**Secretary’s Report 2024**

**Tuarascáil an Rúnaí**

**08.12.2024**

Firstly, I would like to thank all stakeholders for their contribution towards our games throughout 2024. The Split Season has given clarity to all players, teams and supporters for how the season pans out. Whether we agree with it or not it seems that for the time being at least it is here to stay.

The Intercounty landscape looks set to change considerably over the next few years with the introduction of the new rules which were ratified for one year at Special Congress on 30.11.24. It has come very much into focus of late that games have become pedestrian, overly thought out leading to frustration among players, management and supporters. While it is most certainly not the remit of players to entertain the masses, games in the last few years have become uninspiring to say the least. Congratulations to all those who have worked in the FRC over the last year and hopefully we will be looking at a different landscape in a very short period of time. The transition to the new rules will be interesting but will bring about a period of adjustment for us all. It seems strange that in 2025 above all years the FBD League and its counterparts have been stood down.

The greatest concerns for clubs will be in the introduction of these rules at club level. There are many issues at stake and support for referees and officials will be high on that list. However, these rules will be on trial for a year and teething problems will be addressed after the National League when we have all seen how the rules will work.

Another major issue facing the organisation is that of facilities. This is a national issue but one that is having a massive impact on our teams within the county. Many clubs around the county have improved their facilities with more set to follow in the near future and it is fantastic to see that pride clubs are taking in their new facilities. The issue at county level is a much greater one. Earlier in the year the board made an application for an LSSIF Grant which was unsuccessful. This was a major disappointment for the county, especially when you see some of the amounts given to other counties and other codes. Bear in mind that Mayo never received so much a cent for the stand in Hastings MacHale Park, nor did we receive funding for resurfacing of the pitch. With the acquisition of lands in Bohola we now enter an opportunity to create something that will greatly improve the lives of all our players for generations to come. We will be sitting down with elected representatives both locally and from Dáil Éireann and we will be unapologetic about seeking major financial support for this project in the very near future.

Another huge area that clubs in the country face is that of demographics. While Mayo is not alone in this issue the signs of change are very quickly evident within the county. There has been a huge shift nationally in population to the east of the country and with rural population on the decline clubs face major issues. The problem is twofold. We have too many people in a concentrated area and not enough in other areas. This is leading to players in the urban areas not getting the football they need and some in rural areas getting too much, or too much expected of them. Are there ways to fix this problem? That remains to be seen but we must all start to think hard about the problems before clubs start to close the doors of their clubhouses for good.

**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. It is disappointing that the competition has been shelved as there were major benefits to it for players, management and the provincial council. With the introduction of new rules the FBD Competiton would have provided an excellent vehicle for players to adapt to the new rules and for patrons to see them in a competitive game before the league starts in late January. Attendance was high at these games, and it proved an entertaining start to the season.

**National Football League:**

League Results:

**Round 1:** Galway 0:10 Mayo 2:12 Pearse Stadium, Galway, 28.01.24. The league started off in January with a chance to have a cut at our near neighbours Galway in Salthill. The good news for us was that the home side were facing a large number of players unavailable through injury and while that does not win games it certainly makes it easier to accomplish. That proved to be the case and goals from E. McLaughlin and a penalty from Cillian made us full value for money on the day. Two points in the bag early doors certainly helped the tricky start to the year.  Mayo: Colm Reape; Jack Coyne, David McBrien, Rory Brickenden; Paddy Durcan (0-1), Sam Callinan, Eoghan McLaughlin (1-0); Bob Tuohy (0-1), Conor Reid; Fergal Boland (0-3), Jack Carney (0-1), Jordan Flynn (0-2); Aidan O’Shea, Tommy Conroy, Ryan O’Donoghue (0-2, frees). Subs: Diarmuid Duffy for Reid, Paul Towey (0-2) for Conroy, Cillian O’Connor (1-0, penalty) for O’Shea, Donnacha McHugh for Tuohy, Stephen Coen for Boland

**Round 2:** Mayo 1:12 Dublin 0:14 (Hastings Insurance MacHale Park, 3.2.2024 While Dublin in Croke Park in July would be more of a mouthwatering affair the visit of Dublin to Hastings Insurance MacHale Park is always a game to look forward to and this was no different. Dublin raced into an early lead and after the first quarter it looked like we were in all sorts of trouble. To be honest we were in trouble but an improved second quarter rectified matters and a great game ensued. The game was turned on its head in the 52nd minute when a goal from sub-Stephen Coen when he latched on to a long effort from J. Flynn drew great hope from the massive crowd. Running down the straight it was left to Fergal Boland to nudge us in front and get us over the line.  Mayo: Colm Reape (0-1, free); Jack Coyne, Rory Brickenden, Sam Callinan; Paddy Durcan, David McBrien, Eoghan McLaughlin; Jordan Flynn, Jack Carney (0-1); Conor Reid, Fergal Boland (0-1), Bob Tuohy (0-1); Aidan O’Shea, Paul Towey (0-1), Ryan O’Donoghue (0-7, six frees). Subs: Donnacha McHugh for Reid, Stephen Coen (1-0) for McLaughlin, Tommy Conroy for Towey, Cillian O’Connor for O’Shea, Diarmuid Duffy for Tuohy

**Round 3:** Kerry 0:16 Mayo 0:15 (Austin Stack Park, Tralee, 17.02.2024. A break of two weeks between Dublin and Kerry was next and the mood was high heading for Tralee. Games in Tralee are always entertaining, and this game continued in that pattern. At times we looked fantastic, at times we really rode our luck but ultimately, we ended up losing by the minimum in a game that would probably have been best resulted in a share of the spoils. Three points down with 60 minutes gone we managed to fight our way back to parity but really at that stage we should have seen out a share of the points. However, with Sam Callinan black carded for a tackle that no one else in the large crowd saw bar one we left enough of a gap for D. Clifford to snatch a fabulous winner.  . Mayo: Colm Reape (0-1, free); Jack Coyne, David McBrien, Donnacha McHugh; Sam Callinan (0-2), Rory Brickenden, Eoghan McLaughlin; Jack Carney, Diarmuid O’Connor (0-1); Bob Tuohy (0-1), Fergal Boland (0-3), Jordan Flynn (0-1); Aidan O’Shea, Tommy Conroy, Ryan O’Donoghue (0-5, two frees). Subs: Darren McHale (0-1) for O’Shea, Enda Hession for McLaughlin, Stephen Coen for McBrien, Cillian O’Connor for Tuohy, Ciarán Boland for Conroy

**Round 4:** Tyrone 1:15 Mayo 1:11 (Healy Park, Omagh, 24.02.2024). When all is said and done this was certainly a game that we could have won but for different reasons we didn’t. The loss of Ryan before the game didn’t seem to halter our attack as we raced into an early lead. When Cillian O Connor crashed home a penalty it looked like we were in pole position, but the concession of points left us only three up at the break. The second half seemed to knock us for six before we even knew what happened. Tyrone pushed hard up on our kickouts, and we really struggled with their high level of attacking pressure. As a result, we never got going in the second half and Tyrone ran out deserved winners. Mayo: Rob Hennelly (0-1, free); Jack Coyne, Rory Brickenden (0-1), Sam Callinan; Michael Plunkett, Stephen Coen (0-1), Enda Hession; Diarmuid O’Connor, Matthew Ruane; Diarmuid Duffy, Fergal Boland (0-2), Jordan Flynn; Cillian O’Connor (1-2, penalty goal and two frees), Tommy Conroy, Conor McStay (0-1). Subs: Jack Carney for Diarmuid O’Connor, Ryan O’Donoghue (0-2) for McStay, Eoghan McLaughlin for Plunkett, Bob Tuohy (0-1) for Ruane, Darren McHale for Duffy.

**Round 5:** Mayo 0:15 Roscommon 0:09: (Hastings Insurance MacHale Park, 02.03.2024 Following defeat in Rounds 3 and 4 we now faced the need to get bad to winning ways as we welcomed Roscommon to Castlebar. In front of a crowd of 10,000 it was anticipated that we would really struggle and while we didn’t score for 17 minutes of the first half we still managed to go in at half time a point to the good. The second half saw a different Mayo outfit and when we managed to restrict Roscommon to three second half points the result was inevitable. Mayo: Colm Reape (0-1); Jack Coyne, Rory Brickenden, Sam Callinan; Donnacha McHugh (0-2), Stephen Coen (0-1), Enda Hession (0-1, mark); Jack Carney, Eoghan McLaughlin; Bob Tuohy, Fergal Boland (0-2), Jordan Flynn; Aidan O’Shea (0-1), Paul Towey, Ryan O’Donoghue (0-6, three frees). Subs: Matthew Ruane for Flynn (blood), Tommy Conroy for Towey, Darren McHale for Tuohy, Cillian O’Connor (0-1) for O’Shea, Matthew Ruane for Flynn, Conor Loftus for McLaughlin.

**Round 6:** Mayo 2:13 Derry 3:15 (Hastings Insurance MacHale Park, 17.03.2024. There was great excitement as we welcomed Derry to Castlebar for the first time in years on St Patrick’s Day. The band played in front of a large crowd and all in attendance were looking forward to a great game. The result would score that there was five points between the sides, however in essence the game was long over before the final whistle. Derry flew up the road in buoyant spirits where we were left to lick our wounds. Mayo: Colm Reape (0-2, free and ’45); Aaron McDonnell (0-1), Rory Brickenden, Sam Callinan (0-1); Donnacha McHugh, Stephen Coen, Enda Hession; Jack Carney (0-1), Matthew Ruane; Bob Tuohy, Fergal Boland (0-1), Jordan Flynn (1-0); Aidan O’Shea (0-2, one free), Tommy Conroy (0-1), Ryan O’Donoghue (0-3, two frees). Subs: Conor Loftus for Tuohy, Jack Coyne for Hession, Paul Towey (1-1) for Boland, Fenton Kelly for McDonnell, Kevin Quinn for Loftus

**Round 7:** Monaghan 1:14 Mayo 2:13 (St Tiernach’s Park, Clones, 24.03.2024. Our final league game of the campaign saw us take to the roads for the fourth time in 2024. In a bazaar game it looked as if we would lose out before staging a comeback in the final ten minutes to take the victory in front of a small crowd. The game changed when Mattie Ruane finished to the net in the final minutes to push Mayo over the edge. Mayo: Rory Byrne; Eoin O’Donoghue, Rory Brickenden, Sam Callinan; Paddy Durcan, David McBrien, Padraig O’Hora (0-1); Matthew Ruane (1-2), Aidan O’Shea (0-1, free); Darren McHale (1-1), Ryan O’Donoghue (0-5, frees), Jack Coyne; Stephen Coen, Tommy Conroy, Enda Hession. Subs: Michael Plunkett for Callinan, Cillian O’Connor (0-2, mark and free) for McBrien, Fergal Boland (0-1) for Durcan, James Carr for Eoin O’Donoghue, Bob Tuohy for O’Shea.

Championship:

**Connacht Quarter Final:** New York 2:06 Mayo 2:21 (Gaelic Park, New York, 07.04.2024. We entered the first Connacht Championship at the Quarter Final stage across the water in New York. The days leading up to the game had supporters in a frenzy regarding tickets but thankfully there weren’t any reports of issues on the day. Instead a sea of red and green had a memorable trip and came home with a win. There was a huge crowd over for the game with a lot of supporters in fear that 2024 may be the final time a mass exodus of Mayo fans head en masse to the Big Apple. The scenes in Times Square were both surreal and impressive as almost every man woman and child seemed to be present to enjoy the celebrations. The game itself was almost an afterthought but there were times where we caused ourselves problems. Two goals for the home side ensured that the game wasn’t a landslide in a day in which Ryan O Donoghue became Mayo’s top scorer in the history of meetings between the two sides. Mayo: Colm Reape; Jack Coyne, Rory Brickenden, Sam Callinan; Paddy Durcan (0-1), Stephen Coen, Eoghan McLaughlin; David McBrien, Matthew Ruane; Bob Tuohy, Fergal Boland (0-1), Jack Carney (0-2); Aidan O’Shea (0-1, free), Tommy Conroy, Ryan O’Donoghue (1-13, nine frees). Subs: Cillian O’Connor (1-1, penalty goal) for Tuohy, Darren McHale (0-1) for McBrien, Paul Towey (0-1) for Conroy (blood), Enda Hession for Coen, Michael Plunkett for McLaughlin, Conor Hunt for Durcan.

**Connacht Semi Final:** Roscommon 0:13 Mayo 1:15 (Dr Hyde Park, Roscommon, 21.04.2024. We eased our way into the Connacht final against Galway after coming good in the second half to see off Roscommon in front of almost 14,000 spectators in the Hyde Park sunshine. We made the brighter start, with captain Paddy Durcan splitting the posts in the fourth minute.

A couple of early turnovers from the nourished confidence levels further, and when Aidan O’Shea cut across the face of goal and found the net in the eighth minute, we were firmly in control.  We led at the break by a single point but based on the first 35 minutes we were in a decent place. We upped the pace again in the second half and looked very comfortable for long periods however we weren’t allowed to rest as Roscommon through everything at us in the last 10 minutes. However as much as they tried Roscommon couldn’t close the gap and we ran out deserved 5-point winners. Mayo: Colm Reape; Jack Coyne, Rory Brickenden, Sam Callinan; Paddy Durcan (0-1), David McBrien, Donnacha McHugh; Stephen Coen, Matthew Ruane; Jordan Flynn, Fergal Boland (0-2), Jack Carney; Aidan O’Shea (1-1), Tommy Conroy (0-2), Ryan O’Donoghue (0-7, four frees and a mark). Subs: Enda Hession for McHugh, Conor Loftus (0-2) for Durcan, Bob Tuohy for O’Shea, Paul Towey for Flynn, Padraig O’Hora for Coyne.

**Connacht Final:** Galway 0:16 Mayo 0:15 (Pearse Stadium, Galway, 05.05.2024. Let's be clear about it this was a game and final that we left behind us. Leading by two points going into injury and coming the wrong side of a one-point loss tells some of the story but not all of it. By its location Pearse Stadium inevitably throws up a gale of a breeze even on the calmest of games but as Conor Gleeson took aim with the last shot of the game even the wind deserted us, and Galway claimed a three in a row of points and a three in a row of Connacht Titles. The loss left a major vacuum in our season and ultimately it was one we didn’t recover from. Mayo: Colm Reape; Jack Coyne, Rory Brickenden, Sam Callinan; Eoghan McLaughlin, David McBrien, Donnacha McHugh (0-1); Stephen Coen, Matthew Ruane (0-3); Jordan Flynn (0-1), Fergal Boland (0-1), Jack Carney; Aidan O’Shea, Tommy Conroy (0-2), Ryan O’Donoghue (0-6, four frees and a mark). Subs: Diarmuid O’Connor for Boland, Cillian O’Connor (0-1) for O’Shea, Enda Hession for Flynn, Conor Loftus for Coyne, Bob Tuohy for Carney

**All-Ireland Championship Group Stage (Group 2)**

Round 1: A largely turgid game that never really excited the crowd served its purpose and got us some way to back on track. The truth of the matter was we were never really in any trouble. The worst part of the game was a very serious injury to Paddy Durcan who was only just back from injury. Ultimately it would end his season and deal us a major set back. Mayo 0:20 Cavan 1:08 (Hastings Insurance MacHale Park, 18.05.2024. Mayo: Colm Reape; Jack Coyne, David McBrien, Donnacha McHugh; Stephen Coen (0-1), Sam Callinan, Eoghan McLaughlin (0-1); Matthew Ruane (0-3), Diarmuid O’Connor; Jack Carney (0-1), Darren McHale (0-2), Jordan Flynn; Cillian O’Connor (0-4), Tommy Conroy, Ryan O’Donoghue (0-7, five frees). Subs: Conor Loftus (0-1) for McHugh, Bob Tuohy for Carney, Paddy Durcan for McLaughlin, Aidan O’Shea for Conroy, Paul Towey for Ruane

**Round 2:** Roscommon 1:15 2-14 (Dr Hyde Park, Roscommon, 01.06.2024. Groundhog Day as we faced Roscommon for the third time of the year. It seemed the Hyde Park was reserved for fine weather this summer as the sun shone on the famous venue. Question marks were raised as to how we would get ourselves up for another game against our neighbours and this seemed further evident as we struggled at times. The first half was nip and took with little between the sides although a swirling wind did make shooting difficult as we hit several scoring chances wide. An improved second half saw us create more opportunities and goals from Donnacha and Ryan saw us over the line. Another hammer blow was the sending off of Fergal Boland, a decision that many of us questioned at the time and in the days after.  Mayo: Colm Reape; Jack Coyne, David McBrien, Donnacha McHugh (1-0); Stephen Coen, Sam Callinan, Eoghan McLaughlin (0-3); Jack Carney, Matthew Ruane (0-1); Darren McHale (0-2), Ryan O’Donoghue (1-4, penalty goal and two frees), Jordan Flynn (0-2); Aidan O’Shea, Padraig O’Hora, Cillian O’Connor (0-1). Subs: Conor Loftus for McBrien, Tommy Conroy (0-1) for O’Connor, Fergal Boland for O’Shea, Enda Hession for McHale, Bob Tuohy for McLaughlin

**Round 3:** Mayo 0:17 Dublin 0:17 (Dr Hyde Park, Roscommon, 16.06.2024. In what seemed like home from home in 2024 we made the short journey to Roscommon to play Dublin in our final group game. Ahead of the game there wasn’t too much optimism but the men in the camp will boiling and ready to lay down a marker against Dublin. We could have, should have but ultimately didn’t win the game and the margin of fine lines left us facing a preliminary quarter final with a week to recover physically and emotionally from a rollercoaster of emotions. Mayo: Colm Reape (0-1, ‘45); Jack Coyne, David McBrien, Rory Brickenden; Eoghan McLaughlin, Stephen Coen (0-1), Sam Callinan; Donnacha McHugh, Matthew Ruane (0-2); Jordan Flynn (0-1), Darren McHale, Jack Carney; Aidan O’Shea (0-1, a free), Ryan O’Donoghue (0-7, five frees), Tommy Conroy (0-3). Subs: Conor Loftus (0-1) for McLaughlin, Cillian O’Connor for McHale, Diarmuid O’Connor for Coen, Bob Tuohy for Ruane, Paul Towey for Carney

**Preliminary Quarter Final** Mayo 1:12 Derry 0:15 22.06.24 We welcomed Derry to Castlebar for the second time of the year and the bounce seemed to be with us. Buzzing from a good performance the week before it was important that we hit the ground running. However, for whatever reasons we just could not get into our grove. The first half was an experience to forget, and positive football was simply not on show due to the set-up of the opposition. Games are there to be won but we could not break down the Derry defence. The second half produced better fare and when Ryan O Donoghue split the posts going into injury time it looked as if we would fall over the line. However, Derry had other ideas, and a late equaliser sent us to extra time. It looked as we were in trouble in extra time but when Jordan kicked a monster we were set for the inevitability of penalties. It's no way to win a game of Gaelic football and certainly no way to lose one but the rules are there for us all and in a compact season replays are probably not viable. The lads who stood up and took the penalties for both sides deserve huge praise, but it felt as if we were running out of road and that is what transpired. For only the second time since 2022 we would not make up one of the final eight teams in the search for Sam. Mayo: C Reape; R Brickenden, D McBrien, D McHugh; J Coyne, S Callinan (0-1), E McLaughlin; J Carney, M Ruane; S Coen, D McHale, J Flynn (0-2); A O’Shea (0-1), R O’Donoghue (1-4, 1-0pen, 3fs), T Conroy (0-2). Subs: C Loftus (0-1) for McLaughlin (half-time); D O’Connor for McHale (53); E Hession for Coyne (58); C O’Connor for Ruane (67); B Tuohy for O’Shea (70); P Towey (0-1) for Brickenden (80); M Plunkett for Callinan (87).

**Nominations:**

Well done to Aiden O Shea and Ryan O Donoghue for being shortlisted for the All Sta Awards. Two great players who continue to set the bar for players right across the country.

**U20 Football:**

Peadar Gardiner became Mayo U20 Manager in August of 2023. While results didn’t go the way of the group there was a huge amount of development which augers well for the future. The implementation of an U19 Development Squad was a major addition, and I have no doubt this will put us in a stronger position going forward. I would like to thank S. Quinn for his role as Liaison Officer (LO) during the year.

**U17 Football:**

A change in Management saw Joint Managers Tom Reilly and David Heaney take the helm of developing this group of players. They sailed through the Connacht Championship in impressive fashion and added to this in the All-Ireland Quarter Final vs Cork. Ultimately, we were well short against a well-oiled Armagh machine who had their homework done. Thank you to B. O’Malley for his role as LO for the year.

**County Competitions:**

Our Club Championship games started in earnest in August. The CCC gave clear decisions on the calendar at the start of the year, and these worked very well. Perhaps a change to a two-week break between all rounds should be looked at. However, with the calendar tight at the latter end of the year this may not be possible. The decision of the CCC together with clubs to call off the Senior Football Final was the right call for the safety of players, mentors and patrons. This year saw a much higher standard of competition than in 2024 and we were treated to some fantastic fare across all grades. The passing of rule into our Bye-Laws that the team finishing top of the group proved to be a very successful decision as it kept the last round honest and ensured that there would be no dead rubbers.

Personally, I believe it is time we look at a Senior A and Senior B Championship. This could be done in two different ways but to get a higher quality of championship we should investigate the idea if nothing else. One option would be to grade the teams on their finishing places from the 2025 Championship with the top 8 teams entering Senior A for 2026 and the 7 remaining teams plus the Intermediate winner making up the eighth team. Yes, this would mean a team couldn’t win a Senior A Title straight off the back of winning an Intermediate title, but it is a long time since that happened. Another option would be an open draw of the 16 teams with the 8 winners going into Senior A and the 8 losers going into Senior B. There is more risk to clubs in this but at the same time while a team way face difficult opposition victory could have its advantages. I feel it is passed time that we look at our struggles and while the championship has produced some great games in recent years the element of risk is gone. You have to take risks. If you don't take any risk, you won't get any reward.

One thing that worked very well was Friday Night Football (FNF). There is no reason why this should not increase in 2025 especially as the CCC will look at circulating Championship Fixtures with at least two months notice. The benefit of games on the Friday nights is that it frees up the weekend for players and patrons enjoy the idea too. The only people who seem to have issue with Friday games is a small cohort of team managers. It seems everyone wants Friday Night Football just so long as it doesn’t involve their team!

Our Intermediate and Junior Finals both went to replays and to be fair to the four teams all would agree that extra time and/or penalties would have been a disappointing way to lose out on silverware. Instead replays occurred and well done to the winners.

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| **Competition**  | **Winner**  | **Score**  | **Runner Up**  | **Score**  | **Venue**  | **Referee**  |
| Connacht Gold SFC  | Ballina Stephenites  | 1-12  | Knockmore  | 0-8  | MacHale Park  | J Henry  |
| Egan Jewellers IFC (R)  | Crossmolina Deel Rovers  | 1-13  | Moy Davitts  | 0-12  | MacHale Park  | G McMahon  |
| Egan Jewellers IFC  | Crossmolina Deel Rovers  | 1-12  | Moy Davitts  | 1-12  | MacHale Park  | S Corcoran  |
| Treanlaur Catering JFC (R)  | Cill Chomáin  | 2-10  | Bonniconlon  | 0-10  | MacHale Park  | P Lydon  |
| Treanlaur Catering JFC  | Cill Chomáin  | 1-9  | Bonniconlon  | 2-6  | MacHale Park  | K Barnicle  |
| Treanlaur Catering EX JFC B  | CLG Acla  | 3-11  | Kilmovee Shamrocks  | 2-8  | MacHale Park  | J Regan  |
| Abbvie League Div 1  | Westport St Patricks  | 1-18  | Castlebar Mitchels  | 0-10  | MacHale Park  | L Devenney  |
| Abbvie League Div 2  | Crossmolina Deel Rovers  | 1-14  | Ardnaree Sarsfields  | 0-12  | Ballina  | G McMahon  |
| Abbvie League Div 3  | Eastern Gaels  | 3-14  | Breaffy B  | 0-7  | Charlestown  | J Walker  |
| Abbvie League Div 4  | Kilmaine B  | 1-10  | Ballinrobe B  | 0-8  | Hollymount  | K Durcan  |
| Primary JFC A  | Claremorris B  | 2-15  | Knockmore B  | 1-13  | MacHale Park  | J Clancy  |
| Primary JFC B  | Parke Keelogues Crimlin B  | 0-10  | Hollymount Carramore B  | 0-9  | MacHale Park  | D O’Boyle  |
| Primary JFC C  | Garrymore B  | 2-11  | Bonniconlon B  | 0-9  | MacHale Park  | B McDonnell  |
| McHale Agri & Forest U21A  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| McHale Agri & Forest U21B  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| McHale Agri & Forest U21C  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| McHale Agri & Forest U21D  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Homeland MFC A  | Castlebar Mitchels  | 3-11  | Westport St Patricks  | 2-9  | MacHale Park  | J Glavey  |
| Homeland MFC B  | Parke Keelogues Crimlin  | 0-12  | Sarsfields Shamrocks  | 0-11  | MacHale Park  | D O’Boyle  |
| Homeland MFC C  | Ballinrobe  | 1-12  | Swinford  | 1-9  | MacHale Park  | P Chambers  |
| Homeland MFC D  | Ardnaree Sarsfields  | 2-15  | Beal an Mhuirthead  | 4-3  | MacHale Park  | G McMahon  |
| Homeland MFC E  | Westport St Patricks B  | 4-16  | Mayo Gaels  | 1-7  | MacHale Park  | S Tolan  |
| Homeland MFL Div 1  | Westport St Patricks  | 1-21  | Castlebar Mitchels  | 2-12  | Islandeady  | J Walker  |
| Homeland MFL Div 2  | St Jarlaths  | 2-15  | Ballina Stephenites  | 0-8  | Charlestown  | V Joyce  |
| Homeland MFL Div 3  | Naomh Padraig  | 2-12  | Aghamore  | 0-10  | Foxford  | D Hughes  |
| Homeland MFL Div 4  | Shrule-Glencorrib  | 3-11  | Beal an Mhuirthead  | 2-6  | Knockmore  | P Conlon  |
| Homeland MFL Div 5  | Ardmoy  | 2-10  | Westport B  | 0-9  | Bofeenaun  | B McDonnell  |
| Homeland MFL Div 6  | Balinrobe B  | 5-17  | Aghamore B  | 2-13  | Ballinrobe  | J Boyle  |
| 2023 U21 A  | Castlebar Mitchels  | 4-5  | Claremorris  | 0-14  | MacHale Park  | F Flynn  |
| 2023 U21 B  | Crossmolina Deel Rovers  | 2-14  | Mayo Gaels  | 2-12  | MacHale Park  | J Henry  |
| 2023 U21 C  | Swinford  | 2-11  | Erris St Patricks  | 1-11  | Ballina  | K Barnicle  |
| Comortas Sinsir  | Beal an Mhuirthead  | 4-15  | Kiltane  | 3-12  | Bangor  | J Walker  |
| Comortas Soisir  | Cill Chomáin  | 2-10  | Tuar Mhic Eadaigh  | 0-4  | Bangor  | R Cosgrove  |
| East Mayo  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Centenary Cup  | Charlestown Sarsfields  | 1-6  | Ballyhaunis  | 0-8  | CoE  | J Glavey  |
| East Mayo Junior   | Swinford  | 0-10  | Eastern Gaels  | 0-7  | CoE  | J Finn  |
| Canon Henry Cup  | N/P  |    |    |    |    |    |
| West Mayo  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Kelly Cup  | Westport St Patricks  | 1-15  | Breaffy  | 0-9  | Breaffy  | D Corcoran  |
| West Mayo Junior B  | Kilmeena B  | 2-12  | Parke Keelogues Crimlin B  | 1-9  | Kilmeena  | N Cooney  |
| Cusack Cup  | Tuar Mhic Eadaigh  | w/o  | CLG Acla  | Conc  | Newport  | K Corcoran  |
| South Mayo  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| O Mara Cup  | Garrymore  | 2-15  | Hollymount Carramore  | 1-10  | Hollymount  | G McMahon  |
| South Mayo JFC A  | Garrymore B  | 1-12  | Claremorris B  | 1-11  | Garrymore  | D Hughes  |
| South Mayo JFC B  | Hollymount Carramore B  | 2-6  | Davitts B  | 0-9  | Garrymore  | J Brennan  |
| North Mayo  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Sweeney Cup Senior  | Ballina Stephenites  | 1-16  | Crossmolina Deel Rovers  | 1-14  | Ballina  | S Tolan  |
| Sweeney Cup Intermediate  | Ardnaree Sarsfields  | 1-11  | Kiltane  | 2-8  | Crossmolina  | D O’Boyle  |
| North Mayo Junior A  | Bonniconlon  | w/o  | Killala  | Conc  | Moygownagh  | -  |
| North Mayo Junior B  | Beal an Mhuirthead B  | 2-11  | Ballina Stephenites B  | 2-8  | Bangor  | J Walker  |
| North Mayo Winter League A  | Ardagh  | 1-16  | Bonniconlon  | 1-8  | Ardagh  | R Cosgrove  |
| North Mayo Winter League B  | Northern Gaels  | 2-11  | Killala  | 0-12  | Kilfian  | K Durcan  |

**Gate People:**

I would sincerely like to thank the Gate people for the exemplary way they continually approach each match day. They are a credit to their clubs and are greatly appreciated. Club representatives assisting the head gate people at championship and league finals have proven to work and reduces any potential issues. Every step has been taken to ensure that all patrons gain access to our games. Many thanks to Sinead McLoughlin for overseeing this area in such a professional manner. Her approach to games is fantastic and she continues to be a great support for clubs and patrons.

**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. The level of work and detail that Gerry and his team put into games is commendable and they leave no stone unturned in assisting patrons at games.

**Event Controller:**

I would like to acknowledge the work of James Rocke in this area. His balanced approach and attention to detail ensures that all facets of match day are positive for our patrons.

**Office & Support Staff:**

I would like to thank and acknowledge Michael Cummins, Keith Deasy and Kevin Fitzmaurice for their work throughout the year. The manner in which these lads go about their roles is exemplary and they continue to support the officers and clubs in an efficient manner. Michael continues to be a fantastic support not only to the officers but to players, clubs and supporters. Kevin has undertaken a huge volume of work this year in a very challenging landscape, but his appointment has been very positive for Mayo GAA. Keith continues to provide excellent support

**Respect | Discipline**

Overall, 2024 was an improvement on previous years. While isolated incidents are inevitable there has been a noted improvement this year. There were two notable incidents which are being investigated by the CCC and will result in discussions with clubs.

At this juncture I would like to thank Brendan Byrne and Craig Middleton (Chairperson and Rúnaí of the Hearings Committee). The level of detail they put into this role is magnificent and they ensure that players and management receive fair and honest hearings. While the CCC aim to deal with cases as promptly as possible this is not always possible. There was one case this year which was delayed due to several reasons which on behalf of the CCC is simply not good enough. However, for the most part proposed sanctions and hearings have been dealt with in a timely fashion.

**Hurling:**

Brian Finn and Ray Larkin took the helm for 2024 and they had a very successful year. Brian has given so much to hurling in the county and has acquitted himself very well through his tenure. Ray has added greatly to the set up and marked improvements auger themselves well for the future.

The Hurling Chairperson, Sean O Raghallaigh will give a more detailed account of the landscape in his report.

**Officers:** I would like to acknowledge the efforts and dedication of the officers of the board. I would like to especially acknowledge the Chair, Seamus Tuohy, for his contribution during which was a difficult year for him. I would like to thank Valerie Murphy for her dedication and hard work during the year. In the current climate finances are becoming increasingly difficult to balance due to the spiralling costs associated with all facets of the game both on and off the field. I would like to thank Brian for his assistance during the year and Michael Diskin for his work in relation to pitch bookings, player expenses and the Club & County Draw.

**Coiste Bainistíocht:**

I would like to thank every member of the Coiste Bainistíocht for their hard work and diligence during the year. Each and every member contributes in some way to the overall benefit of Mayo GAA and for that I am thankful. There is a huge volume of work carried out by the officers and subcommittees to ensure that all facets of Mayo GAA run as smoothly as possible.

**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. An updated policy has recently been taken to the Coiste Chondae with a view to working on what goes well in addition to looking at ways for improvement. I would like to thank Billy, Kieran Declan  and the Divisional Chairpersons for their work in this area. Declan comes to the end of his 5-year tenure and he has been an excellent point of contact for the board, coaching staff and clubs during that period. Maith thú Déalgán.

**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. Coaching at a high level can be a very difficult position to hold and while criticism is par for the course it does cross the line at times. We see this at club and county level right across the country.

**Clubs:**

I would sincerely like to thank the clubs for their continued support and the professionalism that they attain to. We are extremely lucky to have a dearth of talent and ability within the organisation. On a daily basis the courtesy which I am afforded by officers of clubs is exemplary and I thank you for your professionalism and courtesy. I understand the challenges that club officials face but year in year out you continue to provide a pivotal role for your unit. Whilst many of you will never get the thanks or appreciation that your role deserves, we as officers are thankful for the job you do.

**Liaison Officers (LO):**

I would like to thank M. Diskin (Senior Football), A. McGahon (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. This is a role which is unseen by very many but without the level of dedication shown by those above we would be in all sorts of trouble.

**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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| North  | Michael McKenzie  |
| South   | Donal Walshe  |
| East  | Michael Daly  |
| West  | Shane Quinn  |

**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 Calendar produced by Con and the CCC continues to allow players, managers and patrons to plan holidays, weddings and club events. It provides clarity to all stakeholders from the start to the end of the season.

The role of the CCC is often a very onerous and difficult task. While some on the outside complain over fixtures, the CCC remains very focused on providing a well-timed calendar that works for all. The committee has a responsibility to ensure that our games are played in a fair and honest manner, and this is carried out in a professional manner. Decisions around games and venues are communicated to all as timely as possible. Con comes to the end of his tenure as Chair of the CCC and Vice Chair of the County Board. His dedication, knowledge and support to clubs has been second to none. I wish his successor the very best of luck and I look forward to working with him in 2025. I wish Con the very best as he takes up the role as Central Council Delegate after Congress in February.

**Handball:**

Mayo GAA handball operated under the stewardship of

**PRO:**

John Walker continues to lead the charge in this field. He has mobilised a great group of people to support him but the level of work John puts into the role is second to none. From interviews pre and post match to team sheets online John has made huge stides in putting his stamp on the role. This year he has been acknowledged with a prestigious McNamee Award from Croke Park. It is fair to say that this award is most certainly deserved. Maith thú Séan.

**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 continued to work on behalf of Mayo GAA in Croke Park.  I would like to thank Paddy for his work during the year-he comes to the end of his five-year term, and I wish him well for the future.

**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 2024. Mary is coming to the end of her five-year term, and I wish her the best for the future.

**Infrastructure:**

Michael Diskin looked after the infrastructure department during 2024. Michael also looked after the booking of pitches and dressing rooms for our various teams, which has become more demanding but is carried out especially well by Michael. 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. Michael continued his role as organiser of the Club and County Draw. It is fair to say that the level he has given to clubs in this area has greatly aided clubs.

**Childrens Officer:**

Celia Rattigan is our Children's Officer, and she has carried out her duties in exemplary fashion during the year. This role is becoming more demanding each year yet the professional, caring and confidential manner in which Celia approaches this role is hugely important. Celia was always on hand to offer advice to clubs in relation to Garda Vetting, Child Protection issues and Safeguarding courses. On behalf of the board, I want to thank Celia for her work throughout the year.

**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. Gráinne finishes year five of her term and on behalf of myself and the executive I would like to thank her for her work. She has brought the position to a higher level than previous and I'm sure she will continue to support her successor.

**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. They park their club agenda and carry out work on behalf of all clubs in the county. The way the gradings continue to form the basis for upcoming competitions remains an aspect that works well. At a recent meeting in Croke Park it was noted that the vast majority of counties have returned to the Even Grades. A number of years ago we listened carefully to clubs and were guided by them in returning to those grades and from talking to clubs and managers this seems to have been the correct decision. One issue remains and which the BNN and CCC have facilitated the calendar as best as possible one wonders is it time to decouple the U18 player from adult football. The argument of if he’s good enough he’s old enough is not a strong enough argument to mean that he should be playing adult football. We must remember that this is a player who will no doubt be also playing college/third level football as well as other sports.

**Cairde Mhaigh Eo Fundraising:**

I would like to thank Maria Staunton for her role in this area. She added greatly to the position.

Maria is replaced by Paul Hickey. Paul has put a very solid group together and no doubt this group will work well over the next few years.

**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. The purchase of microphone systems by the divisions has greatly improved the role of the referee. Thank you to Donal Walshe and the divisions for this.

**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.

**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 satisfactory financial position despite the current climate. 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 2024:** Congress 2024 was held in Newry in February. There was a large number of motions raised-one of which was our own which centered around co-operation agreements. That motion was passed unanimously.

**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 Treanlar Catering (Sean Julain) 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 2024 and we within Mayo GAA are grateful for their financial support. MacHale Park retained the name of our sponsor Hastings Insurance in 2024 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 2024 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:**

When I look back on my second year as Rúnaí of Mhaigh Eo I do so in a favourable manner. Whilst we may not have been as successful on the field as we would have liked we continue to strive for success.

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 and peaceful Christmas. The end of the season allows us the opportunity to reflect on the year that has been and look forward to longer days, renewed hope and optimism for 2025.



Rónan Ó Ciaráin

Rúnaí Mhaigh Eo