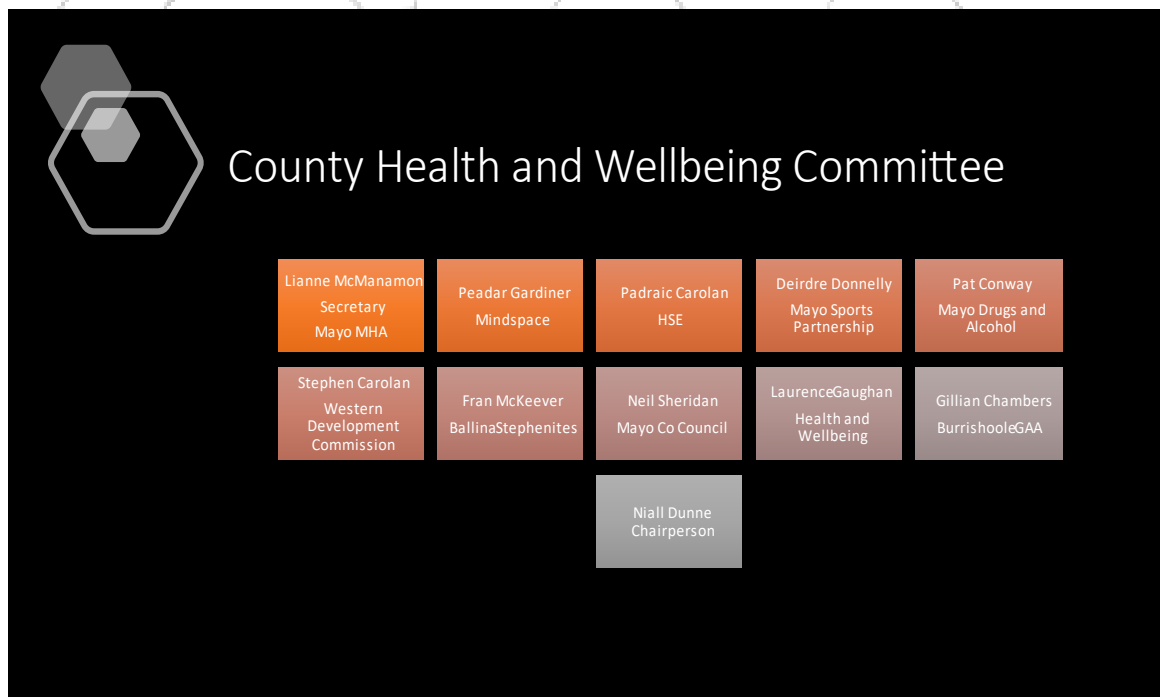
Niall Dunne

Chairperson

Mayo GAA Health and Wellbeing Committee

Committee Members & Community Representation

Committee Members & Community Representation:



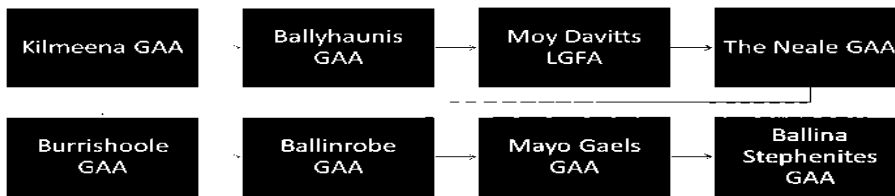
The graphic features a dark background with a hexagonal logo on the left. The title 'County Health and Wellbeing Committee' is centered at the top. Below the title, members are listed in colored boxes: Lianne McManamon (Secretary, Mayo MHA), Peadar Gardiner (MindSPACE), Padraic Carolan (HSE), Deirdre Donnelly (Mayo Sports Partnership), Pat Conway (Mayo Drugs and Alcohol), Stephen Carolan (Western Development Commission), Fran McKeever (BallinaStephenites), Neil Sheridan (Mayo Co Council), Laurence Gaughan (Health and Wellbeing), Gillian Chambers (Burrishoole GAA), and Niall Dunne (Chairperson).

County Health and Wellbeing Committee				
Lianne McManamon Secretary Mayo MHA	Peadar Gardiner MindSPACE	Padraic Carolan HSE	Deirdre Donnelly Mayo Sports Partnership	Pat Conway Mayo Drugs and Alcohol
Stephen Carolan Western Development Commission	Fran McKeever BallinaStephenites	Neil Sheridan Mayo Co Council	Laurence Gaughan Health and Wellbeing	Gillian Chambers Burrishoole GAA
Niall Dunne Chairperson				

COISTE CHONTAE MHAIGH EO COMHTHIONÓL 2022

Mindspace Mayo & CROI	Current charity partners for Mayo GAA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mindspace Youth Panel</li> </ul>	Mindspace Project Manager Peadar Gardiner
HSE	Through current members of the committee Padraic Carolan
Mayo Mental Health Association	Niall Dunne current Chairperson HWC & Lianne McManamon Health Promotion Officer current member of the committee.
The Movement Gyms	Andy Moran – Ambassador for Mayo Mental Health Association & The Movement
Mayo Sports Partnership	Deirdre Donnelly - Community Sports Development Officer & a Healthy Club Officer
Mayo Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce	Pat Conway - Community Liaison Officer & a Healthy Club Officer
Peer Support Worker	Fran Downey – Bealach Nua Peer Support Worker. Provides resources and advice to current clubs partaking in the Healthy Club Project
Comhairle na nOg	Health Promotion Officer with Mayo Mental Health Association
GP's	Dr. Gillian Chambers HSE joined the Committee in July 2021
Grant Application	Neil Sheridan, who is a current member, looks after Grant Application and Local Authority Contact Person – successful in securing €2,000 Healthy Ireland Fund for the Moving Your Mind Project. Chairperson also worked alongside Laurence Gaughan Health & Wellbeing HSE in devising a mechanism through funding opportunities for clubs to develop Health & Wellbeing strategies within their communities – Grant of €5000 has been located.
Western Development Commission & Mayo GAA PRO	Stephen Carolan – Media & Website

### Recently Graduated Healthy Clubs



\*

Potential Healthy Clubs for New Application 2021/2022

Lahardane	Balla	Ballintubber	Crossmolina	Hollymount/Carramore
Killala	Knockmore	Parke Keellogues Crimlin GAA	Moy Davitts	Westport

### Current Work

Healthy Clubs Update

- Continued evidence-based Health & Wellbeing articles were bi-weekly disseminated to all H& W Clubs Officers.
- All 8 Clubs graduated to become recognised Healthy Clubs (N)
- Healthy Club Grant applications circulated with 10 clubs successful in attaining €500. (F)
- Club Survey for HWO recently circulated. Objective to explore areas of training and education to support their roles (L)
- National Update  
Funding, Grants, Training, Areas of focus



## Mayo GAA Coaching Officer Report 2021

### Overview

2021 proved to be a very busy and productive year despite the continued presence of the Covid-19 Pandemic for everybody involved in coaching in Mayo. I would like to express my gratitude to all who helped Mayo Coaching & Games in difficult circumstances from club to school to inter-county. We are indebted to so many people in Mayo GAA with regards to coaching and to all players, parents, coaches, administrators, ground staff and supporters of club, school and inter-county teams I say thank you.

I would also like to thank the officers of the Mayo County Board Liam Moffatt, Con Moynahan, Valarie Murphy, Dermot Butler, John Walker and all of our Executive members. Also, I would like to thank, Cathal Cregg and Billy McNicholas of Connacht GAA for their support and patience with regards to queries raised.

### Managerial Appointments

In January two significant managerial appointments were made in Mayo GAA, at U17 and U20 levels. The recently drafted Managerial Appointed Policy was used to determine the process of filling these positions in a fair and transparent manner.

The standard of applicants for both positions was of a very high standard and this bodes well for Mayo GAA in the future.

Ultimately the successful candidates were

Maurice Sheridan Under 20s and Sean Deane Under 17s

It proved to be a difficult year for both our Under17 and Under 20 teams. The Covid pandemic which shut down all on pitch activities for the first 4 months of the year hampered both teams' preparations.



First up was our Under 20s who took on defending Connacht and All Ireland champions Galway in Tuam last July. Galway fielded 11 players from their previous campaign on the day.

The game was a very tight affair with Mayo prevailing in the end thanks to a penalty shoot-out. The following week we played Roscommon in the Connacht Final in McHale Park and despite a good start from Mayo Roscommon proved to be too strong on the day.

2 days later our Under 17s took on Roscommon in Hyde Park in the Connacht Final.

Unfortunately, we came up short against Roscommon on the day.

However, in terms of development there were some quality players on show for Mayo on both panels and with the correct mentoring and coaching we will see these players come through to the senior ranks in the not-too-distant future.

### **Talent Academies**

A new structure was agreed for our Talent Academies for 2021 in January 2021

Kieran Kilkenny has been appointed Academy Manager. He was to continue in the role until the appointment of a Performance GDA later in the year.

Austin O Malley has agreed to stay on as Performance Coach

Diarmuid Byrne is the Under 16 Manager

Tom Mulderrig is the Under 15 Manager

Tom Reilly is the Under 14 Manager

The mixed model approach that was adopted in 2018 and 2019 was further developed with the integration of ex-players from club and inter-county backgrounds along with Mayo GAA coaching staff in 2021. We pursued a high coach to player ratio so that each coach carries out a small amount of work.

Our Talent Academies were resourced as a high priority by Mayo GAA this year

The planning for this was carried out from the start of the year with all the Academy managers involved in the process. Most of the preparation for the year ahead was carried out online including communication with players and their parents at all age groups in the first few months of the year leading up to the start of our on-pitch activities commencing at the start of June

It has been a very busy summer for our Academy players and management teams. We started in early June with a series of trials for all the U14 U15 and U16 players that wished to take part. These trials and pitch sessions took part in many different venues in our regions throughout the summer. A big thank you to all Divisional Officers and clubs for facilitating these sessions.

4 panels of 24 players were then selected at each of the 3 age groups to represent their regions in the Connacht Academy Blitz days which were held in the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence over 4 days throughout June, July, August and September. On 3 of these days Mayo GAA had 288 players that participated in the blitzes and there was one stand-alone 4<sup>th</sup> day for our U16s when 96 players took part. All of our teams competed very well on these days which is pivotal to their development as footballers as for many of them it is the start of their journey outside of their clubs and schools playing football at a higher level against players from different counties.

All of these teams also trained independently during the summer on Saturday mornings in different regions throughout the county A big thank you must go to our management teams, coaches, parents and to the players themselves for making these very worthwhile days possible.

We subsequently moved on to our Phase 2 Winter Development Programme which started for the U15s and U16s on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Our U14s commenced on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October. The Programme has been running on Saturday mornings, which is the time ringfenced for the Academy, until early December.

The panel numbers for the 3 age groups have been reduced for this programme in order to facilitate a better Coach to Player ratio.

The following areas of coaching have been included in the programme

Skills development

Performance Analysis

Game Preparation

Athletic Development with Conor Finn

Life Skills

Nutritional Guidance with Evan Regan

Games

Our Winter Development Programme is continuing in earnest at the moment with all 3 panels taking part in Skills Development Pitch sessions every Saturday mainly on the Mulvey Pitches in Castlebar. The biggest issue has been monitoring the workload of the players as these last few weeks of September and all of October have become an exceptionally busy time for many of them. Working with all of the stakeholders to ensure that player welfare is to the forefront in all discussions regarding these players is the key to providing solutions here. A big thank you must go to Bord na Nog, Clubs and Schools in this regard.



As part of their development our U16s and U15s took part in organised competitions which have been sanctioned by Croke Park during late October and November. The details are as follows

**Oct 26th**

U-16's Home vs Donegal

Neutral vs Wicklow (Offaly) half squad

U-15's Home vs Roscommon

Home vs Roscommon

**Oct 30th**

U-16's Neutral vs Meath

Neutral vs Meath (both games in kiltoom) Full squad

U-15's Away vs Sligo

**Nov 13th**

U-16's Away vs Clare (half squad)

Neutral vs Wexford (Westmeath) half squad

U-15's Home vs Donegal

## Home vs Donegal

There will then be a finals day on **27th November**, these games will depend on our results in the other games and will know the fixtures closer to the time.

Our U14s also participated in 2 blitz days in November.

It is of the utmost importance that we in Mayo GAA continue to provide appropriate sustainable resources for our aspiring young players to enable them to reach their potential in becoming better footballers for both their club and county. We must underpin our significant achievements at adult level with a modern, player centred, fit for purpose Academy populated with forward thinking coaches that we can all be proud of.

A big thank you must go to our Academy Sponsor Smyths Toys without whom none of this would be possible. We in Mayo GAA look forward to working closely with Smyths over the next number of years with both parties benefitting from working towards a shared set of values and cultures.

## Webinars

Mayo GAA Player and Coach Education Webinar Series continued in February with Tom Parsons presenting on ' Resilience in Sport and Life '

This was a fantastic workshop which gave a brilliant insight into Tom's journey both as a player and as a person.

Feedback to this event was very positive from both players and coaches alike.

The final 2 webinars of our 5-webinar series took place in April. The first of these took place on April 1st titled Athletic Development for Underage Teams which was presented by Conor Finn and Colm Boyle. This was a very informative and interesting workshop that was well attended by players and coaches alike. Feedback has been very positive.

The second webinar went out live on April 14<sup>th</sup> and was presented by Mark Gallagher in conjunction with Seamus Burns. It was titled Return to Play the Safe Way which was aimed at all Club and County Underage coaches.

Again, this proved to be a very useful webinar and feedback has been positive.

A big thanks to all involved in organising and presenting all 5 webinars. They provided great information and guidance in a time of uncertainty for all our players and coaches.

Our Coaching and Games staff also ran 5 very successful U-7 Coaching workshops, one football webinar in each region and a stand-alone hurling one. We had over 200 coaches in attendance and have got fantastic feedback for same.

We finished our webinar series in May with U-9/U-11 workshops put together by Mayo Coaching and Games staff. Again, we had a huge interest in these

By the end of May every coach of every age group in the County has had the opportunity to attend a workshop related to the age that they are coaching. Over 300 coaches throughout the county have attended workshops throughout April and May

### **Coach Education**

A number of online Foundation Coaching Courses were organised during lock down. Unfortunately, as the year went on a large number of Coaches who registered were unable to finish the course. We organised a couple of smaller courses towards the end of year, which is probably the way to go going forward.

Number of Foundation Coaches Certified in 2021 Club Coaches – 135

Cúl Camp Coaches - 46

We were unable to organise any Award One courses in 2021 as face-to-face courses were not allowed. We will hopefully be able to facilitate Award One courses early in the New Year as a huge number of coaches have expressed an interest in participating in these courses.

### **Cul Camps**

The Kellogg's Cul Camps this year proved to be a big success yet again. We ran 52 camps over a six-week period during July and August. 6585 children took part and over 200 coaches were required in order to run the camps successfully. This year the camps were run under the Covid-19 Public Health Guidelines and some of these protocols will be retained into the future in particular the Club/Camp planning processes which worked very well. The policy of all payments made on line with no walk-ins permitted on the day will also be kept.

Recruiting the coaches needed to organise the camps proved to be very challenging this year because of many Covid outbreaks among the age group from which we usually source our coaches. The PUP payment to this cohort this year also caused difficulties as not as many coaches as we would have liked made themselves available for work.

Overall though the camps were a big success. A big thank you must go to our full time and part time coaches, clubs, parents and in particular the children for making them a most enjoyable experience for all concerned.

We have received numerous compliments from parents and club personnel on the very professional manner and excellent organisation of the Cul Camps in Mayo for 2021

During the Halloween Break Mayo GAA Coaching and Games, in conjunction with Mayo Sports Partnership held the first ever Kellogg's GAA Cul Camp For All in The Indoor Dome at the Connacht GAA Centre. This proved a very popular camp with 34 children from all over the county taking part. We received fantastic feedback from parents and children alike who experienced great fun and enjoyment over the two days and we intend to make this an annual event going forward.

I would like to thank Mayo Sports Partnership Inclusion Officer Ray Mc Namara for his considerable help in the running of this camp, and also to the volunteers and our development officers who made the different activities very enjoyable for the children. I would also like to thank National Cul Camp Coordinator Charles Harrison for Donating the Cul Camp Kits to the Children.

#### **Performance Games Development Officer (GDA)**

Congratulations to Kieran Kilkenny on being selected as The Mayo GAA Performance GDA. This is a hugely important and exciting appointment for all concerned with Mayo GAA. Kieran's immediate priority will be to meet with the Senior Hurling Manager, Under 20 Football Manager and Under 17 Football Manager to discuss the upcoming pre-season Athletic Development Programmes, Nutritional Guidance and Performance Analysis for all 3 panels.

Kieran will be responsible for the implementation of specific GAA Games Development Policy within County Mayo.

Kieran will work as part of a team, in conjunction with other full time and voluntary personnel, to deliver set goals and objectives for all GAA sports. Kieran will report monthly to the County Coaching & Games Steering Committee through the County Coaching & Games Manager and the Connacht S&C Officer.



**GAA Coach Education**

### GDA Role and Key tasks

- Responsible for overseeing the implementation of agreed games development programmes in clubs, schools and other units of the GAA in County Mayo;
- Organise, Develop & Monitor Programmes in Physical Fitness, Nutrition & Performance Analysis to be delivered to the Adult Inter-County Team, U20 team, Talent Academies, Clubs & Post-Primary Schools.

All activities will be approved and agreed by the County Coaching & Games Steering Committee through the County Coaching & Games Manager in accordance with best practice

### Other Duties & Responsibilities

- Work with clubs, schools and county team coaches in identifying potential players for the academy programme from Under 14 to Senior. Manage and develop Smartabase as a database of players in the system to include records of injuries and other recordable areas of player development;
- Build and maintain excellent working relationship with 3rd Level college(s) and to identify potential students as interns to support the Mayo GAA high performance programme;
- Train and teach the other full-time staff in the latest strength and physical conditioning developments and techniques, nutrition information, data capture and analysis and support them in taking Strength and physical conditioning sessions;
- Commit to ongoing continued professional development by attending coach education courses and keep abreast of new research in all aspects of physical literacy initiatives and high performance;
- Plan and coordinate the season schedule of activities with Team managers, Games Development Officers, Development Squad Coaches and Club managers, including team and individual plans;
- Liaise with medical staff and team management regarding injured player's recovery protocols and implement injury rehabilitation prior to reintegration;
- Liaise with provincial and county games development staff and attend meetings and training as required to support the development of the function and the role;
- Kieran will also undertake any other such projects or responsibilities as deemed appropriate.

The Talent Academies have already been allocated the high-performance resources through his role as Academy Manager.

Kieran will also meet with all Club Coaching Officers in the near future in order to assess the needs of the clubs in a coaching capacity going forward.

## Mayo GAA / GMIT Student Placement Programme

Mayo GAA is delighted to announce a new partnership with Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) that will see students from their Sports Science degree programme gain valuable experience working with Mayo GAA teams. The Sports Science Student Placement will run over a 3-year period commencing January 2022 and will see final year Sports Science students from the GMIT gain valuable sports performance experience with Mayo GAA teams in various age groups and disciplines.

Mayo GAA teams will now have access to further Sport Science proficiencies in tandem with the professional backroom staff who support our teams.

GMIT Sport Science program will afford students the opportunity to put theory into practice in a well-structured programme that benefits both parties. The students will get a unique insight into team preparation, strength and conditioning, nutrition, performance analysis, injury and recovery and sports psychology while working with Mayo GAA teams.

Mayo GAA have agreed with GMIT that three final year students will be offered the placement with seven key learning outcomes to be achieved during the program. The purpose of the placement with Mayo GAA is to equip the students with the knowledge, skills and competence to apply contemporary Sports Science principles and practices with real life coaching and team development in order to enhance performance.

The Mayo GAA /GMIT Student Placement Launch took place on Tuesday September 21st in McHale Park and was attended by Dr. Lisa Ryan, Sharon Mortimer and Ed Daly from GMIT with Liam Moffatt Declan O'Reilly Billy McNicholas and Kieran Kilkenny attending from Mayo. GAA.

Following on from the launch of this initiative in September there has been a healthy interest in the programme from the Final Year Students in GMIT in getting involved.

GMIT shortlisted the candidates looking for selection down to 7 and these students were interviewed for the positions in early November from which 2 suitable candidates were selected. They will start their placements in January and will be working under the direction of our Games Promotion Manager and our Performance GDA.

The successful students will get a unique insight into team preparation, strength and conditioning, nutrition, performance analysis, injury and recovery and sports psychology while working with Mayo GAA teams.



## Post Primary Schools

Schools football has been badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic with no games taking place since early March 2020. The good news is that the Connacht GAA Colleges Championships are due to recommence in January 2022. These competitions will be played on a knockout basis.

In the meantime, the Mayo Post Primary Schools Competitions started back in October with First Year, Juvenile, Junior and Senior levels at A, B, C and D grades all taking place. These championships are now reaching their business end and there have been some great games played already.

It is great to see our Schools back competing against each other on our pitches after such a long layoff.

The Transition Year LifeSkills GAA Coaching Courses have been rolled out by our coaches in the vast majority of our Post Primary schools during the year. These courses proved to be very popular as most TY students in all schools have a limited programme of events this year due to Covid 19.

As part of the program The TYs ran super games centres for the first years in the school, and assisted the development officer in coaching sessions for the first/second years in the schools. Also, some of the TYs assisted the school teams on match days, doing game stats etc. The modules include, how to coach skills, fundamental movement skills, skill development and the use of super games which are small sided games to enhance all the above.

These are the courses completed and the number of students that have taken part to date

Ballyhaunis Community School – 24

St. Josephs Community College Charlestown– 23

St. Louis Community School Kiltimagh– 27

Jesus and Mary Secondary School Gortnor Abbey Crossmolina – 45

St. Tiernans College Crossmolina – 6

St. Muredachs College Ballina – 24

St. Patricks College Lacken Cross – 26

Rice College Westport – 60

St. Gerald's College Castlebar – 20

Sancta Maria College Louisburgh – 40

Davitt College Castlebar – 100  
Colaiste Pobail Acla – 32  
Our Ladys Secondary School Belmullet – 48  
St. Brendans College Belmullet – 65  
Colaiste Chomain Rossport – 10  
Colaiste Muire Tourmakeady - 14  
Balla Secondary School – 53  
Ballinrobe Community School – 92  
St Colmans College Claremorris– 48  
St Marys Secondary School Ballina – 15  
St Josephs Secondary School Castlebar – 22  
Sacred Heart School Westport – 90  
Swinford Secondary School – 24

### **Primary Schools**

Due to Covid constraints we had to undertake a Blended Model for our coaching programmes in primary schools throughout 2021

The first of the online projects was a series of GAA videos called Movement Breaks that we sent to the teachers in our primary schools to use as part of their lesson plans which they sent out to the children. These videos centred around the fundamental movement skills of Agility, Balance, Coordination, Running, Jumping, and Throwing.

The next phase was “ The Connacht GAA Skills for Schools Program” which consisted of a lesson plan sent to the teacher in the participating schools.

This plan explained how to set up the indoor hall or school yard for the skills session.

A pre-recorded video of an inter county player going through the key teaching points of the skill would be displayed on the class white board

The teacher would then bring the children out onto the yard and conduct the session with them,

The inter county player would also give them a skill challenge to complete at home.

I would like to thank Cora Staunton and Keith Higgins for giving of their time to record a number of these skill videos.

Keith in particular covered both Hurling and Football.

This Skills Program is Currently running in 70 primary schools from 3rd to 6th class, and in 53 primary schools from infants to 2nd class. This coupled with the practical sessions delivered by our development officers has led to 141 primary schools receiving coaching inputs so far this year, averaging 4000 children per week.

### Home Skills Challenges

Mayo GAA coaching & games developed a series of Home Skills Challenges videos also during the lockdown. These skill videos were designed to be used by the children at home during this time at the start of the year over an 8-week period. The videos were uploaded on all our social media sites and received a huge amount of hits in which they consisted of one of our development staff introducing the skill and the intercounty player, who would then demonstrate the skill and go through the key teaching points.

The intercounty player would then set the challenge for the child to practice at home.

The following are the skills that featured

Weeks 1 & 2- Tommy Conroy- The solo

Week 3 – Deirdre Doherty- The Pick Up.

Week 4- Shane Boland- The Hurling Pick up and Strike.

Week 5- Oisin Mullen- The High Catch

Week 6- Eoghan Mc Loughlin- The Hand Pass

Week 7- Diarmuid O Connor- The Punt Kick.

Week 8- Ryan O Donaghue- The Hook Kick.

I would sincerely like to thank the above Intercounty Players for their participation in these videos.

I would also like to thank the County PRO John Walker & his team for the excellent production of the videos.

They were of a very high standard

## Hurling

### U17 Celtic Challenge Cup Squad:

The National U17 Celtic Challenge Cup ran this year on a reduced regional format. Mayo GAA entered this competition under the management of Brian Finn with Austin Kenny (Tooreen) and David Hurley (Claremorris) as team selectors/coaches. The team held trials/training/challenge games in June before their first competitive game against Sligo on Saturday 3rd July. Sligo came out on top by 3-16 to 2-9 in this game. The following Saturday Mayo played Roscommon with Roscommon coming out on top.

A fortnight later on Saturday 24th July, Mayo played Donegal in a Shield Regional final, with Mayo coming out on top in their final game of the year, ending the season on a high. While it was great to get this age-group back on the playing field again in 2021 and to get competitive games, the main challenge for the management group was the fixing of Mayo GAA U17 Football matches on the evening before the Celtic Challenge games. With 80% of the players being dual players, this posed many issues. This resulted in management being unable to pick teams until late Friday night when the U17 football matches were complete, due to injuries and fatigue. An area of improvement for 2022 is that Celtic

Challenge game days are free of U17 football fixtures on the evening before. However, the management as a whole were very happy with the commitment of the lads who took part in the panel, and showed a willingness to learn and stay involved in the Mayo GAA Hurling Academy set up.

### U15 Hibernia Cup Squad:

The Mayo GAA U15 hurling squad were active in July and August of 2021. Again, it was great to get these players back in the Green & Red after a year's absence. The side was managed by Adrian Hession with Piersé O'Reilly (Westport), Sean Heneghan (Claremorris), Michael Bolger (Ballina) and Richard Crinnegan (Tooreen) on board as coaches/selectors.

The group of 30 players were selected from their performances in the Mayo GAA U15 Hurling league, and completed 8 coaching sessions in Castlebar and two blitz days in the Connacht GAA Centre.

The group showed great strength in winning all their blitz games on the opening blitz day on Saturday 23rd July against Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim. For the second and final regional blitz day on Saturday 14th August (same day as Mayo/Dublin game in Croke Park), an understrength Mayo side lost out to Roscommon but came from behind to beat Sligo in a tight and exciting finish to their campaign. The management team were very happy with the skill level and application of the group. One major positive of the year was the availability of the many dual players in the group to stay with the hurling panel. This was accommodated by the work of Mayo GAA Academy Manager Kieran Kilkenny with the support of Mayo U15 football academy head coach Tom Mulderrig. Many thanks to both for allowing the dual players continue their dual status.

### **U13 Hurling Development Squad:**

This panel did not mobilize in 2021 as there was no formal competitions within Connacht to take part in. Hopefully, this age-group will return in 2022.

### **Support of Hurling Academy Squads:**

Mayo GAA Academy hurling squads received financial support from Mayo County Board in 2021 which greatly supported running these squads in 2021 from catering, equipment and travelling. There is at present process underway to help provide more support to Mayo GAA Academy for 2022 through review of Hurling Academy meeting with parties involved. Many thanks to Liam Moffatt and Billy McNicholas for their supports

### **Support of Hurling Academy Coaches:**

The work of the volunteers who run and coach with the Mayo GAA Hurling Academies needs to be supported more going forward. These academy coaches take on this body of work on top of their club coaching commitments, and not everyone can give this level of commitment to Mayo GAA. Therefore, it is important that the Mayo GAA Academy Coaching Gear is made available to the Hurling Academy coaches. It is also important that the Mayo GAA Hurling Academy coaches receive the same privileges afforded to the Mayo GAA Football Academy coaches. The policy involving accessibility of tickets for our seven volunteer academy hurling coaches for the All-Ireland football final is something that can be improved on in the future, and will be important in recruiting more Mayo GAA Hurling Academy coaches in 2022

**Mayo GAA Hurling Summer Camps 2021:**

Stand-alone Hurling Cúl Camps in 2021 were again a great success and shows the growth of hurling/camogie amongst the young people of Mayo. In total 430 children attended stand-alone hurling camps over the five weeks. The breakdown is as follows:

- Claremorris 50.
- Westport 120 (max)
- Ballyvary 60
- Tooreen 80.
- Castlebar Mitchel's 120 (max)
- Thanks to the host clubs and hurling coaches in the camps.

**Hurling Coach Education Work 2021:**

While formal traditional hurling coach education courses were hit strongly at the start of the year, a strong uptake in online courses allowed much needed courses to run to completion. The following courses were run in 2021:

- Mayo GAA Foundation Award Online Hurling Spring 2021 (12 Mayo coaches complete)
- Connacht GAA Foundation Award Online Hurling 2021 (8 Mayo Coaches completed)
- Connacht GAA Award1 Online Hurling 2021 (5 Mayo Coaches completed)
- Mayo GAA Foundation Award Online Hurling Winter 2021 (11 signed up)

A series of online coaching workshops with National Hurling Coaching Manager Martin Fogarty have also proved successful, while a Practical Workshop session went ahead in the Connacht Dome on Thursday 25th November.



**GAA Coach Education**

**Club Hurling Development Initiatives 2021:**

Here is where the most progress has been gained for the hurling fraternity over the past year. Lockdown provided time for officers to plan and build on underage work of the past decade. The off-field work has seen an increase in the adult playing population in Mayo increase by 60% in the past two years. The following projects are still a work in progress, but nevertheless are gaining traction.

- Caiseal Gaels Hurling Club took part in Mayo GAA Junior in 2021, their second year in doing so.
- Ballina Stephenites reformed at adult level in 2021, and took part in Mayo Junior competitions. Large panel of 30+ players assembled.
- Claremorris GAA planning to field at Junior hurling level in 2022, on the back of strong underage success in 2021.
- Moytura Hurling Club have reformed in 2021, and are planning to field a Junior level in 2022.

All this work in club development has brought great enthusiasm to players and officers at club level, and it is hoped this growth continues in the coming years. For any adult players wishing to return to adult/junior hurling, please email [Adrian.hession.gpo.mayo@gaa.ie](mailto:Adrian.hession.gpo.mayo@gaa.ie) to be put in touch with your local club.

**Mayo GAA Post Primary Schools Hurling:**

While no action took place in the early part of the year, the Mayo GAA Post Primary Schools Hurling competitions got underway again in November 2021. The competitions being run are Junior (1st, 2nd & 3rd Years) and Senior competitions.

The following schools take part in Mayo GAA Post Primary Hurling

- Colaiste Pobail Acla.
- Rice College Westport
- St Gerald's Castlebar
- St Pats Lacken Cross
- Ballyhaunis CS
- St Colmans Claremorris
- Summerhill Sligo
- Colaiste Easkey

Many thanks to the teachers who make Mayo GAA Post Primary Schools games happen, and to Connacht GAA for the use of the facilities to play the matches during the winter months.

**National Schools Hurling/Cuman na mBunscoil 2021:**

The National Schools Cuman na mBunscoil activities is an area that hasn't opened up all year. Cuman na mBunscoil Naisunta have not given the go-ahead yet for the mixing of schools. While children are getting yard coaching in their classes and pods, there hasn't been any inter-school activities or games in nearly two years now.

A lot of children in the 50 hurling National Schools aren't getting to play and experience the excitement of matches, and it will be a large body of work to get this off the ground again when things open up.

However, certain initiatives have been put in place to support National Schools as follows:

- Coaching visits from the hurling GPO.
- Connacht GAA Online Interactive Classroom sessions

**Feile 2021:**

Feile Hurling 2021 was increased to the U-15 age-group to include the group of players who lost out in 2020. Feile Hurling in Mayo saw five teams take part namely Claremorris, Castlebar, Westport, Tooreen & St Ciarans. After the five round robin games, Claremorris beat Castlebar in the Feile A final, while Tooreen beat St Ciarans in the Feile B final.

As part of this years National Feile, one team from each county was chosen to take part in an exhibition game in Croke Park. The lucky team chosen from Mayo GAA was Tooreen Hurling Club and they participated in Croke Park against Ballyea (Clare) on Saturday 23rd October. The Eur1,000 gear voucher was won by the Na Brideoga Camogie Club

**National Táin Og Hurling Leagues 2021:**

The Táin Og Hurling leagues resumed in July 2021 on a more regional basis. Four Mayo clubs took part this year namely Westport, Claremorris, Tooreen and Ballina Stephenites. Cross border competitions took place at U13, U15 and U17 level, with regional finals organised to finish off the program of games. On average, each team got four extra games from their participation in the Táin Og leagues. It is hoped the Táin Og leagues can increase its uptake in 2022, and also it is planned to introduce an adult version competition called the Cuchulain Leagues. Congrats to all the teams who took part in 2021 and to the organisers Martin Fogarty (Croke Park), Damien Coleman (Connacht GAA) and Kevin Kelly (Ulster GAA).



**Mayo GAA Club Hurling Supergame Centres:**

This year four of our underage hurling clubs signed for the Sky Sports Super Games Centres to help bridge the gap over the winter months when clubs have no games for underage teams. Super Games are informal inter-club games where every player gets to play, and limited coaching is done in the process.

The following Mayo GAA Clubs are currently running Supergames Hurling Centres:

- Westport GAA – U13 and U16 level.
- Ballyhaunis GAA – U13 level.
- Tooreen GAA – U14 and U17 level.
- Ballina Stephenites GAA – U15 level.

**Mayo GAA Club Hurling Competitions:**

- Four teams took part in Mayo GAA Senior Championship (TJ Tyrrell Cup)
- Five teams took part in Mayo GAA Junior Hurling (Ciaran Byrne Cup)
- Six teams took part in Mayo GAA Adult League (Genfitt Cup).
- Four teams took part in Mayo GAA U17 Hurling Competition.
- Six teams took part in Mayo GAA U15 Hurling Competition.
- Seven teams took part in Mayo GAA U13 Hurling Competitions.
- Eight clubs took part in Mayo GAA U11 Hurling Mini league.
- Thanks to all the clubs who got competitions played during a short period of time.



**GAA Coach Education**

## Special Thanks

- Mayo GAA Main Officers: Liam Moffatt (Chair), Con Moynihan (V-Chair), Dermot Butler (Sec), Valerie Murphy (Treas), MI Cummins (Admin) and John Walker (PRO).
- Hurling Committee Officers: Jimmy Connor (Chair), Thaigh Morley (Sec) & Ciara Buckley (Retired PRO).
- Mayo GAA PR Committee Members: John Walker, Piers O'Reilly & David Hurley.
- Coiste Iomana na nOg: Piers O'Reilly & Sean Heneghan.
- Coaching Committee: Declan O'Reilly (Chair) & Billy McNicholas (Sec).
- Post Primary: Joe McCabe (Chair) & Mike Herr (Sec).
- Club officers, teachers, tutors and academy coaches.

## Handball

For most of 2021, indoor GAA Handball Alleys have remained closed. As handball is mostly played indoors, it has been harder hit by Covid-19 than other outdoor GAA sports.

All national senior and juvenile competitions

All Ireland Championship Softball, Hardball and 4-Wall Championship, She's Ace, Nationals, Féile, Cumann na mBunscoil, Community Games – were cancelled.

Some alleys are now beginning to open up for play and training National Competitions While all National Competitions have been cancelled for 2021, the deferred Juvenile Softball Finals were played out in October.

The deferred 4-Wall 2020 All Ireland Finals are due to be held over three weekends November/December.

Mayo U15 Doubles Alan Gilmartin and Darragh Sweeney from Bofield will be in action against Cavan in Kingscourt.

Wall Ball In July,

County Wall Ball finals were held outdoors in Swinford. We had a big entry and it was great to be back on the courts again. The Provincial Finals were held over two days in Mount Talbot, again outdoors, in August and were a great success

### Club Tournaments

Tourmakeady held a very successful Wall Ball competition with entries from 5 Counties. The Roche Cup was held by Belcarra Handball Club in November and a large amount of players participated. The Neale held a very successful Heritage Day in August. They had cleaned up the old outdoor handball alley and, in conjunction with Tourmakeady Handball Club, had organised exhibition games of handball.

Club members also showed the youngsters there the rudiments of the game. Kevin Fahy of Swinford was there as well with one of the old hardballs – impossible to get now- and many of the handballers there had to try it out.

### Cairde Mhuigh Eo

All Mayo clubs bought Cairde Mhaigh Eo tickets again this year and it is hoped that Mayo GAA will sponsor jerseys again this year. This is a massive help to Mayo GAA Handball as we do not have any other means of funding and is much appreciated buy all the players.

### GAA Handball Strategic Plan/ Championship Review

In October President of GAA Handball Dessie Keegan launched the new Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

The strategic focus areas & goals for the strategic plan are

1. Club Development,
2. Participation & Growth,
3. Communications, Media & PR,
4. Governance,
5. Coaching & Development,
6. Women in Sport
7. International.

GAA Handball Vision: that everybody be welcomed to participate fully in our games and culture, that they thrive and develop their potential, and be inspired to keep a lifelong engagement with our Association.

GAA Handball is a game for life where people of all ages can experience the terrific benefits of healthy pleasure, entertainment, competition and social integration while being an integral part of a thriving community.

An in-depth review of the current Competitions and Structures of GAA Handball has been undertaken.

2022 • Findings of the Competitions and Structure review too be published.

*Mise le Meas,*

*Declan O'Reilly*

*Coaching Officer*



**Report to Convention**  
**Maigh Eo Cumann na mBunscoil**

Representative: Neil Reilly

Dear All,

As has been the case in all other areas of sport at county level, nationally and internationally, the past year has represented an unprecedented period of inactivity for competitions in our schools as a result of the COVID pandemic and related restrictions.

Under directions from Cumann na mBunscol Naisiunta, we were prevented at County level from holding any meetings or proceeding with any of the traditional competitions.

At a time when even our schools were subjected to compulsory lockdowns, it was very difficult to promote the games in the same manner in which we would have done traditionally. Even when schools were released from the constraints of lockdown, teachers were already struggling to deal with the additional burdens brought upon them by COVID guidelines within the school environs and therefore, it was neither possible nor appropriate to add to their burden or call on their time to facilitate our traditional school competitions. Despite this, gaelic games were still played and promoted in our schools on a daily basis by teachers even though the county competitions could not go ahead.

We are acutely conscious that two successive classes of school children have already missed out on participation in the traditional Cumann na mBunscol competitions. Efforts are underway to develop new ways of proceeding with competitions safely regardless of COVID numbers and statistics but always putting the health and well being of our children as the primary consideration. They are the future of gaelic games in Mayo.

Cumann na mBunscol Maigh Eo is committed to ensuring that the children of Mayo are inspired to improve and develop their skills in all gaelic games regardless of COVID restrictions. This Cumann hopes to liaise with coaches to try and develop online coaching resources for use in our schools in safe bubbles and small groups. We are re-energized and looking forward to promoting our games in a positive and safe way.

Maigh eo Cumann na mBunscol would like to take this opportunity to thank Liam Moffatt and all his fellow county board members who are retiring from their positions at county board level this year. We would like to formally acknowledge their hard work and dedication to Gaelic games in Mayo and in particular their support of Cumann na mBunscol and the school going children in the county.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the County board for continuing to support us by allowing access to pitches for competitions and also for allocating us with a ticket allocation for All Ireland finals at a time of unprecedented demand.

We thank Dermot Butler, County Secretary, and Mick Cummins in particular for their courtesy, guidance, help and professionalism in liaising with us when required which is very much appreciated.

We look forward with hope to a time when our children can return to the excitement and enjoyment of playing exhibitions games, wearing their county colours with pride, in front of unrestricted crowds at League and Championship games and participating in the inter school competitions again.

Neil Reilly

County Board Delegate

Maigheo Cumann na mBunscol





### **Mayo Post Primary Schools Report for Mayo GAA Convention 2021**

It was great to have the Post Primary Schools competitions up and running again after that long lay-off due to the Covid pandemic.

In the Mayo Post Primary Schools competitions, there are just a few finals played while most of the rest are at final stage, many of which will have been completed by the time of County Convention.

Competitions have been ongoing for schools in football at First Year, Juvenile (O'Haire Cup), Junior (Colleran Cup) and Senior (Flanagan Cup) at A, B, C and D levels as well as competitions for some schools in hurling.

#### **FOOTBALL FINALS PLAYED**

FIRST YEAR A: **ST GERALDS BEAT RICE COLLEGE**

FLANAGAN B FINAL: **FOXFORD BEAT BALLA SEC SCHOOL**

#### **FOOTBALL FINALS TO BE PLAYED**

**O'HAIRE A:** ST COLMANS V ST GERALDS  
**O' HAIRE B:** ST MURDEACHS V BALLA SEC SCHOOL  
**FLANAGAN C:** GORTNOR ABBEY V LOUISBURG  
**FLANAGAN D:** ACHILL V ST TIERNANS or SWINFORD  
**1ST YEAR C:** DAVITT COLLEGE V BALLA SEC SCHOOL  
**COLLERAN A:** ST COLMANS V RICE COLLEGE  
**COLLERAN D:** ST TIERNANS V CHARLESTOWN

**1ST & 2ND YEAR:** LACKEN CROSS V OUR LADYS BELMULLET

The remainder have not reached final stage yet.

#### **HURLING**

**JUNIOR B HURLING FINAL WINNERS:** LACKEN CROSS

**JUNIOR A FINAL:** BALLYHAUNIS V RICE COLEGE

All finals are due to be played in the Dome at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence.

Thanks to John Prenty and Kurt Reinhardt from the Centre of Excellence for their help.

Thanks also to all clubs for the use of their pitches in the earlier rounds of competition and thanks to all referees for making themselves available to officiate and without whom we would have no competition.

Thanks to all players, teachers and coaches for keeping the GAA flag flying throughout what has been a very difficult time over the past two years.

Mayo Post Primary Schools would like to wish all Mayo Schools every success in Connacht Connacht competitions in the months ahead and also best of luck to all Mayo teams in 2022 and best wishes to all elected officers at Mayo GAA Convention in the year ahead.

*Michael Herr and John Holian.*





**Rúnaí Maigh Eo Hurling Report 2021**

The year of 2021 has been a very successful year within the hurling fraternity of Mayo, with the return of the Nickey Rackard Cup to the West for a second occasion being the highlight of a successful year. While on the club scene, we saw 230 hurling games through all ages in 2021 and the return to adult hurling in North Mayo with Ballina Stephanites entering competitions for the first time in quite a number of years.

**Senior Intercounty Team**

As mentioned earlier, Mayo Senior Hurlers got revenge for 2020.

Mayo came out on top with a very strong display versus Tyrone. The Green and Red of Mayo could be heard as Keith Higgins walked the steps of the Hogan Stand to accept the Nickey Rackard Cup for all involved.

Derek Walsh was at the helm for his fourth year. His management team consisted of Liam Hoggins, Damien Fox, Nick Freyne, Johnny Cunnane, Dave McConn, Tom Philips, Darragh Finn and Michéal Walsh.

**National Hurling League**

Mayo hurlers returned to the Allianz Hurling League 2B in 2021. Mayo got to a final round game with Kildare to decide who was returning to 2A for 2022. Mayo came up short on the day, with Kildare finishing strong ahead of their Joe McDonagh campaign.

Mayo had wins versus Derry (home) and Roscommon (away) with losses to Donegal (away) and Kildare (home).

At the early stages of the league, management and players went through very a strong pre season with sessions in Tooreen, Ballyhaunis and the Connacht Centre of Excellence, A vs B games and individual gym work by all players.

The league was a challenging time for all the management and players but were happy with their process towards the Nickey Rackard cup. Mayo had some injuries throughout this especially in the last game versus Kildare with injuries forcing two subs prior to the first water break.

All but one team in Mayo's league in 2021 were in a higher championship group and it shows great effort by all involved that Mayo had an opportunity to gain promotion to 2A.

Mayo Hurlers will be playing their league games in Division 2B in 2022.

**Nickey Rackard Cup***Donegal vs Mayo*

In the first round, Mayo were drawn away to Donegal for a second occasion within a month. Our hurlers came out on top in a very tight game, getting revenge for 2020, with Mayo scoring 5 of last scores to get over the line and leave Letterkenny with 2 points.

*Mayo vs Leitrim*

At home for the first time in the 2021 Nickey Rackard cup, Mayo took on provincial opponents Leitrim. In the first half, Mayo played against a strong breeze but did all the hurling. Mayo's skills and hardworking players came out on top.

*Mayo vs Armagh Semi Final*

On a perfect Saturday for hurling, our men travelled to Carrick on Shannon to take on their second Ulster team within this year's competition. The game was very tight and nip and tuck until the second water break. After the break Mayo pulled away, booking their place in a 2<sup>nd</sup> Nickey Rackard Final in as many years.

## ***Mayo vs Tyrone Nickey Rackard Hurling Cup Final 2021***

Mayo were back in headquarters for a second time in 6 months on Ulster final day to take on Tyrone, their 3<sup>rd</sup> Ulster opponent in the competition. Tyrone had massive support with their football counterparts playing on the day. With this in mind Mayo had massive support on the day with a section of the Cusack stand full of Green and Red supporters.

Mayo came out on top very easily on the day with Keith Higgins walking up the steps of the Hogan Stand.

### **U17 Celtic Challenge Cup Squad:**

The National U17 Celtic Challenge Cup ran this year on a reduced regional format. Mayo GAA entered this competition under the management of Brian Finn with Austin Kenny (Tooreen) and David Hurley (Claremorris) as team selectors/coaches. The team held trials/training/challenge games in June before their first competitive game against Sligo on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Sligo came out on top by 3-16 to 2-9 in this game. The following Saturday Mayo played Roscommon with Roscommon coming out on top. A fortnight later on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July, Mayo played Donegal in a Shield Regional final, with Mayo coming out on top in their final game of the year, ending the season on a high.

While it was great to get this age-group back on the playing field again in 2021 and to get competitive games, the main challenge for the management group was the fixing of Mayo GAA U17 Football matches on the evening before the Celtic Challenge games. With 80% of the players being dual players, this posed many issues. This resulted in management being unable to pick teams until late Friday night when the U17 football matches were complete, due to injuries and fatigue. An area of improvement for 2022 is that Celtic Challenge game days are free of U17 football fixtures on the evening before.

However, the management as a whole were very happy with the commitment of the lads who took part in the panel, and showed a willingness to learn and stay involved in the Mayo GAA Hurling Academy set up.

**U15 Hibernia Cup Squad:**

The Mayo GAA U15 hurling squad were active in July and August of 2021. Again, it was great to get these players back in the Green & Red after a year's absence. The side was managed by Adrian Hession with Piers O'Reilly (Westport), Sean Heneghan (Claremorris), Michael Bolger (Ballina) and Richard Crinnegan (Tooreen) on board as coaches/selectors. The group of 30 players were selected from their performances in the Mayo GAA U15 Hurling league, and completed 8 coaching sessions in Castlebar and two blitz days in the Connacht GAA Centre. The group showed great strength in winning all their blitz games on the opening blitz day on Saturday 23rd July against Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim.

For the second and final regional blitz day on Saturday 14th August (same day as Mayo/Dublin game in Croke Park), an understrength Mayo side lost out to Roscommon but came from behind to beat Sligo in a tight and exciting finish to their campaign.

The management team were very happy with the skill level and application of the group. One major positive of the year was the availability of the many dual players in the group to stay with the hurling panel. This was accommodated by the work of Mayo GAA Academy Manager Kieran Kilkenny with the support of Mayo U15 football academy head coach Tom Mulderrig. Many thanks to both for allowing the dual players continue their dual status.

**U13 Hurling Development Squad:**

This panel did not mobilize in 2021 as there was no formal competitions within Connacht to take part in. Hopefully, this age-group will return in 2022.

**Support of Hurling Academy Squads:**

Mayo GAA Academy hurling squads received financial support from Mayo County Board in 2021 which gratefully supported running these squads in 2021 from catering, equipment and travelling. There is at present process underway to help provide more support to Mayo GAA Academy for 2022 through review of Hurling Academy meeting with parties involved. Many thanks to Liam Moffatt and Billy McNicholas for their supports

## Club Competition

### Senior Championship

Mayo Senior championship was challenged by Ballyhaunis, Castlebar, Tooreen and Westport to take home the TJ Tyrell cup, kindly presented by the Tyrell Family of Ballina.

There was a change of format with the return of the round robin stage.

Round 1: Ballyhaunis vs Westport

Tooreen vs Castlebar

Round 2: Castlebar vs Ballyhaunis

Westport vs Tooreen

Round 3: Ballyhaunis vs Tooreen

Castlebar vs Westport

Semi Final Ballyhaunis vs Castlebar

TJ Tyrell Final: Tooreen vs Ballyhaunis

This year's final was played in Ballyhaunis and streamed live by Mayo GAA. Massive congratulations to Tooreen on winning the TJ Tyrell cup.

### Genfitt Cup

This year's Genfitt league took place with 6 teams for the first time in over 10 years

Caiseal Gaels returned for their second year at adult competition and Ballina Stephanites returning to Adult competition.

Caiseal Gaels and Ballina Stephanites were joined by Ballyhaunis, Castlebar, Westport and Tooreen in a round robin format without any county players involved.

The league resulted in Ballyhaunis coming out on top with 5 wins from 5.

Junior Hurling

In 2021, the Byrne family kindly donated a cup in memory of the late Ciaran Byrne. Ciaran was a member of the Eastern Gaels GAA Club but his involvement in GAA spread far beyond the Bekan/Brickens area.

As a schoolteacher in Roscommon CBS, he developed a love of Post Primary Schools coaching and administration. He served on many different committees including Chairman of Mayo GAA Post Primary Schools Committee, a post he held up until his untimely passing.

His love of refereeing grew and when approached to take up hurling refereeing, he answered the call here also and refereed many Mayo GAA SHC finals down through the years. Reliability and honesty were his strongest traits as a refereeing, while his affable style of refereeing regularly cooled down heated situations. This is where the hurling fraternity of Mayo GAA really got to know and trust Ciaran Byrne, as he had friends in all the hurling clubs in Mayo as he frequently visited Tooreen, Ballyhaunis, Westport, Castlebar and Ballina. To honour his quality as a referee, Ciaran was named Mayo GAA Referee of the Year in 2009.

It is fitting that this Mayo GAA Junior Hurling Championship will have the Ciaran Byrne Memorial Cup on offer and hopefully in years to come, this competition will be a springboard for teams to progress further on their hurling journey.

Teams competing are as follows.

Ballina Stephanites, Caiseal Gaels, Ballyhaunis B, Tooreen B and castlebar B

Iomani na nOg

At underage level in Mayo hurling, league and championship games were played at odd ages from u11, u13, u15, and u17. There were over 189 games in 2021 at all levels of underage hurling, despite the covid restrictions resulting in games behind closed doors and a late start to the year with games delayed until early June.

I would like to thank all the clubs for playing the competitions during short window. Please see number of teams below :

- Four teams took part in Mayo GAA U17 Hurling Competition.
- Six teams took part in Mayo GAA U15 Hurling Competition.
- Seven teams took part in Mayo GAA U13 Hurling Competitions.
- Eight clubs took part in Mayo GAA U11 Hurling Mini league

**Feile 2021:**

Feile Hurling 2021 was increased to the U-15 age-group to include the group of players who lost out in 2020. Feile Hurling in Mayo saw five teams take part namely Claremorris, Castlebar, Westport, Tooreen & St Ciarans. After the five round robin games, Claremorris beat Castlebar in the Feile A final, while Tooreen beat St Ciarans in the Feile B final.

As part of this years National Feile, one team from each county was chosen to take part in an exhibition game in Croke Park. The lucky team chosen from Mayo GAA was Tooreen Hurling Club and they participated in Croke Park against Ballyea (Clare) on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The Eur1,000 gear voucher was won by the Na Brideoga Camogie Club.

<b><u>Competition</u></b>	<b><u>Winner</u></b>	<b><u>Runner-Up</u></b>	<b><u>Referee</u></b>
<b>Senior Hurling Championship (Tyrell Cup)</b>	Tooreen	Ballyhaunis	Eadhmonn Mac Suibhne
<b>Junior Hurling Championship (Ciaran Byrne Cup)</b>	To Be Played: Ballina v TooreenB		
<b>Senior Hurling League (Genfitt Cup)</b>	Ballyhaunis		
<b>U17A Hurling Championship (Big Red Barn Cup)</b>	Claremorris	Tooreen	Michael Herr
<b>U17B Hurling Championship</b>	Castlebar	St Ciarans	James Judge
<b>U17 Hurling League</b>	Claremorris	Castlebar	James Judge
<b>U15A Hurling Feile (Freeman Cup)</b>	Claremorris	Castlebar	Thaigh Morley
<b>U15B Hurling Feile</b>	Tooreen	St Ciarans	Mel Kenny
<b>U15 Hurling League</b>	Claremorris	Tooreen	Thaigh Morley
<b>U13A Hurling Championship (Morley Cup)</b>	Castlebar	Westport	Thaigh Morley
<b>U13B Hurling Championship</b>	Caiseal Gaels	Tooreen	Eoin Shaughnessy
<b>U13A Hurling League</b>	Castlebar	Westport	Michael Herr
<b>U13B Hurling League</b>	Caiseal Gaels	Tooreen	Peter Cassidy

### Hurling Review

In 2019, former Cathaoirleach Michael Connolly appointed a three-person committee to undertake a review of hurling in the County. They have undertaken numerous group sessions prior and meetings with the hurling committee and county board officers

### Coiste Iomani – Mhaigh Eo

In 2021, we saw our current PRO Ciara Buckley step down after 5 years. Ciara promoted hurling and Mayo GAA throughout the country. Ciara was very professional with all her work. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Ciara luck in any future role.

The Hurling committee consists of three people who have worked tirelessly to promote Hurling within Mayo and provide hurling for any persons who wish to take part in the sport. The Committee members are as follow:

Jimmie Connor *Cathaoirleach*, Tháigh Morley *Rúnaí*, Ciara Buckley *PRO*





Special Mentions:

- All clubs at senior and underage level for their continued commitment to the promotion of hurling in the County during these difficult times
- Referees who are always available to officiate at all levels.
- County Board Cathaoirleach Liam Moffett, Rúnaí Dermot Butler, Treasurer Valerie Murphy, and all the County Board Officers.
- Michael Cummins Administrator for his courtesy and help in dealing with all our issues and requests, with some at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.
- Coaches involved with clubs
- CCC Committee for their work in organising adult competitions under guide of Con Moynihan. Con has fully interacted with all clubs games throughout the year
- Bord Na nOg Committee for their work in organising underage competitions under the guide of Cathaoirleach Daithi Gallagher and Ronan Kirrane Assistant Secretary of Mayo GAA.
- Mayo GAA PR Committee Members: John Walker, Pierse O'Reilly & David Hurley.
- Coiste Iomana na nOg: Pierse O'Reilly & Sean Heneghan.
- Coaching Committee: Declan O'Reilly (Chair) & Billy McNicholas (Sec).
- Local Media for the coverage of our games.
- Adrian Hession G.P.O. for his ongoing commitment to schools coaching, development squads, organisation of school's competitions and refereeing.
- All our Hurling Referees who ensured that over 230 games were played
- Jimmie Connor (Cathaoirleach) for continued support to Hurling

To bring this to a close, I would like to thank our County Board Cathaoirleach for all his work towards Mayo GAA and wish Liam luck in any future opportunities.

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Tháigh O Murthnaile  
Rúnaí Iomana Maigh Eo

**Mayo GAA Handball County Board Report**

For most of 2021, indoor GAA Handball Alleys have remained closed. A handball is mostly played indoors we have been harder hit by Covid-19 than other outdoor GAA sports. All national senior and juvenile competitions – All Ireland Championship Softball, Hardball and 4-Wall Championship, She’s Ace, Nationals, Féile, Cumann na mBunscoil, Community Games – were cancelled. Some alleys are now beginning to open up for play and training

**National Competitions**

While all National Competitions have been cancelled for 2021, the deferred Juvenile Softball Finals were played out in October.

The deferred 4-Wall 2020 All Ireland Finals are due to be held over three weekends November/December. Mayo U15 Doubles Alan Gilmartin and Darragh Sweeney from Bofield will be in action against Cavan in Kingscourt.

**Wall Ball**

In July, County Wall Ball finals were held outdoors in Swinford. We had a big entry and it was great to be back on the courts again. The Provincial Finals were held over two days in Mount Talbot, again outdoors, in August and were a great success.

### Club Tournaments

Tourmakeady held a very successful Wall Ball competition with entries from 5 Counties. The Roche Cup will be held by Belcarra Handball Club this coming weekend and a large entry is expected.

The Neale held a very successful Heritage Day in August. They had cleaned up the old outdoor handball alley and, in conjunction with Tourmakeady Handball Club, had organised exhibition games of handball. Club members also showed the youngsters there the rudiments of the game. Kevin Fahy of Swinford was there as well with one of the old hardballs – impossible to get now- and many of the handballers there had to try it out.

### Cairde Mhuigh Eo

All Mayo clubs bought Cairde Mhuigh Eo tickets again this year and it is hoped that Mayo GAA will sponsor jerseys again this year. This is a massive help to Mayo GAA Handball as we do not have any other means of funding and is much appreciated buy all the players.

### GAA Handball Strategic Plan/ Championship Review

In October President of GAA Handball Dessie Keegan launched the new Strategic Plan 2021-2025. **The strategic focus areas & goals for the strategic plan are** *1. Club Development, 2. Participation & Growth, 3. Communications, Media & PR, 4. Governance, 5. Coaching & Development, 6. Women in Sport and 7. International.*

*AA Handball Vision:* that everybody be welcomed to participate fully in our games and culture, that they thrive and develop their potential, and be inspired to keep a lifelong engagement with our Association. GAA Handball is a game for life where people of all ages can experience the terrific benefits of healthy pleasure, entertainment, competition and social integration while being an integral part of a thriving community.

An in-depth review of the current Competitions and Structures of GAA Handball has been undertaken.

## 2022

- Findings of the Competitions and Structure review too be published.
- The Connacht Strategic Handball Plan will be published.
- Deferred Opening of the new state of the art Handball Centre in Croke Park will take place.
- World Championships cancelled in 2020 and 2021 – development of plans to host in 2024 to coincide with the centenary of GAA Handball.

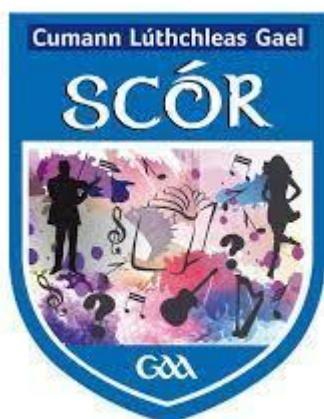
With Covid-19 cases rising across Mayo and Ireland we can only hope that the 4-Wall championship will go ahead in January 2022 and we will be back in the alleys playing Ireland's oldest traditional sport.

*Gemma Bn. Uí Mháille*

*Runaí CLCG Liathróid Láimhe Mhaigh Eo*



## Culture Report



As we review our year, we are sad to say that the Covid 19 pandemic once again has had an effect on our activities. With the restrictions for indoor capacity our usual Scór competitions fell victim, however many clubs got involved with the online quizzes which deemed very successful with many of our clubs hosting and taking their turn as quiz masters.

Senior Scór reps took part in the very successful online posting of The West Awake – This can be viewed on Scór Facebook page.

Our last Scór competition was Senior Scór, County finals were held in Balla on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 with representations in all competitions except figure dancing. There was a change of the National Scór Committee With a new Chairman appointed – Tomás Murray Roscommon, Scór Nasiusunta decided to go ahead and finish out Scór 2020 to All Ireland Level. With the window of opportunity Connacht finals were held in Claremorris Town Hall on Oct 24<sup>th</sup>. Mayo were successful in two events, Angela Duggan Dowd Clg Claremorris in the Scealáiocht section and CLG Tuar Mhic Éadaigh in the Quiz.

A venue to host the All-Ireland finals seemed impossible to find but John Prenty came to the rescue and offered the Dome at the Centre of Excellence in Began to the National committee for the finals. All Ireland finals 2020 will be held in the Dome on Sat 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021. We wish our competitors every success in the finals. A big thank you to all stewards and our Scór committee who will be helping out with this big undertaking.

**NO SCÓR COMPETITIONS WILL BE HELD IN 2021. However, we look forward to 2022 season when young and not so young can enjoy taking to the stage again to represent their clubs.**

County Scór committee have already been working behind the scenes to find ways to engage with clubs and encourage and help all clubs to get involved for the 2022 season.

### **History Project**

There are two strands to our history project:

1. Online project led by Liam Hefforn – This I am delighted to report that after a hold up (again with the pandemic) has got the green light and clubs will be contacted in the near future by Liam this is really a very exciting and worthwhile project.
2. Enhancement of McHale Park stadium. This project is being led by our Culture Officer Grainne Kelly-Frayne – Telling our story with pictures = covering all codes and some historical events as well as All Ireland winning teams work is well on the way with this project it will be complete for the reopening of McHale Park.

Congratulations to Knockmore Gaa Club on winning an award for the `best publication` with their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their club History at the Mc Namee GAA Awards.

Coiste Cultuir intend to work on the Joe McDonnagh awards with clubs in 2022 due to the lockdown it was impossible to promote this.

### **Friends of Scór R.I.P - We Remember**

Paddy Muldoon R.I.P Westport - Paddy served as national chairperson of Scór in the 90's.

Seamus O Dubhthaigh Aghamore - Scór Sec for many years also an adjudicator to the highest level.

Cáit bn Ui Éanachain Castlebar Adjudicator and promoter of Scór for many years.

Marty Murray Set dance teacher – North Mayo, mentor of many set dancing teams for Scór

Marian Lyons Garrymore Gaa – Marian helped out for many years at Scór finals in Claremorris.

We wish to thank Coiste Banaistí and the county board officers for all their help and support over the last year. We wish out going Chairman Liam Moffatt the best of luck and thank him for his support over the last two years, he was always ready to listen and to offer his support and help.

Gráinne Ní Cheallaigh de Fréine

### Hearings Committee Report 2021

#### **Mayo Hearings Committee 2021**

Mattie Joe Connolly (Chairman) (Garrymore)

Tod O'Mahony (Secretary) (Kiltimagh)

Joe McVeigh (Bohola Moy Davitts)

Pat McManamon (Burrishoole)

Anthony Egan (Bonniconlon)

John Kilgallon (Ballaghadereen)

Sean Higgins (Davitts)

PJ King (Knockmore)

Craig Middleton (Claremorris)

Brendan Byrne (Castlebar Mitchels)



In 2021, the Hearings Committee sat on 8 occasions to hear disciplinary charges against players in hurling and football. There were no hearings in 2020 involving charges against Clubs/Officials. Those 8 hearings did not involve any juveniles in 2021. The infractions alleged against players largely related to Category III infractions which included striking/kicking infractions and the use of abusive language to match officials.

Transfer/Permissions to Play are matters that are decided by the Mayo Competitions Control Committee (CCC). There is a right of appeal, by an aggrieved party, from the CCC to the Mayo Hearings Committee. There was one such appeal in 2021. That appeal was successful.

Due to the public health restrictions in place in 2021, all the hearings took place by way of video conferencing through Microsoft Teams. The Committee would like to thank all participants who co-operated with this format imposed upon us due the continuation of these public health restrictions.

Of the 8 cases heard by the Committee, 4 resulted in the alleged infraction being considered not to have been proven and 4 were considered proven and resulted in the imposition of a penalty involving a suspension.

The penalty being at least the minimum penalty appropriate to the infraction as set out in the Official Guide 2021. There was no occasion when the Committee imposed a penalty in excess of the minimum specified penalty of a one match suspension.

There were three appeals to the Connacht Hearings Committee from the decisions of the Committee. All three appeals were unsuccessful.

**We would ask Clubs to note the following:**

Since 2019, the time within which a member/Club, the subject of disciplinary action, must request a hearing from the County Hearings Committee **has been reduced from 3 days from the receipt of the Notice of Disciplinary Action to 2 days** from the receipt of that Notice. Please be aware of the shorter time limit.

**Procedure for Players seeking Hearing**

In the first instance a player, subject to disciplinary action, will receive a Notice of Disciplinary Action from the County Competitions Control Committee (CCC) and that Notice will contain details of the penalty proposed. A player can accept that penalty or, if he is dissatisfied with what is proposed, he can, within 2 days from the date and time of receipt of the Notice, seek a hearing on the charge before the County Hearings Committee. Once a player seeks a hearing then no decision has been made. It is then a matter for the County Hearings Committee to make a decision on that charge, Once the Hearings Committee makes its decision then, if the player is not satisfied, the player has the right of appeal to the Connacht Hearings Committee. That is the end of the process but the player, if still dissatisfied with the decision on appeal, may seek to have the matter referred to Arbitration and that will go to the Disputes Resolution Authority (DRA) of the GAA.

The Mayo Hearings Committee strives to ensure that anyone who opts for a hearing is afforded fair procedures and the Committee is mindful of the many decisions that have been made by the DRA and other decision making bodies determining that anyone seeking a hearing in GAA disciplinary matters is afforded a fair hearing and fair procedures appropriate to the disciplinary action.

The Committee also seeks to ensure that if a player/official/club is subject to disciplinary action then that charge is dealt with as expeditiously as possible and any unjustified delay is avoided.

Tod O'Mahony, Secretary  
Hearings Committee  
December 2021



**Mayo County Planning and Physical Development and Safety Committee Annual Report**

The County Planning and Physical Development and Safety Committee (Development Committee) was ratified at the Coside Bainisti, (14/01/2021).

Committee: **Chairperson;** Mary Prenty, **Insurance Officer;** Paddy Muldoon, R.I.P. **Event Controller;** James Rocke, **Safety Officer;** Jerry Henry, **IT Officer;** Michael Lang, **Chief Steward;** Paddy Mc Nicholas, **Deputy Chief Steward;** Willie Kelly, **Infrastructure;** Michael Diskin, Declan Hughes, **Property & Trustees;** Padraig Prendergast. **Funding Opportunities;** Brendan Mooney, **Club Planning;** Willie Keaveney, **Club Officer Training;** Cathal Quinn

This Committee is responsible for

- Grounds and Physical Development
- Club and Officer Development
- Grounds Safety & Planning
- Acting in an advisory capacity to the County Committee and to Clubs on physical development projects within the county.
- Club Officer training, in conjunction with the Officer Development Function (Croke Park) This training, which is operated through the Club Leadership Development Programme (CLDP), supports ongoing learning opportunities for new and existing Club Officers in GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association. There is a certified online training programme available to allow for continuous personal development opportunities for both Club and County officers.

The Committee has actively engaged in the roll out of **Club Officer Training**, which has been delivered by National Webinar to all new and existing Chairpersons, Secretaries, Treasurers, PROs within the county. Further information can be found on

[https://learning.gaa.ie/club\\_leadership](https://learning.gaa.ie/club_leadership)

The **Club Leadership Development Programme (CLDP)**, the GAA's Official Club Officer Training programme has hosted 51 events during 2021 and continues to be an invaluable resource for our Club officers in terms of updating their knowledge and skills, thus enabling them to fulfill their roles more effectively.

The first of this year's suite of modules "**Running your Club AGM**" was well received in Mayo. The recording and slides (PDF version) from this webinar has been forwarded to all Club Officers so that they can view and retain for their own records. Further information: **[Running an Effective Club AGM Webinar 2.](#)**

The current Modules for Club Officer Training for 2022, which commences in early January can be accessed: <https://airtable.com/shr8HeR0GmFk4rniE> It is important that Club Officers register on <https://learning.gaa.ie/officertrainingcalendar> as further communications will issue directly to your email. List of all the training opportunities for 2022 are included in Appendix 1.

**The Club Officer Foundation Certificate** which provides a certified learning path for new Club Officers, (Mayo selected as one of 4 pilot counties to trial this award), is currently suspended due to the ongoing covid pandemic. The Course involved 8 hours learning and included the following training courses

- The online Club Officer Foundations module.
- The workshop covering the specific role & responsibilities
- The Club AGM workshop in the autumn.
- A choice between one additional workshop or two online modules

Further information can be obtained on [https://learning.gaa.ie/club\\_leadership](https://learning.gaa.ie/club_leadership). There are new officers who completed the certification in 2020.

**Referees In Service Training:** This training was planned and organised by Dennis Harrington, Referees Administrator. This was a Croke Park presentation delivered virtually and presented by Francie Finan. This event was well attended with 80+ Referees in attendance.

**Event Control Report 2021:** This year was a relatively quiet year from an Event Control point of view, due to Covid 19 restrictions, and the resurfacing of the MacHale Park surface in the second half of the year. Where events were held, there were no crowds present in the early part of the year, and only small attendances when restrictions were eased coming into summer. In total, Mayo played four games in MacHale Park, 2 Allianz League games against Down on 15<sup>th</sup> May and Meath on 30<sup>th</sup> May, a Connacht Semi-Final against Leitrim on 21<sup>st</sup> July, and a U-20 Connacht Final against Roscommon on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

There were no spectators at the first two games, and limited crowds at the latter two. Indeed, the Championship game against Leitrim saw the biggest crowd in MacHale Park this year at just over 2,000. Mayo had three home hurling games, in the League against Derry on 9<sup>th</sup> May and against Kildare on 12<sup>th</sup> June, and Nicky Rackard Cup game against Leitrim on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Mayo Ladies played two games in MacHale Park, both against Galway, a League meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and their Championship game on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. With resurfacing work on the pitch commencing after Mayo's Connacht Championship ended, no club games were played in MacHale Park in the second half of the year.

Indeed, the only club game of note played at the venue in 2021 was the 2020 Junior B Championship Final, which saw Kilfian capture their first Adult County title with victory over Tuar Mhic Eadaigh. Prior to the start of the Club Championships at the end of September, a document in relation to how clubs would run championship games at their venues was drawn up and circulated to all clubs. Generally, games were well run and no significant problems had been experienced - James Rocke, Event Controller.

**Stewards Training:** Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, in conjunction with EUROPLAN, developed a virtual Steward Training Course in 2021, with Mayo GAA the first county to avail of the course. The course was simply set out for all users, and was available and accessible on a 24-hour basis to facilitate anyone who works outside the normal working week. This course provided Stewards with training in safety and assistance for match day spectators, players, match officials, media personnel as well as gaining an understanding of the role of the Steward on event days. When certified the Stewards will have acquired a knowledge of Risk Management, Planning, Communication, Crowd Dynamics, and Crowd Behaviour Application Process as well as the correct procedures on reporting to a supervisor and recording any accidents or issues that arise at events. The course commenced on 26<sup>th</sup> February and was completed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

This course was undertaken by **82** members whose names were submitted to EUROPLAN, and Stewards having completed the mandatory "Onsite Induction Day" (5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021) were awarded their certification. Kieran Mc Gann (Croke Pk and Hugh Lynn (Roscommon) delivered this training. A further **64** persons were certified in February 12/13<sup>th</sup> 2020, in a revised and updated training course provided by EUROPLAN. This leaves a total of **146** Stewards now available to assist with Mayo Club and County Events. There is an onus on Clubs to have a minimum of one, certified steward available to lead and manage club events thus ensuring the safety of all your members. Mayo GAA were well equipped to have trained stewards available for both club and county games as well as a backup for ticket scanning for championship games.

Special thank you to all the Stewards who coped with the virtual and digital skills necessary to complete the training, as well as complying with all the covid 19 protocols that were in place before, during and after games. They turned up in all kinds of weather and your commitment is appreciated by us all. Thanks to Paddy Mc Nicholas for his commitment and diligence all throughout the year.

**Grounds & Physical Development:** The National Pitch Maintenance Workgroup hosted a virtual seminar on **best practices for pitch maintenance and development works** on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April @ 7pm. The seminar focused on providing practical advice to clubs/units who are considering undertaking works on their grounds and also gave them the opportunity to clarify on any issue that were presented. Guest speakers included Dr. Ian Mc Clements (Sports Turf Research Institute), Stuart Wilson (Croke Park Pitch Manager) & John Cogan (Nowlan Park Pitch Manager).

**Infrastructure:** In his report Michael Diskin, Chairperson has highlighted the resurfacing of Mac Hale Park and the **Health and Safety Report** with recommendations and guidelines dated 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

The proposal for a **GAA County Scale SEC for Mayo GAA** is an exciting opportunity for both MacHale Park and Castlebar Mitchells to become the MacHale Park GAA Sustainably Campus. This initiative and Energy Master Plan are mandatory to get an understanding of the energy demand and supply in our Stadium and grounds. This plan will be a live document and will allow us estimate our Energy (ESB) costs, water supply and treatment, waste and Biodiversity in the years ahead. We need to be able to quantify and streamline our costs, seek out some grant aid and develop some income streams to service our Stadium in the years ahead.

**The National Health & Safety Committee:** The Development Committee in conjunction with the National Health & Safety Committee are responsible for providing direction and education on Ground Safety to all Clubs. The aims are to foster a safety culture within the clubs in the county and assist in identifying and managing risk in Club grounds and facilities by engaging in the Safe Club Programme.

Clubs are expected to appoint a **Safe Club Leader** who will deliver the **Safe Club programme** and also ensure that this programme is adopted by each club. It is recommended that Club officers bring the webinar “**Creating a Safe Club**” to the attention of all its members and use it to identify and manage risk in Club Grounds. The **Club Safety Statement** must be accurate and up to date. Each Club needs to maintain accurate records of any safety/Insurance/Injury Claim that occurs in their Grounds and ensure that a robust reporting process is in place in the event of a Claim that needs to be defended in the courts at a future date. Thanks to Willie Kelly, acting Safety officer during the year.

**Club Planning:** The Club Planning Programme aims to provide GAA Clubs with a step-by-step approach to developing a Club Development Plan. The programme features practical tools and resources, based on best practice in a planning context, and involves the support of a trained Facilitator to guide a Club through the process. Engaging in a club Planning Programme encourages more people to get involved in the Club as it gives the wider Club Membership, and community, an opportunity to have an input into the running of the Club. The preparation that goes into “GETTING STARTED” and “DOING THE GROUNDWORK” phases in the Club Planning Process is the benchmark for the success of the plan.

Willie Keaveny, Club Planning Workgroup, who was engaged in his own Club Plan, (Kilmeena) informs us that “Fail to Plan - Plan to fail”. The purpose of a Club Plan is to evaluate the running of the Club, Identify the Clubs strengths and its weaknesses, and put a plan in place which will improve and develop the key areas. Above all, the Club Plan is a road map for future administrations and committee members of the Club. The Plan should address some of the following key areas,

- Provide a better playing experience from Child to Adult.
- Maintain and improve the facilities at the Club.
- Ensure adequate Financial Management within the Club.
- Child Safeguarding/Garda Vetting, /Code of Conduct.
- Improve the structure and efficiency of Bord na Nog.
- Continue to improve communications, P.R. and the Social Activity in the Club.

As we are still coping with the effects of a pandemic, now is a good time to review your Club Plan to assess if it still fits the needs of your Club. If your current plan is still relevant it will address these four questions,

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to go?
- How will we get there?
- How will we measure progress?

*If the answer to these questions is unclear then it is time to review the plan”*

An Online seminar was held on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> on “Club Strategic Planning” and was a very practical and informative event for all the attendees. As 2021 comes to an end it may be an opportunity for your club to prepare a 1 or 3-year development plan to inspire the future generation of players/ volunteers and give them the best chance of success in years to come. There are a number of Mayo clubs already implementing their plans and we wish them the best of luck with their ongoing projects.

The GAA Club Planning Programme provides independent facilitators to assist the club in designing and implementing a medium-long term plan for the club. These independent facilitators have a wealth of experience behind them in club planning. Further information: <https://learning.gaa.ie/clubplanning>.

**Social Media Survey:** A Social Media survey that was carried out in October 2020 identified several topics that were selected by our Club and County officers outlining a clear need for specific and ongoing training opportunities for them to fulfill their roles. The topics highlighted included *Club Officer Roles and Responsibilities, Information and training opportunities on all Social Media platforms, (graphics, advertising, governance, and effective content) IT Training, including opportunities to up skill on Teams, Basic, Intermediate & Advanced) One Drive, Forms, PowerPoint, Excel, Calendar, GDPR, (Data Protection). Communications, Finance and Fundraising. Disciplinary Rules and Procedures, recruiting + Retaining Volunteers, Club Sponsors and Sponsorships.*

National Webinars commenced in January 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 and all of the above topics have been offered live or as recorded transcripts to all our Clubs and County Officers with one exception and that is the **Digital Module**.

An overview of the survey was furnished to Alan Milton, Croke Park who very kindly agreed to assign this project to his digital team. The GAA Communications Department in conjunction with the Officer Development Committee will be hosting a digital communication for Clubs in early 2022. This will focus on the importance of strong communications systems within the Club whilst outlining a few suggestions on how a club can improve its communication to their members, their community and their county by using more efficient techniques. This will be a Webinar not to be missed as communication experts will be on hand to guide you through an effective digital communications plan for your club. Details on how to register will be available in the new year. I can now breathe a sigh of relief.

With AGM's already taking place in some Clubs throughout the county it is that time of year again where introductory courses are being planned for incoming Club Officers and will be held virtually on the 18th January for Connacht Clubs. The modules that focus on the key areas for new Chairpersons, Secretaries, PRO's and Treasurers are extremely beneficial for any Club Officer new to their role this year. Details on how to register for these courses will be available in early January.

Also arising from our Survey, it was agreed that a **Funding Options Workshops** would be rolled out to all the Divisions and the Hurling Clubs members.

The Workshops commenced in the East, (16th February), South (17th February), North (23rd February) West (8th March), and Hurling (10th March). The Presentation was made by Brendan Mooney, on behalf of the Development Committee. These workshops were designed to be a forum for Club Treasurers to share funding ideas.

**Mayo GAA County Development Committee Report - Club Fundraising Brendan Mooney.**

**Summary:** *At the request of the Chairperson of the Mayo GAA Development Committee, Mary Prenty, I was asked to prepare and deliver a series of presentations to the Treasurers of all Football and Hurling Clubs in the county. Through a schedule of five, one-hour Microsoft Team meetings, we met with the majority of Club Treasurers in the County. The meetings were structured through the 4 divisional boards and then a final night for the Hurling Club and those that were not able to attend on their specific divisional night. The meetings were well attended and of hopefully of benefit to those in attendance. The Aim of the meeting were to discuss: • Club Fundraising • Sharing of Ideas • New Opportunities • social media / Covid / Streaming.*

*I want to compliment the attendees on their candidness and openness in sharing their experiences from their particular clubs, without this openness to discuss the challenges and opportunities Clubs are now facing, the meetings would not have been as successful as they were.*

*As a collective we looked at Club Incomes under 5 headings: • Sustained Income Stream • Annual Fundraisers • Once Off Specific purpose • Diaspora Reaching • Targeted Fundraisers*  
**Conclusion:**

*This was a worthwhile exercise, if only for the networking opportunity it provided Club Officers who are meeting similar challenges in their GAA Roles, to discuss and assist each other.*

*The treasurers from one division have set up a group to bounce ideas off each other. At most meeting similar challenges were articulated: • Membership collection - Foireann • Revenue generation from Club Assets (Club House, Score Board, Stand, Dressing Room, etc.....) • Moving away from the traditional lotto/50/50 sales in pubs to online • Online providers commission • Streaming of Matches and advertising opportunities • Licensing issues for club lotto/50/50 • Club Development Draw – better communication of the benefit for the clubs (still known as the County Board Draw!) • The risks associated with the car/house raffle.*

**Club Demographics:** The GAA's Community Development Committee, Urban and Rural, hosted a webinar on **Tuesday 2 March** which focused on identifying and understanding the impact of Demographic changes in Clubs. This Webinar also highlighted demographic trends and demonstrated how Clubs can utilise their resources and the new Geographic Information System (GIS) toolkit to manage the impact of demographic change. The Webinar also highlighted the impact of Local Authority Planning on our communities and outlined how Clubs can engage with this planning process to mitigate some of the effects. It was presented by **Colm Cummins** (Chairperson of the Community Development Committee)

**Attracting and Retaining Sponsors Webinar:** This training opportunity was held on the 11th March 21 and for the first time was made available to all Club Officers as well as County Officers. The feedback from Clubs was very engaging and arising from the responses the sponsorship Dept in Croke Park has made the following editable "Club Heads of Agreement" document template available to clubs to assist them when drawing up sponsorship Agreements. Further information available on [https://crokepark-my.sharepoint.com/personal/ruairi\\_harvey\\_gaa\\_ie/\\_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?docid=1af13172d1c0e46eb8c114948cc4331f8&authkey=AR0eJf4dplXBn1QgfcIKQhI&e=eQTaxV](https://crokepark-my.sharepoint.com/personal/ruairi_harvey_gaa_ie/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?docid=1af13172d1c0e46eb8c114948cc4331f8&authkey=AR0eJf4dplXBn1QgfcIKQhI&e=eQTaxV)

**Data Protection:** Following convention there is the usual flurry of requests to change passwords for all new incoming club officers. Requests are made also for Officers who are changing roles in Clubs. To comply with Data protection in 2021, it was agreed that all County Board Delegates would be provided with an official GAA mail. This project commenced in January and was completed by end of March 2021.

PRO official emails were activated for the four Divisional Pro's.

A Meeting with Hurling Board/ Club officers was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 and agenda items included using official GAA mail, Virtual Training, Data Protection, Club Development, Club Leadership Programme and Foireann.

**Sports Capital Programme and Clann Credo:** Clann Credo can help your club and community to maximise Sports Capital funding by providing match funding loans as part of their applications, with a dedicated Multi Million Community Sports Loan Fund available to help sports clubs maximise their Sports Capital grants and has years of experience in assisting clubs to develop their facilities.

**Clann Credo Match Funding Loans:** The Sports Capital application requires clubs to show evidence of own funds. While having cash on deposit is best, a loan offer from Clann Credo is also acceptable as evidence of own funding and can boost your scoring in the application. The approval will be provided in the format required by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

**Clann Credo Bridging Loans:** Sports Capital grants are paid following submission of receipts for works completed and paid for. Clann Credo can provide clubs with a Bridging Loan to pay for works done on their project, allowing them to draw down their grant. The Clann Credo loan is repaid when the club receives its Sports Capital grant.

Clann Credo hosted an information evening on the 13th January 2021 to assist for all who may require evidence of loan finance to support their application under the 2021 Sports Capital Programme.

[https://zoom.us/rec/play/PgCHhLqAFzi563XW2uPndre3aGmTRT6IXrJAJZ1DxofZrujlc0V8JtszdSp9BR72pPyjEfl5jCrxheyX.nt\\_6ih1narWgcif1?startTime=1610564685000&xzm\\_rtaid=qf8NaGenT96lcSAIPpgD-A.1610617698283.21f3e25bd386840940052e9306c24c7f&xzm\\_rhtaid=355](https://zoom.us/rec/play/PgCHhLqAFzi563XW2uPndre3aGmTRT6IXrJAJZ1DxofZrujlc0V8JtszdSp9BR72pPyjEfl5jCrxheyX.nt_6ih1narWgcif1?startTime=1610564685000&xzm_rtaid=qf8NaGenT96lcSAIPpgD-A.1610617698283.21f3e25bd386840940052e9306c24c7f&xzm_rhtaid=355)



There is a proposed Funding seminar for clubs in 2022 and the following topics will be included

- Grants - Sports Capital to discuss the grants and LEADER who are funding walkways and LEDs, solar panels and other green initiatives for clubs.
- Loans - term loans to part finance the cost of developing pitches, clubhouses, land purchase and bridging loans to enable clubs to drawdown the grants. The process will be explained.
- Fundraising – Foireann and other online systems for managing lotto and other fundraising ventures.
- How can Clubs reduce energy costs and usage.
- There could be a seminar dedicated to reducing energy usage and how GAA clubs can lead the way in reducing energy consumption.
- There are grants of 50% for community organisations to put energy upgrades in place.

I attach as an Appendix to this report details of several funding options that may become available from state & local authorities and other sources which may be valuable for our clubs. (Appendix 2)

**Property & Corporate Trustees - ICCLG:** Connacht GAA hosted a number of training opportunities for Clubs in early March. Pdraig Prendergast, on behalf of the Committee reported on the ICCLG at a County Committee meeting in March.

The GAA has established a trust company (ICCLG) Corporate Trustee to hold on trust property for various officials of the Association. Traditionally, real property of the Association was held by personal trustees and this can prove cumbersome from time to time.

In an effort to streamline how property is held throughout the Association the GAA is providing its units with the option to hold property through the Corporate Trustee. The Corporate Trust directors are the Ard Stiurthóir Finance Director and the four provincial secretaries.

This is an optional facility open to Clubs but is entirely optional. Holding property through the Corporate Trustee does not in any way affect the ownership; the Corporate Trustee is merely holding on trust in the same way as personal trustees do.

**What Options are 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.

**What are the disadvantages of the Current System (Local Trustees)?**

- Additional complexity in dealing with Financial Institutes.
- Trustees refusing to co-operate
- Trustees bound to act in accordance with directive issued by Club
- Personal trustees might not always act in the best interest of the club and can only be removed by a high court order.
- Death of Trustee
- Surviving trustees continue to hold the property
- Incapacity of Trustees
- Retirement of Trustees
- Deed required to change title
- Separate deeds for each property

**What are the advantages of changing to Option 3 where property is held only by the Corporate Trustee?**

Individuals are no longer trustees and therefore are not exposed should the club/unit be sued. It is a straight-forward manner of holding title. Currently, when individual trustees retire or die there can be delays and cost in having them removed from title and the property transferred into the name of incoming trustees. Accordingly, over a period of a number of years this can give rise to significant difficulties when dealing with club property. This does not arise in the case of the Corporate Trustee. If a personal trustee was to get into financial difficulties, resulting in a judgment being obtained and registered on club property, this can cause complications and delays in any dealings with the property. Any dealings with club property will be streamlined without having to have multiple documents executed by a number of different personal trustees. Protects the club from issues around fraud/embezzlement.

**If our club wants to take advantage of the changes, what do we need to do?**

The Executive Committee of the Club determine whether the Corporate Trustee or other persons are appointed trustee. The appointment of the Corporate Trustee is approved at a general meeting of the members of the Club. This is documented by way of a resolution of the club. This is an internal document retained in club records. A certificate of club secretary confirms the nomination of the club executive and resolutions reached.

This certificate is conclusive evidence to any third parties such as funders, purchasers or vendors of the determination of the club and the identity of trustees. All trustees will complete a declaration of trust.

A Deed of Transfer transferring the property from existing trustees to new trustees requires completion to update the title documents for the club property. In the Republic of Ireland, a stamp duty return needs to be filed online by your solicitor and the stamp certificate attached to the deed. The deed will then be registered in the appropriate registry, either Land Registry or Registry of Deeds.

**How much will it cost?** The Association has developed this pack to guide its units on the transfer process if they choose. As the documents are specimens only and there are a variety of options open to clubs, it is recommended that you engage with your solicitor to have the correct documents completed. Legal costs in dealing with solicitor will be the responsibility of each club. Details of fees/costs are available on the Property Registration Authority website. Connacht GAA and Mayo GAA have already moved towards Corporate Trustees. There are also a number of Mayo GAA Clubs that are in the process of moving towards Corporate Trustees also.

**Covid-19 Pandemic:** This year the challenges around covid 19 pandemic were more manageable for County and Clubs as the “Return to Play” protocols remained similar to that of 2020. There was one addition of the Health Questionnaire to reflect the symptoms associated with the Delta variant. Dressing room remained closed until September 20<sup>th</sup> and from then on changing facilities/Gym facilities could be used only before and after games but with a maximum occupancy of 6 people at any one time. Pre-game, or half-time team talks, continued to take place outdoors and shower facilities only used where absolutely necessary. This was followed with an easing of restrictions around meetings in well ventilated areas, using good hand hygiene, wearing of face masks and social distancing measures being observed. Attendances grew to 50% capacity, the use of buses with 75% capacity, and the use of Indoor Halls (for sports, art, culture or dance activities) to capacity limits of 100 people (with appropriate protective measures in place) and only where all attendees are immune (fully vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 within previous 6 months) or for accompanied minors (under 18) who are not immune. Restrictions remained on Trophy presentations and the retention of the Cup after speeches and team photos were completed.

The many roles and responsibilities remained the same as 2020. The onset of the vaccination programmes alleviated some of the uncertainty and allowed our games to flourish despite the short season. The importance of the Team Covid Supervisors was extended to all Academy Squads in order for them to participate safely in the various games and other Academy activities.

I wish to thank Kieran Kilkenny for his help in this regard. I also wish to thank Tomas Meehan (IT Croke Park) who went way beyond the call of duty at short notice to support us also.

Our priority was always to ensure that players remain in a position to play and that their chances of either contracting the virus or being designated as close contacts were minimized.

Our club season was frustrating at times with close contact challenges but I think it is fair to say that we completed our competitions with the minimum of disruption. It is important to point out that the number of admissions are high at this time and we still have Clubs in competition outside of the county so we are asking for your cooperation to ensure that they will have a safe and successful conclusion to their various competitions.

I wish to thank all the County & Club Covid Officers, and Academy Groups for their diligence and cooperation especially when there were outbreaks in schools which had an impact on our underage games. Dr Sean Moffatt, who showed due care and consideration at all times.

Special thanks to the following

Ruairi Harvey, Eoghan Touhy and Jack Mc Carney from the Croke Park Development teams for their help and assistance during the year.

- Tomas Meehan for his guidance on Foireann, IT and many Covid 19 technical requests from Clubs who required assistance with amalgamated teams – we got through them all.
- Adrian Hassett, Connacht GAA for his support.
- Kurt Reinhart, who is our mentor for the Mac Hale Park GAA Sustainably Project, your support is invaluable with this project.
- Brian Mangan for his support with training events during 2021.
- Chairperson, Liam Moffatt, Secretary, Dermot Butler and Treasurer, Valerie Murphy.
- Special thanks to all the members of this committee who helped me plan around all the various events and games this year – it was a busy year for us.

We recently lost one of our most valued members of the Committee, and of the Association as a whole, with the sudden death of Paddy Muldoon R.I.P.

We will sadly miss his advice, knowledge and overall support for all GAA matters.

Maire Ni Phronntaigh (Oifigeach Forbartha)

**APPENDIX 1: MODULE LIST 2022**

- Club Officer Foundations
- Getting Started as Club Chairperson
- Getting Started as Club Secretary
- Finance and Governance for Club Treasurers
- Getting Started as Club PRO
- Fundraising, Commercial and Sponsorship -Lessons Learned
- Developing an Effective Coaching and Games Programme
- Upholding Disciplinary Rules and Procedures
- One Club Model Best Practices
- Getting Started as Healthy Club Officer
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Using Digital Communications to Promote your Club
- Using Foireann as a Club Member
- Using Foireann as a Club/County/Provincial Administrator
- Getting Work Done in Office 365
- Recruiting, Retaining and Engaging Volunteers
- Creating a Safe Club
- Leading, Managing and Governing your Club
- Using IT to Simplify Club Administration
- Leading Effective Meetings
- An Gaeilge sa Chlub
- Essential Training for Data Protection
- Commercial and Sponsorship
- Doing Things Right- Good Governance in your GAA Club
- Communication Skills
- Protection of Association Assets - The Corporate Trustee Model Explained

**APPENDIX 2: FUNDING OPTIONS 1**

Set out hereunder are funding options. The list is not exhaustive and many of the funding streams are closed for applications at this time, but I hope this will be of some help to you.

The **Sports Capital & Equipment Programme 2021**. Organisations can register their interest on the portal [www.sportscapitalprogramme.ie](http://www.sportscapitalprogramme.ie) This Programme closed for online applications on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

**LEADER funding** - You should make contact with the South West Mayo Development Company Ltd in Newport. I attach a link to their website which sets out their contact details, <http://www.southmayo.com/index.php/programmes/rural-development-programme>

OR

**LEADER funding** – You should make contact with the Mayo North East LEADER Partnership Company Teoranta in Foxford. I attach a link to their website which sets out their contact details, <http://www.mayonortheast.com/>

The HSE is allocated National Lottery Funding for distribution to community-based groups and voluntary organisations under the following terms: 1. Respite Care Grant Scheme; 2. National Lottery Grant Scheme. I attach a link to the National Lottery Section of the HSE, <https://www2.hse.ie/services/national-lottery-grants/national-lottery-grants.html>. Closing date for applications was Friday 16th April 2021.

**The Coca-Cola Thank You Fund 2021**. In 2021, Coca-Cola will donate a further €100,000 to youth-orientated non-profit groups committed to supporting young people to succeed in a post pandemic environment <https://www.coca-cola.ie/community/thank-you-fund>  
Applications are now closed for this scheme

**Mayo Sports Partnership** has funding available and I attach a link to their website, <https://www.mayo.ie/sports-partnership/funding> Mayo Sports Partnership does not provide funding to sport capital projects. The 2021 Mayo Sports Investment Scheme is now open for applications with a closing date of Friday 18th June 2021

**Community Environment Action Fund 2019** (formerly known as the Local Agenda 21 (LA21) Environmental Partnership Fund). This Fund promotes sustainable development by assisting small scale, non-profit environmental projects at local level. Projects should focus on environmental awareness and actions which complement national environmental policies such as those on waste, biodiversity, water conservation and climate change. Projects which focus on climate and/or biodiversity will be prioritised under the 2019 Fund. Closing date for applications is 5pm, 27th September 2019. Application form is available online at <http://www.mayococo.ie/en/services/environment/forms/>

The CLÁR 2021 scheme was launched on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The measures being funded under the 2021 CLÁR programme are:

Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures

Measure 2: Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities

Measure 3: Community Wellbeing Measure:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/91ba52-clar/?section=2021-clar-measures>.

New grant-aid scheme to assist community groups to assist the establishment of **community-based CCTV systems**. Eligible community groups can apply for grant-aid of up to 60% of the total capital cost of a proposed CCTV system, up to a maximum grant of €40,000. Upon approval of the grant, the applicant will receive an up-front payment of 50% of the grant with the balance to be paid when the system is fully operational. The scheme will run for 3 years with funding of €1 million being made available each year. Applications under the scheme can be made to the Department of Justice and Equality and the application form and explanatory material are available for download on the website of the Department at <http://justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Community-Based-CCTV>

I would urge you to visit the pobal.ie website as they have a list of funding programmes at (<https://www.pobal.ie/FundingProgrammes/Pages/Current.aspx>)

The Arts Council has a search engine for funding on their website, which can be accessed at <http://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

SEAI Community Energy Grant Scheme 2019: funds are available towards projects that deliver energy savings to communities, including public buildings, homes and businesses. Full details of the scheme, including how to apply are available at [www.seai.ie](http://www.seai.ie)

It may be possible for clubs to raise funds via the 'Tax Relief for Donations to Certain Sports Bodies' scheme (section 847A of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997). This is a Revenue operated scheme which offers tax benefits to individuals or companies who make donations to sports clubs. Further details on this scheme and how it operates can be found on the Revenue Commissioners website.

Community Enhancement Programme 2021 opened 10<sup>th</sup> May See <https://www.mayo.ie/news/community-enhancement-programme-2019/> for application forms and guidelines.

€100,000 available to community and voluntary organisations, educational bodies and civil society groups to promote dialogue on the **Future of Europe** under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Communicating Europe Initiative. Further information about how to apply are available from my department's website <http://bit.ly/CommunicatingEurope>

**Rural Regeneration and Development Fund** – Third call for proposals. This call under the Fund is for Category 1 applications, which relate to capital projects that have planning in place and are ready to commence at the date of application. It is expected that a funding announcement relating to the second call for Category 2 applications – for projects which require assistance for project development work in order to reach full delivery readiness – will be made shortly. The closing date for the receipt of proposals is 12 noon, on Tuesday 1st December 2020. Full details of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund are available on the Department of Rural and Community Development website at <https://drcd.gov.ie/about/rural/rural-regeneration-development-fund/>

**Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund** to further migrant integration and reception activities. Applications can now be made online to the EU Funds Unit of the Department of Justice and Equality for these funds. This call is open to public, private and voluntary bodies. The online Application Form and other relevant documentation/ information, including assessment criteria, can be accessed at <http://eufunding.justice.ie/en/eufunding/pages/home>.

**Communities Integration Fund.** The Communities Integration Fund will provide grant funding for local community projects that support the integration of migrants. Applications can now be made online to the Funds Administration Unit at the Department of Justice and Equality. The application period runs from 9am Friday 19th June (today) until 1pm, Thursday 16th July, 2020. Applications must be submitted electronically, and Community Groups can access a guidance document and complete an online application form at <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CIF2020>

The National Integration Fund 2020 will see €749,600 per year over a maximum of three years being made available for projects that help migrants integrate into Irish society. Applicants can access a detailed guidance document and complete an online application form at: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/NIF2020>.

Small Capital Grants Scheme for Social Enterprises. The scheme, which is funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund, will provide grants of between €2,000 and €15,000 for equipment, repairs or refurbishments which will enable social enterprises to improve their service delivery. The scheme will be administered through the Local Development Companies. See <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9c56eb-small-capital-grants-scheme-for-social-enterprises/for> more details and an application form, etc.



**MAYO GAA AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE****2021 ANNUAL REPORT****19 November 2021****Introduction**

The Mayo GAA Audit and Risk Committee (MARC) was formally approved by MCC in July 2020 at the request of the Mayo County Executive (MCE). The committee chaired by Bill Carty currently comprises six members. The other members are Frank Walsh (Secretary), Liam Kenny, Morgan Deane and two new members appointed in August 2021, Susan Cosgrove and Joan Gilvarry.

We would like to thank Pdraig O’Ceidigh for his excellent work as 2020 Chair of the committee.

**Terms of reference**

MARC was formed to bring independent oversight by a non-executive committee to matters that may be referred to it or come to its attention. The agreed terms of reference for MARC include the following:

The scope of the MARC’s role will include oversight by a non-executive committee through direction or enquiry on matters falling within the following domains:

1. Financial Review & Annual Audit Process
2. Corporate Governance and Risk Management, and
3. Ad-hoc strategic matters

## **MARC activities in 2021**

The MARC has provided its independent view and guidance to MCE on various matters which includes the following non-exhaustive list of the activities:

1. Commenting on the selection process, and appointment, of external sponsorship consultants for selected sponsorship opportunities in 2021.
2. Meeting with the external auditors as part of the audit programme for 2021.
3. Review of processes for Laochra Mhaigh Eo (Tiles) project.
4. Review of possible US tax reliefs available to encourage potential US donors.
5. Review of the naming rights process for MacHale Park.
6. Ad-hoc advice and guidance to MCE regarding the resourcing of certain administrative aspects of Mayo GAA's finance function.
7. Reviewing tender process and associated documentation for 2021 works on the MacHale Park Pitch.

## **Mayo GAA Audited Financial Statements 2021**

The MARC has reviewed the audited 2021 financial statements, met with the auditors to Mayo County Board and make the following comments regarding the Boards financial performance in 2021.

### **Financial Results**

The net surplus arising in 2021 reflects the significant curtailment of activity levels within Mayo GAA as a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic. The loss of many team competitions and reduced training programmes resulted in significantly lower operating costs. This coupled with the receipt of once-off government funding has delivered a surplus for the 2021 accounts period. Strict management of expenditure by MCE during 2021 has assisted in limiting operating costs to essential activities only.

## Controls & Procedures

The MARC are aware of the progress made by MCE in enhancing the system of controls and procedures in respect of both financial and governance matters. These enhancements have been progressed during the Covid 19 period whilst on-field activities were curtailed.

The implementation and adoption of various new policies and procedures, in particular the Operations Manual, are to be welcomed in mitigating financial risks and developing a culture of accountability and transparency within Mayo GAA.

The MARC Committee would like to record their appreciation of the support of the Chairman and Treasurer throughout the year.

## Risk Outlook

The MARC caution that MCE must continue to monitor the impact that external risks such as the Covid 19 Pandemic can bring on the financial position of a sporting organization such as Mayo GAA. Such risks increase the need for strict financial and risk control and safeguarding of assets in the face of significantly reduced revenue streams where sporting activities are curtailed.

The need for effective budgeting and long term financial planning for the next 3-5 years is greater than ever before.

Other non-financial risks such as player wellbeing and safety of patrons will continue to be of paramount importance to ensure that all involved can participate in and enjoy our sports in a safe and healthy environment. As part of this Mayo GAA must ensure that its activities and venues strictly adhere to Governments guidelines for the betterment of all stakeholders.



### Connacht Council Report

A delayed Connacht championship began in June when Mayo travelled to Markievicz Park to face Sligo live on Sky Sports. As COVID-19 restrictions were still in place the crowd numbers were limited at this game. Mayo ran out comfortable winners and faced Leitrim in the semi-finals.

Despite some positive COVID cases in the Mayo squad ahead of the Leitrim game Mayo had too much strength in depth and overcame the visitors by 24 points. This meant Mayo yet again faced Galway in a Connacht final after the Tribesmen beat Roscommon in the other semi-final.

Croke Park was the rather novel choice of venue for the 2021 Connacht final. The game was due to be played in MacHale Park however as COVID restrictions were still in place the Connacht Council moved the game to the larger Dublin venue to give more supporters the chance to attend. If the match had gone ahead in Castlebar, just 10% of MacHale Park's capacity could have attended (approx. 3,000). The switch to Croke Park meant a crowd of up to 18,000 could attend and it proved to be a great success with huge numbers of Mayo and Galway supporters as well as neutrals attending.

A glorious afternoon in the Dublin sunshine saw Mayo claim their 48<sup>th</sup> Connacht title when they beat Galway 2-14 to 2-08.

The Minor championship began in July and it was a historic one for Sligo as they claimed their first title since 1968, and only their 3<sup>rd</sup> ever title after beating Roscommon in the final in Dr Hyde Park on a score line of 0-19 to 1-11. Mayo bowed out in the quarter finals when they were beaten by Roscommon 4-13 to 2-12.

The U20 championship also began in July and it was Roscommon who won their first U20 football championship since 2015. They beat Mayo in MacHale Park 2-11 to 1-07 to claim their 10<sup>th</sup> title at that grade. Roscommon went all the way to the U20 All-Ireland final where they were beaten by Offaly in Croke Park.

The Connacht club championships began on the weekend on Nov 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> with the majority of finals scheduled for January 2022. There was a renewed interest in these games as there was no Connacht club championships games played in 2020 due to COVID-19 and the condensed fixtures calendar.

Although the dome was completed in 2020 it wasn't until November 2021 and restrictions were lifted that it hosted its first games. This indoor facility also hosted the 2020 Scór All-Ireland final on November 20<sup>th</sup> and no doubt it will be of huge benefit to clubs, schools and many other sporting bodies across the province in the coming months and years.

**Paul Cunnane/John Hopkins (Mayo delegates to Connacht Council).**

## **Report from Central Council**

### **Paddy McNicholas**

There were a total of 5 Central Council Meetings held during the year 2021.

They were all held remotely via Microsoft Teams.

The main items discussed and agreed were

- Covid 19 restrictions
- Return to Play Guidelines for clubs and counties
- Revised Fixture Plan for 2021
- Redundancy packages for Croke Park employees
- Redevelopment of Casement Park
- Hurling Development Report for weaker counties
- Deviations from counties
- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Licensing Report
- Branding logo on sleeves
- Season Tickets
- Holding of Club and County AGM's
- Venue for Annual Congress 2022 (COE Began)
- Special Powers
- Resumption of training (December 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Master Fixture Plan for 2022

**Children's Officer Report – Mayo GAA 2021**

2021 was another challenging year for children taking part in sporting activities, with the early part of the year providing very little opportunity for participation due to Covid19 restrictions.

Unfortunately, a number of issues arose during the year in relation to safeguarding, in clubs around the county, which necessitated the intervention of the County Children's Officer. These broadly related to disputes between coaches and young players, between coaches and parents and in the main in relation to lack of game time given to some players. I would ask each club to ensure that they have an active Children's Officer and Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in situ., in order to deal with these matters locally where possible.

The main learning from these incidents is that young players want to play matches, and the focus must be on participation and not winning, to ensure enjoyment and retention – each club has an onus to ensure this is happening.

All coaches should be garda vetted, have completed at least a foundation coaching course and have completed a safeguarding 1 training course. People associated with underage teams (physio, selectors etc.) must also have completed safeguarding training and be garda vetted.

I wish to thank James Roche of Castlebar Mitchels who screens all garda vetting requests on behalf of Mayo GAA.

Due to the pandemic, no face to face training was permitted, this resulted in limited safeguarding training taking place, however some on line training did take place mainly in the second half of the year.

Several webinars and workshops were organised nationally, which were well attended by representatives from Mayo clubs.

Further on-line safeguarding 1 training will take place in January and February 2022. Clubs are asked to submit a request for inclusion on this training if interested to [childrensofficer.mayo@gaa.ie](mailto:childrensofficer.mayo@gaa.ie)

Designated Liaison Person training was held early in the year with 15 clubs participating. This was disappointing as all clubs were notified with confirmation of attendance received from 24.

Safeguarding 2 training (for Club Children's Officers) is not available at the moment.

Safety statements which should be displayed at club premises were completed by all clubs in Mayo during 2021 along with risk assessments. Sincere thanks to all clubs for their work on this.

Best wishes for the holiday period and for 2022

Padraic Carolan  
Children's Officer



## Infrastructure Report – Michael Diskin

### Resurfacing of MacHale Park

Development work on the playing surface of MacHale Park commenced in late July with grass seed sown in Mid-September 2021. The work included the installation of 2.5 km of lateral drains (at 6 m centres) across the pitch and 14.5 km of slit drains (at 1 m centres) lengthwise and at right angles to the lateral drains. A total of 485 cubic metres of pea gravel was used to backfill all drains. A total of 880 tonnes of sand was incorporated into the top the surface of the pitch. The work was completed on schedule and within budget. The playing area of the pitch has been lengthened by 6.3 metres. The mild autumn weather has ensured an excellent grass cover which is now beginning to tiller or thicken. New ball nets and goalposts nets are scheduled for erection in the spring of 2022. The expected opening date will be early May 2022. The next phase of this work will include the completion of the irrigation system, for which the pipes were laid during the pitch development work, and the purchase of new equipment for mowing the pitches. A Sports Capital Grant has been secured in 2021 for the later.

### Media Tower

There is serious water ingress into the tower requiring the re-roofing of the structure. This will be completed as soon as the tenders are finalised and a contractor is selected.

### Lights in Stand.

The refitting of the lights in the stand will proceed over the next few months.

### Health and Safety audit

A Health and Safety audit of MacHale Park has been completed and issues identified in the report will be addressed before the stadium reopens in May 2022. A draft Health and Safety Statement has also been prepared.

### Lough Lannagh

In September 2020, Mayo County Council provided new ecological and site information on the Lough Lannagh site, which would effectively reduce the number of pitches that could be constructed from three to two as well as the altering the positioning of the pitches, Subsequently, Mayo County Board has decided not to proceed with this development.



**Pitches to meet the future needs of Mayo GAA**

Following the decision not to proceed with the Lough Lannagh development, Mayo County Board now plans to review its requirement for pitches and the locations of these pitches to meet the future needs of all of its teams and academies. This is expected to be completed early in 2022 and will involve consultation with Clubs and divisional boards. Irrespective of what decision is arrived at, Mayo County Board has already agreed that the development(s) must be affordable, underpinned by solid, sustainable funding foundation and does not impose any additional financial burdens on Clubs.

**Establishing a Sustainable Energy Community (SEC)**

A Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) has been established for MacHale Park, Mulvey Park and the adjoining Castlebar Mitchel's facilities. Mayo County Board have been advised by SEAI to link up with Castlebar Mitchels; as neither MacHale Park alone nor Mitchels alone would qualify as an SEC. Funding has been secured to develop a comprehensive plan of the full site. This plan will cover the 5 pillars (Energy, Water, Waste, Transport and Biodiversity) of the Green Club initiative should identify a number of potentially significant savings as well as new income streams possibilities and new funding/grant opportunities. As this is the first SEC involving the GAA, it is seen nationally by the GAA and SEAI as a pilot initiative. Learnings will be shared with other Clubs throughout Mayo and with the wider association. As an initial part of the Green Club initiative a free energy audit will be offered to all of the GAA Clubs in Mayo and this will begin in the next few months. .

**MacHale Park Committee**

The MacHale Park Committee, established in 2020, met on a number of occasions throughout 2021. This committee has worked closely with Philip Heneghan in relation to the upkeep, maintenance and preparation of the stadium for matches, Health and Safety issues within the stadiums as well as providing valuable input into the resurfacing of MacHale Park.

The committee is:

Michael Diskin (Chair)	John Brennan
Paddy McNicholas (Chief Steward)	Hugh Rudden
James Rocke (Event Controller)	Declan Hughes
Jerry Henry (Health and Safety Officer)	Phil Heneghan
Martin Carney	Michael Prendergast
John Hopkins	Willie Kelly
Michael McKenzie	Mary Prenty



## Club Development Draw 2021

In 2021 a total of 6,615 tickets were sold; up 451 tickets on 2020. A total of 471 tickets were sold online with some Clubs making extensive use of this facility to sell tickets both locally and to their wider (diaspora) support base. A typographical error resulted in Draw 4 having to be repeated.

The final draw was hosted by Shrute-Glencorrib GAA Club on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021 with a total of 5 clubs been visited with the Draw in 2021. All prize money was paid out to clubs by 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021. In 2021, the value of the Draw to Clubs was €376,020 while value to Mayo County Board was €283,280 of which €111,500 constituted the prize fund leaving a net value of €171,780 to the County Board.

The average numbers of tickets sold by Club Grading was:

Hurling:	48
Junior:	95
Intermediate:	161
Senior:	173

***Michael Diskin***

**AINMNIUCHÁIN 2022**

Nominated Positions	AINMNIUCHÁIN 2022 Nominations	Nominating Club
UACHTARÁN President	Mick Higgins	
CATHAOIRLEACH Chairperson	Con Moynihan Seamus Tuohy	Ballaghaderreen Breaffy
LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH Vice Chairperson	Con Moynihan Dermot Butler Paul Cunnane	Ballaghaderreen Crossmolina Davitts
RÚNAÍ Secretary	Dermot Butler Ronan Kirrane	Crossmolina Davitts
RÚNAÍ CÚNTA Assistant Secretary	Ronan Kirrane	Davitts
CISTEOIR Treasurer	Valerie Murphy	Charlestown
CISTEOIR CÚNTA Assistant Treasurer	Michael Diskin	Castlebar Mitchels
OIFIGEACH CAIDREAMH POIBLÍ PRO	John Walker	Cill Chomain
OIFIGEACH OILIÚNA Coaching Officer	Declan O'Reilly	Castlebar Mitchels
OIFIGEACH CULTÚIR Cultural Officer	Grainne Kelly-Frayne	Aghamore
ÁRD COMHAIRLE Central Council	Paddy McNicholas	Kiltimagh
COMHAIRLE CHONNACHT (X2) Connacht Council	Paul Cunnane Liam Moffatt Johnny Hopkins	Davitts Crossmolina The Neale
OIFIGEACH PLEANALA AGUS OILIUNA Planning and Training Officer	TO BE APPOINTED  Riall 3.11	
OIFIGEACH NA BPÁISTI Children's Officer	TO BE APPOINTED  Riall 3.11	
OIFIGEACH SABHAILTEACHTA AGUS SAORAIDI CONTAE County Safety and Facilities Officer	TO BE APPOINTED  Riall 3.19 (i)	

Voting Allocations 2022

North	Allocated	West	Allocated
Ardagh	3	Achill	3
Adrnaree	3	Balla	3
Ballina Stephenites	3	Ballintubber	3
Ballycastle	3	Shane Quinn	1
Ballycroy	3	Breaffy	3
Belmullett	3	Burrishoole	3
Bonniconlon	3	Castlebar Hurling	3
Michael McKenzie	1	Castlebar Mitchels	3
Crossmolina	3	Michael Diskin	1
Liam Moffatt	1	Declan O'Reilly	1
Dermot Butler	1	Daithi Gallagher	1
Mick Herr	1	Islandeedy	3
Kilfian	3	Kilmeena	3
Killala	3	Louisburgh	3
Kiltane	3	Parke	3
Knockmore	3	Padraig Carolan	1
Lahardane	3	Tuair Mhic Eadaigh	3
Lacken	3	Dennis Harrington	1
Moygownagh	3	Westport	3
Cill Chomain	3	Chris McGowan	1
John Walker	1		
	53		46
South	Allocated	East	Allocated
Ballinrobe	3	Aghamore	3
Claremorris	3	Grainne Kelly Freyne	1
Davitts	3	Ballaghderreen	3
Paul Cunnane	1	Con Moynihan	1
Ronan Kirrane	1	Ballyhaunis	3
Garrymore	3	Mary Prenty	1
Shrule Glencorrib	3	Charlestown	3
Hollymount Carramore	3	Valerie Murphy	1
Michael King	1	Eastern Gaels	3
Kilmaine	3	Kilmovee	3
Mayo Gaels	3	Kiltimagh	3
The Neale	3	Paddy McNicholas	1
Johnny Hopkins	1	Bohola Moy Davitts	3
Brian O'Malley	1	Swinford	3
		Michael Daly	1
		Tooreen	3
		Jimmy Connor	1
	32		37
Cumann na mBunscoil	1	Total electoral votes	
Post Primary	1	North	53
Handball	1	South	32
	3	East	37
		West	46
		Others	3
			171

## Motions

### **Motion 1:**

Amend Mayo GAA Bye-Law 6 by insertion of additional wording

"Club membership alone per se, does not confer automatic playing eligibility. **In accordance with T.O. Rule 6.2(b), a club may not register an ineligible member. This bye-law shall also apply to juvenile members under the age of 12. Penalty for breach: as set out in T.O Rule 6.2(c).**"

### **Tuar Mhic Eadaigh**

### **Motion 2:**

Amend Mayo GAA Bye-Law 7(v) by insertion of additional wording

"Parentage Rule: a player may apply for permission to play or transfer to a club in a catchment area in which his parent was a player in adult competitions or in exceptional circumstances, a member, who over a reasonable period of time, made a proven contribution to that club **prior to the birth of the player.**"

### **Tuar Mhic Eadaigh**

### **Motion 3:**

Amend Mayo GAA Bye-Law 7(vi) by insertion of additional wording

"A player may apply for permission to play or transfer to the club/independent team based on proximity to club ground. **In the event of a dispute, the club within whose catchment he resides shall have first call on his services.**"

### **Tuar Mhic Eadaigh**

### **Motion 4:**

All Coaching and Development Funding must be allocated to individual counties on an equal basis based on registered GAA members in the preceding year in each county up to a maximum variance of 5%. Any proposal to allocate Coaching and Development funding in excess of a 5% variance must be brought to Annual Congress every two years for approval with a transparent plan and business case for such increased funding.

It is proposed that this motion will amend Rule 3.43 of the GAA Official Guide which governs the "Powers and Functions" of the Central Council, Rule 3.44 which governs the "Powers of the Director General and other Officers" and also, Rule 3.46 which governs the Management Committee that makes recommendations on policy and finance to Central Council.

### **Ardnaree**

**Motion 5:**

County New Junior Championship

The teams eligible to compete in the County New Junior Championship are the 2nd and/or 3rd teams that Clubs may wish to enter into the Championship.

This Motion proposes the following:

1. The New Junior A Competition shall comprise 8 teams;
2. The New Junior B Championship shall comprise 16 teams;
3. All remaining teams shall compete in the New Junior C Championship.

At the end of each championship year there shall be relegation/promotion between the County New Junior A Championship and the County New Junior B Championship and between the County New Junior B Championship and the County New Junior C Championship.

**Kiltimagh**

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