

NAOMH EOIN CLG

Cruinniú Ginearálta Blaintúil 2015

18 Samhain 2015



Clár an Lae

1. Adoption of Standing Orders
2. Minutes of Last Year's Meeting
3. Secretary's Report 2015
4. Financial Report 2015
5. Chairman's Address
6. Election of Officers
7. Proposals and Recommendations
8. Any other Business

1. Adoption of Standing Orders
2. Minutes of Last Year's Meeting

AGM
21st November 2014

1. Apologies; were received from Jim Darragh, Rory Best, Paul Collins, Simon Doherty and Raphael Gatt.
2. Adoption of Standing Orders was proposed by Locky McCurdy and seconded by Aaron Douglas.
3. The Chairman welcomed the members, and thanked them for attending the Naomh Eoin 2014 AGM.
4. Members were given some time to read the minutes of the 2013 AGM from the booklet. Chairman assured members that outstanding matters in relation to CPR training were in hand and would be delivered early 2015. The minutes were proposed by Cónal Morgan and seconded by Stephen McCann.
5. Chairman guided the members through the 'Secretary's Report'. The report was accepted by the membership without further comment.
6. Treasurer's Report; the Chairman invited the club accountant Mr James Kennedy to the top-table for the duration of the report. Jackie went through the report page by page. Membership seemed happy with the many positive outcomes. James Kennedy agreed to a couple of amendments suggested by Kevin Gough and Eamon Grieve in the way some of the data was presented.
7. Chairman's Address; Gerry spoke of his pride to have been able to serve the club as Chairman. He thanked all those who had made a positive contribution this year, and challenged us again to go and win championships at Senior Hurling and Football.
8. Election of Officers; no ballot of members was required. The election of officers to committee for 2014/2015 was as follows:
 - Chairman: Gerry McCann
 - Secretary: Jim Donnelly
 - Treasurer: Jackie Kelly
 - Vice-chairman: Colin Donnelly
 - PRO: Conor McCaffrey
 - Asst Secretary: Cónal Morgan
 - Asst Treasurer: Ciaran Cunningham
 - Registrar: Úna Simpson
 - Children's Officer: Martin Crummey
 - Coaching Officer: Steven Millar

Football Representative: Locky McCurdy
Hurling Representative:
Camogie Representative: Ann Jackson
Ladies Football Representative: Kevin Gough
Cultural Officer:

9. Also elected to committee were Noel Flannery and Michael McKenna (roles to be decided).
10. Proposals and recommendations (Printed in booklet); a proposal by Steven Millar to change the membership fees and structure was passed on a vote of 26 to 21. Further proposals by Damien McCallin were ruled out of order as Damien was not present to put forward a case for the proposals.
11. AOB; Chairman welcomed John Rainey to the meeting as Club President and assured the membership that John was already working behind the scenes on a number of issues. Seamus O'Hare informed the meeting that he suffered from the hands of juvenile members of the club whilst collecting the gate money at a college's game recently. Chairman apologised to Seamus on behalf of the club. John Gough congratulated the committee on the year's work, stating that 'his faith has been restored'. There being no further business, the meeting concluded. Attendance was 68.

Is mise Séamus Ó'Donnaile

3. Secretary's Report 2014/15

It has been an honour for me to serve the club and its members as secretary for the past year. I have again found it to be a rewarding experience, and I suppose it's my way putting something back into the club where I had many unforgettable experiences playing alongside some incredible players back in the day. It's my earnest wish, that today's generation can find it within themselves, to dedicate their energy and commitment to bringing to Corrigan Park senior championships in both hurling and football. No other club in Antrim will have this aspiration.

The current committee are fortunate in that we no longer function in an era where we have to find large sums of cash every month in order to pay interest on outstanding loans. However, we are members of a club that has a number of facilities, including the pitch, clubhouse, Sports Hall, car-park etc. These all require regular maintenance. You can't help but notice the improvement in all of these facilities. This must be continued, and there is much more to be done to develop Corrigan Park further. Add in the costs associated with preparation of teams, Players Injury Scheme, Public Liability Insurance, utility bills etc., and you can see that we very much need the regular payments received for membership, the income from the Sports Hall, Social Club income and other fundraising initiatives.

This report is my report. It's how I see things. Inevitably I will not have included everything that has happened this year, nor will I have remembered to thank everyone for their contribution. I apologise in advance.

I have worked alongside our Chairman Gerry again this year. We are of course long-time friends, but more than that we challenge each other with reminders to keep on top of the jobs that need done on a daily basis. Jackie has worked hard with the finances and I am confident that his report will show that we are in a secure financial position without any significant outstanding monies owed to creditors. Colin has proved again to be an effective vice-chairman, successfully delivering as Feile Officer for 2015 as well as leading the 'Strictly St John's' team. I'm sure we all wish him well with his nomination for the position of County Chairman as we know that his motivation is based solely in moving the county forward in the direction needed. Kevin Gough and Martin Crummey are likely to be found on the premises any day of the week. I couldn't begin to list the jobs that they do.

Again, Úna Simpson and Cónal Morgan have done a sterling job looking after the membership and registration. We have close to 500 members currently on the system for 2015. Martin Crummey and Andy McCallin have also provided assistance.

The new website has been in place for a year now. Conor and a small number of others are regular contributors, but I know Conor is in agreement that there must be someone within the membership who could take the website on and utilise the tools available to maximum advantage. I'm told that websites have been superseded to some degree by Twitter, Facebook etc; maybe that's the case. Steven Millar continues his sterling work with coach development and juvenile co-ordination.

It's only when Noel Flannery had to step down as hurling co-ordinator for personal reasons that I was reminded of the commitment required to co-ordinate any of the four codes in operation at the club. I thank all the co-ordinators for their efforts and patience throughout the year.

Maria Gough has moved seamlessly from head-teacher to Health & Well Being Officer. Maria just gets those jobs done that the rest of us know need done, but we just never get round to it. Her report is just a snapshot of the work she has done this year. Michael McKenna has proved to be a valuable addition to committee this year, willing to become involved in any fundraising initiative, helping with stewarding at the ground, advising on health & safety, and I think he might have lined out with the SA hurlers for a game. Jim Gough continues to provide sterling service to the club every day of every week. He puts in long hours, irrespective of the weather, and is very appreciative of those who help to maintain the ground and steward on match days.

Review of the year: By way of its timing, the U-21 football c'ship can finish off one year and begin the next. So it was when we won the Antrim c'ship at the end of 2014 and played in the Creggan tournament in 2015. This competition seems to provide us as a club with its share of controversy each year. 2015 was no exception when two of our players had to make the tough decision to play for Antrim Senior Hurlers ahead of the club U-21 footballers.

Two presentation dinners were held at The Devenish in February. Whilst the juvenile event was well supported and enjoyed, the Annual Dinner was a disappointment to me, as numbers were low and only a handful of players turned up to receive their medals. I personally do not favour running an Annual Dinner in 2015.

Our hosting of Lisgoold (Cork) and Four Roads (Roscommon) was again a highlight of the year. Our club premises and facilities were enjoyed and admired by our visiting teams. The effort put in by our membership on these weekends is hardly bettered throughout the country. We have enjoyed acting as hosts on 2014 and 2015; Feile will however be hosted in another part of the country in 2016.

I would like to thank Colly McKnight for the excellent job he has done this year as club referee. Aidan Kelly has taken time away from refereeing this year but he's still to be found on match days helping out as an umpire. Hopefully Aidan will be able to return as a referee sometime in the future. We do need more however; we badly need referees for SA Hurling and Football, Camogie and Ladies Football. None of these roles are as demanding as officiating at senior level, and could provide an enjoyable outlet for members.

Cúl Camp was another success story again this year. It's firmly embedded in the calendar, and is much enjoyed by all participants.

Well what about Corrigan Park? The pitch has been well maintained again this year. There is a significant amount of cash spent on it as you will no doubt see in the treasurer's report. No pitch in the county takes as many games and training sessions. As we have close to 30 teams operating at the club, it is necessary that we utilise other facilities, mainly Woodlands for many of our juvenile activity. Most coaches have co-operated well with me throughout the past year, forwarding their requirements and updating when matches or training has been switched or cancelled. I feel strongly that Corrigan Park should only be used when a prior booking has been arranged. The impact of turning up unannounced is multiple; the pitch is overused, additional cars arrive at an already overstretched facility. I appreciate that Corrigan is the best place to train teams in terms of the playing surface etc, but anytime that I have visited Woodlands this past year, I have found it to be in reasonable condition. The addition of ball stops would enhance the facility, but this has proved so far to be beyond our remit. The availability of Woodlands for 2016 has yet to be secured as the management arrangements for the facility has changed. The new scoreboard had been enjoyed by all who attend the games. This has been possible due to our sponsor and the volunteer efforts of a number of members. The collection of gate money by Seamus and Dermot has been most welcome again this year, and this is now supplemented by profit from the shop which now is open at all games.

I would like to thank every single player who has turned out for the club this season. With few exceptions, our players seem to understand how important it is to pull on the jersey and how to behave when representing the club. Disciplinary issues have been at a low level, and this is a benefit to us all. Congratulations to all players who have also represented the county this year across the codes.

Hurling: I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the hurling at all levels this year. In terms of ability, juvenile teams are at different levels. Some are strong, others may lack numbers and ability, but it is terrific to see when the coaching effort is put in that a difference can be delivered. It was no surprise to see the U-21s bounce back and reclaim the title last won in 2013. The senior team are now competing at the top table in the county and I know that there will be further improvement. We can be champions, but it must be the number one priority for all players, I'm not convinced just yet that it is.

Football: I remember saying a few years back that I thought football was in a crisis within the club. I still think there are major issues, in particular between the ages U-14 up to minor. We currently do not have the numbers to field teams on a consistent basis, especially if it is an All County League. I don't have the answer to this one, as recruitment for these teams is very limited. While the hurling teams at these age groups can be bolstered by use of 'sanctioned players', this is not the case for the football teams. That brings me to another point; I am unsure of the benefits of agreeing to sign forms to permit players from other clubs to have a season or two with St John's teams. The short-term benefits in my opinion are outweighed by the long-term benefits when St John's lads are denied game time to facilitate the lads from other clubs; just my opinion. While our senior team is now more competitive than it has been for some time, there is much to be done. While we finished in 4th place, we were well behind the top 3, and in 6 games, we were unable to win a single game against these teams. As with the hurling, we need all players committed to the cause. Some of our best players have not played senior c'ship in either 2014 or 2015, yet we currently have a near full panel preparing for U-21 c'ship; there are matters that need addressed.

For both codes, I have really enjoyed all games at reserve and South Antrim level. South Antrim in particular is about enjoyment. The players and management of both teams have left no stone unturned to make sure that we field for every game. Winning the competitions is a bonus.

Both **Camógie and Ladies Football** have experienced a tough enough year for a variety of reasons, some predictable and others completely unexpected. However I know that sound foundations have been laid and I expect that it won't be long before championships are won again.

Please accept this report as a snapshot of the club activity for 2015 from my perspective. It is not possible to personally thank everyone who has contributed to the work and development of the club this year. It has been an honour for me to act as Rúnai Naomh Eoin in 2015 and I look forward to working with my fellow members again in 2016 in whatever capacity.

It's customary to sympathise with those members who have experienced bereavement within the past year. This year it was my own family who were glad of the support of the membership of the club when our mother passed away on June 29th. It's not easy to quantify how much this support means, let's just say it makes the experience more bearable. To all who have lost loved ones, be assured of the support of St John's GAC in the time ahead. The Mass for deceased members and family held at the club on Saturday past was well received by all who attended, it was good to reconnect with Fr Ciaran Feeney, and no doubt the Mass will continue to be an appropriate way to remember the contributions of those who have gone before us. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a n-anamacha uaisle.

Is mise

Séamus Ó Donnaile (Rúnai Naomh Eoin)

Reports from teams that represent St John's

FUNDAMENTALS

We have had an extremely successful year at our u6 Fundamentals, with the highest participation rate since we began this program. On average we have 60 boys and girls in the hall each and every week, learning fundamental movements and having a great time being healthy with their friends and making new ones. With the growth in numbers we have had to pull in extra coaches to help out and we would like to thank them for their commitment each and every Saturday morning. The parents have been very supportive throughout by either helping out during the sessions or by utilising the Chatter Box when their little one is having fun in the hall. We have been outside a number of times this year when the weather has been good, and the young Johnnies love playing and having fun on the pitch. Fundamentals have changed slightly over the last while and our coaches are always looking to keep it fresh and most importantly enjoyable for all the kids. We have seen a number of the children move on to each code over the past year and to give you an example, we now have 18 U-7 girls now being coached at u8. That is a big credit to the coaches we have, and the work they put in with the young people. We hope this continues and we can move the kids up in groups with new ones coming and numbers continue to sustain and grow. Looking around you can see the former players, who now bring their children or grandchildren down every Saturday morning to continue the tradition of putting on the Blue and White. You will also see new St John's families emerging from Fundamentals. These families will be, and are just as important as the ones that have been here for years. Either way we want them to be part of our great club for years to come, because that's what it's all about. Huge thanks goes out to all our coaches who continue to give their all in each session and though sometimes they might have a sore head after or even before the session they make sure each and every child leaves with a smile on their face and wanting to come back next week. So if you haven't had your child, grandchild, niece or nephew down then make sure you do because there's no better u6 program about and we are very proud to say we have the best.

Steven Millar

Camógie

U8/10 Cámogie

Conor Mc Cafferey stood down this year as the U10 camogie manager. I had been training with Conor the previous year and therefore stepped up as camogie manager. Numbers were still averaging around 12-15 girls per session. As the year progressed more girls joined from the football side of things and we got a new bunch of girls coming through from fundamentals. We found that our numbers suddenly almost doubled and we were ranging in ages from 6-10. I found this to be too wide of a spectrum of players and therefore requested that we separate and create an U8 team (as we had the numbers). Carol Blaney then took over as U8 manager and I stayed as U10 manager. We currently have around 15-18 U8s and 12-15 U10s playing at the moment. We took a two week break over the Summer and we intend on taking a few weeks off over Christmas. Besides that we continue to train each Saturday in the club. There are winter blitzes running for the girls on Sundays throughout the winter months. Girls have participated in Go games blitzes throughout the year, they have had teams come to us for freindlys and even joined up with the boys for some mixed matches. Training has been quite tough for Carol, as her girls are still very young, although help is much appreciated and she is very glad to hear that Conor Gannon will now be there each Saturday to lend a hand.

Jase Simpson

U-14 Camogie

U-14 camógs started preparing for the year back in January, with Ciaran taking them for a 6 weeks spin/circuit class on Thursday nights in the club, followed by a skill session on Sunday afternoon in the new 3G hall. Preparation for this group of girls went really well and the achievements they achieved shows the hard work the girls put in throughout the year. A great year was had, only losing one game this season; the girls completed the treble by winning the All County Feile B, All County B League and All County B Championship. There's a lot of talent in this group of girls, a team to look out for in the future. It's been our pleasure to work with the girls this season, and Cónal, Ciaran & I would like to thank every one of the players for a great year and also the parents for all their support and help with transport over the year; we couldn't have done it without you all. Good Luck to this panel of girls with their new management in 2016.

Joanne McConnell, Cónal Morgan & Ciaran Boyd

Ladies Football

U-8

As a result of the hugely successful fundamentals initiative introduced by Steven Millar, the ladies football this year have started training an U-8 squad of approximately 20 girls. All but one of the girls is U-8 next year, and in a short period of time the girls have made great strides in their development of the basic skills of the game. We have also been very grateful for the use of the 3-G in the adjoining Irish school which is ideal for this group of children.

Kevin Gough

U-10 Ladies

This has been a super year for the under 10 girl's football team. We commend the girls' high level of commitment at weekly training and blitzes. This commitment has manifested itself on the pitch where we have witnessed all players develop in confidence, skill and sportsmanship. The girls challenged each team they played and through displays of grit and determination were successful on many occasions. At a young age they have shown an understanding of the value of working as a team. They have encouraged and supported their team mates and displayed great discipline on and off the pitch. They have been an enjoyable group of girls to work with and it has been lovely to see not only their skills in football developing but their relationships with their team mates and their personalities. We would like to thank the parents of the under 10 girls for their on-going support in bringing the girls to training and blitzes and also some of the juvenile girls who have been a great help on a Saturday morning with coaching. A lot of the girls will now make the transition to under 12 so we wish them all the best and look forward to working with the under 8 girls who are now transitioning to under 10.

Pauline Gough and Fionnuala Devine

U-12

The U12 girls had a very successful year achieving success in the majority of their games. Three years ago when we started the underage teams we never won a match at this age level in Div2 of the Go Games. This year the girls exhibited great skill and endeavour to record seven victories and only one loss to a very good St Pauls team in Div 1.

U-14

What a year for this talented bunch of ladies. The U-14 squad started in January by entering the Winter League finishing runners up. Next up was Féile football where the girls also finished runner up. These two tournaments gave the girls a taste of what they could achieve and they knuckled down, put in a lot of hard work and concentrated on winning the league which they did in style, finishing unbeaten in 14 games and winning a lot of respect from opposition teams, management, supporters and parents.

They finished off their campaign in October by winning the Culbert /Brennan Shield in a hard fought tournament with every game played at the pace of "the last five minutes of a final". What a credit these girls have been to themselves, management, club & parents in only the second year of their formation.

Martin Crummey

U-16

This is the first year entering the U-16 league. The panel is made up of a great bunch of girls, all U-15. It was our intention to use this league as a development opportunity. They played some excellent football, finishing runners up in the league. The highlight of the season was the championship final when they were narrowly beaten by a highly fancied St Enda's (also league winners). This game was by far the most exciting and dogged game the girls had played all season. They won a lot of admiration from the mentors, opposition team, County

board & supporters for their attitude, style and sheer determination in what will be remembered by all who had the pleasure of being in attendance on the day to witness one of the best games of ladies football played in Naomh Eoin colours so far.

Laura McCann

Senior Ladies

The senior ladies were dealt an injury blow before the season started, with the loss of influential midfielder Maresa McGettigan to a cruciate injury. That aside the girls had a good preseason. The league started with a good win over Od's/Ardoyne but the win came at a cost with two more injuries, one girl out for the season and another out for 8 weeks; then we lost another 2 who were pregnant, congratulations to Helen on the birth of her son, and Sarah-Jane whose baby is due in the New Year. That was 5 girls out and season only started. The remainder of the squad pulled together and had some good wins in the league.

Championship was upon us; we were to play Moneyglass in semi-final with losers to play St Brigid's, so two chances to get to final. The night before the semi-final came the news of the tragedy that happened to the McGuigan family; the game was called off as a mark of respect to our two team mates, Sarah Jane and Dolores. A date for the rearranged match could not be decided so county took it out of our hands and we lost the chance of two attempts to get to final. We had to play Moneyglass up at St Enda's, with Moneyglass coming away winners from this game. So we will regroup and prepare for the 2016 campaign with hopefully with some girls back and some new faces.

Benny Brennan

Football

U-8

This year at U-8 Football was a highly enjoyable one, not only for the players but for the parents and coaches as well. We began coaching this team in October 2014 every Saturday morning out on the pitch and then moved inside to our sports hall in November. During the winter period we invited teams down to play us a number of times which worked out well as the kids love playing matches. Our coaching sessions were based on fun and we religiously coached the players on the basics skills of the game. The emphasis when coaching was to go forward all the time and kicking was a major skill we practiced. Our sessions continued inside on our new 3-G surface until the good weather came and we returned outside. In May for the first time ever in St John's we began U-8 mid-week sessions in Woodlands every Tuesday evening. These sessions proved very successful in terms of attendance and we are pleased that we started them. Throughout the summer we played in some Go Games but also had matches at the club and had trips outside of the city. We were invited to two U-8 tournaments, one in Glenravel and the other in Creggan Kickham's coming away with the Shield in both.

Our idea was to have a 3 -1 ratio in terms of the number of coaching sessions to the number of matches played. We also made sure that every child played an equal part, played different positions and had just as much game time as the other. Participation was and is key to us, and by ensuring every child gets to play and be happy; a happy child is the best child to coach. Understanding that each child develops at different stages we planned out our coaching sessions to suit each group and the same in the matches. We decided to take a break in July to recharge the batteries and allow for holidays etc. When we returned it wasn't long before we got back in the swing of things and the players were eager to see some action. One of our trips was away to Aghagallon where we met some old friends and all the kids had a brilliant day. Just before we changed over with players moving on to U-9/10 we had one big trip planned for this great bunch of kids. We took the kids and parents (65 people in total) to Croke Park to see where heroes win All Irelands and where we hope to see these lads play one day in the Blue and White. While there we had a personal tour of the stadium where the boys got to see the change rooms, walk around pitch side, walk up the steps of the Hogan Stand where the trophies are presented, had lunch in a special box area and much more. On the way home we stopped off in Bettystown County Meath where we participated in a blitz with our new friends at St Colmcille's GAC. This was a trip they will never forget and each and every one of them enjoyed it immensely.

All in all we are very pleased with the progress made in developing these young footballers. We will continue to work hard on furthering their development and keeping this fine group of players together. We wish to thank all parents who have supported us throughout the year and hope it continues again over the winter and next year. Thanks also go to our support coaches who came in and assisted us and gave a different voice to this group during some coaching sessions. We have been privileged to be with this team and hope to continue the journey we began next year and for a long time to come.

Steven Millar

U-10 Football

Training

Training commenced every Sunday afternoon at the beginning of November 2014 in the indoor hall at the club. During the winter period we were able to invite various clubs down to the hall to play small sided games. We continued to use the sports hall until the clocks changed and the extra light allowed us to use Woodlands on a Tuesday night as well as a Sunday. Training continued throughout the summer period and finished at the beginning of October 2015.

Go- Games

The county organised go-games at various stages of the year, firstly in our own sports hall and then at different out-door facilities. We took part in all of these events and in most instances were only able to field a single team.

Tournaments

During the course of the year we played in a number of tournaments as follows:

St Galls May Day Tournament – Beaten semi –finalists of Shield competition.

St Pauls Jack McCartan Tournament- Beaten semi-finalists of Cup Competition (unluckily)

Clan Na Gael Lurgan Tournament – Winners of Shield competition.

St Bridget's Tournament- Beaten Finalists of Cup Competition.

Challenge Games

Throughout the year we arranged and played numerous challenge games with City based clubs such as St Pauls, Sarsfields, Davitt's, and St Galls etc. We also travelled to play games at Carryduff GAC and Aghagallon GAC. These challenge games helped to supplement the training and tournaments and ensured all the kids were getting games on a consistent basis.

Croke Park All Ireland Football Quarter Finals/ St Judes GAC

The under 10 footballers travelled by coach to Croke Park for the All Ireland Football Quarter Finals which was a fantastic experience for the players and their families. This is a fantastic initiative which the kids really enjoyed. Before arriving at Croke Park we made our way to the St Jude's club in Dublin where we successfully played two games against our St Jude's counterparts. We were able to field 2 teams and all kids present got plenty of game time.

Summary

There have been massive strides made this year in terms of development of this age group and real progress has been made by the players individually and as a team. This was particularly evident when comparing our first and last tournaments of the year. We were beaten semi-finalists in the *shield* competition at the St Galls Tournament at the beginning of the year compared to being beaten finalists in the *Cup* competition at St Brigid's at the very end of the season. This defeat was in the cruellest of circumstances after leading the game well into injury time against a St Pauls team who were perceived to be the strongest around at this age group.

This age group have huge potential going forward however the issue of playing numbers may have a considerable impact when rules begin to dictate that games must be 15 a side.

Manager: Jimmy Wilson assisted by: Aidan Darragh, Enda McGurk, Ciarán Quinn, Matt Mc Kenna & Conor King

Aidan Darragh

U-14 Football

This year was a very up and down season the boys struggled to be consistent from start to finish. We started of the year playing in division 1 and after a couple of matches we asked to be moved into division 2 as the boys were struggling to match the physicality of the sides in division 1 and the management felt that the boys development was being halted and they weren't enjoying the games.

We moved into division 2 where the boys showed great skill and team work and played some excellent free flowing football. Showing off all the skills that they were taught at training.

The season started off with the Féile which was an away trip down to St Galls the boys battled well and took some excellent scores. St Galls however had a few very skilful players that which we managed to maintain throughout by some great defending and hassling all over the pitch. But St Galls edged us out at the final whistle.

We also played in the Fr Mullan Cup away to Belfast Setanta at St Teresa's this game was a few days after the boys had a great weekend at the hurling féile. The boys started of very sluggish in this match and gave away a couple of soft goals which gave Setanta a comfortable lead at the half. After a stern talking to at half time the young Johnnies came out the second half with grit between their teeth and dominated the match from then on but unfortunately time was against them and it was not meant to be.

Throughout the year we had some great individual displays from the captain Danna McKeogh, Misha Gough, Dillan Grieve, Connall Bohill, Tomas Hillman to mention a few.

The Management would like to thank the boys for the effort they put in and would like to wish them all the best in the future.

Kevin McGlinchey, Harry Connelly, Stephen Tierney and Ciaran Quinn

U-16 Football

This was a very problematic age group for us in terms of fielding a team playing in Div2 this year. When we did manage to field we were never really competitive at any stage.

Stephen McCann

Minor Football

Regretfully, we were unable to field a team for the championship, for the first time that I can remember. I suppose the writing was on the wall when we played the South Antrim Final with only a panel of 17 players. The irony is that we won the game, proving that we have a number of quality players. We did sustain a number of significant injuries to players early in the season, and from this we never really recovered. As management, we will take some of the responsibility for the way things turned out; however, it's hard to legislate for a number of players who booked holidays when the dates coincided with the date of the c'ship fixture that had been published since February.

Jim Donnelly

South Antrim

Playing as our third team this team went through the whole season with a 100% record. Winning every game in the league and beating St Galls in the final of the McDermott Cup to lift both trophies. The blend of the team was young – old and older. The players on this team will have to make a call if we enter again in the coming year given some of the advancing years but if they do it will make the Thursday nights enjoyable for another year.

Stephen McCann

S/A: In South Antrim I and a few of the aul hands just wanted to play football and field teams. But we went above and beyond that. We did the double again! On top of that we were undefeated all year in S/A! This team was full of aul hands and young guys enjoying themselves. Young lads like Peter Mc Kenna, Feargal Morgan and Speedy McEvoy flourished, and I would have no hesitation in having them on any senior panel! It really was a DREAMTEAM! NEA.

Charlie McLarnon

Reserve

We had a very successful year for our reserves who won the league, the All County Championship and the Beringer cup. We had a good blend in terms of experience and youth making up this team and everyone seemed to really enjoy playing on this team as we were winning so many games. An air of caution should be raised that some may enjoy playing on this team to much as it's easier and did not require the same sacrifices associated with getting onto the senior team.

Stephen McCann

I started off the year with 2 goals; one, to finish in top 3 of league and secondly to win reserve c/ship. We won both! We went most of the league unbeaten, until Cargin away, playing brilliant football all year. The team was a good mix of experience and youth. But I was really proud of the team spirit! The only negative was not going through league unbeaten. But we did the double! I would also like to thank the senior management, who have co-operated fully with me all year.

Charlie McLarnon

U-21

The championship was won and the team put up a terrific performance in the Ulster U-21 tournament at Creggan, going down narrowly to the outstanding Watty Graham's team. The target for 2015-16 will be to go and win this competition.

Senior

We finished 4th in the league this year on 20pts (Winning 10 and losing 8) which secures a grading for next year's championship. There were some very high scoring victories along the way but also some games were we never really hit the heights that we should have. Getting all our players out all of the time remains a problem and this was evident in our Championship loss to Lamh Dhearg when we could all count numerous players unavailable for a variety of reasons. With everyone available there is no reason why we can't mount a Championship tilt next year.

Lucky McCurdy

Hurling

U-8 Hurling

The boys trained on Sunday mornings in the hall throughout the winter months until the spring when we went outdoors. We started a mid-week coaching slot on Wednesday nights which proved quite popular and successful. Initially we started in the Springhill MUGA pitch which was a nice change of scenery and an attempt to recruit from the locality. After an eight week stint on location in Springhill we returned to the hallowed turf of Corrigan where the lads enjoyed games and activities to improve skill and fitness. Sessions continued throughout the summer, albeit with fewer numbers attending due to holidays. The start of the academic year saw a dramatic increase in the attendance rates to the sessions.

We travelled to Ballycastle for our first trip of the year where we enjoyed a set of games against the hosts and then some ice cream on the seafront afterwards! We were lucky to be invited to attend several blitzes and tournaments throughout the year also. Davitt's hosted a fantastic blitz in the Falls Park, Sarsfields played host to a feast of Hurling in Stewartstown and Dunloy held a great tournament in the glens during the summer.

Our own lads then took part in a puc fáda over Slievenacloy in what was a fantastic event which raised the funds to organise the Andy McCallin Blitz in Corrigan the following week. To say the blitz was a success was an understatement, as ten teams enjoyed playing nine games each on the day. The teams were made feel special as they were paraded onto the field by The Eire Nua flute band, before Eamonn Ó Faiogain sang Amhrain na bhFiann. Each player was presented with a medal and each team got to lift the trophy as 'Winners'. The club spirit was evident on the day with so many people chipping in to help make the event such a success. Players, coaches, parents and club members too many to mention helped feed and entertain over 250 people on a wonderful day in Corrigan.

Training continued over the next few weeks to present, with the intention to keep developing throughout the winter in our indoor 3G arena.

All in all it was very successful year for the under 8 Hurlers who have greatly developed both as Hurlers and as young Gaels. We are very proud of each and every one of them, well done lads Naomh Eoin Abú!

Damien McCallin

U-12 Hurling

The 2015 U-12 hurling squad got together in January and overall we have a panel of 22 players coming to the end of the year. The mentors for the year were Andy McCallin, David Robinson, Paddy Carlin (Snr), Paddy Carlin (Jnr) and a new recruit to this squad Bill Dudley.

During the year 2no full u-12's left the panel not wanting to play hurling but we are delighted to say that we added 4no new boys to the panel.

Over the course of the year the team were coached once / twice a week, depending on availability of facilities, Thursday night's, and on a Sunday morning at Woodlands, attendance ranging from 4 to 19. From January to 1st November we have had 47 coaching sessions

By March we had moved to Woodlands on Thursday nights and Sunday mornings and attendances had improved with regular turn outs. We constantly found the pitches uncut and at one period the crossbar on one of the goals was broken and left hanging in a dangerous state – it remained like this for 4 weeks. We then got access to Corrigan Park where the catch nets were invaluable. During these sessions we regularly shared the pitch with other teams including the senior hurlers which was a great buzz for the boys – training on the same turf and being noticed and encouraged by men that they look up to.

Over the period of time, several challenge games were arranged with Naomh Eoin hosting and travelling to other teams.

The u-12 South Antrim league was played on Monday nights with home matches taking place at Corrigan Park, often in front of other club teams who were training and who stayed to watch, a huge confidence boost to the boys.

Yet again in the All County leagues we found ourselves having to travel to North Antrim clubs and very few of them willing to travel to Corrigan Park. Whilst this was disheartening and we took a few beatings, the boys never gave up and can be very proud of heart, courage and discipline that they displayed, something often commented on by other clubs management teams.

We took part in the Fingallians and Ballyboden Tournaments in Dublin and Joe Mc Kelvey tournament in Rossa Park. We also make the long annual trek to Mullinahone where we won the shield in a great display of heart.

When the Nipper Quinn came round we beat Sarsfields in the semi -final and then came up against a physically much bigger and more athletic Rossa side. The final can only be referred to as a blood and guts display with our lads nailing their colours firmly to the mast for the cause. To a man they gave their all and whilst we came away disappointed having being beaten by 2 points they earned respect and a standing ovation from their own parents and supporters as well as the Rossa mentors, parents and supporters when leaving the pitch

The boys had a trip to Thurles and watched the NHL final and also went to Croke Park.

Since January the team have had @ 102 outings made up of 47 coaching sessions, and 55 matches (inclusive of tournaments) and they will continue to have coaching sessions up to Christmas.

The improvement in this squad of players during this year has at times been immense which has always been very important to the coaches. Given the right commitment by the club these boys will continue to enjoy their hurling and will be good ambassadors for Naomh Eoin.

Paddy Carlin

U14 Hurling

U14 hurlers were late getting started due to uncertainty of mentors. I agreed to take them on myself and we went from strength to strength. We kicked off our league in early April with a heavy defeat to Eoin Rua who went on to win the league. We then came up against our old rivals Rossa at Corrigan. We were trailing by 8 pts with 5 minutes left and the boys switched on and played out of their skin and beat them. That was a sign of things to come for us. We never looked back, finishing top 5 in the league.

Féile was a great weekend for the boys. We hosted Lisgoold from Cork. On the Friday we were beaten by Galway in our first game but came back strong to win our second game. On the Saturday we were beaten by Lisgoold which meant we went into the shield comp. we won our 1/4 final at Corrigan which meant we progressed to play on the Sunday. We came up against a very good Offaly outfit in the semi-final and managed to get over the line beating them by 3 pts. The final was a great game between us and Coleraine. After a very tight first half which ended level we kicked on in the second half to win by 5 pts; a great achievement for that group of lads. We were also beaten in the final of the south Antrim championship by St Gall's.

After a shaky start to life at u14 hurling that group of boys showed excellent commitment and proved to themselves and everyone else what a talented group of hurlers they are. I wish them luck as they go through the age levels at our club and fully expect to see most turn out for our senior hurling team one day.

Noel Flannery

U-16 hurling

Began September 2014 with Spin and S&C training under the watchful eye of Paul Collins, Saturday afternoons comprised indoor training in the hall with Wall Ball work and skills and always finished with a few games and a bit of fitness work. By the time the season was beginning we would have had about 60 sessions of one type or another completed.

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> We competed in the ACHL and were captained by the maturing and ever improving Odhran Carleton. The league matches were a mixed bag depending on the age profile of the opposing team as we had a young and physically small though skilful team.

> All in all the effort was good in the league matches, with some very competitive games, GCSE time had its usual impact and at times we struggled to field. Summer holidays and Gaelteacht also had an impact, leaving a lopsided feel to the season, hurling is a summer game and it's at this time we struggle most.

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> Championship proved tough as our first game v Lamh Dhearg was a walk over as they failed to field leaving us in a semi-final against a very strong Rossa team who defeated us in an easy win for them. That put us into a B final versus an amalgamation team comprising Sarsfields and St Pauls, despite leading at the short whistle they gained in confidence in the second half and ran out winners despite a strong effort from all the boys.

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> I'd like to thank all the lads on our panel of 17 for their contribution throughout the season and on behalf of the mentors wish those who are moving up to minor all the best. I'd like to thank Cormac, Paul and Noel for their help last season and we are all looking forward to continuing in our coaching roles next year with the under 16 team.

Liam O'Donnaile

Minor Hurling

Minor Hurlers experienced a frustrating year this year as far as results and development are concerned. Numbers attending and embracing the coaching sessions were poor throughout the year, exam time and summer being the hardest times of the year. Injuries also affected numbers; however we did fulfil all our fixtures as per the county calendar. The league began well with a few victories but defeats v Dunloy and Naomh Padraig put paid to any aspirations of winning. The defeat against Naomh Padraig was the week after they beat us in the semi-final of the championship, a disappointment to say the least. One minor played with the senior hurlers this year and several played for the county minor hurlers. All in all it was a disappointing year for various reasons, with improvements needed to be made for future teams to benefit from this experience. However disappointing it is, it is also understandable with this age group as there are so many other influences and priorities in the life of these lads. We are very proud of all them and wish the lads who progress to U21 or Senior the best of luck and hope the rest of the lads can right this year's wrongs in 2016. Naomh Eoin Abú!

Damien McCallin

U-21 Hurling

With a point to prove, the team put in steady performances throughout the competition, and were deserved champions when beating Cushendall in the final.

John Meade

Senior Hurling

Senior hurlers had their best league finish in years when finishing 4th. At both home and away we fought hard and had some great results, especially beating Cushendall in their own backyard. Then we took them on in championship and we put it up to them; in a tremendous match, we were just beaten by a point in the end; but as we all know, we will be back to fight again. I would like to thank coach Ciaran, mentors John and Neal, as well as our physio Brian, as well as Sonia. Thanks also to hurling co-ordinator Noel Flannery

Brendan McGibbon

Health & Well Being Report November 2014-November 2015

Since taking up post in November 2014 my major aim along with the committee was to work on promoting a 'feel good' factor' around the club. Positive attitudes and mutual respect are at the heart of this ethos and I do feel things in this area are moving very well.

The physical environment of the club needed a make-over to warm up the areas which attract people in, so with this in mind the function room, the entrance hall and the room set aside for a coffee room were the target areas.

Thanks to the sterling paint work and every conceivable DIY job possible, which Eugene Burns has done, over the past few months, the entrance to the club has been decorated and club memorabilia has been erected around the walls to celebrate Naomh Eoin's achievements over the years.

The Chatterbox Coffee Shop became a reality in December 2014 with curtains, tablecloths, paintings, chairs and tables and is now functioning on a weekly basis open every Saturday morning for parents of children attending training and club members to relax and enjoy a coffee and of course a scone.

We are expanding our stock, reacting to the needs of our customers with muffins and toasted pancakes now on the menu too.

This is a wonderful facility, aptly named by Eleanor Kelly, 'The Chatterbox' as the buzz of noise on a Saturday morning is heart-warming as this is community at its' best while making a few pounds for the club.

Thanks to our Chairman and his wife who sourced a coffee machine, we impress so many people who ask for a coffee with the retort, 'Would you like a latte or a cappuccino?' I must single out Martin Crummy for his help and support in making this room a reality. From sourcing furniture and fittings to erecting curtain poles and pictures, Martin too, is a DIY man who is so generous with his time. Ronan Heenan made it possible to have a place for your cup and plate as he donated the tables. Thank you Ronan!

This room is also used as a meeting place for teams and other meetings at all levels and for team refreshments post matches.

It can be booked as a package with the Sports Hall (when available) for children's parties with a few rules and regulations in place to preserve both facilities. Contact Cónal Morgan.

Please come in and avail of the welcome, the banter, the craic and the good coffee, tea and scones any Saturday 9.30am-1pm. Forget about Starbucks-give your bucks to the stars.....the Johnnies!!

Upstairs the function room has been improved to encourage members to host functions which will bring in much needed revenue and thankfully bookings have improved over the past few months. The curtains, paintwork, lighting and the bar refurbishment have improved this facility. We are currently trying to source a 8 feet x6 feet mirror which will create an air of luxury near the bar and an art project will hopefully create some pieces to brighten up the walls.

Our next project will hopefully be the member's room.

Fit4Life has been hugely successful thanks mainly to the enthusiasm of our tutors Laura McCann and Fiona Maguire. We operate 10 or 12 week courses and the fact that this programme has been sustainable over the past year is a tribute to both the tutors and the commitment of those taking up the challenge to get fit and stay fit. Currently 30 people have signed up for this current 10week course which operates twice weekly Thursday (function room) and Sunday (Sports Hall) Anyone can join at any time as you work to your own ability level.

Laura has created a short promotional video to encourage others to join. It can be viewed on the club website Pilates every Tuesday evening 7.30pm-8.30pm has also been a great addition to our Fit4Life programme with tutor Mrs Lisa Maxwell leading an alternative fitness regime.

The success of Fit4Life, I believe, is that all age groups work together, encouraging each other and everyone works at their own level. Where else would you see 20,30,40,50, 60 and almost 70year olds on a training programme?

The walking club, Rambling Retirees meet every Tuesday at 10am for a walk with enrolment now at 30. Walks include The Lagan Tow path in all directions, Cave Hill, Divis and Black Mountain, Newtownabbey Way to name but a few. The current planned walks can be viewed on the website. Just turn up at the meeting point to be enrolled and walk when it suits you. What a healthy way to connect with fellow club members and friends. Walk & Talk is our motto!

24 members are embarking on a leg of The Camino Walk from Ferol to Santiago de Compostella in April 2016. Our aim is to host a Health & Well Being day in February 2016 when we will invite agencies in to speak about health and well-being, while patrons will be able to have health checks and take part in various activities.

A veterans group of age 65+ past/present members have met on one occasion (June 2015) for lunch and a chat in The Chatterbox, with further meetings planned (December 2015 – Christmas lunch + drinks) and an application for funding for a project to give this group of sprightly members and associates an input into current club development, is in the pipeline. If you know anyone male or female who should be on this list please tell Jim Donnelly as it is a group in the making.

The Match Day Shop aims to bring in much needed revenue to the club but also provides hot drinks and snacks to patrons who attend senior matches in the grounds. This is an important facility for the well-being of our members and fellow Gaels as comments on wild, wet and windy days express.

I would like to thank Eleanor Kelly, Anne McCann, Clionadh McCaffrey and Anna McCaffrey who help make the Coffee Shop and Match Day shops possible. We couldn't do it without brilliant volunteers such as these. Again the old and the young, learning from each other

Maria Gough
Health & Well Being Officer

- 4. Financial Report 2014**
- 5. Chairman's Address**
- 6. Election of Officers**
- 7. Proposals and Recommendations**
- 8. Any other Business**