

ULADH CLG

An Chomdhail Bhliantúil 2014

Óstlann Hillgrove, Muineachán, 25ú Eanáir 2014





Annual Convention 2014

Tuarascáil An Runaí

A Chairde,

B'iomaí an ócáid iontach a tharla i rith na bliana seo chuaigh thart dár gcluichí, dár gCumann agus dóibh siúd a raibh páirt acu i gcúrsaí CLG. Cé nach bhfuil an líon céanna craobhacha Uile-Éireann againn agus a bhí roimhe, b'fhearr an t-iomaíochas dár gCraobhacha, na foirne a ghlac páirt iontu agus spéis an phobail inár gcúrsaí i mbliana ná mar a bhí i 2012. Nuair a chuirtear seo san áireamh leis an dul chun cinn go ginearálta inár gcontaetha, inár gcumainn agus inár scoileanna, tá forbairt leantach na gcluichí soiléir. Tá ár bplean straitéiseach reatha ag teacht chun deiridh agus tá obair idir lámha againn pleanáil don tréimhse suas go 2020 agus beidh gá le hionchur substaintiúil ó dhaoine rannpháirtithe trasna limistéar iomlán an Chumainn chun an cháipéis a chríochnú roimh dheireadh 2014. Tá ar intinn againn go mbeidh an beart seo againn fóirsteanach do chuspóirí agus idéil CLG agus go gcuirfear pleanáil chúil i bhfeidhm le cinntiú go mbeidh ár gcuid oibre oiriúnach, tábhachtach agus forbarthach sna blianta atá romhainn. Oibrímid ar phobail láidre agus stuama a thógáil ar bhonn ár gcluichí, ár dteanga, ár gceol agus ár n-oidhreacht.

Cruthaíonn éifeacht an ghéarchéim eacnamaíochta éilimh dúshlánacha dár gclubanna go fóill ach tá dóchas ann go bhfuil muid ag dul i dtreo todhchaí níos fearr agus go spreagfaidh ár n-aonaid ar fad iad siúd atá dífhostaithe nó a bhfuil traenáil de dhith orthu. Tá páirt glactha againn i scéimeanna fostaíochta chun feabhas a chur ar ionchais na ndaoine nach bhfuil ag obair trína gcuid bunscoileanna agus féinmhúinéire a neartú. Mar a dúirt an Dr. an tArdeaspag Cróc, 'Is é

rún an ratha d'fhear ar bith 'a shaothrú'. Is dual dúinn cuidiú le chéile féinmhúinín ár mball a atógáil ar mhaithe le todhchaí atá tuillte againn agus a thugann spreagadh dúinn dul ó neart go neart.

Sna Craobhacha Peile Uladh rinne Muineachán éacht ar leith na coirn Sinsearach agus Mionúir agus bhuaigh An Cabhán an Craobh Peile Faoi-21 don dara bliain as a chéile. Bhuaigh Aontroim na craobhacha mionúir agus faoi-21 agus le taispeántas den chéad scoth sháraigh na fhoireann sin Loch Garman chun cluiche ceannais na hÉireann a bhaint amach. Cé gur chaill Aontroim in aghaidh fhoireann eisceachtúil ón Chlár ar an ócáid mhór, ba ghaisce áirithe do na hUltaigh dul chomh fada sin. Imríodh cluiche ceannais an Chraobh Idir-Chúige ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh agus léirigh an taispeántas a rinne foireann Uladh arís na hiarrachtaí a dhéanann ár gcuid imreoirí agus ár mbainisteoirí, chomh maith le lucht tacaíochta Uladh agus na contaetha ar fad don chomórtas seo. Cothaímid dúil sa dúchas a bhaineann le club, contae nó cúige.

Sa tSraith Peile Náisiúnta Allianz, bhí foireann Ultach in achan cheann de na cluichí ceannais roinne: bhuaigh Doire Roinn 2 agus bhuaigh Muineachán Roinn 3, ach theip ar Thír Eoghain nach mór Roinn 3 a bhuaicint i gcoinne Átha Cliath. Tá moladh tuille ag CLG an Athar Mhic Con Charraige, An Chorr Chríochach as ucht Craobh Peile Idirmheánach Clubanna na hÉireann a ghnóthú don dara huair, agus mar sin de coinníodh brat Uladh in airde sna craobhacha clubanna náisiúnta 2013. Saothraíonn dua bua agus is mar thoradh ar sin a bhuaigh An Dún Corn Chríostóir Uí Rinn i ndiaidh cluiche ceannais iontach corraitheach ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh i mí Mheithimh. San áit chéanna ar an lá sin bhuaigh Dún na nGall Corn Niocláis Mhic Riocaird le sárimirt agus léirigh na Conallaigh go bhfuil cloch mhíle eile sroicthe ag iománaíocht sa

chontae sin. Tugaimid aitheantas d'obair na scoileanna agus na gcoláistí i gCúige Uladh agus molaimid Coláiste Phádraig, Machaire Rátha, iar Chorn Uí Ógáin a bhuaicint arís.

Airgeadas

I rith na bliana seo caite tháinig fás leantach ar airgeadas Chomhairle Uladh. Tharla seo go príomhach mar gheall ar mhéaduithe inár gcuid idirghnímh le forais seachtracha maidir leis an athfhorbairt atá beartaithe do Pháirc Mhic Asmáint, agus fuarthas tuarascáil an iniúcháora ar ár bhfeidhmíocháin. Is é an toradh a bhí ann ná bronnadh an chreidiúnaithe is airde atá rangaithe mar Substaintiúil. Déanann an leibhéal seo deimhniú go bhfuil na gnéithe fóirsteanacha chun ár gcuid airgeadais a bhainistiú agus a stiúradh ar dhóigh atá cuí agus achomair. Idir seo agus agus obair leanúnach i dtaca le hioncam agus caiteachas na Comhairle féin, is léir go bhfuil na héilimh ar Chomhairle Uladh ar daithe go mór. Tá ár n-aschur maoinithe go dtí na contaetha um fhorbairt oiliúna agus na gcluichí athraithe go bonn míosúil ina ábhair sásaimh agus ba chóir go gcuideoidh an t-athrú seo le sreabhadh airgid dár gcomhaonaid ar fad.

Chonacthas méadú leantach i líon na sluaite cluichí i rith na bliana seo caite agus de réir a chéile tá ioncam na Comhairle ag éirí inoibríthe arís. Fuarthas ardú ioncaim thar na comórtais Uladh ar fad agus de bhrí sin gabhaimid buíochas leis na baill agus an lucht tacaíochta agus a ndílseacht agus a dtiomantas. Rinneadh an oiread seo gan na táillí isteach a ardú le cúig bliana anuas agus chruthaigh sé fírinne na habairte nach mbuaileann aon rud bheith i láthair ann. Tá margaíocht na gcluichí leathnaithe againn agus bhí méadú suntasach sna díolacháin ticéad ar-líne agus taobh thiar den fheabhas seo tá eilimintí tábhachtacha maraon le tickets.ie agus ionaid díolta an Ghrúpa Musgrave. Rinneadh an

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infheistíocht i gcluichí, i bhforbairt na gcluichí agus i ngnéithe forbartha eile a chothabháil nó a ardú. Tá seo sofheicthe go háirithe le dáileadh 50% d'ioncam na gcraobhacha clubanna go dtí na clubanna rannpháirtíochta ar bhonn foirme atá bunaithe.

Bhí ioncam €6,059,080 ag Comhairle Uladh i 2013 agus gach deontas san áireamh. B'ionann ár bhfáltais cluichí, €1,578,210, agus 26% den mhéid seo, i gcomparáid le 26% den ioncam iomlán i 2012. Is ionann ár n-ioncam ó dheontais, €1,682,135, agus 28% den iomlán i 2013, i gcomparáid le 24% i 2012. B'é €5,786,045 caiteachais iomlán na bliana seo chuaigh thart. Chomh maith leis sin, caitheadh €156,200 ar infheistíocht sna páirceanna agus san ionfrastuchtúr. Bhí brábús oibríocháin de luach €116,835 ar fheidhmiú na bliana agus aistríodh an méid seo go dtí ár gciste carntha. Déantar iniúchadh ar an tréachur airgeadais go leithleach agus is é seo bunú an tionscnaimh iomlán. Táimid buíoch leis an Ghrúpa Oibre Airgeachais agus Rialachais agus Breandán Ó hUisce as a dtreoraíocht ar an obair rithábhachtach seo. Tugaimid aitheantas don Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta agus don Ardchomhairle mar gheall ar na deontais a bhronn siad i dtaca le tionscnamh Pháirc Mhic Asmaid.

Chuidigh maóir, oifigigh foirne, baill de Chomhairle Uladh agus iad atá gníomhach taobh istigh de na contaetha ar ár son go mór linn clár cluichí iontach cuimsitheach a eagrú i rith na bliana seo caite agus ní fhéadfadh linn feidhmiú gan a gcuid oibre go leanúnach. Tá muid an-buíoch as díograis achan bhall a chaitheann a gcuid ama go flaitiúil ar feadh na bliana. Déanann siad an t-ualach oibre go deonach, mar a dhéanann a lán baill foirne atá rithábhachtach dár bhfeidhmiúcháin i láthair na gcluichí. Bíonn an Cisteoir, Oilibhéar Ó Gealagáin, i lár an aonaigh agus bhí se ina oibreoir ar leith in achan ghné dár gcuid oibre idir geataí a eagrú ag na cluichí, cuntas a dhéanamh ar an airgead agus achan ghné eile atá gaolta leis. Tá a chuid oibre agus a

ionchur i ngnó na Comhairle eiseamlárach agus d'oibrigh sé go dílis ar mhaithe le CLG agus Comhairle Uladh. Sa Rannóg Airgeadais agus Gnó tá Michillín Nic Giolla Uir i gceannas, agus Brian Ó Maoláin agus Pól Ó Saindeir ag obair ann chomh maith. Ionchur dian is ea a dhéanann siad agus táimid buíoch díobh as a ndúthracht san earnáil oibre chinníúnach seo.

Comórtais Cúige

Tháinig an Corn Anglo-Celt ar ais go Muineachán i mbliana den chéad uair ó bhí 1988 ann. D'fhill an dá chorn craobhacha idir-chlubanna Uladh ar ais go dtí bailte aithnidiúla, cumainn na seamróg i mBaile an Doire (sa pheil) agus Loch gCaol (san iománaíocht). Tá curiarracht nach beag ag Loch gCaol ceithre chraobh i ndiaidh a chéile a bhuachaint ag an leibhéal seo. Tá na sluaite ag cluichí na gCraobhchomórtais Idir-Chlubanna Uladh ag dul i méid go fóill agus d'éirigh linn tinrimh níos airde a mhealladh chuig na cluichí ceannais peile agus iománaíochta.

B'é seo an dara bliain de Shraith Iomána 'Táin' a raibh 46 club ag imirt ann ó chúige Uladh ar fad maraon le Lú agus Longfort. D'aistrigh na clubanna Chonnacht a bhí ag glacadh páirte ann ón tús go dtí rannóg Chonnacht dá gcuid féin. Bhí cúig roinn ann san iomlán agus dhá rannóg in achan cheann de na ranna. B'iad seo a leanas na buaiteoirí ranna: Dún Láthaí (Aontroim), Tír na nÓg (Aontroim), Cumann Sheáin Uí Néill (Aontroim), Naomh Adhamhnán (Dún na nGall) agus Naomh Feichin (Lú). Ghlac 40 club páirt i Sraith Peile na gClubanna Uladh, faoi urraíocht 'Chúinne Uí Chuinn', 15 acu ag imirt sa ghrád sinsearach agus 25 sa ghrád idirmheánach. Bhuaigh Ard Bó agus An Srath Bán (Tír Eoghain) na cluichí ceannais sinsearach agus idirmheánacha, agus an dá chluiche sin á imirt le chéile ar an Charraig Mhór. Thug an comórtas seo deis do chlubanna gníomh iomaíoch a bheith acu ag an leibhéal cuí roimh thús na gclár cluichí laistigh de na contaetha.

Bhain trí fhoireann ó Chúige Uladh

amach cluichí ceannais na Sraithe Peile Náisiúnta, le torthaí difriúla. Chloigh Baile Átha Cliath Tír Eoghain i gcluiche iontach taitneamhach le Roinn 1 a réiteach, fuair Doire an lámh in uachtar ar an larmhí i gcluiche ceannais Roinn 2, agus bhí an ceann is fearr ag Muineachán ar An Mhí i gcluiche mór Roinn 3. Beidh sé ina ábhar sólais do Dhoire agus do Mhuineachán gur féidir leo bheith ag dúil le himirt ag céim níos airde sa bhliain 2013. San iománaíocht, shroich Dún na nGall cluiche ceannais Roinn 3 den Sraith Náisiúnta ach chaill na Conallaigh in aghaidh Fhine Gall. Sáraíodh an díoma sin nuair a bhuaigh siad Corn Niocláis Mhic Riocaird go sleachtmhar tamall ina dhiaidh. Tháinig Corn Chríostóir Uí Rinn ar ais go hUlaidh fosta tar éis do bhua An Dúin ag Páirc an Chrócaigh. Comhghairdeas le gach duine a raibh páirt acu sna héachtaí seo.

Sa chéad chomórtas i mbliana, Corn an Dr Mhic Cionnaithe, bhí an lár le Tír Eoghain i gcoinne Mhuineachán ar scór 4-11 go 1-10 i gcluiche ceannais an-sultmhar ar Pháirc Lúthchleas Ard Mhacha. Gabhaim mo bhuíochas le Cumhacht TÉ as urraíocht a thabhairt don chomórtas tábhachtach seo i gclár cluichí CLG Uladh.

Tugaim comhghairdeas don triúr imreoir Ultacha ar a bronnadh gradaim 'All-Stars' i mbliana: Cólín Breathnach agus Conchúr Mac Mánaís (Muineachán) agus Seán Caomhánach (Tír Eoghain).

Comórtais Idir-Chúige

Coinníodh na craobhacha idir-chúige peile agus iománaíochta ar chlár na gcluichí i 2013. Tá áthas ar mhuintir Uladh go bhfuil sé mar chuid d'fhéilire na gcluichí go dtí 2014 agus tá súil againn go mbeidh sé ann go buan. B'iad foirne na Mumhan an freasúra ar Pháirc Lúthchleas Ard Mhacha Dé Domhnaigh 17 Feabhra. Buaileadh iománaithe Uladh ar an scór 1-14 i gcoinne 3-20 ach d'éirigh leis na peileadóirí ó thuaidh na fir ó theas a shárú, 1-14 in éadan 1-13. Imríodh an cluiche ceannais ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh ar 24 Feabhra agus bhain an lucht tacaíochta sult as an chluiche corraitheach sin. Scóráil Séimí Ó

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Cléirigh agus Conchúr Mac Mánaís cúl an duine le bua a chinntiú ar an scór 3-12 i gcoinne 0-17 a d'aimsigh Laighin agus ar deireadh bhí craobh idir-chúige eile tuillte ag Ulaidh. Comhghairdeas le gach duine a raibh páirt acu ann.

Comhairle Uladh

Leathnaíonn obair na Comhairle go leanúnach agus chonacthas a lán dul chun cinn i bhforbairt CLG in Ulaidh i rith na bliana seo caite. Is é an taobh is dúshlánaí dár gcuid oibre leanúnacha ná an obair a bhaineann le plean athfhorbartha Pháirc Mhic Asmaid agus na riachtanais a chuireann sí sin ar chúrsaí na Comhairle. Is léir go bhfuil dul chun cinn déanta ach tá a lán le déanamh go fóill sula mbeidh seo curtha i gcrích. Ina theannta sin cuireadh ar bun fochoiste úr a bhfuil freagracht aige i dtaca le sláinte agus sábháilteacht ag na faichí spóirt. Tá coistí coibhéiseacha curtha ar bun sna contaetha agus má oibríonn siad i lámha a chéile cinnteofar go bhfuil ár gcluichí eagraithe go cuí, maóirithe go slán agus thar aon rud eile

comhlíonach leis an Treoraí Gorm nó Dearg (mar atá oiriúnach). Chuidigh muid le ceapachán ceannairí imeachta a bhfuil na scileanna fóirsteanacha acu, chun cuidiú le cur i bhfeidhm na riachtanas a bhaineann le heagrú clár na gcluichí atá againn.

Déanann oifigigh agus baill Chomhairle Uladh obair ollmhór go leanúnach i gcuideachta leo siúd a oibríonn ar fhochoistí agus lenár bhfoireann oibre a dhéanann a ndíchill, agus is de bharr seo le chéile a chinntigh muid dul i ngleic leis na dúshláin a chuirtear orainn. Tá sé suntasach go bhfaigheann ár gcuid oibre aitheantas ó fhorais seachtracha agus is mór an fhianaise é d'iarraichtaí gach duine atá gafa leis an obair ar fad ar dhóig éigin.

Déanann an Cumann seo, i bpáirtíocht le Comhairle Uladh, teagmháil le réimhse leathan de ghrúpaí, eagrais agus fhorais. Tá an obair seo tábhachtach le cinntiú go dtuigfidh daoine cé muid, cad a

dhéanaimid agus go háirithe cad chuige a oibrímid ar mhaithe le forbairt pobail a fheabhsú. D'eascair páirtíocht le feidhmiú Comhoibriú Éireann as seo agus tionóladh dhá imeacht i mBÁC agus i mBéal Feirste a thug aitheantas don bheart atá déanta ag CLG chun caidreamh pobail a fheabhsú agus féidearthacht todhchaí i bpáirt a neartú. Rinne CLG, maraon le Comhairle Uladh, cur i láthair ag na cainteanna Haass agus mhol muid na príonsabail a bhaineann le meas, freagracht agus cearta. Tá ár gclubanna go fóill i lár a bpobal agus tá a ngníomhaíochtaí eiseamlárach ar na slite go soláthraíonn siad na gnéithe atá cinníúnach cur le sochaí láidir agus inbhuanaithe a chuideoidh le forbairt ghinearálta na hÉireann.

Tá ualach ama agus fuinnimh caite ag ár n-Uachtarán, Máirtín Mac Aibhne, ar an obair atá gaolta le bheith chun tosaigh na comhairle chúige. Chaith sé a chuid ama go hiontach flaitiúil agus é ag déanamh ionadaíochta don Chumann ag achan

“ B’Iomaí an ócáid Iontach a tharla i rith na bliana seo chualgh thart dár gclulchí, dár gCumann agus dóibh slúd a ralbh páirt acu i gcúrsaí CLG.

Donal Ó Murchu
An Rúnaí

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leibhéal le díograis agus dúthracht agus gabhaimid buíochas leis as sin. Tugaimid ómós don Leas-Uachtarán, Mhicheál Ó hÓsáin, a chaith léar mór dá chuid ama oibriú ar son na Comhairle thar na gníomhaíochtaí ar fad agus chabhraigh sé go cumasach leis an Uachtarán ar feadh na bliana ar fad. Tá sé cruthaithe ag Oilibhéar Ó Gealagáin gur Cisteoir dícheallach agus coinsiasach é agus bhí sé ina chrann taca le Comhairle Uladh agus d’fhreastail sé ar a lán ócáidí thar ceann na Comhairle. Taiheadaimid ár mbuíochas le Seán Ó Conghaile as ucht a chuid oibre mar Oifigeach Caidrimh Phoiblí. Bíonn sé ag plé leis na méain cumarsáide ar bhonn laethúil agus cuidíonn sé leis na hoifigigh ar réimse leathan de dhualgais thar ceann CLG in Ulaidh.

Thug baill de Chomhairle Uladh go flaithiúil dá gcuid ama agus sholáthair siad seirbhís d’fheidhmithe ginearálta CLG in Ulaidh. Gníomhaíonn siad ar achan leibhéal dár gcúrsaí maraon le fónamh ar fhochoistí chomh maith le tacú na riachtanais oibríochtiúla ar lae na gcluichí. Aithnímid obair na mball dá ndílseacht agus dá dtacaíocht. Taiheadaimid ár mbuíochas díobh a fhágfaidh an Chomhairle ag an Chomhthionól seo agus is mór ár meas ar an méid iontach atá déanta ag Éamonn Ó hAodha, Proinsias Mac Gabhann agus Dónal Ó Scolláin a rinne ionadaíocht ar leith dá gcontaetha; guímid dea-mhéin dóibh mar oifigigh CLG sa todhchaí.

Tugaim ómós inniu d’obair Aogáin Uí Fhearghail, iar-uachtarán Chomhairle Uladh, a fhágfaidh an chomhairle i ndiaidh ceathrú chéad oibre éachtach thar réimse cúram idir teachta ón Chabhán agus oifigí Chomhairle Uladh ar fad. Thiomáin sé é féin do CLG in Ulaidh agus táimid go mór i bhfiacha leis as a chuid oibre. Guímid gach rath ar Aogán sna hiarrachtaí atá roimhe.

Forbairt na gClubanna

Tá obair Chomhairle Uladh dírithe ar na Clubanna agus tá láidreacht an Chumainn tógtha ar na bunúis ag leibhéal na gclubanna. Cabhraímid leo sa treo seo chomh fada agus is féidir. Tugaimid

treoraíocht do chlubanna ar a lán ábhair maraon le ceisteanna dlíthiúla casta, cuirimid traenáil ar fáil do chlubanna, dá n-oifigigh, dá n-oiliúnaíthe agus dá meantóirí agus tugaimid tacaíocht do chlubanna maidir le grinnfhiosrúchán agus creidiúnú faoin scéim ‘Club Maith’. Tacaímid fosta le mórtionscnaimh forbartha trí chomhairle, treoraíocht agus comhairle a thabhairt ó thaobh polasaí rialachais de. Tá strúctúr clubanna iontach bríomhar againn ar a dhírítear aird ar mball agus ár dtacaithe. Molaímid go fóill go bhfuil CLG ann don chlann ar fad ar feadh an tsaol.

I dteannta na hoibre atá idir lámha ag an Choiste um Fhorbairt Clubanna agus Áiseanna Fisciúla, agus Coiste na bPáirceanna agus na Sábháilteachta, déantar an monatóireacht agus an phleanáil chun cinn atá riachtanach de réir na Pleananna Straitéiseacha ag leibhéal na gcontaetha agus na gcúigí. Tá léar mór clubanna inár measc a bhfuil pleananna acu a threoraíonn an bealach tosaigh dár gCumann agus tá muid go mór i bhfiacha leo dá gcuid oibre. Ag cuidiú leis an obair seo tá an rannóg um Fhorbairt Pobail agus Chúrsaí Poiblí i gComhairle Uladh, a dhéanann réimse clár a sholáthraíonn tacaíocht dhíreach idir cúrsaí sláinte agus sábháilteacht ar bhóithre. Molaím an obair fhiúntach ata déanta ag Riain Ó Fiannaí, Aibhlín Uí Chuimín, Sharon Nic Eochaidh-Uí Gharmaile, Máire Mhic Meanmain, Dónal Mac An Ailín agus Fionntán Ó Dubhda.

Páirceanna

Tá tionscnamh athfhorbartha Pháirc Mhic Asmainn dultha chun cinn idir comhthionól na bliana seo caite agus inniu. Baineadh amach Céim D d’Institiúid Ríoga Ailtirí na Breataine i mí an Mhárta agus Céim E i mí Bealtaine. Cuireadh isteach an t-iarratas pleanála i mí an Mheithimh agus fuarthas cead i mí na Nollag. Is ionann seo agus cloch mhíle ollmhór dúinn. Le linn na tréimse céanna cuireadh na heilimintí soláthair chun cinn de réir an chonartha. I mí Aibreáin thosaigh muid ar an chéad chéim dul go dtí an margadh le spéis agus scóip na

n-oibreoirí eacnamaíochta a fháil amach agus bhog muid ar aghaidh go dtí an dara pas soláthair i mí Iúil. Ina dhiaidh sin rinne ceann de na hoibreoirí eacnamaíochta agóid dhlíthiúil mharthanach nár réitíodh go dtí mí na Samhna. Tá an próiseas seo dultha ar aghaidh chuig céim an chinnidh agus bhí fógra le bheith déanta ar an ábhar seo go luath i ndiaidh na Nollag. Tá Bord Thionscadal an Staidiam freagrach don fhorbairt spórtúil is mó ar oileán na hÉireann faoi láthair agus is dual dó dul i ngleic go leanúnach le roinnt mhaith forais, gníomhaireachtaí agus ranna. Bhí an próiseas iontach dúshlánach go dtí seo agus is mar sin a bheidh sé go deireadh na forbartha agus don tréimhse rialúcháin ina dhiaidh. Ag am na scríbhínne seo is iomaí ábhar ata le bheith réitithe maraon leis an chás gnó deireanach agus an chomhaontú maoinithe; tá an dá cheann acu chun tosaigh go maith ach tá níos mó le déanamh sula mbeidh siad bainte amach. Thug an Cathaoirleach agus an tOifigeach Sinsearach Freagrach, Tomás Ó Dalaigh, cuid mhór ama le cinntiú go mbainfear amach na spriocanna amlíne agus an toradh a bhí beartaithe ón tús. D’oibrigh sé go díograiseach, go crógach agus go cruinndíreach leis an tionscadal a chur chun cinn in ainneoin na n-ábhar crua, agus mar thoradh air tá sé ag cloí leis an chláir oibre agus tá sé insoláthartha. Leanann an Chomhairle ar aghaidh le dul chun cinn an staidiam cé go mbíonn na mílte ceisteanna le plé ar bhonn laethúil.

Tá an cur i bhfeidhm idir lámha ag Grúpa Stiúrtha an Tionscadail, faoi cheannas Stiofáin Mhic Gaoithin, Urraitheoir an Tionscadail, agus an Chomhairleoir Teicniúil Neamhspleách, Tadhg Ó hEarcáin, ag cuidiú leis. Tá siad i lár teagmhála leis an Fhoireann Chomhtháite Soláthair, Mott McDonald, agus tá siad ag dul i ngleic go leanúnach leis an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta agus an Seirbhís Pleanála i mBéal Feirste. Bhí Riain Ó Fiannaí i gceannas as rannpháirtíocht sa phobal, agus Tadhg Ó hEarcáin agus Sharon Nic Eochaidh-Uí Gharmaile ag cuidiú leis sa ghníomhaíocht chasta seo le hionadaithe pobail agus poiblí agus a lán grúpaí

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leasmhara maraon le páirtithe polaitiúla agus Comhairle Cathrach Bhéal Feirste. Tá ionchur mór déanta ag Míchillín Nic Giolla Uí sa phleanáil airgeadais iomlán agus sna hamlínte a bhaineann leis an togra le linn na tréimhse ar fad. Thug Eoghan de Siún comhairle agus d'oibrigh sé ar dhearadh na riachtanas d'imreoirí agus oifigigh agus bhí sé gníomhach i soláthar na n-áiseanna pobail a bheidh ina mbuntáiste mór do chathair Bhéal Feirste agus ceantar Bhaile Andarsan go háirithe. Déanann Gearóidín Nic Caomhánach, Riarthóir an Staidiam, na hionchuir staidiam a riarú agus a thacú go fóill, agus tá seo fíorthábhachtach do sholáthar an tionscadail laistigh de na hamlínte sainithe chomh maith le bheith dochraideach ar a cuid ama agus dílseachta. Gabhaimid buíochas le gach duine a bhfuil páirt acu sa tionscadal staidiam as a gcuid ionchuir.

Forbairt na gCluichí

Cothaíonn Comhairle Uladh na cluichí CLG uilig. Tá cláir agus tacaíocht dearaithe mar chuid de Bhealach Forbartha um Lúthchleasaithe ar Feadh an tSaoil. Chinntigh sé seo go mbíonn ár gcláir forbartha i dtaca le hoiliúint agus cluichí leanúnach agus forchéimnitheach. Tá an obair i gceist iontu dearaithe chun na himreoirí a fhorbairt ó thaobh scileanna, aclaíocht agus tuiscint den spórt, chomh maith le tuiscint ar na rialacha imeartha, agus chun cinntiú ag an am céanna go bhfuil na cluichí taitneamhach, iomaíoch agus foireann-lárnaithe. Tá forbairt leantach ann in eolaíocht spóirt agus sport ardghníomhaíochta gur féidir le clubanna agus contaetha a úsáid agus iad ar thóir dul ar aghaidh.

Tá an obair a dhéanann ár bhfoireann Chóitseála agus Cluichí maoinithe ag CLG agus forais seachtreacha agus is uafásach an t-éileamh atá orthu critéir an lae inniu a chomhlíonadh, mar go gcuireann sé dualgas orainn meastachán leantach a dhéanamh i dtaca leis na caighdeán atá leagtha síos, le cinntiú go soláthraimid an méid atá beartaithe dúinn. Oibrímid leis na contaetha i

meastachán a gcuid seachadta. Agus mar sin táimid ag comhoibriú le gach leibhéal an Chumainn chun eilimintí na straitéise oiliúna agus cluichí a chur i bhfeidhm. Oibrímid go dlúth le Gréasán an Choláiste Oscailte chun fíorú neamhspleách do cháilíochtaí a bhunú, mar a dhéanaimid fosta le hOiliúint Éireann. De réir a chéile fásann an t-éileamh do thraenáil agus cháilíochtaí, agus táimid ag feidhmiú laistigh de na struchtúir ginearálta atá ceadaithe ag CLG.

Úsáidimid go fóill na scoileanna barr feabhais agus na scuaid forbartha mar uirlis do shainthint na n-imreoirí sárchumasacha. Cuidíonn na comórtais rathíúla Chorn Shéamais Mhic Uiginn agus Chorn Bhun Cranncha linn an spríoc seo a bhaint amach mar a thugann siad deis forbartha d'imreoirí. Tugann a struchtúir blitzchomórtais deis d'ógánaigh dul i ngleic lena gcomhaoisigh agus deis breithmheas a thabhairt ar chaighdeán in achan ghné d'fhorbairt na n-imreoirí. Tionóladh cláir forbartha na gcluichí do pháistí agus do dhaoine óga le míchumais fisiceacha agus foghlama ag achan leibhéal de CLG agus bhí deiseanna acu imirt ar ár mórfaichí spóirt maraon le Páirc an Chrócaigh. Tá seoladh an chomórtais iománaíochta idir-chúige ina chúis áthais agus aithnímid an obair atá á dhéanamh ag na hoiliúnaithe agus pearsanra atá bainte leis.

Leanann Clár Spóirt an Churaclaim ar aghaidh leis an obair fhiúntach bheith ag cuidiú le páistí idir ceithre bliana agus ocht mbliana d'aois dul in aithne do coincheapa maraon le haclaíocht, cothromaíocht agus comhordú atá ina mbunchlocha de rannpháirtíocht spóirt. Déanann foireann tríocha oiliúnaí an clár seo a thabhairt sna sé chontaetha agus cuimsíonn sé seo breis agus trí chéad scoil agus beagnach fiche míle páiste. D'eascair spéis seachtreach as an obair a dhéanaimid ag Eochairchéim 1. Táimid iontach buíoch as obair ár n-oiliúnaí curaclaim agus le Tarlach Mac Liaim agus daoine eile a dhéanann éachtaí ag cur na páistí óga in aithne do bhuntús na

haclaíochta agus do choincheap na rannpháirtíochta foirne.

Tá na hoifigigh forbartha réigiúnda iománaíochta gníomhach ar fud Uladh. Aimsíonn siad ar chlubanna iománaíochta, bunscoileanna agus meánscoileanna, agus nascanna idir clubanna agus scoileanna cibé áit is féidir leo. Soláthraíonn siad tacaíocht do na hoiliúnaithe taobh istigh de chlár na scuaid forbartha agus cinntíonn siad go gcomhlíontar riachtanais na scoileanna barr feabhais agus na scuaid forbartha féin. Tacaíonn agus treoraíonn siad leis na hoiliúnaithe iománaíochta sna clubanna agus contaetha ar mhaithe le forbairt ghinearálta an spóirt ar fud an chúige. Aithnímid ceannasaíocht Shéamais Mhic Darra sa réim seo agus tá a fhios againn go mbeidh mbláth ar an iarracht leantach seo faoi dheireadh.

Tugann Comhdháil Bhliantúil Oiliúna agus Forbartha na gCluichí deis iontach d'oiliúnaithe feidhmiú de réir dea-chleachtais. Chuir na ceardlanna dúshlán móra ar ár bpearsanra oiliúna ag leibhéal na gclubanna agus leibhéal na gcontaetha. Sholáthair Ulaídh comhrá ar na bunábhair oiliúna atá oiriúnach agus ar an bhealach feidhmiúcháin.

Déanann CLG Uladh creidiúnú a thabhairt go fóill do roinnt cláir taobh istigh de Chreatlach na gCáilíochtaí agus na gCreidiúna. Cuireadh na cúrsaí um Bhainistíocht Spóirt CLG agus Oiliúint Ardghníomhaíochta Spóirt CLG ar an chreatlach seo fosta. Taifeadimid ár mbuíochas don obair atá déanta ag Coiste Oiliúna agus Forbartha na gCluichí, an cathaoirleach Gearóid Ó Dufaigh go háirithe agus na hionadaithe contae a dhéanann ualach oibre chomh maith. Molaimid obair Eoghain de Siún a chuireann tacaíocht agus treoir d'oiliúint na gcluichí, agus iad lárnach do dhul chun cinn an chumainn.

Coiste na Gaeilge agus na hOidhreacht a bhí Comhairle Uladh iontach gníomhach ó thaobh na Gaeilge de i 2013. Mar a

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dhéantar go bliantúil, tionóladh Cúrsa Gaeilge Shéamuis de Faoite sna Dúnaibh i mí Iúil, sa tseachtain i ndiaidh cluiche ceannais peile Uladh. B'é seo iúbaile airgid an chúrsa seo ó cuireadh ar bun arís é go mall sna 1980 idí agus téann roinnt mhaith baill chuige go rialta. Déanfar iarracht spreagadh ar níos mó baill óga teacht agus Gaeilge a fhoghlaim ansin.

Is cúis áthais dúinn gur chuir Comhairle Uladh scéim scoláireachtaí úr ar fáil do bhaill CLG. 'Gaeilge don Chlub' is ainm don togra seo atá i bhfeidhm ar bhonn trialach don bhliain acadúil 2013/14. De bharr na scoláireachtaí seo bhí roinnt baill feasta ábalta íoc as staidéar páirtaimseartha a dhéanamh i dtreo

cáilíocht Diplóma sa Ghaeilge a bhaint amach. Níor cruthaíodh an leithéid de scoláireacht seo roimhe i gCumann Lúthchleas Gael agus táimid sásta comhoibriú le hOllscoil Uladh chun é seo a chur ar fáil.

Rud eile a rinneadh den chéad uair ar son na Gaeilge ná leabhrán úr, CLG in Ulaídh: Na Cumainn agus na Páirceanna, a fhoilsiú. Is acmhainn é seo a dhéanann liostaí d'ainmneacha clubanna agus páirceanna ar fud Uladh trí Ghaeilge agus trí Bhéarla. B'é an smaoineadh taobh thiar den leabhrán ná spreagadh ar chlubanna an téarmaíocht ceart a úsáid agus iad ag scríobh amach a n-ainmneacha ar cháipéisí, ar áiseanna agus ar trealamh imeartha. Déanann an leabhrán liostaí

de na hainmneacha iomláine, leagain giorraithe agus leagain giorraithe sa tuiseal ginideach, sa dóigh is go mbeidh baill in ann tagairtí a dhéanamh ar na clubanna in achan chomhthéacs, más ag scríobh nó ag caint atá siad.

Mar is dual dúinn, chothaigh Comhairle Uladh a lán frontair eile ar mhaithe le forbairt na Gaeilge. Tá scéim Ghaeilge Fhear Manach, eagraithe ag Comhairle Uladh i gcomhar le Comhairle Ceantair Fhear Manach, ag dul i mbláth arís i mbliana. Bhí campaí samhraidh ag spreagadh na Gaeilge chomh maith leis na cluichí Gaelacha don óige ar siúl i dtromlach na gcontaetha. Ina theannta sin, thug muid tacaíocht do 'Líofa 2015' agus roinnt frontair poiblí eile i bhfábhar na Gaeilge.

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Cultúr agus Scór

Tá na comórtais Scór ina gcuid thábhachtach dár léiriú cultúrtha, agus tá ceol, damhsa agus drámaíocht go fóill mar ghné lárnach d'imeachtaí do léar mór clubanna. I rith na bliana seo caite d'athraigh an Ardchomhairle na rialacha go mór agus d'eascair a lán díospóireachtaí astu. Cuireadh go leor brú ar Choiste Scór Uladh dul in éadán na n-athruithe seo, ach níorbh fhíú leis seo mar go bhfuil dualgas ar achán aonad cloí le cinntí na hArdchomhairle. Ní raibh contae nó cúige ar bith in ann ábhar mar seo a réiteach, agus níor glacadh an díospóireacht ar ais chun na hArdchomhairle, an t-aon choiste amháin gur féidir cinneadh den leithéid sin a

chealú. Is éigean dúinn cinntiú go bhfuil na bunilimintí coinnithe mar chuid de Scór agus ag cloí le polasaí bunaithe CLG. Tionóladh babhtaí ceannais na hÉireann de Scór na nÓg agus Scór Sinsear i nDoire Cholm Cille agus d'éirigh le hiomaitheoirí Uladh ar fad ardchaighdeán a bhaint amach. Bhuaigh rannpháirtithe Ultacha trí cheann de chomórtais Scór na nÓg – Aithriseoireacht, Colm Ó Coirc (Cluan Eois); Tráth na gCeistanna, An Gleann (An Dún); agus Rince Seit, Crois ar Loch (An Cabhán) – agus bhí Cumann Naomh Éanna, An Ómaigh, rathúil sa chomórtas Rince Céilí don deichiú uair. Tá ardmheas tuille ag Coiste Contae Dhoire as an obair a rinneadh chun na babhtaí ceannais náisiúnta seo a mhealladh go

Doire Cholm Cille. Ina theannta sin tá muid i bhfiacha le Coiste Scór Dhoire as ucht sraith imeachtaí cultúrtha den chéad scoth a chur ar siúl in ionad ar fheabhas. Rinne Coiste Scór Uladh a bheart fosta chun babhtaí ceannais Uladh agus na hÉireann a thionóladh i nDoire.

Ábhair an Chumainn

Ghlac an Chomhdháil bhliantúil leis na príomhmholtaí a rinneadh do na rialacha imeartha. Tá na moltaí seo mar chuid de na rialacha anois agus cibé tuairimí atá againn is dual dúinn cinntiú go gcuirfear na rialacha seo i bhfeidhm ó thaobh na himeartha agus réiteoireachta de. Tá an freagracht againn uilig tacú le cinntí

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daonlathacha an Chumainn seo agus ní bheidh na himpleachtaí ina ábhar imní muna n-imreofar na cluichí de réir na rialacha. Níl géarchúis againn faoi láthair mar a bhí le feiceáil sa mhéid cluichí ar fheabhar a imríodh i 2013. Is cóir d'achán duine déanamh cinnte de go bhfeidhmeoidh muid de réir spiorad ár gcluichí atá fearúil, iomaíoch agus corraitheach. Má dhéantar sin ní éireoidh le salú agus beidh cothrom na féinne buacach.

Tá a lán ábhar machnaimh i dtuarascáil Choiste Athbheithnithe na Peile a foilsíodh ar na mallaibh. Is é mo bharúil féin ar na sonraí go bhfuil muid ag cóireáil na siomptóm gan an t-ábhar ginearálta a réiteach – go bhfuil roinnt contaetha níom iomaíocha ná an lucht eile. Tá cuid mhór ráite maidir le míchothromaíocht struchtúir na gcomórtais faoi láthair, ach ní hionann foirne buailte a bhogadh ó chúige amháin go dtí cúige eile agus stádas na gcontaetha seo a dhéanamh níos cothroime. Tá réimse leathan ábhar le fiosrú, agus caithfidh a rá gurb é an status quo an tagarmharc d'imschrúdú na moltaí seo. Is gá dúinn fosta cinntiú nach laghdófar nó nach srianfar ár bpróifíl sna meáin nó ár gcumarsáid teilifíse.

Tá an idirghníomh idir Comhairle Uladh agus na contaetha agus clubanna coinnithe ag leibhéal substaintiúil ar réimse leathan ábhar. Tá na caidrimh oibre idir ár n-oifigigh agus cathaoirligh, rúnaithe, cisteoirí agus bainisteoirí forbartha na gcluichí sna contaetha faoi seach dírithe agus achomair. Bímid ag plé le hábhair agus cuidímid le sreabhadh eolais a dhéanamh éifeachtúil dóibh siúd a thugann ceannasaíocht ar mhaithe le CLG go ginearálta agus na clubanna agus contaetha go háirithe. Aithnímid éachtaí agus dílseacht na n-oifigeach chontae bunilimintí oibre an Chumainn i gCúige Uladh a sholáthar.

Tá caidreamh oibre ar leith idir Comhairle Uladh agus an Ardchomhairle. Is gníomhaíochtaí cearta iad seo idir na bunphearsanra náisiúnta agus

cúigeacha agus bhí comshochair iontu. Tá socrúithe mar seo i bhfeidhm idir an Chomhairle agus na contaetha agus na haonaid comhpháirteacha. Gabhaimid buíochas leis an fhoireann oibre i bPáirc an Chrócaigh as a gcuidiú agus a gcomhoibriú agus ba mhaith liom aitheantas a thabhairt don chabhair a fuarthas ó Thomás Ó Riain, Phádraig Ó Dálaigh, Pheadar Mac Cionnaith agus Laoise Nic Fhlannchadha. Ar an ábhar sin, gabhaimid buíochas fosta le Rónán Ó Murchú, Pádraig Ó Dochartaigh agus Fearghal Mac Giolla as ucht a gcuidithe ina réimeanna oibre féin.

Tá treoraíocht shoiléir agus aonchiallach léirithe ag Páraic Ó Dufaigh trasna speictream iomlán de chúrsaí an Chumainn seo agus is crann taca ollmhór é dár gcuid oibre ar fad. Tá ceannasaíocht tugtha don Chumann aige le cinntiú go bpléitear na hábhair mar is ceart agus go ndéantar na cinntí atá ceart agus éifeachtach. Measaimid an t-ualach oibre atá déanta ag Liam Ó Néill mar Uachtarán an Chumainn agus a spreagann na clubanna, na contaetha agus cúige Uladh chomh maith. Táimid buíoch leis as ucht a chuid oibre don chumann.

Comhbhrón

Chuaigh bás Phádraig Mhic Floinn i bhfeidhm orainn go domhan i gCLG, in Ulaidh, Doire (a chontae dúchais) agus i gContae an Dúin, áit a chónaigh sé ar feadh formhór dá shaoil. Bhí sé iontach gníomhach suas go dtí an cúpla mí ar deireadh agus gabhaimid ár gcomhbhrón le clann Mhic Floinn ar fad; leis a chéad chlub, Cumann Uí Dhonnabháin Rosa, Machaire Fiolta, áit a raibh sé in a ochtóid bliain mar bhall; agus CLG Thulaigh Lios, áit a raibh sé ina bhall luacháilte. Mar iar-uachtarán náisiúnta agus cúigeach níor theip air ariamh speis a léiriú inár gcúrsaí agus is boichte muid de dheasca a chailliúna. Basaíodh freisin Pádraig Ó Bogaidh, iar-uachtarán de Chomhairle Laighean agus de CLG ar fad agus rinne sé léar mór do CLG mar imreoir agus riarthóir. Gabhaimid comhbhrón leis a bhean

chéile Peigí agus le clann Uí Bhogaidh ar fad.

Is iomaí ball a d'éag i gCúige Uladh i rith na bliana seo caite, maraon le Seán Ó Ruanaidh, iarbhall dár gComhairle agus seanionúir Aontroma. Basaíodh Aodhán Ó Briain, Eoghanach a bhí ag cónaí i nDoire agus saothraí mór don Cumann, agus Seosamh Ó Raghailigh, Breifneach a bhí ina chónaí i gContae an Dúin a rinne seirbhís mhór do Chomhairle Uladh mar gheatóir ar feadh na mblianta fada. Tugaimid comhbhrón d'achán duine a d'fhulaing mar thoradh ar mhéala anuraidh. B'iomaí an ócáid nuair a mhothaigh muid an cailliúint ba ghéire agus muid ag freastal ar shochraidí agus adhlacaidh. Is mór an t-ionchur a rinne siad don Chumann agus is saibhre muid mar thoradh orthu.

Déanfar íobairt an Aifrinn a ofráil do bhaill an Chumainn nach maireann in Ardeaglais Naomh Mac Artáin, Muineachán, ar maidin an Chomdhail Bhliantúil ag 11.00 r.n. Tá súil againn go mbeidh na toscairí uilig in ann bheith i láthair mar chomhartha ómóis dár mball ar fad atá marbh.

Conclúid

Bímid chomh gnóthach ag díriú ar chuid mhór ábhar nach gcimid na rudaí bunúsacha. Cuireadh CLG ar bun le fealsúnacht a chothaigh éiteas an Chumainn gan leabhar fhoirmiúil rialacha. Sa lá atá inniu tá leabhar rialacha iontach casta againn atá leagtha amach le cinntiú go bhfuil muinín againn uilig i gcothromaíocht na gcinntí ar pháirc na himeartha agus in achán áit eile. Ní bheadh sé beagnach chomh casta sin dá mbeadh ár n-éiteas agus ár n-idéil ag treorú muid agus dá n-amharcfaimis ar ár bpáirtíocht i gcibé gné dár gcúrsaí mar ábhar gliondarach agus tairbheach.

Is mise le meas,

Dónall Ó Murchú
An Rúnaí





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Tuarascáil An Runaí

A Chairde,

The year concluded has given many great moments for our games, the Association and for all those involved in the affairs of the GAA. We may not have the All-Ireland titles of previous years but the competitiveness of our Championships, the teams taking part and the overall interest in our affairs surpassed those of 2012. When this is added to the overall progress of our Counties, Clubs and Schools, it is very much to the continued development of our games and the Association. We are approaching the end of our current strategic plan and work is underway to plan for the period until 2020, and to achieve a completed document by the end of 2014 will require a substantial input by those involved across the complete spectrum of the Association. It is intended that what we do is relevant to the aims and ideals of the GAA and through proper planning will continue to make the work that we do relevant, important and developmental for the years ahead. We work at building strong and stable communities around our games, our language, our music and our heritage.

The effect of the economic issues continues to create challenging demands on our clubs but there is optimism that we are moving towards a better future and the efforts being made by all of our units to encourage and support those who are unemployed or needing training must be acknowledged. We have become involved in Employment Schemes with the view of improving the prospects of those needing employment by ensuring the key skills are enhanced and personal confidence is developed. Dr. Croke said that 'that opes success to any man, the secret is deserve it'. We collectively must

continue to strive to help our members rebuild confidence with a view of a future that we are deserving of and that this inspires us all to be better and more prosperous in the future.

In the Ulster Football Championship Muineachain achieved a unique double in winning the Senior and Minor titles while An Cabhán retained the Under 21 Football Championship. Aontroim won the Minor and Under 21 titles with a magnificent performance against Loch Garman to reach the Under 21 All-Ireland Final. There, they met an outstanding team from An Clár but this was a remarkable achievement by Aontroim. The Final of the Interprovincial Football Championship was played in Croke Park and the performance of our Ulster team continues to demonstrate the efforts of our players and management towards this competition, and to having it represent the total support of Ulster and all our Counties towards this important competition. We are about a sense of pride of place and that relates to Club, County and Province.

In the Allianz Football League we had an Ulster team in each of the Divisional finals with Doire winning Division 2 and Muineachán annexing the Division 3 title with Tír Eoghain failing to take the Division 1 title by a narrow margin to Átha Cliath. The success of Cookstown Fr. Rocks in winning the Intermediate Club Football Championship for the second time is commendable and kept the Ulster flag flying in the Club Championship of 2013. Perseverance does earn rewards and for Down they won the Christy Ring Cup with a nail biting and dramatic victory at Croke Park in June while on the same date and venue Donegal also won the Nicky Rackard Cup with a tremendous performance, and clearly demonstrated that they have deservedly reached another important milestone

for hurling in the County. We also acknowledge the work of our schools and colleges and compliment St. Patrick's Maghera on winning the Hogan Cup.

It has been a tremendous year for the GAA in Derry. Apart from celebrating its 125th Anniversary, it hosted Congress for the first time, the All-Ireland Finals for Scór and Scór na nÓg and saw a return visit for Féile Peile na nÓg. Their commitment and work for all of these events was exemplary and a tribute to Choiste Chontae Dhoire. Our appreciation is recorded to them, the Officers, members and clubs on their major success in hosting these events.

Finance

Over the past year there has been a continued expansion in regard to the finances of Comhairle Uladh. This has to a greater extent occurred as a result of the increased activity in relation to the proposed redevelopment of Casement Park which has meant much interaction between ourselves and external bodies in respect of this element. We have had the external auditors report on our processes and the outcome of this has been the awarding of the highest level of accreditation, which is classified as Substantial. This is a level that recognises that we have the correct elements to manage and control our finances in a proper and business-like manner. When this is added to the ongoing work in relation to the Council's own income and expenditure it is obvious that the demands on the Ulster Council have increased dramatically. The move to monthly output of finance to our Counties in the Coaching and Games Development field is a most welcome initiative and should assist in the cash flow for all of our constituent units. Our attendances have shown a continued rise over the past year gradually re-establishing our income at workable levels. There has been an increase of



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income across all our competitions which we acknowledge and thank all our members and supporters for their loyalty and support. This has been achieved against the background of not increasing the admission charges for five years and it has proven that nothing beats being there in all of its senses. We have expanded the marketing of our games and there has been a substantial increase in the online sales of tickets for games and this has many important elements which includes tickets.ie and the outlets of the Musgrave Group. The investment in games, games development and other areas of development have been maintained or increased. This is particularly so in relation to the Club Championship where fifty percent of the income is dispersed to the participating Clubs based on an established formula.

The income of Comhairle Uladh amounted to €6,059,080 inclusive of all grants. Our gate income, €1,578,510, represented 26% of this compared to 26% of the total income in 2012. In 2013 our grant income, €1,682,135, represents 28% of our total in comparison to 24% in 2012. The expenditure amounted to €5,786,045. In addition, the investment in Grounds and Infrastructure amounted €156,200. There was an operating profit on the years working equating to €116,835 which was transferred to our accumulated funds. The throughput of funds in respect are separately accounted for and this is the basis for the total project and beyond. We are grateful to the Finance and Governance Workgroup and Brendan Waters for their guidance on these very important work. We acknowledge the grants from DCAL and Ard Comhairle in respect of the Casement Park Project.

In the past year our stewards, team officials, members of Comhairle Uladh and those active within our Counties have been of great assistance in organising a very substantial games programme

and is an important aspect that without their continuing effort we would not be able to maintain. We are very grateful to the dedication and commitment of all who have given generously of their time throughout the year. All those involved give of their time in a voluntary capacity and that includes many members of staff who are also vital to our work on match days. An Cisteoir, Oilibhéar Ó Gealagáin is fully involved and has been a tremendous worker in all aspects of our work from the organising of gates, to the counting of monies and all other related elements. His work and his input to the business of the Council is exemplary and he has worked diligently for the greater good of the GAA and to Comhairle Uladh. The Finance and Business team is led by Michelle McAleer our Head of Business and Finance. The team includes Brian Mallon and Paul Sanders. The input of these people is intense and we are grateful to their diligence in taking care of our finances and related matters. We acknowledge the commitment and dedication to this vital area of work and are grateful to Michelle, Brian and Paul for their diligent work on our behalf.

Games Activity

In 2013, the Anglo Celt Cup returned to Muineachán for the first time since 1988. The Ulster Club Championships returned to two familiar homes and namely, the Shamrocks. Ballinderry Shamrocks and Loughgiel Shamrocks collected the honours in their respective codes. Indeed, Loughgiel made it a remarkable four in a row success at this level. The attendances at our Ulster Club Championships continued to rise and we experienced particularly large crowds at the Ulster Football and Hurling Club Finals.

We have also seen the second year of the Tain Adult Club Hurling League. This initiative saw a total of 46 teams compete from across the province of Ulster as well as teams from Louth and Longford. The Connacht clubs who originally competed were incorporated into the Connacht section. There were a total of

five divisions with two sections in each division. Dunloy (Aontroim), Tír na nOg (Aontroim), Shane O'Neills (Aontroim), St Eunans (Dún na nGall) and St Feichins (Louth) emerged as the divisional winners. With regard to the Quinns Corner Ulster Football Club League, 2013 saw a total of 40 clubs involved, with 15 teams in senior and 25 teams in intermediate. Ardboe (Tír Eoghain) and Strabane (Tír Eoghain) won the senior and intermediate finals, with both games being played as a double header at Carrickmore. This competition again provided clubs with competitive action at their appropriate level prior to the commencement of their internal county games programmes.

Ulster had three representatives in the National Football League Finals, with contrasting results. Baile Átha Cliath defeated Tír Eoghain in a very entertaining Division 1 decider, Doire defeated Iarmhí in the Division 2 Final and Muineachán won the Division 3 Final by defeating An Mhí. Both Doire and Muineachán will be heartened by the fact that they can look forward to playing in a higher division in 2014. With regards to hurling, Dún na nGall reached the National Hurling League Division 3A Final where they were defeated by Fingal. This disappointment was overshadowed by a great victory in the Nicky Rackard Cup Final. The Christy Ring Cup also returned to Ulster with An Dún winning the final at Croke Park. Congratulations to all involved in these commendable successes.

In our first competition of the year, the Dr McKenna Cup, Tír Eoghain collected the title by defeating Muineachán by 4-11 to 1-10 in a highly entertaining final at the Athletic Grounds. I also extend my gratitude to Power NI for their sponsorship of this important competition in the Ulster GAA calendar.

Senior Football Championship

The 2013 Ulster Senior Football Championship commenced at Kingspan

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Breffni Park on Sunday 19th May, where An Cabhán welcomed Ard Mhacha. Cian Mackey gave a glimpse of what was to come from Cavan in 2013 with a fine goal that ensured that they progressed to the quarter finals on a score line of 1-15 to 1-11. One week later, in a packed Pairc Mac Cumhaill, a strong finish from the Ulster and All-Ireland champions secured a 2-10 to 0-10 victory over Tír Eoghain. The following Sunday, at Celtic Park, Doire and An Dún served up a real thriller. The Mourne men finally ran out 2-17 top 1-15 winners in a great game of football. In the last Ulster Senior Football Championship game to be played in Casement Park as we know it, it ended in defeat for the Saffron County as Muineachán won by 0-11 to 0-05. The Cavan revival continued as they travelled to Brewster Park on the same weekend as the G8 summit to record a fine 0-13 to 0-11 victory over Fear Manach. Both semi-finals were now known and there was no more than a three point margin in either game, highlighting the competitiveness of the Ulster Senior Football Championship. On Sunday 23rd June, Dún na nGall showed a greater degree of efficiency in front of goal to defeat An Dún by 0-12 to 0-09 at Kingspan Breffni Park. In the other semi-final, Muineachán won their local derby with An Cabhán by 1-10 to 0-12 at St Tiernach's Park, Clones.

The Ulster Final took place three weeks later where Dún na nGall and Muineachán met at St Tiernach's Park, Clones on Sunday 21st July. The maximum permissible numbers of spectators which represented just short of thirty two thousand attended the Final on a day when fittingly the Ulster Senior Football Champions from 25 years previous, Muineachán were honoured. With the inclusion of honouring the successful teams from the past, Cumann na mBunscol exhibition games, band entertainment, the Minor Football Final and the Senior showpiece, Ulster Final day continues to be a celebration of our great Association in the province of Ulster. The game

was a tight affair with scores at a premium. The Farney defence snuffed out the attacking threat of Dún na nGall and reaped the rewards by 0-13 to 0-07. The scenes of jubilation at the final whistle from a county who had retained the Ulster Championship after a 25 year lapse were memorable and congratulations go to Muineachán for a very well deserved success.

All-Ireland Football Championship

The All-Ireland Senior Football Championship for Ulster representatives began with three of our counties involved on Saturday 29th June. There was an impressive victory for Fear Manach over Iarmhí in Mullingar by 3-10 to 1-5, Tír Eoghain easily defeated Uibh Fhailí by 1-27 to 0-08 while Aontroim were beaten by An Lú by 1-17 to 1-11 at Drogheda. The following day, Ard Mhacha and Doire both had good wins. Ard Mhacha defeated Cill Mhantáin by 2-21 to 0-02 and Doire beat Sligeach by 0-15 to 0-08 in the first inter county senior football championship game in Owenbeg.

In the next round the following weekend, Tír Eoghain made the long trip to Dr Hyde Park for the second year in a row and squeezes past Ros Comáin by 0-12 to 1-07. On the same day, Doire gained revenge for their Ulster defeat to An Dún by emerging victorious by 0-13 to 1-05 at Celtic Park. Contrastingly, An Cabhán collected their second championship victory over Fear Manach of the year by 1-14 to 0-10 while Ard Mhacha had another facile win, this time in Carrick on Shannon over Liatroim.

The following weekend, four of our counties were again in action. Tír Eoghain were on their travels again and recorded a fine 1-11 to 0-12 victory over Cill Dara in Newbridge. Ard Mhacha travelled to Pearse Stadium and after two morale boosting victories, they were beaten by Gaillimh 1-11 to 0-09. An all Ulster clash took place in Celtic Park, and such a tussle required extra time to get

a victor. An Cabhán finished strongly to record a great 1-22 to 0-20 success. The following weekend both An Cabhán and Tír Eoghain emerged to the quarter finals after victories over Londáin and An Mhí respectively at Croke Park. Beaten Ulster finalists, Dún na nGall also progressed as they defeated Laois by 0-14 to 0-08 at Carrick on Shannon.

In the quarter finals, Dún na nGall were well beaten by Maigh Eo, An Cabhán left themselves with too much to do in the second half as they went down by 0-15 to 0-09 to Ciarraí, while Tír Eoghain edged out Muineachán by 0-14 to 0-12 at Croke Park. Interestingly, Ulster champions Muineachán did not concede a goal in any of their four championship games but still departed at the All-Ireland Quarter Final stage. Tír Eoghain were left to fly the Ulster flag in the All-Ireland semi finals as they faced Maigh Eo. A couple of injuries to key players allied to a strong second half showing from their opponents meant that Tír Eoghain were defeated by 1-16 to 0-13.

With regards the 2013 All Stars, I extend my congratulations to the three Ulster players who received awards. Well done to Colin Walshe and Conor McManus from Muineachán and Sean Cavanagh from Tír Eoghain.

Minor Football Championship

The Ulster Minor Football Championship continues to excite and entertain. These games are fitting curtain raisers on championship days and 2013 delivered another great competition. In the Preliminary Round, An Cabhán just held on to defeat Ard Mhacha by a single point, 0-13 to 1-09. The following week, Muineachán defeated Aontroim comfortably and An Cabhán saw off Fear Manch, again by the minimum margin. On the same day in Pairc Mac Cumhaill, Tír Eoghain beat Dún na nGall by 1-09 to 1-03. In the last quarter final, An Dún got the vital goals to beat Doire by 3-10 to 0-14 at Celtic Park. In the semi finals, Muineachán defeated An

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Cabhán at St Tiernach's Park while Tír Eoghain overcame An Dún at Kingspan Breffni Park.

The final meeting between Muineachán and Tír Eoghain was eagerly awaited and it was certainly a tight affair. It was a fantastic spectacle of underage football with a wide array of skill on show on the biggest footballing day in the provincial calendar. A strong finishing rally from the Muineachán side saw them run out champions in a fascinating 4-10 to 2-14 encounter. Congratulations to Muineachán for a well-deserved success, their first at this level since 1945. It also completed a minor double for the county, as they won the Ulster Minor Football League earlier in the year. As Ulster champions, Muineachán took on Tiobraid Arann in the All-Ireland Quarter Final in Longford. A strong performance was enough for them to progress by 0-12 to 0-09. Tír Eoghain

had to show all their positive attributes as they defeated Ciarraí after extra time by 0-17 to 1-12 in Croke Park. In the All-Ireland Semi Finals, Muineachán were beaten by a strong Maigh Eo side while Tír Eoghain again finished strongly to defeat Ros Comáin by 1-12 to 0-13. In the All Ireland Minor Final, Tír Eoghain displayed great character to stay in the game for long spells against the strong Maigh Eo outfit, who just held on to win by 2-13 to 1-13. A disappointing end to the year for our Ulster finalists, but the experience of playing in such massive occasions in front of huge crowds will leave an indelible positive mark on these youngsters.

Under 21 Football Championship

This Championship continues to thrive in its current Wednesday night slot in the fixture programme, where it does not directly impinge on counties

preparations for National Football Leagues and also benefits from an increased interest from our spectators. In the Preliminary Round on Wednesday 13th March, Ard Mhacha defeated Fear Manach by 2-10 to 0-09 at Brewster Park. On Wednesday 20th March, the four quarter finals took place and there were wins for An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, An Dún and Doire. In the semi-finals, the reigning champions An Cabhán defeated An Dún in the Athletic Grounds by 1-12 to 0-06, while Dún na nGall beat Doire at Healy Park on a 2-11 to 0-15 scoreline. The following week, An Cabhán and Dún na nGall played out a highly entertaining encounter in front of a large crowd at Brewster Park. Their experience from winning an Ulster Minor Championship and two Under 21 Championships was vital as the Breffni men collected the title on a final score of 0-13 to 1-06. This was another tremendous success for An Cabhán who completed the three

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in a row which surely augurs well for the future. In the All-Ireland semi-final played at Tullamore ten days later, An Cabhán were defeated by Corcaígh by 0-15 to 1-11.

Club Football Championship

The Ulster Club Championship evidently has that lure for our supporters and the local aspect means that all clubs at all levels can aspire to the greatest stage throughout the province and indeed, Croke Park. In the Preliminary Round, Doire three in a row champions Ballinderry defeated Clonoe by 0-14 to 0-10 at Celtic Park. In the Quarter Finals, there were wins for Glenswilly, Roslea and Ballinderry over St Galls, Ballinagh and Scotstown respectively. In the last quarter final, Kilcoo and Crossmaglen required a replay after a 2-09 to 1-12 draw. In the replay, played at the Athletic Grounds, Kilcoo finally won out after extra time on a 3-10 to 1-08 scoreline.

At the Semi Final stage, Glenswilly held off a resilient Roslea challenge as they ran out 3-09 to 2-08 winners at Healy Park, Omagh. In the other game, Ballinderry came strong out of the blocks and Kilcoo never recovered. The Derry champions emerged 1-10 to 1-09 victors at the Athletic Grounds. Ballinderry met Glenswilly at Healy Park in the Ulster Final and after a tremendous contest it was the Doire team that prevailed against opponents that demonstrated that although in their first Ulster final that they were competent at this level. Well done to Ballinderry and they carry our best wishes for the All-Ireland stage ahead.

The Intermediate Football Club Championship was a tough competition from the Preliminary Round through to the final. In the Preliminary Round, Foreglen travelled to Crossmaglen and defeated the Armagh champions, Madden by 0-13 to 1-07. In the Quarter Finals, there were wins for all the home sides. Killeshandra, Truagh, Eskra and Foreglen had victories over St Teresas, Drumgath,

Enniskillen Gaels and Naomh Muire. In the semi-finals, Eskra had to display all their battling qualities to defeat Killeshandra by 0-12 to 1-07 while Truagh defeated Foreglen by 2-11 to 0-07. In the Final, played in the Athletic Grounds, both teams played some fantastic football before Truagh won the title with an outstanding effort. We wish them well as they now try to win this title at National level.

In the Junior Football Championship, there was again no representation from Fear Manach so there was no requirement for a Preliminary Round. In the Quarter Finals, there were wins for Milford, Killeeshil, Emyvale and Annaghmore over Davitts, Teconnaught, Ardmore and Kill respectively. In the Semi Finals, there were relatively easy victories for both Emyvale and Killeeshil over Annaghmore and Milford respectively. The Junior Final was played in the Athletic Grounds, and it was the Emyvale men who deservedly won the Ulster title. We hope that they maintain their momentum and that takes them to success at Croke Park early in 2014.

All-Ireland Club Football Championship

Crossmaglen Rangers lost their grip on the All-Ireland title on 16th February in Mullingar. They were beaten by St Brigids (Ros Comáin) with a late goal proving to be the difference in a 2-07 to 1-09 defeat.

In the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Championship, Cookstown from Tír Eoghain defeated Charlestown from Maigh Eo in the semi-final by 1-08 to 1-07 after extra time in Longford. In the All-Ireland Final played at Croke Park, they collected their second success at this level by defeating Finuge (Ciarraí) by 1-09 to 0-6 to claim the All-Ireland title. Well done to all involved.

In the junior grade, An Port Mór were beaten at the semi-final stage by Ballinasloe at Kingspan Breffni Park on a 2-07 to 0-10 scoreline to end their involvement.

Senior Hurling Championship

The 2013 Championship was a four county competition with Aontroim again receiving a bye to the Ulster Final. In the quarter final, played in Pairc Esler on 16th June, An Dún defeated Ard Mhacha by 3-20 to 1-12.

The Semi Final saw Doire take on An Dún in the Athletic Grounds on Sunday 30th June and they could not be separated in a 0-19 to 1-16 draw. The following week, at the same venue, An Dún were victorious by 0-25 to 1-16.

The fact that the Ulster Senior Hurling Final between Aontroim and An Dún has yet to be played is the biggest disappointment of the past year. There are many factors why this did not take place but it is extremely disappointing that a date could not be found but that is what occurred. The drawn game at the semi-final led to the loss of the scheduled date and given the complexity of competing demands an alternate arrangement has yet to be found. We must ensure that in future that the date for the final is not changed and that a draw can be accommodated at any stage of the competition

All-Ireland Hurling Championship

Aontroim were involved in the McCarthy Cup where they were drawn against Loch Garman in the First Round. In a good encounter, the Saffron County were defeated by 3-18 to 0-17 in Wexford to end their involvement in the All-Ireland series.

In the Christy Ring Cup, Ard Mhacha, An Dún and Doire were Ulster's representatives. Ironically, An Dún defeated both counties on their way to claiming the title. They defeated Ard Mhacha by 1-20 to 1-11 at Crossmaglen. They then faced Doire at Pairc Esler where they defeated the Oak Leaf County by 3-07 to 0-09. An Dún overcame An Mhí after a replay to reach the final against Ciarraí. A thrilling final played



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at Croke Park, a late goal ensured that An Dún finally claimed the Christy Ring Cup on a 3-16 to 2-17 scoreline. Congratulations to all concerned.

The Nicky Rackard Cup saw Dún na nGall, Muineachán and Tír Eoghain as the competitors from the province. Ros Comáin defeated Tír Eoghain and Dún na nGall defeated Muineachán at the semi-final stage. Dún na nGall and Ros Comáin playing out a brilliant final in Croke Park and Dún na nGall edged out their Connacht opponents by 3-20 to 3-16. Congratulations to Dún na nGall.

In the Lory Meagher Cup, Fear Manach were our only representative and despite a win over Leitrim and a draw with eventual winners, Warwickshire, a defeat to Longfort ended their involvement.

Minor Hurling Championship

Four counties competed in the Ulster Minor Hurling Championship in 2013. In the first semi-final, An Dún defeated Doire by 2-12 to 1-09 at Pairc Esler. In the other semi-final, Aontroim easily beat Ard Mhacha by 5-17 to 1-13 at the same venue. A fortnight later, the final brought Aontroim and An Dún together at the Athletic Grounds. An impressive all round display by Aontroim saw them emerge victorious by 2-20 to 1-12. Well done to Aontroim.

Under 21 Hurling Championship

Four Ulster counties competed in the Under 21 Championship, which was played on a knock out basis again. The fact that the Under 21 Shield winners, Tír Eoghain could not field would be a worrying aspect for the continued involvement of the shield winners in the championship in future years. In the semi-finals, we were treated to two great semi-finals with Aontroim defeating An Dún by 1-17 to 1-14 and Doire beating Ard Mhacha by 2-13 to 1-13. The Ulster Final was one sided and it was Aontroim who took the title courtesy of a 6-22 to

0-06 victory. In the All-Ireland Semi Final, Aontroim came up against Loch Garman on 24th August at Thurles. Goals from Ciaran Clarke and Stephen McAfee paved the way for an historic win for the Saffron County. They held on to claim a memorable 2-15 to 1-16 win and a first ever place in an All-Ireland Under 21 Hurling Final. The final was again played in Semple Stadium and Clare were in formidable form to ease to a 2-28 to 0-12 victory. There was no shame in this defeat as many of the Clare team were part of the senior team that would go on to win the All-Ireland.

Under 21 Hurling Shield

In the Ulster Under 21 Hurling Shield Semi Final, Tír Eoghain defeated Muineachán by 2-16 to 0-06 at Healy Park to advance to the final against Dún na nGall. They had beaten Fear Manach by 2-12 to 1-05 at Lisbellaw on the same evening. The Shield Final was played the following week in Celtic Park, Derry. In a tight game, it was Tír Eoghain who held on despite conceding two late goals on a 0-16 to 2-08 scoreline. They then failed to field in the All-Ireland Under 21 'B' Championship which was another disappointing development.

Club Hurling Championship

In the Ulster Senior Club Championship, Antrim Champions, Loughgiel Shamrocks made it four Ulster titles in a row with victories over both Ballygalget and then Slaughtneil in the Ulster Final. The Ulster Final was a great game played in Celtic Park as Loughgiel had to dig deep to defeat the Derry champions by 3-14 to 1-15. A tremendous success for a strong club. In the Intermediate Club Hurling Championship, Clooney Gaels collected the title. They had to do it the hard way by defeating Burt, Eoghan Ruadh after extra time and then Cuchulainns of Armagh in a great final played at Celtic Park. In the junior final, Kickhams Creggan defeated Craobh Rua Camlocha in the final at the Athletic Grounds.

All-Ireland Club Hurling Championship

Loughgiel Shamrocks were Ulster's representatives in the All-Ireland Club Championship, having won the 2012 Ulster Club Championship. In the All-Ireland Semi Final on 9th February, they came up against Connacht champions, St Thomas' at Parnell Park. In a game where Loughgiel needed all their resolve to stay in the game, a Liam Watson goal salvaged a draw after extra time in a 3-19 to 1-25 thriller. In the replay, played at St Tiernach's Park, Clones, St Thomas' were too strong on the day and emerged as 0-15 to 0-07 winners. In the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Championship, Lisbellaw had been beaten in December the previous year in the quarter final. In the junior grade, Bredagh were defeated by the British champions, Fullen Gaels by 1-12 to 1-04 at Coolock.

Inter Provincial Championships

The Inter Provincial Championships in both football and hurling remained on the games programme in 2013. Ulster were delighted that this was included in the fixture calendar in 2013 and will be again included in 2014 and hopefully, this is a permanent measure. Our teams in both codes took on Munster at the Athletic Grounds in the semi-final on Sunday 17th February. The hurlers were defeated by 3-20 to 1-14, while the footballers recorded a fine 1-14 to 1-13 victory over the same opposition. In the final played at Croke Park on February 24th, the supporters were treated to all that is good about our game. In a thrilling encounter, two goals from Jamie Clarke and one from Conor McManus ensured a 3-12 to 0-17 success over Leinster and another Inter Provincial title for the province. Congratulations to all the players and mentors involved. It is hoped now that a slot has been found for the interprovincial championships, that we allow it to proceed as an important part of the fixtures programme.

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Provincial Council

The work of the Council continues to expand and this past year has seen continued progress in the development of the GAA in Ulster. The work associated with the proposed redevelopment of Casement Park and all of the demands that this has placed on the affairs of the Council has been the most challenging aspect of our ongoing work. It is obvious that progress has been made but there is still very much to do before this becomes reality. The past year has also seen the establishment of a new sub-committee with responsibility for health and safety at sports grounds. This body is also replicated at County level and working in unison it should assist in ensuring that our games are properly organised, safely stewarded and above all compliant with the Blue or Red Guide as appropriate. To this end we have assisted in the appointment of Event Controllers, with the required skills, to assist in the application of Safety requirements pertaining to the organisation of our games programme.

The tremendous and ongoing input of the Officers and Members of Comhairle Uladh assisted by those who work on our Sub-committees, and assisted by the dedicated input of our staff have collectively ensured that we are meeting the challenges that come our way. It is noteworthy that the work we do is acknowledged by bodies external to the GAA and this is a testimony to the efforts of all involved throughout the spectrum of our work.

The Association, in conjunction with the Ulster Council, engage with a wide range of groups, bodies and agencies. This work is important in ensuring that people understand who we are, what we do and above all why we work to enhance community development. This has led to the involvement in work with Co-Operation Ireland at two events in Dublin and Belfast which recognised the work that the GAA has done in improving community relations and the development of a potential for a

shared future. The attendance of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister at the event organised by Co-Operation Ireland in Queen's University Belfast that was centered on "Celebrating the GAA's role in Peace building" was very welcome. The support and words by both Ministers at the event were encouraging and I thank them for their continued support for our outreach and engagement work. The GAA, including the Ulster Council, made a presentation to the Hass talks and advanced the principles of respect, responsibility and rights. We continue to portray our Clubs at the centre of their communities which is a wonderful example that our Clubs are being recognised in this role by their community and their work are the vital ingredients that deliver the elements that are essential in building a strong and sustainable society which contributes to the overall development of Ireland.

We were involved in the provision of support for the World Police and Fire Games which were hosted by Belfast. Football and Handball were again part of the activity of the games and our Officers, members, volunteers and staff assisted in the organisation of these games and we are indebted for their work. I would like to compliment Diarmaid Marsden who was seconded to DCAL as part of the overall organising of the games in Belfast. The response was tremendous and the competitiveness of our games shone through in what has been an ongoing involvement for our games within this biannual event.

Nollaig MacCumhaill and Eamonn MacMathuna who are Chairman and Secretary of the Hearings Committee respectively who with the other members of the Committee have carried out the disciplinary element of our activity where a hearing is required. They also are the body that deals with appeals on our behalf. We are very grateful to all the members of the Hearings Committee for their work in dealing with these important matters. Stephen Donnelly gives a truly outstanding service to

our Coiste Cheannais na Chomortaisi, our Counties, Referees, Clubs and to other fixture making bodies as needed. His work in the delivery of our Games programme is commendable and we are well served by his total commitment and dedication. Damian Kelly provided the administrative support of the work of our Coiste Eisteachta Cuige and provides support to the throughput of cases and the process of all matters as required.

An tUachtarán, Máirtín MacAibhne, has given an enormous amount of time and energy to the work associated with being at the front end of the Provincial Council. He has given very generously of his time in representing the Association at all levels with enthusiasm and commitment for which we thank him. Our appreciation is due to Micheal O hOsain, who as Leas Uachtarán, has also given a tremendous amount of his time to work for the Council across all of our activity and has ably assisted the Uachtarán throughout the year. Oilibhear O Gealagain has been a diligent and conscientious Cisteoir and has been an outstanding support to the work of Comhairle Uladh and has also represented the Council on many occasions for which we thank him. We record our appreciation to Sean O Conghaile for his work as OCP. He deals with the media on a daily basis and also assists the Officers in carrying out a wide range of duties for the GAA in Ulster.

Members of the Ulster Council have given generously of their time and through their efforts have provided a substantial service to the overall workings of the GAA in Ulster. They operate across all levels of our affairs, including serving on our sub committees as well as supporting the operational requirements on match days. We acknowledge the work of our members and subcommittees for their dedication and support throughout the year. We record our deep appreciation of the work of those who leave the Council at this Convention and we acknowledge the outstanding contribution made by Eddie Hughes, Frank Smyth and Danny Scullion who have represented their

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Counties with distinction. We wish them well in the challenges that they undertake on behalf of the GAA into the future and we thank them for their work on behalf of Comhairle Uladh during their time as members.

Geraldine McKavanagh has continued to assist me in organising matters relating to my work for Comhairle Uladh. This is in addition to her outstanding work as Stadium Administrator, while at the same time she is a tremendous support to the Council and our Officers in the work that is done, and for which, I am deeply indebted. The other remaining staff are enthusiastic and give generously of their time in the interests of the GAA in Ulster and for which we are grateful. The work of the Senior Staff is very vital to the delivery of the operational side of our affairs. I thank them for their dedication to the GAA and their support and loyalty to me in all matters. Our appreciation is recorded to Eugene Young (Director Coaching and Games), Michelle McAleer (Head of Finance, HR and Business), Ryan Feeney (Head of Community, Strategy and Public Affairs) and Stephen McGeehan (Stadium Project Sponsor and Head of Operations) who continue to undertake outstanding work on our behalf. This group meet regularly and the work of Kathy Kelly in servicing the meetings is also acknowledged.

Today I acknowledge the work of Aogán Ó Fearghail, Iar Uachtarán Comhairle Uladh who leaves the Council after a quarter of a century of outstanding work across a number of portfolios from a representative of An Cabhán to the full remit of officerships for Comhairle Uladh. He has given outstanding dedication and commitment to the GAA in Ulster and we are deeply indebted to him for all his work. While he leaves our Council, greater and more critical challenges are now on his horizons, we wish Aogán success in his quest, with confidence in the future and loyalty of our great Association in the work of strengthening our role within Irish society.

Club Development

The work of the Ulster Council is centred on the Club and the strength of our Association is built on the foundations at club level. To this end we assist them to the maximum deliverable. We provide guidance to Clubs on a myriad of issues including complex legal matters, we deliver training for Clubs, to their officers, coaches and mentors and we provide support to the clubs from vetting, to club accreditation under Club Maith. We also support significant development projects with advice, guidance and governance policy assistance. We have a very vibrant club structure which provides a tremendous focus for our members and supporters. We still advocate that the GAA is for the whole family for the whole life.

The work that is taken forward by our Coiste Forbartha, Club and Physical Development Committee and Coiste Pairceanna agus Slandala is augmented by the monitoring and forward planning that is required within the Strategic Plans at county and provincial levels. Many of our clubs also have Plans that are guiding the pathway to the future for our Association and we are indebted to them for their efforts. This is supported by the Community and Public Affairs side of the Ulster Council's work and that is augmented by a range of programmes providing direct support to our Clubs from health and wellbeing to live to play. We are indebted to the work of Ryan Feeney, Aileen Cummins, Sharon Haughey-Grimley, Maura McMenamin, Donal McAnallen and Fionntan O' Dowd in this vital area.

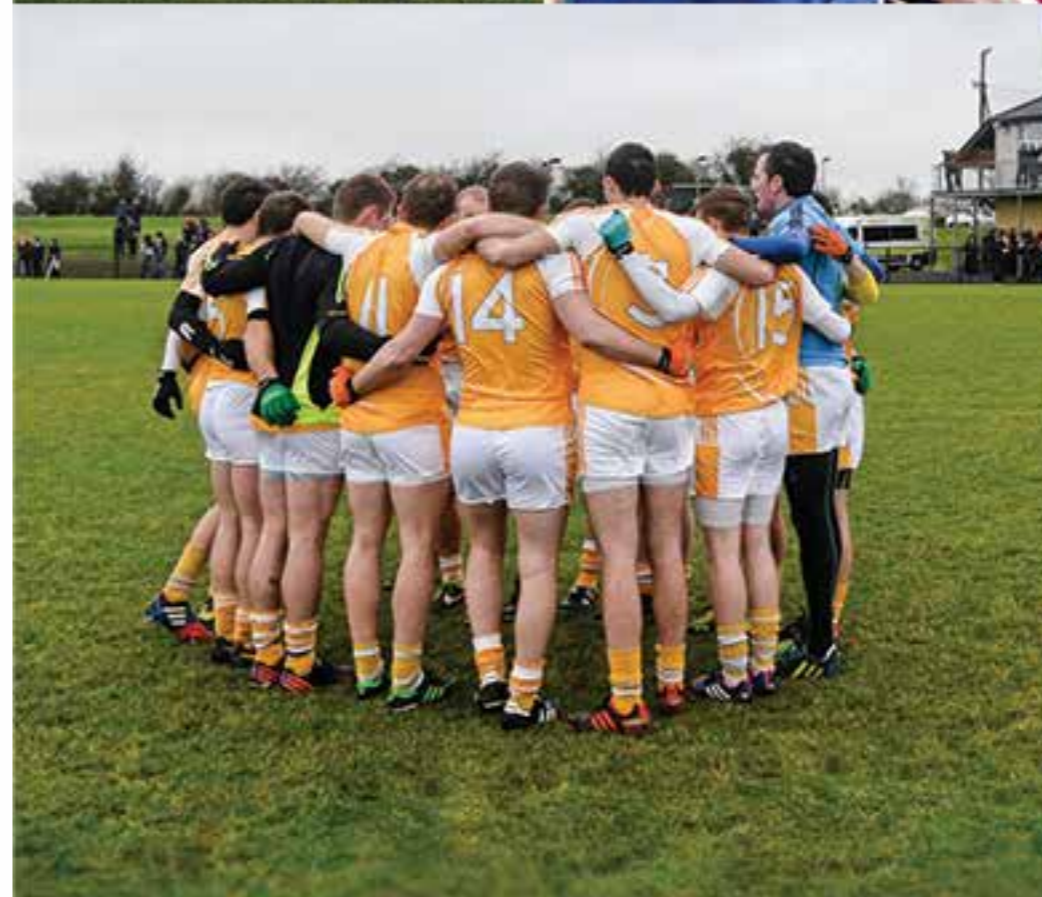
Grounds

The Casement Park Development has progressed since last year's Convention and this has seen our RIBA Stage D being achieved in March which was followed by Stage E in May. This was followed by our Planning Application in June with a decision on this application is now pending. This represents a substantial piece of work in the planning field and a critical milestone when it is achieved.

In tandem the various contractual procurement elements have continued to be advanced. In April we moved on to the first stage of going to the market in order to establish the interest and scope of Economic Operators and we advanced to the second phase of procurement in July. This was followed by a sustained legal challenge by one of the Economic Operators which was only resolved in November. The process has advanced to the determination stage but under the rule of Procurement we are in a period of Alcatel that prohibits any comment, but there should be an announcement shortly after Christmas.

Our Stadium Project Board is currently responsible for the largest sporting development on the island of Ireland and there is an ongoing need to engage with many bodies, agencies and Departments, it has been exceptionally challenging and will remain so throughout the development and for the control period beyond. There are many ongoing matters to be resolved which include the Final Business Case and the Funding Agreement, while currently at an advanced stage have still some way to go before these are in place. The Chairman and Senior Responsible Owner, Tomas O Dalaigh, has given enormously of his time in trying to ensure that the timeline targets are met and that we can achieve the outcome envisaged from the outset. He has worked diligently, courageously and with forthrightness in advancing the project through many difficult and extremely challenging issues to ensure that we have a project that is on schedule and is also deliverable. The Council continues the progress of the Stadium dealing with a litany of complex, challenging and at times frustrating issues on a daily basis.

The Project Steering Group which is the operational side of our delivery is led by Stephen McGeehan, the Project Sponsor, and supported by our Independent Technical Advisor, Tim Harkin. They have been at the centre of the engagement with our Integrated



Supply Team, Mott McDonald, and have had ongoing engagement with DCAL and the Planning Service. The Community engagement was led by Ryan Feeney ably assisted by Tim Harkin and Sharon Haughey-Grimley and this has been a complex engagement with the local community, public representatives and a multitude of interested groups including political parties and Belfast City Council. The input from Michelle McAleer into the overall financial planning and timelines applying to the project to date and into the future is immense and this will be a very substantial commitment throughout the project. Eugene Young has advised and worked with the Design Team on the player and official requirements aspect of the design and also has been active in the provision of community facilities that should be to the overall benefit of the city of Belfast and the Andersonstown area in particular. The task of administering and supporting the Stadium inputs continues to be managed by Geraldine McKavanagh as Stadium Administrator and are vital to the delivery of the project within the stated timelines and are most demanding on time and dedication. We thank all who are involved with the stadium project and for their input to its advancement to date.

Safety at Sports Grounds: There has been an enormous amount of work done by Comhairle Uladh in this area. The appointment of our Health and Safety Committee and the consequent appointment of Event Controllers and Deputy Event Controllers within our Counties working within the confines of the Blue and the Red Guides. This has ensured that structures are in place to oversee our games programme at the appropriate level. The work in taking these matters forwarded are supported by the input of Stephen Donnelly, Paul Maxwell the other members of the Committee. I am grateful for the work of Stephen McGeehan, Liam Nelis and Brendan Kirk in dealing with the process and representing me at meetings with local authorities supporting Counties

in all areas of safety management and physical integrity documentation to meet the deadlines for each ground as required. They also attended at all of the Safety Advisory Group meetings with the relevant stake-holders during the past year.

Infrastructure Projects: It is a tremendous credit to all our Counties and Clubs that they have worked continually towards the development of suitable grounds for the playing of our games which is creating higher levels of demands from all involved. This relates to players, match officials, mentors and supporters. The work delivered at Pairc Mac Cumhaill has demonstrated that and the advent of the new ground at Owenbeg is a welcome addition to the list of usable venues for County and Club games. The reinstatement of Castleblaney is almost complete and it is likely to be available in early 2014. Those involved with facility development do great work for the GAA and they are acknowledged for this. There was the opening of the new facility at Garvaghey and this is an important location not just for Tir Eoghain but for our colleges, schools and clubs over a wide area.

The Parks and Safety Committee are responsible for approving the development of facilities at all levels as well as the awarding of grants towards the cost of development. The Committee are also responsible for all safety aspects applying to grounds under the Blue or Red Guide. This involves working internally and externally to ensure that compliance is centre stage to all our grounds, events and in the training needs stewards, safety officers, Event Controllers and the overall legal requirements placed on venues. We are grateful for the input of the Southern Regional College, Sport NI, The Overseeing body and the Local Authorities into this area of operation. We are grateful for the work of the members of the Committee and for their help whenever needed.

The Club Planning and Physical Development Committee are very active in dealing with plans, borrowing and legal issues. This is becoming more critical given the diversity of proposals and legal undertakings. It is complex and critical work on behalf of the Association and assists with the approval work of the Ulster Council. It also acts as a Club support and advisory body on a wide range of developmental matters. We acknowledge the assistance of the County Development Officers in this work. The work of Donal Mac Artain as Cathaoirleach and the members of the Committee are appreciated for their expertise and time in these very worthwhile elements of our Associations work. Paul Sanders does an enormous amount of work in assisting our Clubs in a range of matters and in dealing with issues that have arisen which includes a significant amount of legal advice and support.

Referees

The role of referees is central to the playing of our games. They have a clearly defined function which is to ensure that the games are played in accordance with the Rules. Too often we still debate the Rules as if they are transient and that is damaging to the perception of our games by players, coaches, supporters and the general public. The decision of Congress in the past year was democratically approved and these Rules are part of the rulebook. We should abide by them. There is, however, speculation that there will be problems but the application of rules by the referee is not the problem. Fouling is the real problem and no colour of card is required for those playing by the rules. In the broader context, there is too much negative comment on the quality of the games and related matters. Even the analysts have joined in and the correct application of rule still seems fair game for criticism of the referee, the mentors, players or the Association. It is not acceptable that controversy is either the fault of the Rules or the referee. We need to support the referees, our games and the Association against such

negative treatment. We look forward to the pilot on the countdown clock but need to ensure that the referee is in control of the facts of a game and that includes the time played. I previously referred to the determination of the Court of Arbitration in Sport and the importance that they place on the referee and his report.

The Referees Committee do an outstanding job in the recruitment, training and assessment of our referees. We are indebted to those that work to support the referee. I would like to record our gratitude to all those tutors, assessors and mentors for their work and support to refereeing. The Chairman of our Referees Committee, Patsy Mullan and has been totally committed to all aspects of refereeing throughout his first year at the helm and we are grateful to him for his input. He has been ably supported throughout by our Referees Administrator and Secretary, Jim O'Rourke. He has been tremendous in his work in the area of referees and we are grateful to him for this work. We thank the Committee for all their work in this vital area of activity. We also thank our referees for their time, commitment and involvement in the delivery of our games programme and also acknowledge the continued work of the County Referees Administrators, Assessors and Tutors to whom we are also indebted and who continue to do outstanding work for our Association.

Education

Our Coaching in Schools Programme in conjunction with the Department of Education continues to deliver physical literacy to key stage 1 students. This programme is centred round the development of essential skills of agility, balance and coordination. This helps to deliver a sports consciousness to enable our young people to develop both their personal esteem and a healthy lifestyle. We continue to deliver this in about three hundred and twenty schools during curriculum time as well as a substantial contribution to our Summer Camps.

This work is vital in the overall games development programme and we look forward to this work being the catalyst for a lifetime of involvement with our games of hurling, football, handball, rounders and to our sister games of camogie and ladies football.

We acknowledge the tremendous work of our Schools Coaches. They are an excellent group of motivated young Coaches who are delivering a world class programme that is admired by everyone who has become aware of its approach. This extends outside of the GAA and indeed sports interests well outside of Ireland. The leadership and direction of the Coaching in Schools programme by Eugene Young is excellent and we are indebted to him and his team for the work and their achievements to date. We thank Terence McWilliams, Ryan Mellon, Brian Mallon and Paul Sanders in providing the necessary support in the delivery of the complete programme. Michelle McAleer deals with the complexity of financial drawdown from the Department and ensures that we are fully compliant in this regard. We acknowledge the work and support of all the Schools involved for their assistance in delivering this initiative and the further development of a Club/ School liaison should be a long term benefit for society in general, the work of the school in its community and the development of interested and competent young people for the future participation for the local schools. We are grateful for the support of the Department of Education and thank their staff for all their work in terms of the overall programme. We are very grateful to the Minister of Education for his support of what we do and we thank John O' Dowd, for encouragement and support for what we are doing.

The Vocational Schools Committee and the Ulster Colleges Council still provide a substantial amount of games and development. To this end we are appreciative of the work of those involved be they teachers, board of governors or coaching personnel. There

has been substantial development of facilities by schools in this sector and this has helped both the school and the Association. There is a need to review the competition structure at National level as the current system mitigates against the smaller schools and colleges and we need a vibrant second level to ensure the future wellbeing of the GAA. We also need to examine support mechanisms by our constituent units including the Ulster Council for second level schools and colleges in the outworking of our plans for the next five years. We are grateful for the input of our schools, teachers and support staff for what they have achieved to date. We acknowledge the Second Level Schools Committee for their work and also for the work of the Colleges Council and the Vocational Schools Committee. development of facilities has been undertaken and is acknowledged as a long term commitment to our games and our Association.

Cumann na mBunscoil do an enormous amount of work in development of our games and input of the teachers and Primary Schools have already demonstrated this over many years. Their work are complementary to our Coaching in Schools programme and we are indebted to the total dedication of the members of Cumann na mBunscoil.

The Third Level Education sector is important in the development of our players and through this our games. We are very aware of the pressures and demands that are placed on those involved in playing for Universities and Third Level Colleges. It is important that we on the one hand encourage and support third level institutions in providing activity and development to our members and players while on the other hand recognising that the primary purpose of being a student at third level is about education, personal and career development. We continue to engage with the Universities and Third Level Colleges to ensure that they are supported in the work that they do. We continue to award bursaries to those

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who meet the criteria on the basis that they are actively involved in our games with their University Club, their own Club and in many cases their own County. Our Comhairle Ard Oidheachas Uladh continue to address the various issues and they also relate directly with the Ulster Council. We are grateful to the members and Officers for their work in this important area for the GAA now and into the future.

Community Development

Integration and Cooperation: The Ulster GAA Integration Committee continues to meet on a regular basis and involves all President and Secretary of each of the Ulster Gaelic Games Family. Recent developments with the Associations at National level indicate a movement towards one overall GAA governing body consisting of Ladies Football, Camogie and the GAA. This is a very welcome move and in my view vital to the future development of our games and culture. As one family organisation we are stronger united. Ulster GAA has been operating a form of integration since 2006 and as an organisation we are stronger for it and I look forward to future developments in this area.

Tackling Social Poverty Fund: Following significant work undertaken by our senior staff Ulster GAA secured €1.5 million for the development of programmes that would tackle Social poverty and inclusion issues. Ulster GAA allocated €500,000 of this funding to the Tyrone GAA Centre at Garvaghey and €500,000 to the Antrim GAA Centre in Dunsilly. The final €500,000 went into the development of Health and Wellbeing, Youth Employment and Inclusion programmes. A significant amount of work was undertaken and completed in a very short time and I want to record my thanks to both Ryan Feeney and Michelle McAleer who developed the business case submission for the additional funding and Eugene Young, Maura Kelly, Shane McCann and Brian Mallon who support Ryan and Michelle in the overall management of the programme.

Sport in the Community Project:

Through the DSD funded "Sport in the Community" programme our Club & Community Development Officer, and Volunteer Development & Policy Officer posts have been secured until March 2015. This formal relationship with the Irish FA, and the IRFU-Ulster Branch continues to increase the value and scope of much of Ulster GAA's outreach work. Without such posts Ulster GAA simply could not carry out the plethora of club and volunteer development work currently undertaken by Ulster GAA. May seen the hosting of a "Together through Sport" Good Relations Conference which took place at Oakgrove Integrated College in Derry City. A highlight of the successful event was a panel discussion highlighting the important role played by clubs in producing elite sportspeople. Joint Fundraising workshops in October were delivered in Omagh and Ballymena to approximately 70 club volunteers. These were well-attended by GAA clubs, with delivery from Sport NI, the Community Foundation, and Seaview Enterprises.

Club and Volunteer Development

Club Maith continues to be benchmark which clubs strive to reach in terms of standards within clubs. An "Open Season" for submission of Club Maith Portfolios was introduced in 2012 which lasts from the first Monday in August to the first Friday in December each year. To date there are 26 clubs accredited, with a further 9 in the assessment stage. Ulster GAA's license agreement with Sport NI was renewed in 2013, and four GAA clubs have successfully undergone external verification. The Club Maith Toolkit, developed in 2009, has been reviewed for the beginning of the 2014 season. All 20 advice notes have been updated and a very substantial Infrastructure Guidance Note has been added to assist clubs in their planning of new facilities; a special word of thanks is extended to the steering group who were tasked with developing this additional advice note, and in particular to Mark Conway. The Club Maith website continues to be an excellent

online resource to clubs compiling their Club Maith Portfolios, and indeed to any club with a club development query. Training and courses developed by the Community Department are placed on the site to keep club officials abreast of new initiatives. An additional twenty eight Club Maith Facilitators were trained in 2013, and refresher training offered to established Facilitators via training events held in April and September. Club Maith Facilitators remain the back-bone of the assessment stage of the programme, and are commended for their commitment to the role. The Club Planning programme is being successfully rolled-out in counties via each County Development Officer. Ulster GAA has coordinated training for this programme with 28 Club Planners trained in 2013, assisting over 12 clubs in the official Club Planning Programme this year. Requests for Club Planner assistance is expected to increase in 2014. I wish to commend these volunteers for being so generous with their time and expertise.

Club and County Officer Training:

Last year 571 club officers attended the annual Officer Training Programme which was delivered on a provincial and county basis. The programme continues to receive positive feedback from club and county officials and the 2014 programme is now well underway. The County Officer Network was piloted last year and feedback was so strong that it is now being arranged as an annual forum. The 2012 County Officer Network was held on Saturday 7th January focusing on planning ahead for a new Provincial Strategy, with workshops on all five key themes including: Governance, Games, Facilities & Infrastructure, Culture & Heritage and Community Development, Inclusion & Cohesion. This event was an ideal opportunity for County Officers from across all codes to review these areas of work, to raise any issues or concerns and to help plan for the future. New Club Officer training was held on Saturday 23rd February at Holy Trinity College, Cookstown. This Provincial training event provided role specific training for club officers new to their role in 2013.

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Eight role specific workshops were held as part of this session: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO, Culture Officer, Development Officer, Coaching Officer and Children's Officer Training. The Club Officer Development Course ran in 7 of the 9 counties during February and March. The training event focused on key issues facing club officers in 2013. The plenary session concentrated on the importance of planning within clubs, introducing the One Club model and Securing Club Maith accreditation. Each session also included five workshops: Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ASAP), Communications & Marketing, Securing Funds, Culture and Heritage in your club and Child Protection.

Irish News Club Together Conference:

The Irish News Ulster GAA "Club Together" Conference was held in the Glenavon Hotel on Saturday 9th November. A maximum capacity attendance of 220 club delegates were in attendance, in addition to 19 company stalls, invited guests, workshop presenters, and key-note speakers. Workshops were delivered on: Integration, Tackling Mental Illness, Gaeilge sa Chlub, Social Media, Fundraising, Volunteering, and Heritage. Presidents Aileen Lawlor and Liam O'Neill were present to forthrightly promote the process of integration among the leadership of all GAA codes. NI21 Deputy

Leader John McCallister regaled the large attendance with his GAA stories, while Jim Eastwood spoke with great pride about his GAA roots, and passion for his club Cookstown Fr. Rock's. Feedback from the event was very positive.

Irish News Club and Volunteer Awards:

The Irish News Club & Volunteer Awards continue to recognise the magnificent work being undertaken by GAA volunteers in clubs and schools across Ulster. It is encouraging to read in applications, the many Ulster GAA initiatives and programmes being utilised to strengthen the GAA in clubs and schools. Club Maith, the Social Initiative, Live To Play, Gaelic Start, Club Officer Training, to name but a few. Congratulations are extended to 2013 winners: Thomas Davis GAC, Corrinshogo, St. Mary's GAC, Aghagallon, Cumann Pheadair Naofa, Warrenpoint, Gowna GFC, Silverbridge Harps GAC, Killyclogher St. Mary's GAC, Cormac McMullan, St. John's GAC, Drumnaquoile, Gerry Lavery, St. Mary's GAC, Aghagallon, Brendan Smyth, O'Connell's GAC, Tullysaran, Mount St. Michael's Primary School, Randalstown, St. Paul's High School, Bessbrook, and St. Mary's GAC, Killyclogher.

Public Affairs and Engagement: This year was again a significant year in our

Public Affairs work. Ongoing meetings with MLA's TD's, MP's and Ministers are required to ensure that the relevance and importance of Ulster GAA is highlighted in the public arena. We conduct this work to lobby and secure for support for Ulster GAA and our continued levels of public investment remain strong. I am grateful to Ryan Feeney who leads this work supported by Aileen Cummins, Sharon Haughey-Grimley and Geraldine McKavanagh.

Strategic Development: Strategic planning remains at the core of all the work of Ulster GAA. This year Tyrone GAA launched their second strategic plan and I commend the County Committee and Clubs for their bold vision and future plans. It should be highlighted that this plan was the first County level plan within the GAA to be developed by the entire GAA family within the County and covers the work of both the Tyrone Ladies Gaelic and Camogie in addition to Tyrone GAA. This plan format is my view the template which we all must follow in the future.

The Antrim GAA plan is now complete and in draft format and I look forward to the launch of the new strategy in 2014. Cavan GAA, Armagh GAA and Down GAA are next to develop a five year plan as part of this new strategic cycle and I



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look forward to seeing the final plans late 2014.

Our Strategic Plan launched in 2009 has achieved all the targets and strategic outcomes which has resulted in the capacity, work and governance of Ulster GAA being enhanced over the last five years. I am particularly pleased that we are able to complete the roll out of the plan ahead of schedule. We hope to develop the next Plan for the period from 2015 until 2020 within the coming year. Community Health and Wellbeing: Ulster GAA's Live to Play programme continues to be the road safety campaign to which GAA membership relates to. High profile players from all codes and counties were unveiled as patrons of the campaign in late 2012, since then the campaign has gained huge recognition in 2013. In the most recent phase of the programme an interactive Live to Play campaign has been launched for Key Stage 1 children, adding a new element to the popular School's Colouring Competition. This phase allows greater levels of road safe information to be conveyed to young people. Live to Play continues to be rolled-out through the trained co-ordinators working across all counties in Ulster.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse

Prevention: The (ASAP) Programme continues to develop across Ulster. It is a most worthwhile initiative and has established a reputation for both preventing alcohol related incidents from occurring and for increasing the capacity of our members in dealing with such difficult issues. Many clubs have now appointed an ASAP officer and implemented a policy ensuring that they are protected should any incidents arise. Off the Booze & On the Ball returned in 2013 following its success the previous year. The initiative invites both playing and non-playing GAA members to give up alcohol for the month of January and use the opportunity that affords them to take up some kind of health-related physical activity. Once again a large number of clubs across Ulster entered

this initiative while at the same time raising money for their unit. It has already been announced that this campaign will continue in 2014 with the added news that a number of third-level institutions have come on board.

Mental Health: Given the greater coverage of mental health issues in the media in recent times, the call from clubs to receive assistance in this area has been met by Ulster GAA. The Tackling Mental Health "Heads Up" Club Resource has been developed by Aileen Cummins, with the help of outside verifiers. The excellent resource offers reassurance to clubs by providing them with information about mental health signs and symptoms, while highlighting where people can get help, and training. The resource is available to all GAA clubs and it is hoped the presence of the resource and posters will remove the many stigmas attached to mental health, resulting in greater uptake of the help that is available.

Social Initiative: The Social Initiative, is aimed at tackling the problem of isolated elderly citizens, especially men in rural areas, continued to grow Ulster during 2013. The headline event in the Province at the Tyrone GAA Centre on Wednesday 18th September was attended by over 120 people, as Ulster GAA took a trip down memory lane when they remembered the breakthrough era for various Ulster counties in the fifties, sixties and seventies. The highlight of the evening was the screening of the earliest-known colour video footage from the Ulster Football Championship, 1950 Ulster Final between Armagh and Cavan in Clones. Other material screened on the evening included the 1952 Ulster final, between Cavan and Monaghan. Special guests on the evening who could be seen playing in the some of the footage were Cavan's Johnny Cusack, Derry's Jim McKeever, Tyrone's Jody O'Neill, Armagh's Dr Pat O'Neill, Down's Paddy Doherty and Donegal's Brian McEniff, all of whom reminisced on their counties' successes on the provincial stage.

The event also featured film of Down's All-Ireland successes of the 1960s, and Donegal's landmark Ulster Championship triumph of 1972. At National level a selection of participating clubs of the GAA Social Initiative from the four corners of Ireland were warmly welcomed to Áras an Uachtaráin at the end of May.

Sixty lucky attendees were selected through a lottery of participating Social Initiative clubs, with Lamh Dhearg (Antrim), Silverbridge (Armagh) and St John Bosco (Down) representing Ulster. The group was joined by Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Liam O'Neill, for an afternoon in the company of President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina. The group was treated to a very informative and entertaining tour of the Official Residence of the President of Ireland, before an informal audience with President Higgins who regaled everyone with his personal address. The President endorsed the work of the GAA Social Initiative, something which he has done publicly on numerous occasions. He pointed out that the project contributes to the fabric of the GAA club and Irish society as a whole, by cementing the Association's position as the leading community-based organisation in Ireland, and by providing for its members throughout their lives. He also noted the benefit of tapping into the experience of the more senior members of our communities. With such a strong connection to Áras an Uachtaráin, through the origins of the Social Initiative, previous visits, and a catalogue of resounding endorsements from the President of Ireland, it is hoped that this event can become an annual fixture in the Social Initiative calendar.

Drink, Drugs and Sausage Rolls: Now in its seventh year the Health and Wellbeing Programme remains as a popular resource amongst the student population with over 2000 signing up in 2013. With the continued sponsorship from Squareball.com the Drink, Drugs and Sausage Rolls Programme took place at 6 University Campuses in 2013

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aiming to help young people make the transition from home life to student life. The campaign which presents a range of health messages in an innovative way to attract the attention of students raising their awareness on issues such as alcohol, drugs, diet and exercise. Primary School Health Programme: The Primary School Health Programme has been refreshed in 2013 through the creation of the 'Healthy Hamper'. This new resource is an interactive learning tool aimed at getting children in Ulster, more active, more often, as well as focusing on healthy eating habits. Aimed at children in Primary 4, this resource which has been distributed to over 500 schools across the province, will assist teachers in educating their class on the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle in a fun filled learning environment.

Community Outreach, Engagement

and Good Relations: The Sport & Reconciliation Conference supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs was a high level event looking at the role that sport plays in our community. Due to the relationships built-up between the three governing bodies of sport, the group were approached by the Department of Foreign Affairs acted as host to the Peace & Reconciliation Conference on 8th November. The Conference showcased the excellent work being undertaken by the three sports in the areas of reconciliation and peace-building. Much praise was forthcoming for our work from An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore, First Minister Peter Robinson, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness and other Ministers. Game of Three Halves: The relationship now in existence between Ulster GAA, Irish FA, and IRFU-Ulster Branch, a decision was taken to develop a "How To Guide" for clubs and schools to use in rolling out their own event. This was in response to the growing number of requests to run such events, from a wide range of sources. Ulster GAA continues to be represented in the Sport for Change working group which oversees

the roll-out of the Game of Three Halves model, among other things. Early 2013 seen the completion of the Young Enterprise LET programme where 600 teenagers were engaged in a Game of Three Halves programme. Thanks are extended to Peter McGinnity, Fermanagh County Board, and Chris Collins, Derry County Board for their assistance in providing coaches for the programme. Ulster GAA were delivery partners in the second year of the Belfast Interface Games. The Games were held in four venues across Belfast engaging with over 300 young boys and girls in fun-filled three-day camps. The programme ended with a flagship event in Seaview Stadium where over 120 young people came together to play a Game of Three Halves in front of proud parents and supporters. Then recently-crowned Ulster Champion Drew Wylie very generously gave-up his time travelling to Belfast to lend his support to the programme. Thanks are expressed to all coaches who delivered activities namely Catriona McGahan, Nuala McNamee, Amy Cunningham, Stephen Mooney, Ryan McShane, Eoghan Gribbin, and Conor Hynds

Cúchulainn Cup Project: This year seven teams competed in the annual Ulster GAA Cúchulainn Cup Blitz in April. Enniskillen and Omagh competed in a keenly contested final, in which Enniskillen ran-out eventual winners. Overall 140 young men took part in the competition in 2013, with first timers Omagh and Coleraine very strong. It is encouraging to see the emergence of new Cúchulainn Cup teams, and the positive impact the project is having in towns across Ulster. All schools who were invited to attend the 2013 Cúchulainn Cup were asked to give their feedback on the competition. Feedback was very positive, with some useful recommendations forthcoming, which Ulster GAA will consider when planning for the 2014 competition.

Respect Programme: The North West Peace III Cluster involving over twenty clubs in the North West have engaged

in the RESPECT training programme through Peace III. The programme encourages sports clubs in the region to establish and/or strengthen relationships between themselves and neighbouring clubs. The programme offers free training in First Aid, Good Relations; and provides information supporting clubs in Child Protection, Good Governance, and Fundraising. The programme's success was highlighted in a case-study at the Department of Social Development "Together Through Sport" Good Relations Conference. The programme, initiated in Derry City, has spread to clubs in Donegal, Strabane and Omagh District Councils.

Cultural Awareness Strategy and

Outreach Events: The ongoing Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure Cultural Awareness programme was a significant event held at the University of Ulster Magee campus in March, comprising speakers from the GAA, GOLL, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and the Ulster Scots Community Network. Ryan Feeney and Dónal McAnallen spoke on behalf of Comhairle Uladh. An audience of some 135 people attended, mostly school pupils from Derry City and district, and Minister Carál Ní Chuilín also attended and spoke. The second event was held at the Ardhowen Theatre, Enniskillen, in November following a similar format with the represented organisations talking briefly about their organisations and their areas of activity. An audience of some 155 people attended, mostly secondary school pupils of Year 12 and above from Fermanagh schools. Fermanagh District Council's PEACE III programme funded this event. A further seventeen further outreach talks, mostly to cross-community audiences were conducted throughout the year. In total, over 400 people attended these talks. Evaluation forms were collected after most of them and their results were subsequently submitted to DCAL verification of the impact the talks had in improving individuals' impressions of the GAA.

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Community Development Department:

Over the past year the Community Development, Strategy and Public Affairs department has continued to provide capacity building and strategic support to our Club, County Committees and Volunteers. There has been changes in personnel due to new opportunities and the maternity leave of Aileen Cummins. In October Maura Kelly was appointed Acting Community Development and Health Manager and deputy Head of Department covering for Aileen during her leave. Sharon Haughey-Grimley was appointed Community Engagement and PR Officer with the Casement Park project earlier in the year and Fionntan O'Dowd has taken up post as her replacement as Volunteer Development and Policy Officer in March. Significant progress has been made on the departmental work programme.

125 Years of the GAA in Derry: The University of Ulster Magee campus hosted an event on 15 May to celebrate 125 years of the GAA in Derry. The event was co-organised by Comhairle

Uladh and Coiste Contae Dhoire, under the leadership of Seán Bradley. Some two hundred past players and officials attended the occasion, which comprised an historical exhibition of artefacts relating to the county, a historical talk, the showing of films of old games, and interviews with significant historical figures. Prominent coverage was extended to the event on BBC Radio Ulster and other local media.

Medal Presentation in Scotland: On 16th March 2013, an event was held at East Kilbride, Glasgow, to follow up on the presentation of medals to the descendants of the Aontroim players of 1911-12 teams at Titanic Belfast in November 2012. The Scottish-based family of Louis Waters, another of the players of a century ago, learned of the Titanic presentation after the event on the internet. A Comhairle Uladh delegation travelled to Scotland to make a special presentation on the occasion of a family celebration at the Water's family invitation.

Games Development

Ulster GAA continues to support all GAA codes. Programmes and support are designed within the Lifetime Athlete Development Pathway. This has ensured that our Coaching and Games Development programmes are consistent and progressive. The work of our Coaching and Games Development is essentially designed to enable those who play our games to develop their skills, fitness and understanding of the game they play while at the same time improving their appreciation of the rules under which it is played and ensuring that our games are enjoyable, competitive and team centred. There is ongoing development in Sports Science and High Performance that can be utilised by our Clubs and Counties in their quest for advancement.

The work undertaken by our Coaching and Games team are funded by the GAA and external bodies and the need to meet current criteria is a mammoth one, as this requires us to continually assess our work against the laid down standards,

and to ensure that we deliver what we are scheduled to do. We also work with our Counties in assessing their delivery and thus are working at all levels of the Association in delivering the elements of our Coaching and Games Strategy. We work closely with the Open College Network to establish independent verification of qualification as we also do with Coaching Ireland. The demand for training and qualification continues to grow and we are operating within the overall structures as approved by the GAA.

We continue to utilise the schools of excellence and development squads as an aid to talent identification. To this end we have the competitions for the Jim McGuigan and Buncrana Cups that allow for progression as the players develop. These have been very successful and as they are based on the blitz structure they give an opportunity to players to be tested against their peers. It also allows for standards to be appraised in all facets of player development.

Games development programmes for children and young people with physical and learning disabilities have taken place at all levels with opportunities to participate in our major sporting venues including Croke Park. The introduction of an Inter Provincial Hurling competition is another welcome development and we acknowledge the work being done by the coaches and personnel involved.

The Curriculum Sports Programme continues its valuable work in helping to introduce four to eight year olds to the concepts of agility, balance and coordination which are the basic building blocks of sports participation. This is delivered by a complement of thirty coaches across the six counties and this involves in excess of three hundred schools and almost twenty thousand children. We are capable of delivering at Key Stage 1 and this has led to external interest in the work that we do at this level. We are grateful for the work of our Curriculum Coaches and to

Terence McWilliams who among others does outstanding work introducing the very young to the rudiments of athleticism and the concept of team participation.

The Regional Hurling Development officers are active throughout Ulster. They target hurling clubs, primary and secondary schools and where possible support Club /School links. They also provide support to the coaches within the development squad programme and ensure that standards are met against the requirements of the schools of excellence and the development squads themselves. They support and guide hurling coaches at both club and county level in the wider development of the game across Ulster. The leadership of Jimmy Darragh in this work is acknowledged and we know that the constant effort will ultimately produce results.

The Annual Coaching and Games Development Conference provides an excellent opportunity to bring coaches to operate within best practice. The Workshops have challenged all our coaching personnel both at Club and County level. Ulster has provided discussion around key issues that are relevant to coaching and are on the Performance pathway. Ulster GAA has continued to accredit some programmes within the broader National Qualifications and Credits Framework (NQCF). The Team Management and Performance Coaching Programme have also been entered on this programme. We record our appreciation of the work of our Coaching and Games Development Committee and the input of its Chairman, Gerry Duffy. We appreciate the work of this Committee through its members who make a considerable contribution to the development of games and coach development matters. We commend the work of Eugene Young in providing the necessary support and direction to the complete Coaching and Games Development field which is vital to the development of our Association.

Gaeilge agus Oidhreacht

Comhairle Uladh was very active in relation to the Irish language in 2013. As it does on annual basis, the Séamus de Faoite Irish course was held in sna Dúnaibh in July, in the week after the Ulster football final. This was the silver jubilee of the course since it was re-established in the late 1980s and a lot of members attend it regularly. An effort will be made to encourage more young members to come and learn Irish at this course.

It is a source of some satisfaction that Comhairle Uladh has made some new scholarships available for GAA members. Entitled 'Gaeilge sa Chlub', this scheme has been in operation for the 2013/14 academic year. Because of these scholarships a number of members were able to pay for part-time study towards obtaining the qualification of a diploma in Irish. This type of scholarship has not been created by Cumann Lúthchleas Gael before and we are pleased to collaborate with the University of Ulster to provide it. Another new departure in terms of Irish-language promotion was the publication of the booklet, CLG in Ulaidh: Na Cumainn agus na Páirceanna. This resource lists the names of clubs and their grounds throughout Ulster, in Irish and in English. The idea behind this booklet was to encourage members to use the correct terminology for the club in writing on documents, facilities and playing gear. The booklet lists the complete names, abbreviated versions and the abbreviated versions in the genitive case, so that members can make reference to their clubs in any context, whether writing or speaking.

As usual, Comhairle Uladh supported a lot of other ventures for the development of the Irish language. The Fermanagh Irish language scheme, run in partnership between Comhairle Uladh and Fermanagh District Council, prospered again this year. Summer camps for children promoting Irish as well as Gaelic games were operating in most counties. In addition, we supported 'Líofa 2015'

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and several other public initiatives in favour of Irish. During the year, Tomás Ó Cuilinn had to retire from managing the Fermanagh District Council Irish language programme in partnership with Comhairle Uladh. The scheme has been reorganised from our offices and a new team of múinteoirí have been appointed.

The current season of classes attracted a record number of learners and a second bunrang was created. Gabhaim míle buíochas le Tomás as ucht a chuid oibreacha chúlraí Gaeilge Fhear Manach agus Chomhairle Uladh. I thank Pádraig Ó Connagáin and the members of Coiste na Gaeilge agus Oidhreacht for fulfilling and exceeding the obligations of the Council to language and culture. I would particularly like to thank Donal McAnallen for his tremendous work on behalf of this Committee and the Ulster Council.

Culture and Scór

Scór competitions have been an important part of our cultural expression and our music, dance, song and drama remain an essential part of the calendar for many of our clubs. During the past year there has been much debate on the changes that were introduced to Scór and there was substantial pressure brought on our Coiste Scór. This was misplaced as the changes were approved by Ard Comhairle and once it decided the way forward then all constituent units are required to adhere to the policy decision of the GAA. It was a matter that could not be resolved by a County or this Province. Consequently, the debate was not taken to the only place it could be challenged which was Central Council. We need to work to ensure that the essential elements of Scór are maintained to the maximum level while adhering to the established policy of the GAA.

The All-Ireland Scór and Scór na nÓg finals took place in Doire and all of our competitors represented the standard of Scór to an excellent level. Ulster had four winners namely Ceol Uirlise: Droim Thamhain; Aithriseoireacht: Colm O

Coirc (Cluan Eois); Tráth na gCeisteanna: An Gleann (An Dún) and Croisar Loch (An Cabhan) were our winners in Scór na nÓg while Naomh Éanna, an Omaigh won the Rince Foirne to take the tenth title to Tyrone. Great tribute is due to Coiste Contae Dhoire for their work in bringing the Scór and Scór na nÓg Finals to Doire. We are also indebted to Coiste Scór Doire for all their work in ensuring an excellent sequence of cultural events at an excellent venue. The role and work of our own Coiste Scór has also delivered the events as planned and they too were involved in the work surrounding the hosting of the Ulster and All-Ireland Finals in Doire.

Child Protection

This aspect of our work has always been demanding and the past year has been no different. There are new legal changes coming down the track for both jurisdictions in the year ahead and these will bring with them their own challenges. We would ask clubs to ensure they attend the events scheduled for later this year to update them on what these changes are about and how they can ensure their clubs are compliant with legal and best practice requirements in the area of safeguarding children and vulnerable groups in sport and other related activity.

Vetting applications continue to be processed by Ulster GAA, by both AccessNI and the Garda Central Vetting Unit to date we have processed over 14,600 applicants across Ulster. We remind our Clubs and Counties that it is Association Policy that anyone who is working with children or vulnerable groups must be vetted as part of the safe recruitment process. We thank the Children's Administrator Kathy Kelly for her hard work and attention to detail in this vital area of our Association's work. Our Training and Awareness programmes continues to be organised throughout the Province and in order to meet the continued growing demands of the Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Programme, an

additional 24 Safeguarding tutors were trained in 2013 and these new tutors will assist with the delivery of Safeguarding courses at a local level. Attendance at these workshops has grown again this year and we now have a total of 29,800 participants who have completed the Safeguarding Awareness workshop.

Further development work is ongoing in the area of Safeguarding Training and it is anticipated that 2014 will see the development of the refresher course, which will be a two hour course that those who have already completed the full three hour course will be required to attend every three years. We are also in the midst of creating a method through which we can obtain a level of quality assurance for the delivery of these courses. Our club officer training programme was again this year an important avenue for us to communicate directly with those who are responsible for this critical area of work in our clubs and counties and each workshop was attended well by all counties. We remind you that these events will be taking place again in 2014, with new important information being communicated. We acknowledge the work carried out by our Code of Ethics Committee led by Pat Darcy, Chairman and Kathryn Anderson, Secretary. We also express our gratitude to the County Children's Officers who continue to provide appropriate guidance and support to our clubs. We record our sincere thanks and appreciation to Bernie Fox who carries out trojan work on our behalf ably assisted by the diligent work of Kathy Kelly. We are well served by these two persons as they ensure that we achieve the required standards in this critical area of work. We also acknowledge the help and support of Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl, the National Child Officer.

Association Issues

The Association through Congress approved the main elements of the Playing Rules proposals as I referred to in last year's report. These are now our rules and regardless of individual views

we have to ensure that our games are played, refereed and represented by the application and adherence to our Rules. It is everyone's responsibility to support the democratic decisions of our Association and the implications only become a factor if the games are not played within the rules. We do not have a critical matter as the number of truly outstanding games of 2013 can testify. It is up to everyone to ensure that we operate to the spirit of our games that are manly, competitive and exhilarating. Should this be achieved then fouling is not capable of succeeding and fair play wins.

The Football Review Committee report as published recently has much in it to consider. From my understanding of its material I think that we are treating the symptoms and not addressing the overall issue. That is some of our Counties are more competitive than others. There has been much said about the inequality of the current structure of our championships, but getting defeated teams involved in another Province is not addressing the need to develop the status of the Counties to where they can compete on an equal basis. There are many other matters that need to be examined, and it needs to be stated that the status quo is the benchmark against which these proposals need to

be addressed. There is also the need to ensure that our media profile and TV coverage are not further reduced or constrained.

The interaction between Comhairle Uladh and our Counties and Clubs has been maintained at a substantial level through the support evident throughout Ulster on a wide range of matters involving our Counties and the various aspects of the Council. The working relationships between our Officers and the respective County Chairmen, Secretaries, Treasurers and Games Development Managers have been focused and business like. We deal with issues and assist in the efficient flow of information to those who provide leadership which is beneficial to the GAA in general and to the work of our Clubs and Counties in particular. We acknowledge the tremendous work and commitment of our County Chairmen, Secretaries, Treasurers and all the County Officers in delivering the key elements of our Association work within Ulster.

We have an excellent working environment between the workings of Comhairle Uladh and those of Ard Comhairle. There are proper engagements between key personnel at National level and the respective

personnel at Provincial level which have been mutually helpful. Similar arrangements are in place between our Council and the Counties and our constituent units. We thank the staff at Central Level for their help and cooperation and would particularly like to acknowledge the assistance of Tom Ryan, Pat Daly, Peter McKenna and Lisa Clancy for their work. Likewise, we also thank Ronan Murphy, Patrick Doherty and Fergal McGill for their assistance in their specific sphere of operation.

Our Ard Stiurthoir, Paraic O Dufaigh, has provided clear and unequivocal guidance across the full spectrum of our Association's affairs and has been a tremendous source of support to the work that we do. He has provided leadership to our Association that has ensured that the issues are properly discussed and that proper and effective decisions are made. We acknowledge the tremendous work of Liam O'Neill, as President of our Association and who has been an outstanding encouragement to our Clubs and Counties as well as the Province of Ulster. We thank Liam for his work for our Association.

We acknowledge the support of the Sports Councils, the Departments of Education, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, the Department of



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Social Development, the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, the Department of Tourism and Sport, the Department for Foreign Affairs, the Department of Agriculture, the North / South Ministerial Council and all political parties, who have been encouraging to us in the work that we do. We acknowledge and recognise the many officials with whom we are engaged. We thank Rosalie Flanagan for her work as Permanent Secretary at DCAL and we look forward to continuing our work with Peter May as her successor. We are appreciative of the work of the Carál Ni Chuilinn, as Minister at the Department of Culture, Arts, and Leisure.

Information, Technology and Marketing

The work in this area is a two way operation. It is important that we keep our own members, Clubs and Counties aware of the matters pertaining to the wide field of activity that takes place. This is achieved through extensive use of social media and the increased usage indicates that this is the modern means to communicate with the GAA audience. We also utilise our web based services for the dissemination of our news items, the results of our games and an extensive range of advisory material under Coaching, child protection and various policy documents available to the Clubs through our Club Mhaith programme. We circulate our work through our monthly e - magazine to the membership and to other interested bodies and individuals which currently exceeds twenty five thousand persons.

Given the amount of data being used by the Association the need for compliance with data protection legislation is vital to ensure that we are operating to the highest standards and that we can maintain a large amount of data safely and securely. During the year past we met the Information Commissioners and are following the guidance to ensure that we are compliant with the requirements in regards the storage of data and related individual information.

The Committees work is of the highest standards and the imagery in our advertising and other related matters presents a modern and focussed application. The work of the Committee is central to creating enthusiasm for the Association through our games, language, culture and heritage. Our GAA brand clearly identified and supported by the input of our Counties. We are delighted that the marketing of the 'Match for Micheala' won an award from the Confederation of Irish Marketing while Ryan Feeney was recognised for his work by also receiving an award for leadership in the Marketing field. Congratulations to everyone involved. We are grateful for the excellent work of the Committee and its related Workgroups. Sean O Conghaile has given substantially to the work of this area of our operations and we are indebted to him for all the work he does on our behalf. We also appreciate the work of Damian Kelly in advancing our IT, Website and the functionality of our systems. We are also grateful for the input of all involved in keeping the Association at the forefront of this important area.

Media

We deal with various aspects of the media across a wide spectrum of matters from games and related items to news and public affairs and the Casement Park Project. We are proactive in putting information into the public domain that we believe to be newsworthy. We utilise all media to ensure that our information is disseminated to our membership and to the wider public. We also have to respond to matters raised by the media in a fair and proper way. We do not always agree with how this is presented but if we build respect for the media and its ability to get information to those who are interested or are seeking a response then we are doing what is required. We sometimes do not agree with what appears in the press, radio or TV we must respect the right of those involved to present the information. We

only ask that such information is accurate in its content and fair in its assertions.

The level of television coverage has been substantially maintained and the complete coverage of our Senior Football Championship testified to the efforts of the BBC and RTE to provide a satisfactory platform for our main games. However, the advent of the digital era and contractual issues has led to the All-Ireland Hurling and Football Finals being only viewable on RTE. We acknowledge the continued support of Paraic O Dufaigh and Peter McKenna in working to maximise coverage of our two great games. We do need to examine all available options towards this objective in the new contractual arrangement. I believe that the need to have All-Ireland Finals as part of any live coverage is required to meet the interest of our members or those in our province who watch our games or are interested in these great national events, regardless of the participants. The coverage of our games by UTV has been maintained within their current contractual arrangements but it is hoped that this can be expanded in the year ahead. We thank all involved for their work in bringing our games to the public and for the professional standards that are deployed to the coverage of our games.

The work of the journalists, photographers, radio and television personnel are acknowledged and we thank them for bringing all aspects of our games, reporting on the events and occasions and recording our great occasions and events. We thank specifically the work of The Irish News in their intensive coverage of our Association's affairs and their support for The Club Conference and the Club and Schools Awards. Our thanks are due to Sean O Conghaile for his work as our Public Relations Officer and interaction with the media. Our thanks are due to Ryan Feeney for ensuring compliance with sponsorship and live TV and Radio demands. We are also indebted to

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Stephen Donnelly, Damian Kelly and Sharon Haughey-Grimley, and our officers, staff and officials for their work in dealing with the media on a daily basis and also for their ongoing support to our Council in this area of our engagement with our members, supporters, the public and all aspects of the media.

Comhbhrón

The death of Paddy McFlynn was deeply felt across the GAA, here in Ulster and in his beloved Derry, the County of his Birth and in Down the County where he lived for the greater part of his life. He was very active up to the last couple of months and we extend our sympathy to the extended McFlynn family and the original Club, O'Donovan Rossa in Magherafelt, where he was in his eightieth year as a founder member, and also to Tullylish GAC where he was a highly valued member. As a former President of the Association and of Ulster his interest in our affairs never waned and we are the poorer for his passing. Paddy Buggy a former President of both Comhairle Laighean and the Association also died and

he too made a substantial contribution to GAA as a player and administrator. We extend our sympathy to his wife Peggy and to the entire Buggy family.

During the past year there were many bereavements across the GAA in Ulster and among them was Jack Rooney, a former member of our Council and a stalwart for his beloved Antrim. Aidan O'Brien, a Tyrone man living in Derry and a tremendous worker for the Association passed to his eternal reward as did Joe Reilly, a Cavan man living in Down who gave great support to Comhairle Uladh as a stiles man for many years who also died. We extend our sympathy to everyone who suffered bereavement and particular to the family and friends of those who died in the past year. There have been many occasions where we have felt the sense of loss most acutely as we attended funerals and wakes to show our solidarity with the family in their darkest hours. They too have made their contribution to our Association and we are the better for their commitment to the GAA.

The Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for all the deceased members of our Association in the Cathedral of St. MacCartans, Monaghan, on the morning of Convention at 11.00 a.m. It is hoped that all delegates can attend as a mark of respect for all our deceased members.

Conclusion

We are busy with so many matters that we sometimes do not see the importance of the simple things. The GAA was established with a philosophy that imbued the ethos of the Association but had no formal rulebook. Today we have a very complex rulebook that has been established to ensure that all involved have confidence in the fairness of our decisions be they on or off the playing field. It would be much less complicated if we were guided by our ethos and ideals and saw involvement at whatever facet of our affairs as uplifting and rewarding.

**Is mise, le meas,
Dónall Ó Murchú
An Rúnaí**



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