



Secretary's Report 2023

Tuarascáil an Rúnaí

2023

Overall, 2023 was an extremely busy time for all aspects of Mayo GAA.

On the field the Mayo Senior Football Team secured the Division 1 League Title after a hugely successful league series. It was the first League title since 2019 and a great start to Kevin McStays tenure as manager. However, a week later we were brought back down to earth with a defeat in the Connacht Championship to Roscommon.

A long break after this game seemed to inspire Mayo as we knocked form on the head and beat Kerry away from home in spectacular fashion. The next two performances, however, were well below par and they left us with an extra game in the season. This probably didn't help the cause and although we got over the line vs Galway the Mayo legs in the second half vs Dublin showed all the signs of a team running on fumes. We exited the championship to Dublin and although comprehensively beaten there were green shoots for development in 2024.

A difficult year for our Mayo Senior Hurling Team but with renewed hope and new structures in place hopefully the team can get back to a higher grade. The re-emergence of teams and the introduction of an amalgamation of the Junior Teams within the county can only help the standard within the county.

Off the field advancements have been made in terms of supports for our academy and county teams across all codes. The problem of a lack of playing areas is the single greatest

area of concern for our teams and at present-we simply do not have sufficient space to serve our teams.

With the long-awaited integration of the GAA, LGFA and Camogie Associations on the cards one would wonder how, without major capital support from the government, counties and indeed clubs throughout the association will cater for the players.

FBD League:

This competition was held in the University of Galway Air Dome and proved a very valuable starting block for the new season. Many thanks to John Prenty for organising the competition and giving the players protection from the elements. Attendance was high at these games, and it proved an entertaining start to the season.

FBD Results:

Mayo 2:18 Galway 3:12 **14.01.2023**

Mayo 0:13 Roscommon 0:09 **Final 20.01.2023**

National Football League:

The league commenced on the 28th of January on a balmy evening in Castlebar. Overall, we were very fortunate with the weather for the entirety of the campaign with only the Donegal game away being played in testing conditions. Attendances for all games were high both home and away and enthusiasm for the competition was evident from the get-go. One aspect which caused concern was the potential for anti-social behaviour at NFL games. This was raised at a Coiste Chondae Meeting in April with members from the floor expressing huge concern for the safety of players and spectators alike. This matter was revisited in October and the unanimous feeling was that a fee would have to be introduced for all patrons.

League Results:

Mayo 1:11 Galway 2:08 **Round 128.01.2023**

Armagh 0:17 Mayo 0:17 **Round 2 05.02.2023**

Mayo 2:14 Kerry 1:10 **Round 3 18.02.2023**

Mayo 4:10 Tyrone 0:12 **Round 4 25.02.2023**

Roscommon 2:11 Mayo 1:16 **Round 5 05.03.2023**

Donegal 0:09 Mayo 1:17 **Round 6 19.03.2023**

Mayo 0:14 Monaghan 2:14 **Round 7 26.03.2023**

Allianz Football League Division One Final: Mayo 0-14 Galway 0-11

This was a fantastic afternoon at GAA headquarters for the team and supporters alike, who collected the Allianz Football League Division One title defeating neighbours Galway in front of over 45,000 spectators. Mayo custodian Colm Reape was an influential figure making numerous saves and the Knockmore clubman Reape also nailed three points for Mayo from two long range frees and a 45.

Scorers: Ryan O'Donoghue 0-7 (5fs, 2ms), Colm Reape 0-3 (2fs, 1 45) Jack Coyne, Paddy Durcan, James Carr, and Jordan Flynn 0-1 each.

Mayo: Colm Reape; David McBrien, Jack Coyne, Sam Callinan; Stephen Coen, Conor Loftus, Paddy Durcan; Mattie Ruane, Diarmuid O'Connor; Fionn McDonagh, Jack Carney, Jordan Flynn; Aidan O'Shea, James Carr, Ryan O'Donoghue.

Subs: Eoghan McLaughlin for McBrien (HT), Tommy Conroy for Carr (52), Darren McHale for McDonagh (66), Bob Tuohy for Ruane (70), Pádraig O'Hora for Coyne (70+2).

Championship:

We entered the Connacht Championship a week after the NFL victory and while morale and preparation had gone extremely well, we left that competition a few hours later and were left to lick our wounds after a poor performance.

Connacht Senior Football Championship Quarter-Final Roscommon 2-8 Mayo 0-10.

A dogged and disciplined defensive display was the backbone to the victory for Roscommon, with two goals in the first half proving key to deciding the outcome. Roscommon went in four points to the good at half time despite playing into a strong gale blowing towards the Bacon Factory End of the ground.

Roscommon got the first score of the game through a Diarmuid Murtagh free in the early minutes. Mayo responded quickly through a Ryan O'Donoghue placed ball after he himself was fouled.

Mayo looked in control of the game when Aidan O'Shea palmed a Paddy Durcan ball into the path of Stephen Coen, but his effort crashed back off the bar and away to safety. A goal at that juncture could have kicked Mayo on but alas it didn't materialise.

Murtagh put the visitors back in front with the first score in 17 minutes through another free after Niall Daly was fouled close to goal.

Five minutes later Roscommon rattled the back of the Mayo net for the first time, through an Enda Smith penalty after Conor Loftus was adjudged to have fouled David Murray.

Mayo hit back with points from Durcan and then a brace of Reape points from placed balls. However, there was still a big moment to come before the half time whistle when Roscommon grabbed their second goal of the day.

Ciaran Lennon let fly with a shot towards Reape's goal, Jack Carney blocked the ball away with his back, but Donnie Smith was quickest to react and he half-volleyed the ball to the net to send Roscommon in leading 2-2 to 0-4 at the break.

Mayo closed the gap back to just two points by the 40th minute with Donnacha McHugh and Matthew Ruane putting the ball over the bar.

Murtagh edged the visitors three points clear again on 43 minutes with his third free of the day and kept Mayo at arm's length. Tommy Conroy pulled Mayo back to within two points after he put the ball between the posts, and it was back to a one-point game with 20 minutes left after Aidan O'Shea tagged another.

But Roscommon weren't going to go away lightly and two points in quick succession from play from Diarmuid Murtagh had his side three clear again with ten to go. Cillian O'Connor swung over an effort not long after entering the action to cut the gap to two and keep the game very much alive.

Mayo prodded and poked around the Roscommon danger area, but found it hard to create space to shoot, while in comparison when Roscommon broke, they punished Mayo, with Diarmuid Murtagh and Conor Cox slotting over a point each inside a minute heading for injury time. Ryan O'Donoghue cut the gap back to just a goal three minutes into injury time, but the final word was left to Enda Smith who made it safe with a fisted point on the run to seal a well-deserved win for Roscommon on a day which was better to be forgotten.

Scorers for Roscommon: Diarmuid Murtagh 0-6 (4fs), Enda Smith 1-1 (1-0 pen), Donie Smith 1-0, Conor Cox 0-1.

Scorers for Mayo: Colm Reape 0-2 (2fs), Ryan O'Donoghue 0-2 (2fs), Paddy Durcan 0-1, Donnacha McHugh 0-1, Matthew Ruane 0-1, Tommy Conroy 0-1, Aidan O'Shea 0-1, Cillian O'Connor 0-1.

Roscommon: Conor Carroll; Conor Hussey, Conor Daly, David Murray; Niall Daly, Brian Stack, Eoin McCormack; Dylan Ruane, Keith Doyle; Ciaran Murtagh, Ciaran Lennon, Enda Smith; Donie Smith, Diarmuid Murtagh, Ben O'Carroll. **Subs:** Cian McKeon for Lennon (53), Conor Cox for Donie Smith (60), Richard Hughes for Daly (66), Niall Kilroy for Ruane (70), Cian Connolly for O'Carroll (70).

Mayo: Colm Reape; Jack Coyne, Eoghan McLaughlin, Donnacha McHugh; Stephen Coen, Conor Loftus, Paddy Durcan; Matthew Ruane, Diarmuid O'Connor; Fionn McDonagh, Jack Carney, Jordan Flynn; Aidan O'Shea, Tommy Conroy, Ryan O'Donoghue. **Subs:** Darren McHale for McDonagh (51), Cillian O'Connor for McHale (BS) (53), Jason Doherty for Eoghan McLaughlin (61), Conor McStay for Flynn (61), Darren McHale for Ruane (70).

Round Robin Stages:

20.05.2023 Killarney: Mayo 1-19; Kerry 0-17.

Kerry hadn't lost in a Championship game in Fitzgerald Stadium in 28 years and after an early exit in the Connacht Championship almost 6 weeks earlier few would have expected the result and performance that was on display in such a scenic and wonderful backdrop.

A big crowd of 23,128 at a sun-drenched stadium saw Mayo boss the show with a hunger that Kerry simply couldn't match.

Although in control for a lot of the game and it was only when Eoghan McLaughlin got the only goal of the game four minutes after coming on that the curtain was drawn down on this game as a true contest. Mayo started on fire and missed two good goal chances before points from play from the dangerous Ryan O'Donoghue and bustling Aidan O'Shea gave them a well-deserved lead.

When Kerry got on the scoreboard, Mayo kicked on with points from Pádraig O'Hora, James Carr, and O'Donoghue's free and were 0-7 to 0-3 to the good before Seanie O'Shea reeled off two frees to close the margin.

Carr put the visitors three up again but then Dara Moynihan and David Clifford made it a three-point game again. By half-time Mayo had flexed their muscles again and were five to the good, 0-12 to 0-7, and O'Donoghue could even have got a goal to enhance that scoreline but for an excellent save by Kerry custodian Stephen Ryan.

When Mayo extended their lead to six with Matthew Ruane and Jason Doherty scoring on either side of a Clifford free, they looked confident though a P. Geaney point again chipped away at the margin. Colm Reape made a great save from David Clifford and a goal at that stage could have changed the outcome of the game very easily.

David Clifford slotted over another point to cut the deficit to a goal - but the green flag which would have brought parity instead was scored by McLaughlin to put six between the sides.

Mayo: C Reape; J Coyne, D McBrien, S Callinan; P O'Hora (0-1), C Loftus, D McHugh (0-1); M Ruane (0-2), D O'Connor; J Doherty (0-1), J Carney (0-1), J Flynn (0-1); A O'Shea (0-3, 0-2f, 0-1m), J Carr (0-3), R O'Donoghue (0-5, 0-2f) Subs: P Durcan (0-1) for Doherty, E Hession for Callinan (both 48 minutes), T Conroy for Carr (53 minutes), E McLaughlin (1-0) for O'Hora (56 minutes), S Coen for Coyne (60 mins).

Kerry: S Ryan; D Casey, J Foley, T O'Sullivan (0-2); G O'Sullivan, T Morley, G White; D O'Connor, J Barry; D Moynihan (0-1), S O'Shea (0-3, 0-2f, 0-1 '45) P Clifford; T Brosnan, D Clifford (Capt.) (0-8, 0-3f), P Geaney (0-3) Subs: P Murphy for Morley (blood sub 25-28 minutes); P Murphy for Casey, A Spillane for Brosnan (both half-time); R Murphy for Moynihan (46 minutes), B Ó Beagláioch for Morley (59 minutes), S O'Brien for Barry (64 minutes).

Mayo 0-14 Louth 1-10

The win against Kerry two weeks earlier whetted the appetite and encouraged the county but unfortunately the performance against Louth left a different taste as Louth almost pulled off the shock of the round, when they pushed Mayo all the way in Hastings Insurance MacHale Park. Louth came with a game plan and stuck to it right to the end and when they struck for the only goal of the game deep in injury time, it almost paid off.

With injury time looking like it was about to expire, Mayo extended their lead to five points as Fionn McDonagh deftly fisted the ball over from close range. Yet, the game took a turn which we just about survived. A minute later, Conall McKeever slipped in and unleashed a powerful shot past Colm Reape, narrowing the gap to two points.

In the subsequent attack, Conor Grimes scored a point, bringing the margin to the bare minimum. Unfortunately for Louth, that marked the final action of the day, as referee Noel Mooney blew the whistle following the resultant kick-out.

At half-time, Mayo held a three-point lead after a slow paced first half. Louth retreated into their own half, resulting in the curtailing of Mayo's attacking options.

In the early stages, it appeared Mayo might cruise to victory as they swiftly accumulated three points within the initial five minutes. Colm Reape confidently converted a free kick from 45 metres shortly after the throw-in, and just a minute later, Jack Carney skillfully finished off a hand-passing move from inside. Then, at the five-minute mark, Ryan O'Donoghue punched the ball over the bar, granting his side a three-point advantage.

Sam Mulroy initiated Louth's scoring with a well-executed pointed free after eight minutes, allowing them to establish a foothold in the game. David McBrien had a goal opportunity impressively saved by James Califf at the 15-minute mark, and soon after, Aidan O'Shea added a point from a free, once again placing Mayo three points ahead.

Mulroy drained a long-range free kick to keep Louth within reach, which was swiftly countered by a point from Jordan Flynn, who collected the ball on the run during his second attempt.

Conor Grimes landed a long-range point, met with a response from Ryan O'Donoghue's successful free kick, ensuring Mayo maintained their three-point lead. Ciaran Downey slipped over a mark at the half-hour mark, enabling his side to stay within touching distance of Mayo.

Shortly after the break, Mayo surged four points ahead through Matthew Ruane. However, Louth remained in contention as Ciarán Downey scored from long range, accompanied by Leonard Grey raising another single.

Crucial scores from Aidan O'Shea and Paddy Durcan widened Mayo's lead to four points. Mulroy reduced the deficit to three before another successful free kick from O'Shea and McDonagh's effort extended Mayo's advantage to five, seemingly securing victory. However, there was still time for some late drama. It was a game which few will want to remember but thankfully we secured the win.

Scorers for Mayo: Aidan O'Shea 0-4 (4fs), Ryan O'Donoghue 0-3 (2fs), Colm Reape 0-1 (f), Stephen Coen 0-1 (m), Paddy Durcan 0-1, Matthew Ruane 0-1, Jack Carney 0-1, Jordan Flynn 0-1, Fionn McDonagh 0-1.

Scorers for Louth: Sam Mulroy 0-3 (3fs), Conall McKeever 1-0, Ciaran Downey 0-2, Conor Grimes 0-2, Conor Early 0-1, Leonard Grey 0-1, Niall Sharkey 0-1.

Mayo: Colm Reape; Jack Coyne, David McBrien, Sam Callinan; Pdraig O'Hora, Conor Loftus, Stephen Coen; Matthew Ruane, Donnacha McHugh; Jason Doherty, Jack Carney, Jordan Flynn; Aidan O'Shea, James Carr, Ryan O'Donoghue. **Subs:** Paddy Durcan for Jason Doherty, Tommy Conroy for James Carr, Enda Hession for Sam Callinan, Fionn McDonagh for Jordan Flynn, Bob Tuohy for Jack Coyne.

Louth: James Califf; Bevan Duffy, Peter Lynch, Donal McKenny; Leonard Grey, Niall Sharkey, Anthony Williams, Tommy Durnin, Conor Early; Conall McKeever, Ciaran Downey, Conor Grimes; Conall McCaul, Sam Mulroy, Ciarán Murphy. **Subs:** Craig Lennon for McCaul, Dermot Campbell for Williams, Ryan Burns for Lynch, Paul Matthews for Murphy.

Round 3: Mayo vs Cork: Limerick 18.06.2023

Into Round three and Mayo knew a win or draw would almost certainly guarantee a home Quarter Final. However, with Mayo in total control of the game we managed to let it slip and paid the price of a buildup of fixtures. We began the afternoon first in the group, and finished it in third.

A nine-point swing in the final quarter has secured the Cork footballers home advantage in next weekend's All-Ireland preliminary quarter-final.

When the final whistles had sounded in Portlaoise and the Gaelic Grounds, Kerry, Mayo, and Cork were level on four points. Kerry's superior score difference delivered them top spot,

with Cork and Mayo both tied on +3 behind them. Next in the rulebook for separating teams in such instances is scores for, and in this case, it was Cork who marginally held sway.

When sub-Tommy Conroy scored in 56 minutes, our lead was out to 6 points, and we seemed home and hosed at 1-11 to 0-8. However, we would not score again in the remaining 14 minutes plus stoppage time. The last 19 minutes of action came and went without another Mayo score.

The Cork bench stepped forward and up. Little over a minute after Conroy's goal, Colm O'Callaghan was fouled for a penalty. Steven Sherlock converted. The second half sub finished with 1-5 beside his name. The Cork bench finished with 1-7. Cork finished with 1-6 without reply. They finished in a blaze of confidence and momentum.

Sherlock had them level at 1-11 apiece on 64 minutes. His '45 two minutes later put the underdogs in front for the first time since half-time. Two more subs, John O'Rourke and Chris Óg Jones, supplied the final two points to seal a first championship win over Mayo since 2002.

Cork had led 0-6 to 0-5 at the break. The seeds of this narrow lead were easily found in the Gaelic Grounds clay. Cork's defending was robust. It was organised. It was, for the most part, disciplined. Their containment efforts greatly stifled Mayo.

Half of Cork's 0-6 first-half total came from defenders. Rory Maguire kicked two excellent points, with Walsh also raising a white flag.

Maguire knocked possession from Ryan O'Donoghue's grasp in the 11th minute. The play ended with an Eoghan McSweeney point.

Mayo's first point from play didn't arrive until the 22nd minute – and that its came from Jordan Flynn spoke volumes of our frustrations in trying to plug holes and points in Cork's well-disciplined defense.

Mayo ratcheted up the intensity at the beginning of the second period. Jordan Flynn kicked three points.

The second half was seven and a half minutes old before Cork got away their first shot. The second half was 13 minutes old when Cork managed the first score of the second period.

MAYO: C Reape; C Loftus, P O’Hora, D McBrien; J Coyne, P Durcan, D McHugh; D O’Connor, M Ruane; J Flynn, J Carney, S Coen; R O’Donoghue, A O’Shea, J Carr. **Subs:** T Conroy for Carr (HT); E McLaughlin for Coen (52); E Hession for Coyne (53); K McLoughlin for McHugh (67).

Scorers for Mayo: R O’Donoghue (0-5, 0-4 frees); T Conroy (1-1); J Flynn (0-4); C Reape (0-1 ‘45).

All-Ireland SFC Preliminary Quarter-Final- 25.06.2023

Mayo 1-10 Galway 0-12

A week on from the disappointment of the Cork game and it was do or die in the cauldron of Pearse Stadium, Galway. As always weather conditions often lend themselves to a difficult afternoon for forwards with a strong wind hampering free flowing shooting. Seven minutes in and we looked in a good position after taking a 0:03 point to one lead. That was as good as it got for us in the first half as Galway reeled off seven points leaving us five down at the break and running out of road. We were aided in that half by Galway scoring eight but missing the same number of scores in that period.

Something had to improve in the second half and then David McBrien's 43rd minute goal proved to be the decisive score during a Mayo burst that yielded 1-5 without reply.

Substitute Cillian O'Connor and Paddy Durcan with two delicious efforts edged Mayo three to the good with 17 minutes remaining.

In the closing stages Galway outscored Mayo by 0-4 to 0-2. It wasn't enough. A couple of late goalmouth scrambles were forced, but nothing materialized and we came away in good spirits and a pep in the step.

Scorers for Mayo: David McBrien 1-0, Tommy Conroy, Paddy Durcan, and Ryan O'Donoghue (1f) 0-2 each, Kevin McLoughlin, Stephen Coen, Cillian O'Connor, and James Carr 0-1 each.

Scorers for Galway: Shane Walsh 0-4 (4fs), John Maher and Matthew Tierney 0-2 each, Cillian McDaid, Damien Comer, Peter Cooke, and Paul Conroy 0-1 each.

Mayo: Colm Reape; Sam Callinan, David McBrien, Jack Coyne; Paddy Durcan, Jason Doherty, Eoghan McLaughlin; Stephen Coen, Diarmuid O'Connor; Jack Carney, Kevin McLoughlin, Jordan Flynn; Ryan O'Donoghue, Aidan O'Shea, Tommy Conroy. **Subs:** Enda Hession for Doherty (HT), Cillian O'Connor for McLoughlin (45), Mattie Ruane for Carney (59), James Carr for O'Shea (62), Donnacha McHugh for Coyne (70+2).

Galway: Connor Gleeson; Jack Glynn, Seán Fitzgerald, Johnny McGrath; Seán Kelly, Cian Hernon, John Daly; Paul Conroy, John Maher; Johnny Heaney, Peter Cooke, Cillian McDaid; Matthew Tierney, Damien Comer, Shane Walsh. **Subs:** Ian Burke for Comer (HT), Cathal Sweeney for Heaney (48), Rob Finnerty for Hernon (62), Tomo Culhane for Cooke (69)



SUN, 2ND JULY 2023 DUBLIN 2-17 MAYO 0-11

A dominant third-quarter display proved pivotal as Dublin eased past a lethargic Mayo by twelve points in their All-Ireland Senior Football Championship quarter-final at a blustery Croke Park on a Sunday afternoon.

Dublin were perhaps fortunate to lead by a point at half-time but assumed complete control in the early stages of the second half with three points in succession preceding a vital second goal through the influential Colm Basquel.

We simply had no response to this setback, showing visible signs of fatigue given their heavy workload over the preceding weeks, as Dublin repelled some sporadic and increasingly desperate pressure with a fair degree of comfort.

The anticipated 'chaos' that Mayo were expected to bring to proceedings never materialised in a cagey and tense opening period that saw Ryan O'Donoghue and Tommy Conroy cause problems for the Dublin defense with Aidan O'Shea securing a generous amount of possession.

A couple of errant Dublin shots were very unlike Dublin as O'Donoghue opened the scoring with the simplest of frees in the 1st minute.

Cormac Costello looked sharp from the outset and levelled matters in the 6th minute from an Eoin Murchan sortie up the field with O'Donoghue and Basquel trading points as the half evolved.

Costello edged Dublin in front with O'Donoghue restoring parity from another free spotted from deep by referee David Gough before Conroy placed Mayo back in front at the end of the first quarter.

Dublin were in need of some inspiration at this point and it duly arrived in the 18th minute as a lengthy delivery from David Byrne was seized upon by Basquel, who withstood Pádraig O'Hora before low past the exposed Colm Reape.

Our response to this setback was admirable, kicking the next three points through O'Donoghue, Conroy and O'Shea and O'Donoghue added another score to leave two points between the teams by the 25th minute.

Significantly, that proved their final score of the half as Dublin approached the break in a more energetic manner, with Costello converting two frees in quick succession to restore parity.

A second goal could have arrived but for Niall Scully palming off the butt of the post, but James McCarthy popped over the rebound to leave Dublin 1-6 to 0-8 clear at half-time.

Dublin's momentum was maintained upon the restart as they blitzed their opponents through early points from Paul Mannion, Basquel and Brain Fenton before the game's pivotal moment arrived in the 41st minute.

An innocuous looking ball seemed to favour the Mayo defense but Paul Mannion outsmarted the defense and Costello took the correct option in feeding Basquel for the simplest of finishes to the net.

Mannion added his second point as Mayo's challenge began to unravel despite them finally ending a scoreless period of twenty-four minutes through an excellent Paddy Durcan score.

The triple substitution of Ciaran Kilkenny, Paddy Small and Dean Rock all entered the game and made instant gains, kicking a point apiece as Dublin availed of the increasingly generous space afforded to them with Con O'Callaghan kicking two smart scores to put further daylight between the teams.

The last 15 minutes showed the differing routes to this stage, and one would have to assume that the greater number of games had to hamper the team. There could be no complaints, we were well beaten by a much better team on the day.

Scorers – Dublin: C Basquel 2-2, C Costello 0-5 (3f), P Mannion, C O'Callaghan, J McCarthy 0-2 apiece, B Fenton, P Small, D Rock, C Kilkenny 0-1 each. Mayo: R O'Donoghue 0-5 (2f), T Conroy 0-2, C Reape ('45'), A O'Shea (f), P Durcan, J Flynn 0-1 apiece.

Dublin: S Cluxton; E Murchan, M Fitzsimons, D Byrne; B Howard, J Small, L Gannon; B Fenton, J McCarthy; N Scully, S Bugler, C Costello; P Mannion, C O'Callaghan, C Basquel. Subs: J McCaffrey for Murchan (46), C Kilkenny for Bugler (48), P Small for Scully (54), T Lahiff for Costello (67), D Rock for Basquel (71).

Mayo: C Reape; P O'Hora, D McBrien, J Coyne; P Durcan, S Coen, S Callinan; M Ruane, D O'Connor; E McLaughlin, J Carney, J Flynn; A O'Shea, T Conroy, R O'Donoghue. Subs: E Hession for O'Hora (32), C O'Connor for O'Shea (47), K McLoughlin for McLaughlin (53), J Carr for Ruane (58), J Doherty for Callinan (70).

U20 Football:

The early season competition ended in a farcical situation whereby having reached the final, the opposition decided that they would not play. This resulted in a major setback to preparations, a scramble for pitches and players travelling across the county for no need. Thankfully the competition will not be on the calendar next season. The introduction of a Round Robin Competition will be the format in 2024 and that can only help football across the competition.

Sligo 0-17 Mayo 1-9 12.04.23

The game was due to be played in Hastings Insurance MacHale Park, but horrific weather meant the game was changed to the Connacht GAA Centre.

A thank you to John Prenty and his colleagues for facilitating that change.

The writing was on the wall at half time, and we were in trouble when they turned around trailing by 0-9 to 1-4 at the break having had the advantage of the diagonal wind in the opening half.

The Sligo full-forward line of Matt Henry, Daire O'Boyle and Luke Marren were a big threat and struck for 0-6 in that opening half. An excellent passing movement which included senior player Bob Tuohy, Tom O'Flaherty and James Maheady ended with Fenton Kelly fisting home a Mayo goal to lead by 1-2 to 0-3 after 15 mins.

Sligo resumed control after the restart after an early exchange of points and they shot seven points without reply to lead by 0-17 to 1-5 after 50 minutes with the starting full-forward line of Marren, O'Boyle and Henry finishing with 0-10, seven of them from play.

Midfielder Kelly did most to rally a Mayo comeback as he shot three points but while Sligo did not score for the closing 15 minutes, including added time, the outcome was never in doubt as they had built a sufficient lead.

Mayo: D Dolan; Cian McHale (Parke Keellogues Crimlin), S Callinan, C Boland; P Gilmore, S Morahan (C), C Dawson; B Tuohy (0-2), F Kelly (1-3); C Corless, T O'Flaherty (0-1), J Fallon; Cian McHale (Bohola Moy Davitts), J Maheady; D Hurley (0-2). Subs: R Fadden (0-1) for Fallon (44), F McLoughlin for MacHale (Bohola Moy Davitts) (49), D Joyce for Corless (50), A Beirne for Hurley (61).

Following the defeat, Maurice Sheridan stood down as the U20 Manager. Mhaigh Eo GAA would like to thank him most sincerely for his energy and involvement during his tenure.

Following a detailed policy lead recruitment five candidates put their names forward for the position left vacant by Maurice. All five candidates were interviewed with Peadar Gardiner, (Crossmolina Deel Rovers) ratified by the Coiste Chondae.

Peadar, his backroom and the players are wished well for the years ahead.



Mayo U17 Football:

The U17 Football Team managed by Sean Deane had a good innings in 2023 winning a Connacht title before succumbing to Monaghan in the Quarter Finals. The Connacht Final in Tuam was the highlight of the year. They were comprehensively beaten by Monaghan and exited the campaign at the ¼ stage.

FINAL: Galway 1-10 Mayo 2-13 (St Jarlath's Park, Tuam, 26.5.2023). MAYO: Conor Meaney; James Lavelle, Eoin McGreal, Yousif Coghill; Jamie Clarke, Rio Mortimer (0-1), Fionan O'Reilly (0-1); Tiernan Egan (0-1), Shane Cunningham; Colm Lynch, Tom Lydon (1-3, 1-0 Pen and 3 frees), Dara Neary; Darragh Beirne (0-5, two frees), Josh Carey, Senan Guilfoyle (0-1). Subs: Gavin Forry (0-1) for Carey, Thomas Tuffly (1-0) for Neary, Seán Walsh for O'Reilly, Conor Ryder for Egan, Ryan Gibbons for Lynch.

All-Ireland Championship ¼ FINAL: Monaghan 1-15 Mayo 1-8 (Páirc Seán MacDiarmada, Carrick-on-Shannon, 10.6.2023). MAYO: Conor Meaney; James Lavelle, Eoin McGreal, Yousif Coghill; Jamie Clarke, Rio Mortimer, Fionan O'Reilly; Tiernan Egan, Shane Cunningham; Colm Lynch (0-2), Tommy Lydon (0-2, frees), Gavin Forry; Darragh Beirne (0-3), Josh Carey (1-0), Senan Guilfoyle. Subs: Thomas Tuffly for Guilfoyle, Dara Neary (0-1) for Carey, Seán Walsh for O'Reilly, Fionnan Burke for Forry, Conor Ryder for Lynch.

Following the end of the season, Sean Deane and his Management Team completed their 3 Year Term, they were replaced by the Joint Managers of Tom Reilly and David Heaney.



County Competitions:

Our Club Championship games started in earnest in August. Many will have issues with the start date, but it was a clear decision made in consultation with the clubs earlier in the year. This year the CCC and Coiste Bainistíocht allocated 10 passes to each club. Coupled with the facility to purchase 10 tickets at the gate, the board is of the opinion that a compromise has been made. Society has gone cashless and, in order to be transparent, it is important that we move to more modern means.

The introduction of a specific assistant from each club at the gate has also helped to reduce issues on the day of a match. Your support with regard to this has been greatly appreciated. Con Moynihan, Chair of the Competitions Control Committee, will delve into the Club Championships in his report.

Adult Club Football Championships:

I would like to congratulate the Respective winners of the Championship and commiserate with the runners up.

Senior Championship	Ballina 0:06	Breaffy 0:04
Intermediate Championship	Kimeena 1:11	Ballinrobe 1:09
Junior Championship	Lahardane MacHales 2:10	Shrule Glencorrib 0:11
Junior B Championship	Acla 0:14	Ballycastle 1:07
Junior Championship B Teams	Knockmore 1:13	Westport 3:03

League:

Please see below the results from the 2023 League Finals.

Division 1	Castlebar 2:16	Westport 0:21
Division 2	Belmullet 3:10	BMD 1:15
Division 3	Ardagh 2:07	Ardnaree 0:07
Division 4	Ballintubber B 3:07	Northern Gaels 1:09
Division 5	Aghamore B 1:09	Garrymore B 0:10

Gate People:

I would sincerely like to thank the Gate people for the exemplary manner in which they approach a match day. They are a credit to their clubs and are greatly appreciated. Many thanks to Sinead McLoughlin for overseeing this area in such a professional manner.

Stewards:

The Stewards at our club and county grounds have again proved themselves to be more than capable and professional in their approach. On Match Day these men and women are the first to arrive and the last to leave. They ensure that patrons are looked after and safe on the grounds. I would sincerely like to thank Gerry Bourke and his team for the manner in which they apply themselves through county and club games.

There were issues with anti-social behaviour at league games and this raised its head on the floor at Coiste Chondae Meetings in April and October. Quite simply the negative behaviour by a tiny percentage is not acceptable. It was the view at a Coiste Chondae meeting to impose a small charge for U16's for League games in 2024. This is simply down to protecting the safety of our patrons. No one wants to see negative behaviour from the stands or groups interfering with supporters at our games. We will look to discuss the proposal with CLG.

Office & Support Staff:

I would like to thank and acknowledge Michael Cummins, Keith Deasy and Kevin Fitzmaurice for their work throughout the year. Michael and Keith keep the show running on a day-to-day level as a county we are blessed to have them. Michael continues to act as the glue within our organisation-we are extremely grateful for your professionalism and dedication. Kevin joined the team in September and hit the ground running. As he gets his feet under the table, we will see many improvements and savings within the brand.

Respect | Discipline

Overall, there were minimal amounts of issues with discipline. However, there was behaviour although sparse that was simply not acceptable. Most clubs have adopted a no-nonsense approach to poor behaviour but there continues to be an element within our units of appeal, appeal, appeal! It seems now that games at underage level are more of an issue. There have been issues with individual management teams and a minimal number of players, but any poor behaviour needs to be looked at. There has been some improvement, and the introduction of the Silent Sideline has improved matters although there are individuals who still try to live their lives vicariously through their children/team. Patrons complain about behaviour and the zero tolerance of other sports yet feel it is appropriate to roar at officials and opposing teams to a level that they see fit. Stop and think! The secretary of the Hearings Committee will outline the season for his committee in his report.

Negative Social Comments:

If you have nothing good to say, then perhaps don't.

Hurling:

Mayo Hurling: Tooreen Hurling Club were the only Mayo team to reach a national final during 2023 and their journey to the AIB GAA All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Final at Croke Park last January. The final produced some outstanding hurling with Limerick champions Monaleen edging the encounter 1-17 to 1-15 after a pulsating finish. The Tooreen hurlers did themselves, their club, their families and their county proud and looked like they were on course for victory. The performance augers well for the future.

On the county scene, Dave McConn and Tom Phillips had a frustrating year with the Mayo Senior Hurling Team. Injuries early in the season curtailed their progress in the Allianz National Hurling League and some quality opposition from the likes of Meath, Kildare and Wicklow in the Christy Ring Championship resulted in Mayo dropping down to the Nicky Rackard Championship for 2024. Dave and Tom informed Mayo GAA that due to work commitments they were stepping down at the end of the season. Tooreen's Ray Larkin and Brian Finn were appointed as joint managers for the 2024 season.

We wish them well. Our Hurling Chairperson, Sean O Raghallaigh will go through hurling matters in more detail during his report.



Comortás Péil na Gaeltachta:

On the June Bank Holiday weekend CLG Chill Chomáin won the National Junior Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta for the first time ever. Congratulations to all involved on a mighty success.

Re Fit out of the offices at MacHale Park:

Recently the offices in MacHale Park have been refitted to a standard that lends itself much more favourably to a productive environment for collaboration and meetings. This was a project lead by our Chair and is to be welcomed.

Officers:

I would sincerely like to thank the officers within the County Board. Invariably not a day goes by without a phone call or communication in particular to our Chairperson, Treasurer, Vice Chair, Assistant Treasurer, PRO or Divisional Reps . Your dedication, knowledge and support is greatly appreciated. All too often people lose sight of the fact that the officers of the county board are there in a fully voluntary capacity who serve their county and clubs to the best of their ability. There are times when decisions have to be made and unfortunately, they aren't always the decisions that clubs/individuals want but are do so with the best intentions of Mayo football. There will always be individuals who wish to call out these decisions but at the same time aren't able to roll up their sleeves and come up with a viable alternative.

Coiste Bainistíocht:

I would like to thank each and every member of the Coiste Bainistíocht for their hard work during the year. Each and every member contributes in some way to the overall benefit of Mayo GAA and for that I am thankful. The ability of the group to collaborate and work both in person and online has made the running of the group more effective.

Coaches:

I would like to thank all the coaches who work with our academies. These people put in long hours coaching, planning and delivering instruction and wisdom to the next cohort of players right across the county. Thank you to Billy McNicholas, Declan O Reilly and Kieran Kilkenny in this area. A clear pathway has been created for the players and coaches alike to ensure that our players excel at both county and club.

Coaches and Support Teams:

I would like to acknowledge the work and level of detail taken on by all our coaches and Support Staff of our Intercounty Teams. There is a huge volume of work going on behind the scenes and the rewards are there for our players on the fields.

Clubs:

I would sincerely like to both acknowledge and thank the clubs for their support over the last year. The demands on club officials are becoming higher each and every year. Many people within your own units fail to see the importance of running a tight ship and often ignore the hard work that is put in by all officials at club level. With that in mind and to promote learning from one another I hope to run two information nights for club secretaries in 2024. The first of these will take place in January.

Liaison Officers (LO):

I would like to thank M. Diskin (Senior Football), M. Walsh (Hurling), C. Moynihan (U20) and S. Quinn (U17) for their work in supporting both the respective teams and the board in their role as LO over the last year.

Divisional Boards:

I would like to thank the Divisional Boards for the manner in which they conduct their business. They prove a valuable link with clubs and their officers throughout the year.

Grounds:

I would like to thank Phil for his hard work and dedication in making sure that MacHale park is kept in pristine condition throughout the season. The clubs throughout the county have been very supportive in the allocation of games to MacHale Park. The use of venues around the county for neutral games and games at the end of the championship has brought both revenue to towns around the county and supported clubs in gate money. The venues have also been exemplary in their dedication on match day in terms of stewarding, assistance to gate people and in welcoming teams to their venue.

CCC:

The CCC Committee continues to run the Football and Hurling competitions within the County with Con Moynihan in the Chair. The work that this Committee carries out throughout the year goes largely unnoticed by the general public. It is extremely challenging organising fixtures, venues, and referees throughout the season. The Committee also has to deal with disciplinary issues which at times can be challenging. I wish to acknowledge the efforts and work of each member of the Committee for the extremely difficult task they carried out during the year.

I wish to thank the Hearings Committee under Chairman Brendan Byrne and Secretary Craig Middleton who are always available, sometimes at very short notice, to adjudicate on matters. They do so in a very fair and balanced manner

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 as Performance GDA for Mayo GAA has added greatly to all our teams within the county. At present we have no Hurling GPO within the county. This position is proving very difficult to fill due to the logistics and the expansion of hurling within the county. The Coiste Bainistí has taken steps in recent weeks to re-advertise the role and the view is now there to advertise the role as two P/T positions.

I want to thank Declan for all the work he has done in this area over the past twelve months. He has gone about his duties with exemplary and great diligence.

Handball:

Mayo GAA handball operated under the stewardship of Gemma O'Malley and a very hard-working committee. Michael Heraty is the Handball Delegate to the board, and I would like to thank Gemma, Michael, and their committee. Gemma has completed her tenure as Handball Chairperson and I wish her well as she departs the role.

Gemma's report will follow later in the booklet.



PRO:

John Walker is our PRO, and he has done a great promotion of Mayo GAA through Social Media Channels during the year. John continues to keep the Mayo faithful up to date with team news fixtures and upcoming events through our social media outlets. This area has mushroomed over the last few years, and I thank John and his team for the work which they carry out. Mayo GAA T.V. continues to go from strength to strength and we are indebted to John and his hard-working PR Committee for the service they provide. John has carried out an extensive revamp of the Mayo GAA Website and I'm sure that will be a positive aspect of our engagement with clubs and supporters. Thanks again to John and his committee for a job well done.

Connacht Council/Central Council:

Paul Cunnane and Liam Moffatt are our Connacht Council representatives and I thank them for their work throughout 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 organising various training seminars for Club Officers. As planning and Development Officer Mary has also organised workshops on various relevant topics which will prove invaluable to Clubs in the years ahead. Mary was also on hand to help Clubs with developments. I would like to thank Mary and her Committee for their efforts during 2023.

Infrastructure:

Michael Diskin looked after the infrastructure portfolio during 2023 and he oversaw the continued improvement of the playing surface in Hastings Insurance McHale Park. Michael also looked after the booking of pitches and dressing rooms for our various teams. I wish to sincerely thank Michael for the work he has done throughout the year. Michael also served the role of Liaison Officer (LO) with the Mayo GAA Board and the Mayo Senior Football Team. Michael undertook sterling work in this role with meticulous planning and organisational whilst further developing an excellent rapport with all stakeholders involved.

Childrens Officer:

Celia Rattigan is our Childrens Officer, and she has carried out her duties in exemplary fashion during the year. This was Celia's second year in the role, and she carried out her duties in a superb manner. Celia was always on hand to offer advice to Clubs in relation to Garda Vetting, Child Protection issues and Safeguarding courses. I want to thank Celia for her work throughout the year in engaging in an exceedingly difficult and complex area.

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. Grainne and her Committee are also responsible for Scor and again they cover great work within the County promoting Scor. Congratulations to all representatives from Mayo who recently took part in the All Irelands in Kerry.



Bord na nÓg:

Bord na nÓg continue to organise underage fixtures within the County. This year the Bord na nÓg was headed up by Charlie Lambert as Chair and Brian O Malley as Rúnaí. They held responsibility for a huge number of games and blitz days throughout the year. The Blitz Days were a particular success. I know from first-hand experience that the organisation of so many fixtures coupled with venues and referees makes it one of the most demanding sub-committees within Mayo GAA. 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 are responsible for fundraising events throughout the year. There were Golf Classics held in Claremorris and Dublin which were well supported. I would like to thank Maria Staunton and her hard-working Committee for all their work on fundraising during the year. I know the Cairde group are planning great new projects in 2024 and they will have our full support.

I also wish to acknowledge the significant financial contribution of Cairde Mhaigh Eo in London, your financial support is very much appreciated. The Mayo London Association recently celebrated their 60th in London at a well-attended function by players, officials and friends of Mayo GAA. The Mayo London Association remains a very valued friend of Mayo GAA.

Referees:

Thank you to Sean MacHale for his work as Referee Co Ordinator again this year. Sincerest thanks to our referees who act so professionally throughout the year in facilitating our games. Refereeing is a difficult role and is often not helped by the experts on the sideline or in the stand. Like everything it is easy to complain but far more difficult to make a difference. There is a motion in regarding each club recruiting at least one more referee and I sincerely hope that when passed this matter is given full support in 2024.

Health and Well-being:

Fran Downey Chaired our Health and Wellbeing Committee in 2023. Fran and her 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. Fran recently secured Hastings MacHale Park as a smoke and vape free stadium. Fran was always on hand to offer advice to clubs. Congratulations to Fran and her committee on the recent award achieved at the Provincial Level-It is a reflection of the superb work carried out in this area. I would like to thank Fran and her Committee for their work throughout the year

Finance:

Valerie Murphy is our Treasurer and as you will see from the accounts that will be presented to Convention Mayo GAA is an extremely satisfactory financial position. Valerie has ensured that Mayo is in a stable financial state now, however we must remain cautious in terms of our spending. I would like to thank Valerie and her Finance Committee for the work that they have done during the year by keeping a tight rein on spending and having proper procedures in place. I also wish to acknowledge the enormous amount of work Michael Diskin, our Assistant Treasurer, does in relation to the payment of Player expenses, the Club Development Draw and organising the Gate People for our Championship. 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 Regina O’Donnell has done in this area. Regina was always on hand to offer advice on Insurance matters to Clubs throughout the County. Thank you, Regina, for a job well done.

Congress 2023:

Congress 2023 was held in Croke Park in February. There was a large number of motions raised-one of which caused major confusion in relation to league/championship groups in Rule 6.21 (c). It would have been more useful if the rule was changed after all counties had already passed their Byelaws. Mayo County Board would like to congratulate Jarlath Burns on become the next President of the GAA. It is an honour for him, his family and his club.

We would also like to wish Larry McCarthy well as his term finishes up in 2024. Larry attended our County Final this year and was often on hand for advice and support.

Sponsorship:

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

Connacht Gold sponsored the Senior Football Championship; Egan Jewelers sponsored the Intermediate Championship, and the TF Hotel sponsored the Junior Championship.

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

Elvery's continues to be our main sponsor and I want to thank them and Pat Rowland for all their help.

Portwest continued their sponsorship in 2023 and we within Mayo GAA are grateful for their financial support.

MacHale Park retained the name of our sponsor Hastings Insurance in 2023 and we are very grateful to Enda Mulchrone and all the team at Hastings for your support.

Corduff Travel continue to be our Travel Partners, for which we are very thankful.

Smyths Toys renewed their support of the academies in 2023 and I would also like to thank them for their continued financial support

It is great to see successful local businesses putting money back into the Community via Mayo GAA.

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.

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

Media

To the media, Western People, Connaught Telegraph and Mayo News. 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 Siochana, Murray Ambulance and the Order of Malta who provide a valuable service on match days not only in MacHale Park but throughout the County on the latter stages of our club championships.

Conclusion:

This is my first report as Rúnaí of Mhaigh Eo and whilst I have enjoyed the role it does come with its challenges. Like clubs, the role of a voluntary secretary can erode an inordinate amount of time with greater demands coming all the time. I would like to think that I have always been contactable for club officers, approachable and reliable in supporting and working with clubs in a positive manner. While some may not like the decisions made at time, we, as officers, are bound by the T.O. and the Codes of the GAA.

As the year draws to a close I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas while looking forward to the 2024 GAA calendar with great interest, hope and confidence.

Rónan Ó Ciaráin

Runaí

