



LEINSTER



COMHDÁIL CINN
BLIANA
2021



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**MONDAY 17TH JANUARY
7.30PM - MICROSOFT TEAMS**

CLÁR

Opening of Convention
Minutes of 2020 Convention
Discussion of Annual Report 2021
Adoption / Review of Comhairle Laighean Accounts 2021
Election of Officers
Na Rúin
Cathaoirleach's Address
Close of Convention

AINMNIÚCHÁIN

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Pádraig Ó Téacháin

LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH:

Deiric Ó Ceannt

CISTEOIR:

Colm Ó Fionnagáin

OIFIGH CAIDHREAMH POIBLI:

Pádraig Ó Laighneach

NA RÚIN

Update of Comhairle Laighean Bye Laws (See Appendix)



MIONTUAIRISCÍ DE'N CHOMHDHÁIL BHLIANTIÚIL 2020

Padraig O Teachain (Cathaoirleach) presided over the virtual Convention of Comhairle Laighean on Monday 25ú Eanáir 2021. In attendance also at Convention were the following:- Deric O Ceannt (Leas-Cathaoirleach); Padraig O Laighneach (PRO); Colm O Finnegan (Cisteoir); Sean O Maolmhuaidh (Liathroid Laimhe); Micheal O hAolain (Ard Oideachais); Deasun O hAilpin (Iarbhunskoileanna); Deaglan Mac A Bhaird (Cumann na mBunscol); Micheal O Faolain, Uinsionn O Broin (Ceatharloch); Tomas O Se, Sean Mac Nicholas (Ath Cliath); Micheal O Maolain, Labhras O Curtin (Cill Dara); Val O Maoleoin, Liam O Diomsaigh (Cill Chainnigh); Risteard O Cinneide, PS O Ceallaigh (Laois); Deric O Fahaigh, Damien Edgeworth (Longphort); Deaglan O Broin, Padraig O Conchuchair (Lu); Damian O Griffin, Cathal Seoige (An Mhi); Seosamh O hUigin (Uibh Fhaili); Micheal Mac hAodh, Albert O Labhrai (Iarmhi); Maire Ui Foghlu, Cathal O Broin (Loch Garman); Fintan O Fainin, Padraig O Duinn (Cill Mhantain) and Micheal Mac Raghnaill (Runai).

Ceatharloch:	Seamus O Bolguidhir, Micheal O Deorain
Ath Cliath:	Micheal Saomhar, Sean Mac Coisdealgha
Cill Dara:	Micheal O Gormain, Christina Ui Muiri
Cill Chainnigh:	Seamus Breathnach, Conchur Denieffe
Laois:	Peadar O Neill, Niall Mac A Laithimh
Longphort:	Albert O Cuana, Peadar O Raghallaigh
Lu:	Roibeard O Duchonna
An Mhi:	Sean O Caomhanaigh, Mairead Ui Dubhshlaine
Uibh Fhaili:	Micheal O Duigeannain, Colm O Comain
Iarmhi:	Liam O Foghlu, Padraig O Raghallaigh
Loch Garman:	Micheal O Mairtin, Eanna O Mairtin
Cill Mhantain:	Mairtin Mac Gerailt, Chris Ui Concubhair.
An Europa:	Sean O Murchu
Baill Nua Chomhairle Laighean	Dolores Ui Sleibhin (Uibh Fhaili); Mel O Fearghail (Ath Cliath); Daithi Rogers (Lu); Ciaran O Floinn (Ard Oideachais).
Fo-Choisdi	Edbhaird O Broin (Infrastructure), Aine Ui Cinneide (Scor), Mairtin de Faoite (Reiteoiri), Micheal O Dubhshlaine (Eisteachta)
Iar-Oifigh	Nicolas O Braonain, Sil O Mearain, Padraig O Tomhnair, Seamus O Beara, Tomas O Fearghail, Sean O Broin, SS Breathnach, Sean Mac Carthaigh, Martin O Sceallaigh, Albert O Falluin, Mairtin O hAllurain, Sean de Brun, Colm O Cleir, Seamus O Dubhan, Alan O Maolchathail, Tadhg O Deorain, Hannah Ni hOrain, Sean Mac Fachtna, Sile Ni Chuinn, Padraig Ni Chleir.
Staff	
Apologies:	Brian O Gabhain (Uibh Fhaili); Edbhaird Mac Sithigh (Australasia); Stiophan O Tuama (Middle East); Peadar Mac Giolla Phadraig (Lu); Seamus de Grae, Seamus Aldridge, Padraig O Flannagain, Liam O Neill, Sean O hOrain (Iar Oifigh); Nollaig O Dubhshlaine (Comhairle Laighean).

Oscailt

Padraig O Laighneach (PRO) opened Convention.

An Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone and obtained permission to record the meeting.

He also advised that Patricia Clear was on the call to ensure any technical issues that might arise would be dealt with. He thanked Patricia for organizing Convention.

Miontuairisci Chomhdhail Bhliaintiuil 2020

Approved on proposition of Micheal Mac hAodh, seconded by Edbhaird O Broin.

Annual Report 2020

Adopted. Many delegates complimented Comhairle Laighean Staff and Games Staff across the province for their leadership and dedication during 2020.

Padraig O Laighneach (PRO) complimented John Haughney for his work in a very difficult year with regard to producing Match Programmes and assisting counties with their PR work.

An Cathaoirleach thanked members who are retiring from Comhairle Laighean for their work and contribution - Brian O Gabhain (Uibh Fhaili); Sean Mac Nicholas (Ath Cliath); Deaglan O Broin (Lu); Micheal O hAolain (Ard Oideachais) and Seamus O Bolguidhir (Iar-Cathaoirleach).

Annual Accounts

Presented by Colm O Finnegan (Cisteoir) and Sean de Brun (Bainisteoir Airgeadais).

A number of delegates queried that there was no income from National Sponsors and TV.

An Cathaoirleach advised that Comhairle Laighean are in discussion with National Finance Committee.

Accounts adopted on the proposition of Padraig O Raghallaigh, seconded by Peadar O Raghallaigh.

Election of Officers

Officers returned as follows - Padraig O Teachain (Cathaoirleach), Deric O Ceannt (Leas-Cathaoirleach); Padraig O Laighneach (PRO) and Colm O Finnegan (Cisteoir).

An Cathaoirleach thanked Peadar O Neill (Laois), Sean O Caimpin (Ceatharloch), Mairtin Mac Gearailt (Cill Mhantain) and Seamus Breathnach (Cill Chainnigh) for their year on Leinster Management and Finance Committee.

He announced that for 2021 the four County Chairpersons on the Management and Finance Committee are Albert O Cuana (Longphort), Micheal O Duigeannain (Uibh Fhaili), Micheal Mac Iomhair (Ath Cliath) and Micheal Mairtin (Loch Garman).

Motion

Amend Rule 3.18 T.O. 2020 by means of the following addition:

(b) A County Committee shall consist of the Officers, the Central and Provincial Council Representatives (who shall be ex-officio members), other representatives of District or other Committees or Clubs as set out in the County Bye-laws, the County Safety and Facilities Officer, the County Referees' Administrator and a representative of each of the following Committees: County GAA Handball (where applicable), County Primary Schools, County Post-Primary Schools, and, if desired, up to two members of the Association nominated by the Chairperson and Secretary, subject to their approval by the County Committee.

All other sections of the rule to remain as is.

An Runai advised that Comhairle Laighean had been asked by Central Committee to sponsor the motion. This was agreed on the proposition of Robert O Duchonna, seconded by Peadar O Raghallaigh.

Address by An Cathaoirleach

An Cathaoirleach addressed Convention as per schedule.

The Convention Ended

For all of us 2020 has been a landmark year - for many of the wrong reasons. I have however always strongly believed in the old adage that every crisis is an opportunity.

While for so many the year has been a struggle, for some it has enabled them to reset and re-evaluate the important things in life.

In these times, yet again the members of our Association have come to the fore when needed most - in every parish, in every county. For this I must compliment each and every one of our GAA volunteers.

The early days of Covid in March were tough on all. But that resilient Irish spirit and the sense of community shone through.

Shuttles on the pitch became shuttles from shops to homes and training runs became delivery runs. When we couldn't play our games and our elderly were housebound, our members used their time to make sure that no members of the community were left wanting for anything - be it shopping, medicine, fuel - or reassurance.

As the Summer approached and the evenings lengthened there was a big void in all of our lives. When the fields should have resonated with the sound of sport there was silence. But there were no complaints. We knew there was a battle raging and we knew that the efforts of all our people would be required to win that battle.

We had a glimmer of light in June when club activity was able to resume under safe conditions. The sense of relief was palpable. The goodness of sport, physically and mentally, was never more apparent.

Our Cúl Camps saw thousands of children participate safely in the pursuits they love. Joy filled our fields again and the new normal was again, thankfully, the old normal.

Our club championships were played under unique circumstances with mostly little or no crowds - and with Offaly, Laois and Kildare suffering further setbacks as the competitions progressed.

But that did not lessen the effort on the pitch, or the skill levels - or that innate desire in every player to win their county championship.

As the nights closed in and we approached what would ordinarily be the close season for our intercounty competitions, we were fortunate to get to play our Championships, albeit behind closed doors.

The games provided an invaluable diversion for so many people, even if only for a few hours at the weekend. The fact that every county got to partake in the Championship was in itself a success but there were also many stand out moments.

The achievement of the Dublin footballers in creating history, in both Leinster and nationally, warrants special mention. The team has enjoyed unparalleled success. 10 Leinster titles in a row and six All Ireland championships.

However in the wake of the Metropolitan's historic success it is unfortunate that some people have decided to target Dublin in a negative manner, with suggestions being put forward, in some quarters, for collective collaboration to prevent a team from being successful.

Yes Dublin have advantages in terms of population and in terms of the finance they can raise. Corporate and sponsorship opportunities offer them access to money not available everywhere - that's a fact of life. Their continued success helps that process. But the people calling for their dismantling have short memories. It is not so long ago since Gaelic Games was the third most popular sport in the capital.

That has been turned around by proper structures being put in place at club and county level and by a lot of hard work. Do we really want to see that effort decline or even see it reversed? Surely that would be counterproductive for our Association?

There is nothing to be gained from division or in depicting Dublin as a problem when, in fact, the opposite is the case. A vibrant GAA in the Capital is good for the entire Association and no amount of misguided commentary can change that fact.

It has long been recognised that the large number of people in Dublin, as opposed to other counties, poses challenges on a number of fronts. The response has to be measured and carefully analysed to ensure that the GAA nationally and in Dublin benefits. It can never be a Dublin v The Rest situation. That's not the way the GAA has ever operated and it can't - or won't - start now.

Of course we cannot sit back and admire the achievements of Dublin and simply throw in the towel, when it comes to challenging their dominance at senior football level. The bar has been set very high but it is up to all of us to raise our standards, to be the best that we can be, and if that's good enough to win titles then all the better.

We in Leinster GAA cannot shirk our responsibilities either and we will continue to have a major part to play in helping our counties to develop and grow their potential. We will continue to assist our units and ensure that they have the resources to grow our games and to improve standards.

We cannot sit back and complain about the inequality that exists between various counties. For as long as the Association has existed the county structure has been in place and I cannot see that changing any time soon.

But the work being done by our Coaching and Games staff, together with the commitment from county committees and the wonderful volunteers in our clubs will see standards in the province rise significantly. It happened before and it will happen again.

The success of the East Leinster coaching programme is already producing dividends and we are also in the process of extending that model to the remaining six Leinster counties and the response from these counties has, to-date, been extremely positive. This will not produce results overnight but with more resources, hard work and a great deal of commitment the programme will prove greatly beneficial to all counties in the province.

It will also benefit hurling in the province. Last year's Championship saw Kilkenny end a four year drought with a thrilling win over Galway in the Leinster Final. The old adage that goals win games was never more appropriate as two green flags in a little over a minute saw the Cats home by two points and hearty congratulations to them.

While we still have to conclude our U20 hurling championship as well as our Minor competitions, I want to give a firm commitment that these Finals will be our top priority when our games can resume.

It is a cliché to say that we can't have our games without referees, in this regard I want to thank all referees who along with their team of officials gave of their time and showed their great commitment to our games. Their task was not easy particularly in the early days of the resumption of our games, but as always they were equal to the task.

I wish to thank our Referees administration committee and our referees' appointments committee for the marvellous job they did in preparing the referees and ensuring we had a full turn out at all our games.

Some of the areas that suffered more than any in 2020 were Scór, Handball, Games for all and Infrastructure. But I know the resilience and commitment of the people involved will ensure that they bounce back stronger than ever when normality is restored.

While the schools programme was probably hit worse of all, we can also use this opportunity to review, and improve, its games programmes into the future.

In the face of the most adverse external conditions possible, the split season was a huge success in 2020. I hope the split season receives the overwhelming support of Congress in a few weeks' time and I believe it will really change the GAA landscape into the future, in a way that will be hugely beneficial for all.

Amid this positivity it is unfortunate that I must address a number of recent allegations that some of our county teams were training when strictly prohibited from doing so. It is extremely disappointing that team managements would put their players in such a vulnerable and dangerous situation at the height of the pandemic.

If this is happening then it is something we cannot and should not tolerate. The GPA also have an important role to play. As a body who have a major role and a major responsibility in looking after the welfare of our players it would be very helpful if they made a public statement condemning any such activity and instructing their members not to partake.

One of my abiding memories of 2020 was the privilege of being in Croke Park on 21 November for the 100th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday killings. It coincided with the Leinster Football Final and it was an honour to be there to pay tribute to those who lost their lives on that fateful day.

It was fitting and poignant to remember the 14 victims who travelled to a match that day and never went home. Three children, a young lady, a player and nine other men, all innocent - all now remembered with respect, dignity and a rightful place at the fore of our history.

And in remembering the victims of Bloody Sunday we also remember the many people who have lost their lives during this horrendous pandemic, and whose passing we were unable to mark with a traditional Irish funeral. They too are very much in our thoughts this evening.

At this time I would like in particular to pay special tribute to two stalwarts of Leinster GAA who have passed away. Clara and Kilkenny's Lester Ryan gave unselfish service to this Province in the whole area of Coaching and Games and was particularly associated with the Poc Fada competition. In June Lester was taken from us in tragic circumstances and all too young.

Just a few weeks ago we lost a great servant of Timahoe and Laois GAA, with the passing of Johnny Dalton who served on the Leinster Council for many years. Johnny was an outstanding administrator and gave a lifetime of service to the Association. To their families we offer our heartfelt sympathy as well as our gratitude.

I hope that as an organisation we will be in a position, later this year, to honour all those who died during this Pandemic, many of whom had given a lifetime of service to Cumann Luthchleas Gael.

The Representatives to Congress, otherwise known as Trustees will be elected at the upcoming Congress and as the only nominee from our province I wish Kilkenny's Ned Quinn the very best of luck.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the staff of Aras Laighean and all of our staff across the province for the wonderful effort and sacrifices you made in keeping the show on the road in 2020. It was not an easy time for any of us, but you all demonstrated your commitment to your job and ensured that we defied the efforts of Covid 19.

Finally, I want to mention our overseas units who have also been severely hampered by Covid. The usual competitions and visits were not possible in 2020 but there has been increased contact through virtual means. I'm delighted tonight, for the first time, to welcome the chairperson of all three overseas units, who join us remotely at our convention. This interaction makes sure that we, in Leinster, are fully aware of and are up to-date with the ever-changing dynamic of Gaelic Games across the World and it also allows us to make these units aware of the changing environment here.

This is an area clubs could exploit by building partnerships with units of our twinning partners, Europe, Australasia and The Middle East. Wouldn't it be wonderful to look forward to visiting a club in one of these regions - or to have them visit one of our clubs when all this is over.

If anything, 2020 has underlined the incalculable value of being a member of an organisation that reaches out to all, everywhere. The importance of that special togetherness, the shared respect, that spirit of collegiality, the knowledge that when you are a member of the GAA you are part of something very special.

And the leadership shown by our Uachtarán John Horan and the staff in Croke Park ensured that once again we delivered by leveraging our unique position in Irish society for the betterment of our communities. In particular I wish to thank the Uachtarán for an inspiring three years as leader of Cumann Luthchleas Gael, he had many difficult challenges, none more so than in the last 12 months, but he showed great judgement in guiding the Association during this period. As his tenure comes close to an end, I wish him and his family well and in doing so I want to wish Larry McCarthy every success as he prepares to take the helm. He can be assured of the full support of all in Leinster GAA.

So despite all the doom and gloom we take the positives from the year and hope that 2021 brings a new and brighter horizon, and that we will get back to concentrating fully on what we do best, playing our games and promoting activity among our young people.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir agus ar aghaidh libh le chéile.



TÚAIRISC AN RUNAÍ

OUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

U20 Hurling (Robbins Cup)

When we finally got the green light to re start our underage Inter County activity on the 23rd of June, Leinster's first game was that of the 2020 Bord Gais Energy Leinster Final between Dublin and Galway. A very high standard was set for the rest of the year by the young players on that summer's evening in Bord na Mona O' Connor Park.

On paper the Tribesmen may have been favourites but the Dubs thought otherwise. The game that the live audience on TG4 witnessed was high in quality with the outcome in doubt right up until the referee blew full time whistle, Dublin eventually prevailing by 2 points.

They would go on to contest the All Ireland Final a few weeks later against Cork. Ultimately they lost out in the end, however the account the gave of themselves was a credit to their County and the Province as a whole.

While Dublin and Galway were playing out the conclusion of the 2020 Championship, the 2021 Championship began with two very close games.

Relative newcomers to this grade – Kildare - had a one point win over neighbours Carlow in a game that had 43 scores. in total The other Round 1 game produced 68 scores in an extra time thriller. When it was all over it was Laois' day on a scoreline of 4-33 to 4-27 against Westmeath.

The game also had one of the scores of the season. Laois's James Duggan - who was cramping badly managed while still on his knees to intercept a Westmeath puck out and return the sliotar back over the bar. A truly astonishing score and outstanding highlight fitting of an amazing game!

One second round game would live up to the drama of its opening counterpart. Wexford were visitors to St Conleths Park where hosts Kildare led all the way until second half injury time.

Then, a Wexford penalty tied the scores which they quickly followed with a point. Kildare, however did not fold! The Lily Whites showed great character to hold their nerve and score the last two points of the game qualifying for the Quarter Final in the process. Here, their great run was ultimately ended at the hands of a resurgent Offaly.

For long periods in the other Quarter Final a possible upset looked on the cards. However, in the end the Kilkenny had 3 points to spare over neighbours Laois.

Both Semi Finals were excellent games. Dublin and Galway overcame Offaly and Kilkenny respectively thus setting up a repeat of the 2020 Final played just a few weeks earlier.

In the Final the Tribesmen managed to turn the tables and run out winners, bringing a conclusion to an excellent Provincial Championship.

In the All Ireland Final Cork once again proved too strong for our Provincial Champions and retained their title.

U20 Hurling 'B' (Richie McElligott Cup)

Meath and Wicklow were our two representatives in this All Ireland Championship which saw a total of 9 counties participating. In line with other underage Inter County Championships the initial rounds were played on a geographical basis.

In the Quarter Final, Meath overcame Wicklow. Then, a Semi Final meeting with Down resulted in a Royal victory.

Meath and Derry contested the Final in Newry in mid August. In a close encounter (level at half time) the Meath men had 6 points (2-19 to 0-19) to spare and brought the Richie McElligott Cup back to the province. Their victory was well deserved.

U20 Football (Flood Cup)

The 2021 Championship was played over a mere 22 days, however it was characterised by several outstanding games.

The three first round games set the very high standard for the rest of the championship. Longford built up an early lead against Louth, before the Wee county staged a comeback forcing the Midlander's to hang on and win by a solitary point. A late goal in Aughrim sent Wicklow to the next round at the expense of Laois. Similarly at St Conleth's Park a late late goal for Westmeath put the home side out of the Championship. In the fourth game Wexford had 7 points to spare over Carlow in Netwatch Cullen Park.

The three Quarter Finals all produced top class football and drama. Offaly were cruising in Chadwicks Wexford Park, but the Wexford men decided enough was enough and staged a dramatic rally only to fall just short by 1 point the rest as the saying goes, is history.

Wicklow after their dramatic win over Laois headed to Parnell Park with more than a little hope. Injuries during the game together with some missed chances meant they ultimately lost out.

However, the real drama of the round took place in Pearse Park Longford. The hosts and Westmeath were deadlocked when the final whistle of Extra Time sounded, on a score line of 3-09 to 2-12. Penalties were on the cards and a dramatic shoot out followed. The visitors eventually coming out on top 6-5.

Onto the Semi Finals. In Mullingar, Westmeath played host to near neighbours Offaly while the Meath/Dublin rivalry renewed itself in Navan. Both games were nip and tuck affairs and could have went either way. Offaly won out against Westmeath by 2 while, in Navan Dublin hit Meath with 3 quick fire goals and were cruising. The hosts then sprang into life and began a comeback. They got within three when a late goal put the tie to bed, the capital men ran out victors by 6 points.



And so to the Final which took centre stage live on Tg4. While Offaly looked the stronger team Dublin goals and some missed chances by the Faithful side had those present and at home on the edge of their seats. A last minute dropping ball into the Offaly square could have found the net to level it, however it was to be Offaly's day and their first title at this grade since 1995.

The Offaly men went on to continue their brilliant play right throughout the summer. Their subsequent victories over Cork and Roscommon were superb. Both games as with the Roscommon and Down game showed the spectacle Gaelic Football can be when played as it should.

One point that emerged from the U20 Championship was in relation to the often maligned post-match interview. Those by Offaly players Cormac Egan, Jack Byrant, Cathal O'Donoghue and Manager Declan Kelly showed they can have a place when honesty and passion prevail. The evidence of this was clear to see by the public's reaction to all of the aforementioned.

Minor Football (Murray Cup)

When the 2020 Final was played at the end of June little did we realise that players from Meath and Offaly would figure in both counties march to 2021 All Ireland success at Minor and Under 20 grade respectively.

As per 2020 we had no alternative but to go straight knockout due to time constraints. The intention however, is to revert back to more games in 2022.

One possible surprise of the first round was that of Carlow's victory over a fancied Wicklow side. However, the real first round drama happened in Portlaoise with the clash of Laois and Wexford. For long periods it looked to be Wexford's day, but extra time and finally a penalty shoot out saw the spoils go the way of the home side as they marched on to Round 2. Louth were convincing winners of the other first round tie.

Round 2 saw Dublin, Kildare and Louth all have relatively easy victories over Offaly, Carlow and Laois respectively.

The Semi Final stages saw recently crowned 2020 Champions Meath join the fray, having had only the narrowest of margins to spare in overcoming the Faithful county just a few weeks earlier in Mullingar.

Dublin had 2 points to spare over Kildare and the Royals got the better of Louth by 4. Meath then retained their provincial title rather comfortably against the Dubs. The display they put on show that day showed the promise of an exciting young side. This proved to be just the case as they would go on to land the All Ireland title with hard fought victories over Sligo and then Tyrone.

Two Minor Provincial titles and an All Ireland in a matter of weeks for the Royals - a significant achievement and boost for the ongoing Games Development in the county.

Minor Hurling (O'Hanrahan Cup)

Like its football counterpart the 2020 Final was a much delayed affair. When eventually played, in early July Kilkenny proved far too strong for their Offaly rivals and ran out convincing winners.

The Cats went on to face Galway in the All Ireland decider, eventually losing out to the Westerners despite a strong second half performance.

Similar to our football championship time constraints resulted in Knockout only competition.

Kildare's participation and success in winning two games - defeating both Carlow and Laois - on their journey to the Quarter Final justified the serious work that has been undertaken with the group of players involved.

In the Quarter Final v Wexford they more than held their own before ultimately succumbing to a 5 point loss. Kilkenny and Wexford got the better of both Offaly and Dublin respectively to set up an old firm final. One that proved to be both exciting and of an extremely high quality. The Cats eventually prevailed by 2 points, before again losing out to Galway in the All Ireland series.

All four games in the Peadar O Liathain Cup were decided by very tight margins. Down had 2 points to spare over Westmeath in the Quarter Final. Antrim and Down both had wins by the narrowest of margins over Carlow and Meath respectively. History was then made when the Final (effectively the Leinster MHC 'B') was played in Corrigan Park, Belfast. The Saffron men claimed the win by 3 points after an enthralling game.

Senior Football (Delaney Cup)

Two of the three Round 1 games were close and entertaining. The clash of Louth and Offaly went to extra time before the Faithful county ended up coming out on top comfortably. Wexford had 3 points to spare over Wicklow, who only a few weeks earlier secured their Division 3 status against the odds, with a defeat of Ulster Champions Cavan. The third tie saw Longford come out comfortable winners in a victory over Carlow.

In the Quarter Final stages, Wexford welcomed Dublin to Chadwicks Wexford Park. The Model county more than held their own against the reigning champions particularly in the opening 35 minutes. However, Dublin proved just too strong on the day and progressed to the Semi Finals. In one of the other quarter finals had Offaly taken more of their chances the five point margin of victory for the Lilywhites could have been much closer. Both Westmeath and Meath had comfortable victories over Laois and Longford respectively.



And so we came to Semi Final Day, Croke Park and the return of spectators in greater numbers. First the clash of Kildare and Westmeath resulted in a Lily White victory by 2 points. The contest could have went either way but for a number of missed Westmeath scoring opportunities.

The first half of the second Semi Final between Dublin and Meath took on an all too familiar fashion. It looked for all the world that Dublin would simply march on again. However, the Royals were a revelation in the second half. They put Dublin to the very pin of their collar and were a stark contrast to the team we had witnessed in the opening half. By the final whistle they and their supporters were left with a case of what might have been. For Dublin it was onto another Leinster Final and their 11th consecutive title.

A few weeks later Mayo ended their extended championship run and thus an era came to an end. This year the chasing pack all definitely gained ground, Wexford and Meath most notably causing Dublin issues. It is also worth noting that All Ireland successes by Meath and Offaly will give other counties a boost. Their respective success' did not happen overnight and a credit to their development set ups and county boards alike.

Senior Hurling (O'Keefe Cup)

The format for 2021 Hurling Championship was the same as that of 2020. There was however, one significant difference, this year would see Summer hurling as opposed to Winter. This alongside significant attendances at our Semi Finals and Final threw up a much different feeling Championship.

Dublin had an easier than expected win over Antrim in a Quarter Final played in Navan, while Wexford proved far too strong for Laois. The performance from Laois left a lot of people wondering as to the direction in which they were going. The O'Moore men answered in a positive fashion, with a 6 point defeat of Antrim in the relegation decider to secure their O'Keefe Cup status for 2022.

They followed this up a week later in Round 1 of the Qualifiers where they ran Waterford close, at one stage in the second half a shock appeared to be on the cards. However, in the end they fell just short.

With a relaxation of Covid 19 Regulations on attendances the rest of the Leinster Championship was played in Croke Park. Those in attendance and those tuning into both television and radio most certainly got their value for money on Semi Final day.

First up the Dubs ripped up the form book when they dispatched a hotly fancied Galway side. Early saves from Alan Nolan weathered a storm for the Capital side who eventually ran out victors 1-18 to 1-14.

There was drama a plenty in the second game of the day. Wexford appeared to have the measure of Kilkenny but it was not to be. Hawkeye was called upon to decide whether a point had been scored prior to Wexford finding the net. The ensuing Tá resulted in us heading for extra time. Here the attrition of the opening 70 odd minutes began to take its toll and as players fell to cramp it was the Kilkenny men who won the day.

Thus we had a Dublin Kilkenny Final in store. Dublin came into the Final with two solid Championship performances behind them while Kilkenny had struggled for long periods in their Semi Final. The Final did not live up to expectation or the hopes of many. Kilkenny added another Senior title in a result that unfortunately never looked in doubt.

In the Qualifiers both Laois and Wexford bowed out in Round 1, Galway lost to Waterford in Round 2 while Dublin lost to Cork in Quarter Final who in turn had 5 points to spare over Kilkenny in Semi Final.

Hopefully, with the vast majority of the population now fully vaccinated we can return to a more familiar looking Championship format in 2022 that of our 6 team Round Robin Championship. This will see us welcome Westmeath who on the strength of their excellent Joe McDonagh Cup win over Kerry will participate in the O'Keefe Cup for 2022.

Because of Covid the McDonagh Cup was played in a 2 groups of 3 format. Both groups had their fair share of drama.

Westmeath defeated Carlow in Round 2. While Carlow had got the better of Kildare in Round 1, it was Westmeath's to lose so to speak playing Kildare to qualify for Final. The Lilywhites did not let the Lakesiders have it all their own way coming very close to causing a major upset. In the end the Westmeath survived by a point.

The other group of Kerry, Down and Meath was no less dramatic. Kerry defeated Down in Round 1 by 6 points. Round 2 saw Down defeat Meath by 8 points, finishing on a score difference of +2 which on paper did not matter as all and sundry expected Kerry to account for Meath except of course the Royals. Meath won by 4 points leaving Kerry on the same score difference as Down. But that is only part of the story. A Kerry point at the death brought their score difference from +1 to +2 – same as Down. What next? As per regulations Kerry topped the group by virtue of scoring 3 goals in the campaign to Down's 2. Dramatic! In the Relegation Final Meath survived at the expense of Kildare.

Offaly proved too strong for Sligo, Wicklow and Derry in the Christy Ring Cup - defeating the latter in the Final - on their way back up the hurling ladder and will participate in Joe McDonagh Cup 2022.

The province had no involvement in Nicky Rackard Cup while Longford and Louth were both eliminated in the Lory Meagher Cup at Semi Final stage.



AIB Club Championships

As we go to print our Club Championships are progressing at pace. These Championships continue to delight many teams across the Province year on year. It takes a total of 61 teams and 59 games to arrive at 6 provincial winners. As of writing this we have five remaining Finals left to play. Despite the year that's in it all 6 Provincial Championships had a full complement of teams.

That said, I suggest that there should be an examination of counties nominating teams that are not County Champions. 15 years ago Leinster revamped our Hurling Championship which this year saw 7, 10 and 12 Counties represented at Senior, Intermediate and Junior respectively.

Increasingly there are several one sided games at Intermediate and Junior, more particularly the latter. We as a province need to be both pragmatic and honest in examining and then making adjustments to our Championships, all without emotion colouring what we believe is best for our clubs.

All credit must go to our 12 counties and the European Board (Junior Football) for the manner in which they went about their work in ensuring their respective club fixtures both at adult and underage were played. All concerned played their part in getting games played in a very tight period of time.

At provincial level we were very fortunate that both Senior Finals and Football Semi Finals could be played in Croke Park. On behalf of the Province and the clubs involved I would like to extend my appreciation to Peter McKenna and his team for their assistance in making this happen. Alongside this both our Senior Championships featured heavily on television, thus highlighting the benefit and value of having playable floodlit venues at our disposal. I would also like to extend our thanks to both RTE, in particular Declan McBennett and Tg4 in the guise of Fintan Walsh for their continued professionalism and support.

Naas raised some eyebrows (possibly not in either Naas or Kildare for that matter) in defeating Glenmore in the Intermediate Hurling Semi Final. It is the first time since 2011 that a Kilkenny side has not qualified for Provincial Final at this grade.

Over the past number of years Naas have worked very diligently in the development of hurling within their Club. An example of this was their partaking in the juvenile competitions of Kilkenny. Hopefully this and the other underage improvements within Kildare will begin to bear fruit on the County stage soon in the coming years.

In the Junior decider Mooncoin of Kilkenny and Shamrocks of Offaly will battle it out for Provincial supremacy, the former requiring extra time to overcome Wexford's Tara Rocks.

Clough Ballacolla were the surprise package of the Senior Hurling Championship. Top class wins over both Rapparees and Kilmacud Crokes secured them their place in the Final.

On the other side of the draw St Rynaghs let Shamrocks Ballyhale very much 'off the hook' in Bord na Mona O Connor Park - the holders surviving with a late, late goal bringing the game to Extra Time, before winning comfortably in the end.

Headquarters on the Sunday before Christmas were where the Laois side's dreams came to a halt. Shamrocks Ballyhale proved too strong in winning their 11th Provincial title.

The two Senior Football Semi Finals provided excellent entertainment just 24 hours previous to the Hurling Final. Shelmaliers came within seconds of reaching the Final in a game that they were in front for all but the first few minutes of the game, however in extra time Naas proved they had more in the tank.

The second Semi Final was equally entertaining. Portarlington were in front at half time but it was Kilmacud Crokes who had 2 points to spare at the final whistle.

Trim (Meath) and Clara (Offaly) are our Intermediate Finalists while Kilcullen (Kildare) and Clonbullogue (Offaly) are in the Junior decider.



GAMES & LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

As with the year before, Covid 19 presented plenty of challenges in delivering the various program of activities by all Leinster Coaching & Games personnel. While planning and delivering programs was carried out with some more certainty compared to the 12 months prior, staff were still faced with some uncertainties that challenged them on an almost daily basis. Thankfully, as outlined below a mammoth amount of work was delivered in another excellent year for Leinster Games Development.

The first two months of the year provided our only period of normality where a large volume of project planning, Cross County Leagues, Coach Education & staff training were delivered. From March onwards Covid-19 restrictions began rearing their head again and the work became more targeted.

Cúl Camps

With so many lessons learned from 2020, we were well placed throughout the province to deliver our Cúl Camp program on a large and hugely successful scale. Once again adjustments had to be made around day-to-day organization such as staffing, coaching pods, no dressing rooms and gear distribution. Interestingly, many of these adjustments have led to improvements in how we operate our camps and will remain in place post Covid.

The numbers for the year saw an increase from 2020 with many counties returning to attendance figures of 2019 (see figure 1).

Resource Development

Our resource development continued with addition of some great resources for all club coaches and teachers. These resources have been developed by a number of staff right across the Province. They are of a quality and finish that I believe is unmatched across the organisation. They are a lasting legacy, that we in Leinster hope to build on considerably in the coming years.

They range from supports for coaches at every stage of a player's development to more specific roles such as Goalkeeping and Curriculum based resources for Teachers. All these and additional resources can be downloaded for free under the TURAS section of our website on leinstergaa.ie

GPO Program Expansion

In 2017, Leinster GAA began to employ Games Promotion Officers (GPO's) in partnership with clubs in Wexford, Kildare, Meath, Louth & Wicklow. We have had huge cooperation from our clubs and there are currently 42 GPO's now working throughout Leinster, across 91 clubs. At a shared cost between club, county & provinces GPO's are assigned specifically to clubs and work to a more club focused work plan. While initially we targeted large Urban clubs, our experience to date has shown us medium/ small sized clubs are also benefiting hugely from employing GPO's within their clubs.

Over the course of 2021, we have met with all remaining Leinster counties to offer the same opportunities to become part of the GPO scheme. We have received an enormous level of interest and will be beginning the recruitment process for these very shortly. This is an exciting development in the promotion of our games within the provinces and will no doubt see the continued growth of our clubs across the board.

What a GPO will do in a club:

- Primary schools coaching – recruit players to club
- After schools programs
- Post Primary School supports
- Establish excellent club nursery's (U4-U6)
- Assist club coaches on a regular basis through formal & informal coach education
- Running of club camps & Cúl camps
- Provide extra games opportunities for young players
- Athletic development program for teenage players

Primary Schools

Primary Schools coaching once again was given high priority in our staffs schedules as it allowed us opportunity to continue the promotion of our games while our clubs were closed for activity. From January – March and once again later in the year between October & December, over 600 schools received coaching from our full time staff.

This level of service is unmatched from any other sporting organization within the country and has seen our relationships with the primary school sector be reinforced like never before.

Talent Academies

After over a year and a half of no activity, the summer saw a return to Talent Academy games at U14, U15 & U16 level. Understandably a number of counties choose not to take part in the summer period due to the condensed nature of the season and a number of competitions spilling over from 2020 that needed completion.

Later in the year a more comprehensive program of games was put in place at U15 & U16 level that allowed us complete development competitions such as the Adam Mangan Cup, The Gerry Reilly Cup, The Fr Manning Cup, The Michael Foley Cup and the Adrian Murray Cup.

A big thank you must go to all county and underage secretaries for their support in this area and we are all hopeful of a more extensive program in 2022.

LEINSTER PARTICIPATION

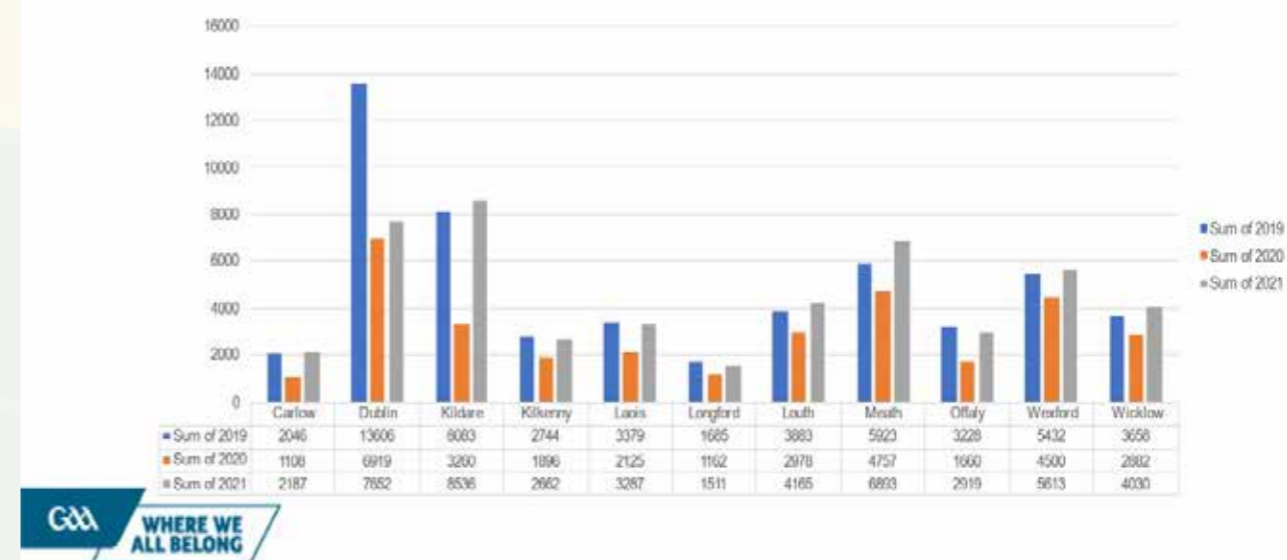
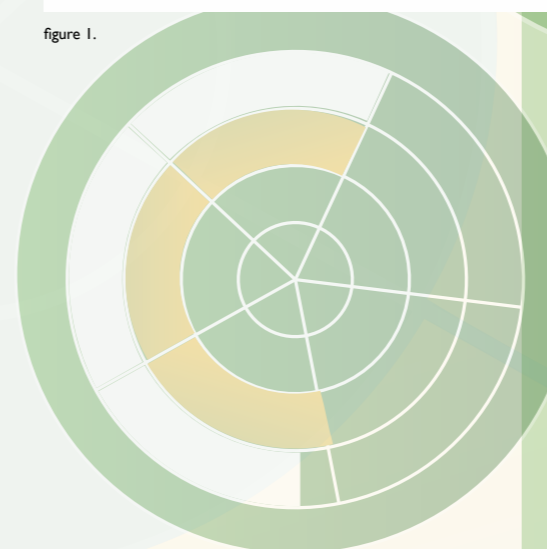


figure 1.



Club Development & Coach Education

Our coach education programme for 2021 was split into two different sections, with the start of the year dominated by supporting and developing coaches in an online and virtual setting due to the restrictions at the time. In spite of these restrictions the games development staff continued to have a significant impact by delivering 9 TURAS age specific workshops, 245 TURAS club workshops, 11 ready to play county workshops while 34 groups completed the online section of the foundation course.

During this period of the year we also had a first, as a continuation to the relationship we have with the defence forces, saw us deliver an online introduction to performance analysis course over 4 sessions to serving members who were on active deployment in Syria.

When restrictions allowed we did return to face to face, and while the informal workshops continued there was an increased focus on the formal coach education programme. Even with the restricted period there was 179 foundations courses and 21 award 1 courses scheduled for 2021.

When all of the above is linked to our other areas of club support including Nursery Set Up & Support, Coaching sessions and additional club camp support it delivers on our promise to put club development at the center of all our work programs.

Along with all of this our Development staff continue in supporting county Coiste Na Óg Teams to deliver their program of formal games throughout the year, additional games are also provided in their area through Super Games Centers and regional blitzes'.

Staff Training

As with any other year, our staff training and development is always an important aspect of what we provide. We once again are supporting a number of staff to advance their development by supporting them in their ongoing academic studies and wish them well in their learning, which I have no doubt will continue to benefit Leinster GAA going forward.

Once again, the covid restrictions have limited our opportunities to gather for face to face training, however when restrictions allowed we managed to provide bespoke training for specific groups from new GPOs', Kellogs Cúl Camp training, Coach Developer up skilling, Youth Resistance training to name but a few. It always gives me encouragement how our staff are so eager and enthusiastic to engage in any new learning initiative, to not only develop themselves but to continue to strive to provide a better service to the clubs, schools and the coaches they work with on a daily basis

Overseas Twinning

It was a privilege to continue to work with our overseas twinning partners in 2021. I want to acknowledge the great work that is being done by each of them in continuing to promote and grow our games. A theme that has developed and is being supported by Leinster GAA is their desire to grow the game at youth level in each of their respective areas. In Australasia a teacher support resource was developed and provided to teachers at their regional teacher conferences.

In the Middle East over 25 coaches engaged in a bespoke coach education program that took place over a 6 month period. In Europe one of the key events in 2021 was the youth tournament that took place in Brussels, here Jonathan Daniels from our coaching and games team provided education and support to coaches over the entire weekend.

Referee Support

A positive from the restrictions at the start of 2021 was the opportunity to provide one to one support to referees on the development panel throughout Leinster. The program was overseen by Tadhg Fennin from Kildare and delivered by games development staff from across the province. In total over 50 referees benefited from the one to one support in the area of game fitness and S & C, with specific fitness plans being tailored to each individual.

Club Leadership & Planning

Leinster GAA in conjunction with the national club officer training group once again provided opportunities for club officers to engage with online learning opportunities to help and support them in their role. The delivery of these workshops have transitioned very well into the online space and it has been a real asset to the organisation that they have been able to continue with the current restrictions.

In relation to club planning, this is something that has had to take a back seat over the last two years as many clubs who want to engage in the program will seek to have a significant engagement from all stakeholders in the community and this has been hindered by the current limitations on gatherings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Deniffe and his committee for continuing to support the role out of the club officer training and acknowledge the preparation being done to support the club planning program for when restrictions are lifted.

While it may be obvious from all of the above, I would still like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with Learning & Games Development in the Province - in particular Alan Mulhall, Colm Clear and James Devan who continue to lead from the front. All of the Games Managers, GDAs' and GPOs' and County Coaching Officers. The work that was achieved despite all of the difficulties is a testament to each and every one of you.



IARBHUNSCOILEANNA

This calendar year can be divided in two from a schools perspective. January to June was completely interrupted by Covid with no games happening in schools due to restrictions. The new school year then starting at the end of August brought renewed hope and thankfully as the weeks went by, games and competitions got underway. At this stage all our competitions are running and we look forward to finals across the varying age groups in 2022. Having had no games for eighteen months, schools probably appreciate more than ever the role games, and extra-curricular activities play. Classroom based activities are obviously hugely important but many life skills are learned on the playing fields also and all are grateful games are back.

Shared Practices

With games proving impossible January-June, it allowed some time for certain activities that might not normally be possible. Through Brendan Connolly in Croke Park, a series of meetings involving Provincial Schools Personnel was set up in terms of sharing practices and general planning.

The following are sample topics as discussed:

- Fixture scheduling
- Delayed competitions
- Match Officials
- Gradings
- Group Teams
- Options around First Year games
- Servasport / Foireann
- Congress Motion

Developing these relationships has been hugely worthwhile. Strong links across the four provinces can only be helpful as we strive to deliver the best possible service to schools. Also to note Brendan Connolly has left his position since August and we thank Brendan for his help and cooperation over many years and wish him well in the future. Ciaran Kearney has taken over from Brendan - to start in January 2022 - and we wish Ciaran well in his new role.

Audit & Planning

With pitch action quiet, it has also presented an opportunity to gather all Cups and Shields and have them returned to Aras Laighean. This audit has provided up-to-date information on all trophies and as necessary, bases are being updated bringing records on trophies to the present time.

In anticipation that games could happen once schools returned in late August, outline calendar and Leabhrán Eolais was circulated to schools. With restrictions easing and the Croke Park Covid Committee updating guidelines with relevance to school games, it became manageable and possible to play games. Senior Leagues were first to get started and although in some cases schools found it difficult to partake, the programme was ran facilitating schools that were in a position to participate. Once we got a number of games played it seemed to instil confidence in other schools and as we led into the Halloween Break, virtually all schools were involved.

November then saw our Championships begin with games running to schedule. The Br. Bosco Cup / Senior Football 'A' and Corn Uí Dhúill / Senior Hurling 'A' are now at the knock out stages with many eagerly awaited clashes coming up. Junior and Second Year Competitions are also progressing well with a feature of this year's Games Programme being that all competitions are up and running pre-Christmas. In the past, certain competitions started February / March but coming out of over a year and a half of inactivity, a decision was made to have all competitions started in the early part of the school year with all Junior and Second Year competitions finishing in April / May. Whether this remains the preferred option going forward is up for discussion and feedback will be taken from schools before plans are put in place for 2022/23.

Finally I would like to thank the following for their help at various stages throughout the year:

Our members of Comhairle Iarbhunscoileanna Laighean under the guidance of Chairman John Rouse and Secretary Noel Delaney. The countless GAA Coordinators and Teachers for their continued support and cooperation with all we do. Leinster Games Development Staff who are a constant support for Schools at all levels throughout the Province. The County Officers and Personnel who alongside fixtures Co-Ordinators ensure that their continues to be a meaningful games programme for our players for the duration of their school life. Lastly to anyone who has helped in anyway during another difficult year be it with refereeing or trophy presentations your support is greatly appreciated and we thank you one and all.

Covid continues to be an issue but hopefully games and school life can continue to run relatively normally. We look forward to competitions reaching conclusion and finals as a culmination to our activities. With both Senior 'A' Finals in Croke Park for the first time in 2022 on St. Patrick's Day, maybe some school from the province will be part of that occasion.



Pictures (L-R):
Top - Athlone CC's Pierce Edmundson
Right - Joe Pyke makes presentation to Kilkenny CBS Captain Gearoid Dunne after the 2021 Leinster GAA Senior "A" Hurling League Final

COISTE CULTÚIR & POBAIL

Scór Sinsir

Following the postponement of the Scór Sinsir Leinster Final in 2020, we were delighted to eventually hold the final in October 2021. Well done to all performers and clubs who made a great effort to participate while abiding by all Covid guidelines. A very successful Leinster Final was held in Baile Ghib, An Mhí. Thanks to Meath Scór Committee for hosting the event. Cathaoirleach, Caitríona Uí Dhálaigh offered a minute silence for all Leinster Scór personnel who passed away since our last Scór event, paying special tribute to two competitors, Johnny Hannify, An Iarmhí and Leona Reville, Loch Garman. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

The first competition of the day was Tráth na gCeisteanna and Paddy McDermott, An Cabhán was question master on the day. Buaitoírí were Edenderry, Uibh Fhailí, with Wolfe Tones, An Mhí and Milltown, Cill Dara also qualifying for the All Ireland.

Following the quiz, the dancing competitions were held with all other competitions being held in the afternoon session. The event which is usually held as a single event was held in three sessions in order to comply with Covid guidelines. The following clubs qualified for the All Ireland Final.

Buaitoírí Scór Sinsir Laighean 2020

Rince Foirne:
Birr, Uibh Fhailí

Amhránaíocht Aonair:
Jack Gladney, St. Mullins, Ceatharlach

Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht:
Sheila Naughton, Blessington, Cill Mhantáin

Bailéad Ghrúpa:
Ferbane, Uibh Fhailí

Léiriú Stáitse:
Oldcastle, An Mhí

Ceol Uirlise:
Kilcavan, Laoise

Rince Seit:
Bunbrosna, An Iarmhí

Babhtaí Ceannais na hÉireann

Babhtaí Ceannais na hÉireann were held in the impressive Connacht Centre of Excellence in November and it proved a very successful day for Cúige Laighean. Competitors who brought back All Ireland titles to their clubs, counties and province were:

Amhránaíocht Aonair:
Jack Gladney, St. Mullins, Ceatharlach

Bailéad Ghrúpa:
Ferbane, Uibh Fhailí

Ceol Uirlise: Kilcavan, Laoise

Rince Seit: Bunbrosna, An Iarmhí

Tráth na gCeisteanna: Edenderry, Uibh Fhailí

Well done also to Wolfe Tones, An Mhí who took third place in the quiz.

Faoi Dheireadh

Earlier in the year, An Coiste Cultúir agus Pobail held online Amhrán na bhFiann workshops. Many counties and clubs were represented and we encourage all counties to promote live performances of Amhrán na bhFiann at matches and events.

An Coiste Scór Naisiúnta are currently holding online meetings with officers of each county and follow up meetings with clubs. Every effort is being made to promote Scór in the province and members of An Coiste Cultúir agus Pobail are available to assist with counties and clubs.

Members of An Coiste Cultúir agus Pobail are:
Cathaoirleach: Caitríona Uí Dhálaigh, Rúnaí: Áine Ní Chinnéide, Ciarán Mac Raghnaill, Dearbhla Ní Dhálaigh agus Cathal Seoighe

Ba mhaith le Coiste Cultúir agus Pobail CLG Laighean buíochas a ghabháil le gach duine agus club a thug cabhair dúinn i rith na bliana. Thanks to all clubs and counties for their assistance during the year. Special thanks to our adjudicators. Míle Buíochas do gach duine a bhíonn ag obair ar son Scór agus an Ghaeilge sa chúige.

Go n-éirí go geal le Scór i mbliana!



Pictures (L-R):
Top - Pat Teehan (Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean), Sheila Naughton, Catherine Daly (Cathaoirleach An Coiste Cultúir agus Pobail)
Above - Pat Teehan (Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean), Jack Gladney, Catherine Daly (Cathaoirleach An Coiste Cultúir agus Pobail)
Right - Rince Foirne Birr, Uibh Fhailí, Pat Teehan (Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean)

REFEREES ADMINISTRATION

As Chairperson of the Referees Administration Committee, Martin Whyte was pleased to present this report to Convention.

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their work throughout 2021. My thanks to the respective Leinster County Referee Administrators and also to Chairman, Pat Teehan and CEO, Michael Reynolds for their continued assistance and interest.

Due to the COVID pandemic, we were unable to hold regular face to face meetings although we did succeed in having a small number during the year. A disappointment for the Committee, and again due to COVID restrictions, was the low level of referee recruitment. The Committee was again this year unable to arrange referee training in a classroom setting and while online training was provided, it was felt that face to face interaction between tutors and new referee recruits provides the best possible training experience for all concerned.

Research was carried out in the past month in Leinster and the following preliminary results were noted:

- Each referee is officiating at approximately twenty-seven games. It should be noted that this number does not include LGFA, Camogie and juvenile games they are also involved in.

- Nearly 50% of referees also referee LGFA and Camogie.

- We lost 15% of our referees this year who either retired or 'walked away'.

- 44 referees were recruited in the Province, that is less than four per county.

It is vital that proper structures are put in place in counties. The Referee Administrator cannot do it all and if this help is not forthcoming then recruitment will suffer and standards will fall. I know from experience that a lot of Clubs supply no referees to their county while other Clubs supply more than one. Until these matters are addressed our numbers will not increase and may even decrease!

Trying to get younger referees involved, is proving very difficult, particularly in hurling. Obviously, the continuing abuse (verbal, physical and online) targeted at referees is a huge problem. We need County Committees to take a stand against this abuse. Only recently we have seen two intercounty referees verbally and physically abused and if we do not stop/punish the perpetrators our games will continue to suffer.

To finish on a more positive note, the Leinster Club Championship this year has given us a chance to put our developing referees into games at Junior, Intermediate and Senior level as referees, standby referees, linesmen and fourth officials, where they gained valuable experience. We have used thirty grade 3/4 referees for these games. The vast majority of the games have an advisor in attendance to give both the referees and the Committee feedback on their performance. John Bannon and I have attended many of these games and have been impressed with the generally high standard of these referees. I have no doubt some of these referees will be the next 'David Gough/Maurice Deegan' in football and 'John Keenan/James Owens' in hurling. All Development Referees underwent fitness tests and I would like to thank Colm Clear, Leinster Council, for his great work in this regard.

Finally, my thanks to Julie Quinn for her continuing administrative role and whose assistance to this Committee is invaluable.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

County Support

It has been a busy year for our Health & Wellbeing Committee under the guidance of Brian Carberry and John McCarthy. One of the main responsibilities this Committee undertook was that of assisting Counties in developing and implementing their own Action Plans. One way in which this was achieved was through the division of the Province into 4 sub groups. This was done with a view to knowledge sharing and support across those counties.

The areas that Counties have worked on throughout the year have been extensive an example of just some of the work can be seen below;

- Provision of training and supporting clubs.
- Healthy Club Officer Training.
- Linking up with local HSE Suicide Prevention Officers.
- Communication with social media and local papers.
- County/Clubs Critical Incident Response Plan.
- Website updating.
- Youth involvement in clubs.
- Help from Transition Year Students.
- Videos on County Twitter/Facebook from wellness
- Practitioners and well known players/people.
- Linking up with County Partnerships.
- Community Involvement.
- Clubs taking part in 'Keep Well' initiative using 'check in cards' for members of the community who are vulnerable and would like a call.
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse training and support.
- Supporting new Irish in communities.
- Promotion of Healthy Hearts campaign.

National Projects

During the last 18 months or so our Health & Wellbeing Committee has also worked extensively with the National Committee and assisted on a number of National Projects. These included working on the roll out of the the Healthy Club Officer Training in the Summer, and the holding of the National Healthy Club Conference in October. This was quickly followed by the hosting of a very successful National County Health & Wellbeing Forum in November. This brought members from each County together to develop their plans in a collective setting and learn from the experiences of others.

Buíochas

Sincere thanks to the National Committee for their assistance. Special word of thanks to Collette Coady, Health & Wellbeing Co-ordinator for her help, support and for her attendance at our Laighean meetings. In conclusion we wish to thank the Oifigeach Comhairle and all County Committees for their continued support.



PR & MARKETING

In a similar fashion to 2020, the last year has thrown up some tremendous challenges from a PR and Marketing viewpoint. Once again we were faced with severely restricted attendances at our Championships including the opening rounds being behind closed doors.

However, the welcome return of crowds towards the conclusion of our major championships gave all a must needed boost. The storylines right throughout our competitions were excellent, our players once again proved that they are the best at promoting our games.

Streaming made great inroads in 2020 and this year it proved it was here to stay. During uncertain times it has proved a great asset to supporters and organisers alike. From a Provincial view point we have stepped into this by partnering with the hugely successful BeoSport. In partnering with them it is hoped to not only give greater exposure to our games but also to ensure that what is on display is to a standard that should be expected from a governing body. I would like to thank them and our Committee for their hard work in getting this venture off the ground.

During the year we had there were various regulatory restrictions that had to be imposed for media personnel and those attending our games. These were not always easy, however I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of those who adhered to any such measures without question. Your support during this was most welcome.

Beko Club Champion

Since 2017, Beko, official partner of Leinster GAA has given over €150,000 worth of training equipment to clubs the length and breadth of the province. This year we asked you to nominate your Beko Club Champions, recognising people who display real dedication and commitment and who always go above and beyond for their local GAA club and community.

The response was phenomenal! The stories of hard work and sacrifice poured in and 12 lucky champions, one per county were selected as the winners. We are delighted to introduce your 2021 Beko Club Champions:

*Ballinabranna
Good Counsel GAA
Milltown GAA
Slieverue
Ballypickas
Ballymore Ladies
Na Piarasigh CPG
Moynalvey GFC
Shamrocks
St Oliver Plunketts
St. Mary's Maudlintown
Shillelaghcoolboy*

*Liam Geraghty
Aoife Maguire
Paul Delahunty
Alan Atkins
Tom Cahill
Mary Kiernan
Gavin McGee
Paul Greene
Rodge Molloy
Eddie Casey
Barry Kinsella
Nathan Clements*

County PRO's

Each and every year the work of our Committee would not be possible without the help and support of all our County PRO's. The hard work and dedication that each of you bring to your roles does not go unnoticed by us. A number of our PRO's finished up this year and so to those in particular I would like to pay tribute. It is a role that is increasing in work load with regularity. However, much of this goes unrewarded in the grand scheme of things. The effort and skill needed for this roll is also on the rise, so to each of you I again offer our thanks for taking up the baton.



GAMES FOR ALL

Difficulties

Despite our best efforts within the Covid 19 regulations and guidance it was not possible to roll out our National fixtures programme, these included the interprovincial league and Martin Donnelly interprovincial All Ireland Wheelchair Hurling Final and Football for All Blitz Day in Croke Park. However much time and energy was devoted to challenging our direction especially around inclusion and diversity, with meetings both face to face and on Zoom. One of which was with our Leinster coaching directors, sharing many initiatives and addressing the future proofing of player development through audit and research. Dublin had a unique link with the Prison services, delivering coaching and games through their coaches to a cohort of prisoners. Laois also had great plans for the "Rock for All" Football camp in O'Moore Park which fell to the pandemic, but with an open date for the future.

As it was yet another year without action for our players on the court (pitch) there are some concerns for recruitment and retention into the future.

The All Star Wheelchair hurling team also missed out on representing Ireland this year in the World Floorball Games in Switzerland. Caitriona described the "Rock For All" football camp that was planned for O'Moore Park Portlaoise with children from all over Laois participating, which unfortunately never took place due to the pandemic. However they are determined to resurrect it again and to run it off in a six week block.

A huge thanks must go to the Committee for their continued dedication throughout a trying couple of years. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed by all in Comhairle Laighean.



FAOI DHEIREADH

Player Retention

Over the past few years numerous innovations have been implemented with a view to improving both fixture scheduling and certainty. Unfortunately events of 2020 and 2021 did not allow some of the innovations to be implemented in full or indeed see their full potential.

The separation of Underage (U-17) and adult has greatly enhanced the playing of games particularly in the 15 – 17 age cohort with relative certainty. Heretofore when there was overlap invariably the underage was re-scheduled. In hoping we get back to normality in 2022 each county must ensure a meaningful fixtures programme for those aged cohort 18 to 21.

Too often in the past many of us have talked about the importance of, for instance the Under 21 grade as a means of keeping players involved. Yet more often than not we run this competition on a knockout basis shoe horned into the tail end of the year when all other competitions have been completed, hardly the credence with which to treat such an important grade.

Yes the better few players leaving underage will have football and/or hurling with adult teams. But what is each county doing for the rest. All players must play at their own age group for starters otherwise we are wasting good energy. As an organisation we promote players development but when it comes to this you might question if we are all signing from the same hymn sheet.

Recently, in a group discussion around the regularity and certainty of games for this critical age bracket the suggestion of games on a midweek evening in the Spring or Summer was met with hesitation. This was due in no small part to the belief that players would not be released to partake in these games by Club Managers.

This mindset is one that must change if we are ever to truly address our issues around fixtures. The culture of looking for any conceivable way to postpone or cancel games must shift to that of one where we are looking for games.

There are times I wonder at the various comments regarding player retention. It is an extremely topical discussion but not always discussed within the proper context. Young players (boys and girls) as they move through their teenage years make many choices in their lives including their sporting future.

A number decide themselves that they are not good enough to hold down a regular team place and opt out, perhaps opting for other team sports or individual playing sports which is only natural.

For the many who remain (and there are now more than ever) what is each county unit providing for them. The past two years have been difficult for all. All our counties are to be commended for the games programmes that they have completed not knowing from one week to the next (or rather one phone call to the next) what is around the corner.

We also must listen carefully and accept medical advice on all player development matters. With that in mind I trust beginning this Winter all units with the assistance of Fixture Analysts will develop a fixtures programme for all underage players with particular attention to the later teens, early twenties cohort.

Those who are involved in the Fixture industry will be all too aware of the major benefits the separation of Underage (U-17) and adult is. The job however is not finished it is an area that we can always improve.

Consideration must be directed at the 17/20 cohort. Each county has the ability to do what is best for itself subject to Ard Chomhairle policy. In some instances, thinking outside the box may well be a solution.

Similarly, at provincial level, cross county competitions must be examined from a practical view point.

“That the Leinster Council inaugurate or at least give practical assistance to the formation of a Provincial Towns’ Cup for Minor teams’ to be played on successive Sundays from 1st November to 1st March.”

This was a motion from Carlow submitted to Comhairle Laighean 1970 Convention held in Lawlor’s Hotel, Naas in 1971. I don’t know how the debate went or the outcome. Suffice to say someone was ahead of their time.

During the coming year together with Games Development staff, Fixture Analysts, Development Competitions Control Committees and the present undertaking of demographic surveys we will continue to develop fixture structures that have determination and real commitment towards player retention.

Sound bites definitely will not solve the issue.



Hearings

The heavy return to action meant that this year was a busy one for our Hearings Committee. It is fair to say that in this regard the move to online has been an extremely successful one. A special mention here for Patricia Clear in Áras Laighean who has played no small part in facilitating this transition.

As such there were a total of 8 hearings throughout the year. These in turn led to 16 separate appeals. On top of this 8 other appeals were received, however these were ruled out of order so therefore not heard.

Despite the move to online the support we provide to both our CCC and Hearings Committee's needs to be addressed. Increasingly clubs and counties are calling on the support of external law practitioners to assist them. This increases the ever growing level of pressure on our volunteers, while is ultimately leading to an appeal culture. The inability to accept even the most lenient of rulings is one which all of us within the association need to address internally

A special word of thanks must go to Cathaoirleach Michael Delaney and Runaí Margaret Doyle under whose guidance the Committee performed admirably throughout the year.

Buíochas

While it appeared that 2020 was a year like no other its current counterpart went hard at matching this title.

Once again in this adversity our organisation showed what it can do best. In contrast to last year this time it was very much on the pitch where we saw our best effect. As mentioned above the way in which County Boards and fixture makers carried out their duty in once again trying circumstances is a testament to each and every one of them. To be able to run competitions with such uncertainty in the background is no mean feat. You have our sincerest thanks for the diligence and professionalism with which you continue to operate.

Our Games Development staff continue to represent us all in such a fantastic fashion. Your work is a credit to you all and your counties. We at a Provincial level are extremely grateful for your hard work and dedication. To the team at Áras Laighean who continue to work above and beyond. You have my thanks for your continued support each and every day.

During the year a number of families suffered bereavements words we say here can offer scant consolation, that being said you have our deepest sympathies Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

Once again all sections of the Media provided excellent coverage of our games. Both Offaly and Meath's memorable year and the many stories of our Club Championships undoubtedly being the highlights. You all have my thanks for your continued hard work.



M. Mac Raghnaill
Micheal Mac Raghnaill
Runaí Comhairle Laighean

To Comhairle Laighean members who once again continue to make themselves readily available when called upon in this unusual year. Similarly to the Officers, Management, CCC, Hearings, and Post Primary Schools and our colleagues in Croke Park. To our Referees and Match Officials who take charge of our games along with our Administrators and Appointments Committees for their work.

Unfortunately the expertise of our Infrastructure and Safety Committee was once again not necessarily required. We must look ahead with hope that 2022 brings their expertise to the forefront once again.

Finally, to reiterate a sentiment stated earlier roll on 2022.



CLUICHÍ LAIGHEAN 2021



2020 Bord Gais Energy Leinster Under 20 HC Final (Robbins Cup):

23/6 Dublin (1-20) Galway (1-18) - **Tullamore**

2020 Electric Ireland Leinster Minor Football Championship Final (Murray Cup)

30/6 Meath (1-07) Offaly (1-06) - **Mullingar**

2020 Electric Ireland Leinster Minor Hurling Championship Final (O Hanrahan Cup)

3/7 Kilkenny (2-21) Offaly (3-09) - **Portlaoise**

Leinster GAA Under 20 HC (Robbins Cup)

29/6 Kildare (1-23)	Carlow (3-16)	Carlow
29/6 Laois (4-33)	Westmeath (4-27)	Portlaoise (AET)
29/6 Antrim (3-17)	Down (1-13)	Ballycran
6/7 Laois (4-27)	Antrim (0-07)	Dowdallshill
6/7 Kildare (0-16)	Wexford (1-12)	Newbridge
13/7 Offaly (2-25)	Kildare (1-16)	Tullamore
13/7 Kilkenny (1-18)	Laois (1-15)	Kilkenny
20/7 Galway (1-18)	Kilkenny (1-13)	Tullamore
20/7 Dublin (2-15)	Offaly (1-15)	Parnell Park
27/7 Galway (2-15)	Dublin (0-15)	Portlaoise
29/6 Antrim (3-17)	Down (1-13)	Ballycran
6/7 Laois (4-27)	Antrim (0-07)	Dowdallshill
6/7 Kildare (0-16)	Wexford (1-12)	Newbridge
13/7 Offaly (2-25)	Kildare (1-16)	Tullamore
13/7 Kilkenny (1-18)	Laois (1-15)	Kilkenny
20/7 Galway (1-18)	Kilkenny (1-13)	Tullamore
20/7 Dublin (2-15)	Offaly (1-15)	Parnell Park
27/7 Galway (2-15)	Dublin (0-15)	Portlaoise

Electric Ireland Leinster Minor Football Championship (Murray Cup)

26/6 Carlow (3-14)	Wicklow (2-15)	- Carlow
26/6 Louth (3-10)	Westmeath (0-10)	- Mullingar
26/6 Laois (1-11)	Wexford (0-14)	- Portlaoise(LS 4-3)
26/6 Kildare (4-10)	Longford (1-12)	- Newbridge
10/7 Louth (4-07)	Laois (1-07)	- Stabannon
10/7 Dublin (3-12)	Offaly (0-06)	- Tullamore
10/7 Kildare (6-18)	Carlow (1-07)	- Newbridge
24/7 Dublin (0-13)	Kildare (2-05)	- Parnell Park
24/7 Meath (1-15)	Louth (1-11)	- Navan
2/8 Meath (3-08)	Dublin (1-03)	- Tullamore

Eirgrid Leinster Under 20 FC (Flood Cup)

1/7 Longford (4-11)	Louth (3-13)	- Haggardstown
1/7 Wicklow (2-11)	Laois (2-08)	- Aughrim
1/7 Westmeath (1-15)	Kildare (1-13)	- Newbridge
1/7 Wexford (2-09)	Carlow (0-08)	- Carlow
8/7 Offaly (1-10)	Wexford (1-09)	- Wexford
8/7 Dublin (1-12)	Wicklow (1-08)	- Parnell Park
8/7 Longford (3-09)	Westmeath (2-12)	- Longford - Pen WH (6) LD(5)
15/7 Offaly (1-11)	Westmeath (1-9)	- Mullingar
15/7 Dublin (4-7)	Meath (0-13)	- Navan
22/7 Offaly (0-15)	Dublin (3-03)	- Portlaoise

Electric Ireland Minor Hurling Championship (O Hanranah Cup)

30/6 Antrim (2-17)	Down (2-11)	- Portaferry
30/6 Kildare (2-23)	Carlow (1-09)	- Carlow
1/7 Meath (2-16)	Westmeath (0-18)	- Mullingar
7/7 Antrim (PP)	Meath (PP)	- Dowdallshill
7/7 Kildare (2-16)	Laois (0-15)	- Newbridge
14/7 Wexford (2-18)	Kildare (3-10)	- Newbridge
14/7 Dublin (4-18)	Meath (1-6)	- Navan
21/7 Kilkenny (3-23)	Offaly (1-16)	- Kilkenny
21/7 Wexford (1-15)	Dublin (1-12)	- Wexford
28/7 Kilkenny (1-15)	Wexford (2-10)	- Carlow

Leinster MH 'B' (Peadar O Liathain Cup)

7/7 Down (1-12)	Westmeath (1-10)	- Darver
14/7 Antrim (1-14)	Carlow (1-13)	- Abbottstown
17/7 Down (1-13)	Meath (0-15)	- Darver
21/7 Antrim (2-11)	Down (0-14)	- Belfast

Leinster GAA SHC 2021 (O Keefe Cup)

26/6 Dublin (3-31)	Antrim (0-22)	- Navan
26/6 Wexford (5-31)	Laois (1-23)	- Kilkenny
3/7 Dublin (1-18)	Galway (1-14)	- Croke Park
3/7 Kilkenny (2-37)	Wexford (2-29)	- Croke Park AET
17/7 Kilkenny (1-25)	Dublin (0-19)	- Croke Park

Leinster GAA SFC 2021 (Delaney Cup)

27/6 Wicklow (0-14)	Wexford (2-11)	- Aughrim
27/6 Longford (0-25)	Carlow (2-13)	- Tullamore
27/6 Offaly (3-19)	Louth (0-19)	- Navan (AET)
4/7 Westmeath (3-20)	Laois (1-10)	- Tullamore
4/7 Meath (3-22)	Longford (0-12)	- Navan
4/7 Dublin (0-15)	Wexford (0-7)	- Wexford
4/7 Kildare (1-15)	Offaly (0-13)	- Portlaoise
18/7 Kildare (2-14)	Westmeath (0-18)	- Croke Park
18/7 Dublin (2-16)	Meath (1-13)	- Croke Park
1/8 Dublin (0-20)	Kildare (1-09)	- Croke Park

GRADAIM AN UACHTARÁIN

2004

Paddy Kelly (MH)
Paddy Flanagan (WM)
Kevin O'Brien (WW)
John Doyle (WX)
Con Ryan (D)
Miriam Malone (KE)
Michael Walsh (KK)

2005

William Price (D)
John Cullen (WX)
Bro. Denis Minihane (OY)
Paddy Collins (WM)
Patsy Kiernan (D)
John Nevin (CW)

2006

Martin Quigley (WX)
Kevin Heffernan (D)
Tadhg de Brun (D)
George Delaney (WW)
Margaret Delaney (LS)
Donal Hickey (D)
Marcus de Burca (D)
Jimmy Bergin (KK)

2007

Tommy O'Brien (KK)
Podge Butler (KK)
Gerry Buckley (WM)
Pat Holland (LH)
Bro. Bosco Mulhare (LS/CW)
Lulu Carroll (LS)

2008

John Ryan (LD)
Fr. Moling Lennon (CW/KE)
Michael Noel Byrne (OY)

2009

Fr. Michael Cremin (WM)
L.V. Conway (CW)
Peter Keogh (WW)
Ned Quinn (KK)
Ger Murphy, St. Olaf's (DB) Education

2010

Tommy McLoughlin (LD)
Charlie McAllister (LH)
Mary Donohue, (LS)
Cathal Friel (WW)
Christopher Hughes (D)

2011

Fintan Ginnity (MH)
John Curtis (WX)

2012

Brian Finnegan (WW)
Tommy Nally (KE)
Fitzhenry Family, Duffry Rovers WX)
Martin Meagher, Carlow IT (3rd Level)
Rosemount GAA Club (WM) Social Initiative

2013

Michael Mulhaire (LS)
Noel Murphy (D)
Michael Dowling (LS)
Peter Rice (WX)
Seán Gavin (CW)

2014

Máire Ní Cheallaigh (DB)
Maureen Kincaid (OY)

2015

Har Ramsbottom (LS)
Kevin Loughlin (MH)

2016

Ned Flynn (WH)
Paddy McMahon (LH)

2017

Ann Gannon, Summerhill (MH)
Matt Purcell, Baltimore Eustace GAA
Handball Club (KE)
John Sheridan, Kilmacud Cokes GAA Club
(DB)
Ger Proctor, Cuchulainn Rounders Club
(CW)

2018

Jack Napier, Bray Emmets (WW)
Margaret O'Leary-Lacey, Buffers Alley,
(WX) Camogie

2019

Mick Spain, Drumcullen (OY)
Kathleen Colreavy, Naomh Mearnóg (DB)
LGFA Tony Breen, (WX)
Handball
Ciarán Ó Feinneadh, Na Gaeil Óga (DB)
Gaeilge Br James Dormer, (DB/WX)
Education

2020

Nick Fitzgerald – Kildalkey (MH)

2021

Denis Carr, St. Oliver Plunketts/Eoghan Ruadh
GAA (DB)
Linda Kenny, Burren Rangers Hurling &
Camogie (CW)
The Dempsey Family, St. Joseph's GAA (LS)



Naomh
Seosán
1954



Handball

2021 Yearly Report

Administrators Report

Unfortunately, once again, we had a bad year in 2021 due to Covid. Very little handball was played at any level around the country due to the nature of Covid restrictions for indoor sport. Our main bright spot towards the end of the year was the playing of the delayed 2020 All Ireland finals which were played in the final weekends of November as well as the start of December. It was heartening to see these games get played after so long. In the juvenile finals that were played, Kilkenny had some good success winning 4 All Ireland titles and having 5 runner ups. Laois and Wexford also had a runner up each. In the adult finals, Leinster brought back 8 All Ireland titles as well as 9 runner up medals. A huge congratulations to all involved in those finals.

In softball, the end of October saw outstanding finals from the 2020 juvenile championship getting played with Kilkenny bringing back 2 All Ireland titles and 5 runner up medals across 8 grades. Kilkenny continues to be the powerhouse for juvenile handball both in Leinster and across the country and we hope to see other counties emulating their success in the coming years.

With it looking like restrictions on indoor sports not coming back into effect, I have high hopes for 2022. We have lots of players raring to go for a new championship season in 2022 as well as new competition structures which is hoped will be ready to go for the 2022 softball season. Thanks to all officials both on the Leinster board and the various county officials who have helped us out this year. Here's hoping to a great 2022 for handball.

2021 Leinster Convention Minutes

Venue: Zoom

Attendance:

Geoff Atkinson – Administrator
 Martin Lalor – President
 Serina Dempsey – Treasurer
 Kevin Cooke – PRO
 John Molloy – Representative to Leinster GAA
 Ricky Barron – Vice Chairman
 Billy Love – Juvenile Secretary
 Dessie Keegan – GAA Handball President
 John Kelly – Louth Delegate
 Sean Dunphy – Laois Delegate
 Andrew Diggins – Kildare Delegate
 Natasha Patrizi – Westmeath Delegate
 Robbie McCarthy Snr – Westmeath Delegate
 Tom Sheridan – Meath Delegate
 Michael O'Shea – Kilkenny Delegate
 PJ McGrath – Kildare Delegate
 Tony Reid – Wexford Delegate
 Liam Mahon – Kilkenny Delegate

Standing orders

Kevin proposes, Serina seconds

Previous Minutes

John Molloy proposes, Michael O'Shea seconds

Opening Addresses

Westmeath opened the meeting by addressing the delegates and welcoming them to the meeting.

Martin Lalor, Leinster handball chairman, then addressed the meeting thanking all members for their work during a very difficult year as well thanks to Leinster GAA for their continued support.

GAA Handball President, Dessie Keegan, then spoke to the meeting. He again thanked all for their work during Covid and outlined some of the upcoming changes and plans for handball in the future. He then invited questions from the delegates.

Andrew Diggins asked Dessie about registrations

Tony and Billy asked to correct some results

Ricky thanked the board and Billy for their work throughout the year

Geoff gave description of roles for dev and coaching. Will send out new nominations for them in about a week

2019 accounts

Ricky proposes, John Kelly seconds

2020 accounts

Ricky proposes, John Kelly seconds

Election of officers

Current officers were voted back in in block

PJ McGrath proposes, Michael O'Shea seconds

Position	Name
Cathaoirleach	Martin Lalor
Leas-Chathaoirleach	Ricky Barron
Rúnaí	Geoff Atkinson
Cisteoir	Serina Dempsey
Comhairle Laighean CLG	John Molloy
Development Officer	
Youth Games Officer	Billy Love
Coaching Officer	
Public Relations Officer	Kevin Cooke

2020 Delayed All Ireland Juvenile Softball Finals

GU14S Cork (Carmel Kelleher) dft Kilkenny (Katie Brennan)

GU15S Kilkenny (Eimer Barron) dft Tipperary (Christine Percy)

GU16S Kilkenny (Amy Brennan) dft Roscommon (Carragh Kennedy)

GU17S Roscommon (Siobhan Treacy) dft Kilkenny (Lauren Power)

BU14S Roscommon (Eoghan Carthy) dft Kilkenny (Conor Doyle)

BU15S Cork (Hayden Supple) dft Kilkenny (Michael Brennan)

BU16S Sligo (Cormac Finn) dft Kilkenny (Conor Holden)

2020 Leinster Softball Tournament

Mens A: Ciaran Neary (Kilkenny) dft Niall O'Connor (Kildare)

Mens B: Myles Carroll (Kildare) dft Jamie Balfe (Kildare)

Mens C: Joe Devereux (Wexford) dft Cathal McNamee (Offaly)

2020 Delayed All Ireland Juvenile 4 Wall Finals

GU14S Kilkenny (Katie Brennan) dft Roscommon (Shauna Corrigan)

GU14D Cork (Carmel Kelleher/Leah O'Riordan) dft Kilkenny (Una Duggan/Holly Byrne)

GU15S Clare (Aine Lenihan) dft Kilkenny (Emer Barron)

GU15D Clare (Fina Close/Eimear Rodgers) dft Kilkenny (Aisling Cooney/Aine Sharkey)

GU17S Roscommon (Siobhan Treacy) dft Laois (Una Brophy)

GU17D Kilkenny (Lauren Power/Nathania Jackson) dft Galway (Brona Ni Cheallachain/Orlaith Ni Churraoin)

BU14S Kilkenny (Conor Doyle) dft Cork (Diarmuid O'Connell) 15-3, 15-4

BU14D Cork (Cian Dunning/Tomás O'Connor) dft Kilkenny (John Hayes/Cathal Buckley)

BU16S Kilkenny (Kyle Jordan) W/O Galway (Mikey Kelly) inj.

BU17S Clare (Gearoid Sheedy) dft Kilkenny (Sean Barron) 21-5, 21-11

BU17D Cork (Evan Enright/Cathal Ducey) dft Wexford (Ben Keeling/Conor Dobbs)

2020 Delayed All Ireland Juvenile 4 Wall Finals

MS Monaghan (Eoghan McGinnity) dft Kilkenny (Billy Drennan)

U21S Cork (Cian O'Driscoll) dft Louth (Ben Devlin)

JBS Monaghan (Oran Kiernan) dft Wexford (David Kenny)

JS Kilkenny (Brian Mahon) dft Tyrone (Gabhain McCrystall)

IS Kilkenny (Shane Dunne) dft Monaghan (Gavin Coyle)

O35AS Wexford (Gavin Buggy) dft Tyrone (Shane O'Neill)

O35BS Cork (John Horan) dft Kilkenny (Anthony Martin)

MAS Kerry (Dominick Lynch) W/O Westmeath (Colm Jordan) inj.

MBS Cork (Paul Walsh) dft Wexford (David Stanners)

SMAS Wexford (Tommy Hynes) dft Antrim (Paul Graham)

GMAS Tyrone (Niall Kerr) W/O Meath (Tom Sheridan)

GMBS Westmeath (Joe Mulvanney) W/O Cork (Philip O'Carroll) inj.

EMAS Cork (John Herlihy) dft Dublin (Frank Daly)

EMBS Kildare (Brendan Higginbotham) dft Antrim (Kieran Cooper)

DMAS Kildare (Micky Dowling) dft Antrim (Thomas Maguire)

RMS Cork (Pat Morris) W/O Carlow (John Rossiter) inj.

O70S Dublin (Eugene Kennedy) dft Antrim (Seamus Graham)

LMS Tyrone (Mairead Fox) dft Kilkenny (Noelle Dowling)

LJBS Wexford (Clionda O'Connell) dft Cork (Aoife Hurley)

APPENDIX

Red = Updated

Comhairle Laighean Bye Laws 2022

A. In accordance with Rial 3.29 T.O. 2021 Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Chief Executive Officer (full-time secretary) without voting rights and two representatives of each county. The immediate past Council Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member for the year following termination of office.

The Leinster Handball Council, the Leinster Higher Level Colleges Council, the Leinster Post-Primary Schools Council, and the Leinster Primary Schools' Committee shall each have one representative, without voting rights, on the Council.

B. In accordance with Rial 3.32 T.O. 2021, Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. shall appoint the following Sub-Committees whose duties and functions shall be as set out in Rule.

1. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

There shall be a Management and Finance Committee which shall consist of the Comhairle Laighean Officers, plus four named representatives of the Council, two nominees of An Cathaoirleach and Rúnaí of the Council (without voting rights) subject to approval of Comhairle Laighean CLG, four County Chairpersons (without voting rights) on rotation for 1 Year (i.e. over the term of Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean 12 County Chairpersons will have served on the Committee.

Quorum: The quorum shall be one quarter and not fewer than three of the members entitled to attend and with voting rights.

2. COMPETITIONS CONTROL COMMITTEE

There shall be a Competitions Control Committee which shall consist of the Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive Officer (without voting rights) the Leas Cathaoirleach, Treasurer, P.R.O., six named representatives from the counties on Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. (not represented on the Hearings Committee), One named representative of the Post Primary Schools and One named representative of Third Level Colleges.

(a) It shall have the authority to delegate appoint Sub-Committee(s) whose membership does not necessarily come from the members of C.C.C. to be responsible for the Management of Provincial Inter Club & Inter County activities other than Inter Club and Inter County Championships other than disciplinary matters which remain the responsibility of C.C.C..

(b) The Competitions Control Committee shall appoint a workgroup to appoint Referees and Match Officials as required for Competitions within the jurisdiction of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. as provided for in Rial 3.30 T.O. 2019 and shall report as required to the Competitions Control Committee. The workgroup shall consist of an Officer (who shall act as Chairperson) two other voting members of the Competitions Control Committee and the Provincial Referees Administrator and a maximum of two other members.

3. HEARINGS COMMITTEE

There shall be a Hearings Committee which shall consist of a Chairperson and Secretary, and three other named members appointed by Comhairle Laighean C.L.G., six named representatives from the counties on Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. (not represented on the C.C.C.) and the Chief Executive Officer (full-time secretary) whose only function shall be to act as a non-voting secretary to the Hearings Committee when dealing with Appeals. It shall consist of at least three members for any hearing.

(a) It shall adjudicate on all disciplinary matters where a hearing is prescribed and requested relating to the Enforcement of Rules arising from games under the control and jurisdiction of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. and on reports arising from the Provincial Competitions Control Committee or its Sub-Committee.

(b) The Vice Chairperson of Comhairle Laighean may nominate an extra member to be added to the Hearings Committee during the year prior to the election of the following Chairperson. The appointee should be the Vice Chairperson's proposed nomination as Chairperson of the Hearings Committee during his/her term as Chairperson of Comhairle Laighean. This appointment shall be approved by Comhairle Laighean C.L.G.

(c) Whereas provided for in Rule 7.14 T.O. 2021 a newly Constituted Hearings Committee is required for a re-hearing or re-processing of a case the Cathaoirleach, Comhairle Laighean, may recommend for appointment by the Management and Finance Committee temporary members for the Hearings Committee and such temporary members do not have to be members of Comhairle Laighean.

4. COACHING & GAMES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

There shall be a Coaching and Games Development Committee whose named members are appointed by Comhairle Laighean on the recommendation of Leinster Management and Finance Committee.

It shall be responsible for monitoring and evaluating County Performance in Games Development

5. Publication Relations/Marketing Committee

There shall be a Commercial & Communications Committee, whose members are appointed by Comhairle Laighean on the recommendation of Leinster Management and Finance Committee. It shall be responsible for the development and implementation of all Marketing and Public Relations Strategies and advise Comhairle Laighean on these and related matters. It shall assist County PRO's and where necessary provide adequate training and support. It shall report to the Management and Finance Committee.

6. CULTURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

There shall be a Culture & Community Committee, the Executive of which shall consist of a Chairperson who shall be appointed by Comhairle Laighean; two Scór representatives and two Coiste Gaelige Laighean representatives.

7. COMHAIRLE IARBHUNSCOILEANNA LAIGHEAN

There shall be a Post-Primary Schools Sub-Committee known as Comhairle Iarbhunscoileanna Laighean which consists of

- Chairperson appointed by Comhairle Laighean
- Secretary who shall be the Provincial Post Primary Schools Officer.
- Named Representative on Comhairle Laighean.
- Named Representative from each County Post-Primary Committee.
- Provincial Schools Servicing Officers.

The Council Committee has the authority to add other personnel when deemed appropriate.

The Committee shall appoint a Competitions Control Committee which shall be responsible for all arrangements and control of games under the jurisdiction of the Post-Primary Schools Committee and matters arising from same, other than those functions reserved to the Provincial Hearings Committee, the Central Competitions Control Committee, the Central Referees' Appointments Committee and the Central Hearings Committee.

Quorum – 3 members.

CCC shall hear objections and Counter Objections arising from and games under its control.

It shall investigate and process matters relating to the Enforcement of Rules and Match Regulations, other than those functions reserved to the Committees (dealing with disciplinary matters) stated above.

Disciplinary Matters (games related) – where a hearing is requested – shall be referred to the Leinster Hearings Committee.

CCC may appoint work groups to deal with delegated matters/activities i.e. Additional Competitions.

CCC, together with Provincial Coaching and Games Development Committee, shall be responsible for organising (a) Games Programmes for Post-Primary Schools in Leinster (b) Promotion of Development of Gaelic Games in Post-Primary Schools (c) Accepting Affiliations from School Year to School Year (d) Grading and Re-grading

The Committee shall report to Coaching & Games Development Committee.

8. REFEREES ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

There shall be a Referees Administration Committee which shall consist of the Provincial Referees Administrator (who shall act as Chairperson) and the Referees' Administrators of the twelve Counties in the Province.

The Secretary of this Committee may be one of the County Referees' Administrators or an additional person appointed by Comhairle Laighean C.L.G.

9. PLANNING & PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

There shall be a Leinster Infrastructure Safety and Insurance Committee whose members are appointed by Comhairle Laighean on the recommendation of Leinster Management and Finance Committee.

10. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

It shall support the Treasurer, the Management Committee and the Finance Committee in all financial and risk related matters. It shall be responsible for the promotion and monitoring of good governance standards and risk management practices by the Provincial Council. It shall consist of no more than five members including a Chairperson nominated by the Management Committee and approved by the Central Audit and Risk Committee and up to four other members nominated by the Management Committee. Neither the Treasurer nor the Finance Director, if applicable, shall be members. The Committee shall provide reports to the Central Audit and Risk Committee when requested and at least once per year.

11. FIXTURES ANALYSTS

(a) Two Fixtures Analysts shall be appointed by the Management Committee. One of these shall be the Provincial Council's nominated appointee with responsibility for Club Fixtures 40 and shall act as the Provincial Representative on both the Central Fixtures Analysis Committee and the National Club Fixtures Oversight Committee.

(b) The Fixtures Analysts shall be responsible for monitoring and analysing the Provincial Fixtures Programme.

(c) The Fixtures Analysts shall present a Report to Provincial Convention on all Fixtures at Provincial and County levels and make recommendations for changes in the fixture calendar where appropriate.

(d) The Fixtures Analysts shall assist the Central Fixtures Analysis Committee in organising the education and training of Fixtures Analysts at County level.



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