



CÓMHDHÁIL CINN BLIANA 2024

CUMANN LÚTHCHLEASE GAEL
Bord Chontae Uíbh Fhailí



ANNUAL CONVENTION

In Glenisk O'Connor Park, Tullamore
on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at 7.30pm


Colm Ó Comáin RUNAÍ



COUNTY CONVENTION CLÁR 2024

1. **Minutes of Convention 2023**
2. **Adoption of Standing Orders.**
3. **Secretary's Report**
4. **Sub Committee Reports**
5. **Auditors Report and Statement of Accounts 2023**
6. **Election of Officers**
 - a. Election of Chairperson (*followed by Chairpersons Address*)
 - b. Election of Vice Chairperson
 - c. Election of Secretary
 - d. Election of Assistant Secretary
 - e. Election of Treasurer
 - f. Election of Assistant Treasurer
 - g. Election of P.R.O.
 - h. Election of Central Council Representative
 - i. Election of Leinster Council Representatives (2)
 - j. Election of Cultural Officer
 - k. Election of Coaching Officer
 - l. Ratification of Children's Officer
 - m. Ratification of Planning & Training Officer
7. **Appointment of Delegates to Annual Congress (4)** (*shall include Chairperson & Secretary*)
8. **Appointment of Delegates to Leinster Convention (4)**
9. **Handball Report**
10. **Motions**
11. **Club of the Year**
12. **Date for first County Board Meeting in 2024**


Colm Ó Comáin
Rúnaí



STANDING ORDERS FOR COUNTY CONVENTION

In order that the proceedings of the Convention are carried out without delay, the following Standing Orders will be observed.

1. The proposer of a motion or an amendment thereto, may speak for three minutes, but not more than three minutes
2. The number of people entitled to speak and vote shall be in accordance with Rule 3.8 T.O 2023.
3. A delegate speaking to a motion/proposal/resolution, or an amendment thereto, must not exceed two minutes.
4. The proposer of a motion/proposal/resolution, or amendment, may speak a second time, for two minutes, before a vote is taken, but no other delegate may speak a second time to the same motion or amendment.
5. The Chairperson may, at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed, call on a proposer for a reply and when this is given, a vote must be taken.
6. A delegate may with the consent of the Chairperson move "*that the motion/proposal/resolution be now put*", after which, when the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
7. Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on the agenda, except by the consent of a majority equal to two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote.
8. Delegates who refuse to abide by the Standing Orders will be referred to the Competitions Control Committee.



COUNTY CONVENTION VOTING RIGHTS

| Club Delegate Votes (82) | Co. Board Delegate Votes (41) | Co. Board Officers Votes (14) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| BALLINAGAR 2 | Paurig Gallagher 1 | <i>Chairperson</i> Michael Duignan 1 |
| BALLINAMERE 2 | Colette Waters 1 | <i>Vice Chairperson</i> James Murphy 1 |
| BALLYCOMMON 2 | Brian Flynn 1 | <i>Secretary</i> Colm Cummins 1 |
| BALLYCUMBER 2 | Liam Hackett 1 | <i>Assistant Secretary</i> Christy Todd 1 |
| BALLYFORE 2 | Mary Dunne 1 | <i>Treasurer</i> Dervill Dolan 1 |
| BALLYSKENACH/KILLAVILLA 2 | Eamon Phelan 1 | <i>Assistant Treasurer</i> Nessa Fieghery 1 |
| BELMONT 2 | Jimmy Cahill 1 | <i>P.R.O.</i> Padraig O'Meara 1 |
| BIRR 2 | Willie Rigney 1 | <i>Central Council Delegate</i> Paddy Scales 1 |
| BRACKNAGH 2 | Richard Weldon 1 | <i>Leinster Council Delegate</i> Ciaran Groome 1 |
| CAPPINCUR 2 | Catherine Graham 1 | <i>Leinster Council Delegate</i> Dolores Slevin 1 |
| CARRIG & RIVERSTOWN 2 | Paul King 1 | <i>Planning & Training Officer</i> Brendan Minnock 1 |
| CLARA 2 | Hugh Naughton 1 | <i>Children's Officer</i> Elaine Kelly-Dunne 1 |
| CLODIAGH GAELS 2 | Des Dunne 1 | <i>Irish & Culture Officer</i> Michelle Hogan 1 |
| CLONBULLOGUE 2 | Leo Dempsey 1 | <i>Coaching Officer</i> Carina Carroll 1 |
| CLONMORE HARPS 2 | Darren Connell 1 | <i>Coiste na nÓg Chairperson</i> Keith Screeney 1 |
| COOLDERRY 2 | Martin Ryan 1 | |
| CRINKLE 2 | Des O'Brien 1 | |
| DAINGEAN 2 | Paul Keating 1 | Committee Reps. (5) |
| DOON 2 | Padraig Egan 1 | <i>County Handball Board</i> Kevin Cooke 1 |
| DRUMCULLEN 2 | Peter Lyons 1 | <i>County Post-Primary Schools</i> Niall Lynch 1 |
| DURROW 2 | Paul Fox 1 | <i>Cumann na mBunscol</i> Declan Ward 1 |
| EDENDERRY 2 | Willie Forde 1 | <i>Referees Administrator</i> Denis Hoctor 1 |
| ERIN ROVERS 2 | Eamonn Dunican 1 | <i>Safety and Facilities Officer</i> Peter Lyons 1 |
| FERBANE 2 | Brian Flynn 1 | |
| GRACEFIELD 2 | David Walsh 1 | |
| KILCLONFERT 2 | Bill Kavanagh 1 | |
| KILCORMAC/KILLOUGHEY 2 | Paul Craven 1 | Club Delegates 82 |
| KINNITTY 2 | Kevin Callaghan 1 | Co. Board Delegates 41 |
| LUSMAGH 2 | Michael Troy 1 | Co. Board Officers 14 |
| RAHEEN 2 | John Hackett 1 | Committee Reps. 5 |
| RHODE 2 | Eoghan Hickey 1 | |
| SEIR KIERAN 2 | Patrick Gilligan 1 | Total Votes <u>142</u> |
| SHAMROCKS 2 | Jamie Boland 1 | |
| SHANNONBRIDGE 2 | Jim Kileen 1 | |
| SHINRONE 2 | Sean Ormond 1 | |
| ST BRIGID'S 2 | Michael Casey 1 | |
| ST RYNAGH'S (Football) 2 | Tomas Flaherty 1 | NOTES |
| ST RYNAGH'S (Hurling) 2 | Gerry Quirke 1 | 1. E.g. of Club Voting Rights; Ballinagar has 3 votes, if Paurig Gallagher and the 2 County Convention Delegates are present. |
| TUBBER 2 | James Higgins 1 | 2. Proxy not allowed for Co. Board Delegate who is unable to attend. |
| TULLAMORE 2 | Paul Dillane 1 | |
| WALSH ISLAND 2 | Jim Mahon 1 | |



MIONTUAIRSCI CÓMHDHÁIL CINN BLIANA 2023

The 2023 Offaly GAA County Convention was held in person in O'Connor Park, Tullamore, on Tuesday 13th December 2022 with Michael Ó Duigeannáin (Cathaoirleach) presiding.

The following Club/Convention Delegates participated:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Ballycommon | Frank O'Brien Brian Flynn | Ballinamere: | Pat Fulton | Ballinagar: | Paurig Gallagher* |
| Ballycumber: | Liam Hackett* | Ballyfore: | Mary Dunne* Brian Rice | Ballyskenagh/ Killavilla: | Eamon Phelan* |
| Birr: | John Irwin* Willie Rigney | Bracknagh: | John Lawlor Aidan Dempsey | Belmont: | Jimmy Cahill* |
| Clara: | Hugh Naughton* | Cappincur: | Rory Goggin* Catherine Graham Liam Norris | Clodiagh Gaels | Des Dunne* |
| Clonbullogue: | Leo Dempsey* Brian O'Neill | Clonmore H.: | Darren Connell* | Carrig & R.: | Paul King* |
| Coolderry: | Colman Hogan* Mary Hanley Martin Ryan | Crinkle: | Des O'Brien* James Hogan | Daingean: | Paul Keating* |
| Doon: | | Drumcullen: | Peter Lyons* Dermot Horan Toni Ryan | Durrow: | Paul Fox* Kevin Ward |
| Edenderry: | Seanie Farrell Willie Forde | Erin Rovers: | | Ferbane: | Eamon Flynn* Brian Flynn |
| Gracefield: | David Walsh* | Kilclonfert: | Bill Kavanagh* | Kilcormac/K: | Paul Craven* Ciara Spain |
| Kinnitty: | Kevin Callaghan* Ger Coughlan | Lusmagh: | | Raheen: | John Hackett* Ray Garry Colette Carthy |
| Rhode: | Eoghan Hickey Pascal Kelleghan | St. Brigids: | Micheál Casey* | Seir Kieran: | |
| Shamrocks: | Jamie Boland* Lynne Hutchison Ollie Bryant | Shannon- bridge: | | Shinrone: | Sean Ormond |
| St Rynagh's (H): | Gerry Quirke* Pat Horan | St. Rynagh's (F): | Tomás Flaherty Damien Martin | Tubber: | Enda Murphy |
| Tullamore: | Paul Dillane* | Walsh Island: | Alan Mulhall* Jim Mahon | | |

Participating also were | James Murphy, Vice Chairperson | Colm Cummins, Secretary | Christy Todd, Assistant Secretary | Dervill Dolan, Treasurer | Nessa Feighery, Assistant Treasurer | Padraig O'Meara, PRO | Paddy Scales, CC Delegate | Joe Higgins, Leinster Co. Delegate | Michelle Hogan, Irish language & Cultural | Declan Ward, Cumann na mBunscol | Denis Hoctor, Referee's Administrator.

Michael Casey (Byrne Casey & Associates),

Members of the Press observing, Kevin Corrigan & Randal Scally.

Fritheadh leithscéal ó Dolores Slevin, Leinster Co. Delegate, Carina Carroll, Coaching & Games Officer, Keith Screaney, Coiste na nÓg Chairperson, Eamon Dunican, Fixtures Analyst, Ciaran Groome (Bracknagh), Roger Ryan (Shannonbridge), Jim Kileen (Shannonbridge), Tony Hensey (Durrow).

MINUTES

The minutes of the 2022 County Convention were adopted on the proposal of Gerry Quirke (St. Rynagh's H) and seconded by Liam Hackett (Ballycumber).

STANDING ORDERS

The Standing Orders listed on page 1 of the Convention Booklet, were adopted on the proposal of Leo Dempsey (Clonbullogue) and seconded by Peter Lyons (Drumcullen).

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS

On the proposal of Pat Horan (St. Rynagh's H) and seconded by Liam Hackett (Ballycumber), Jim Kelly and Joe Higgins were appointed as Tellers in event that a vote count is required.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's Report was adopted on the proposal of Peter Lyons (Drumcullen) and seconded by Eamon Flynn (Ferbane).

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS, HANDBALL REPORT & CUMANN NA mBUNSCOL REPORT

The Sub-Committee Reports and Handball Report were accepted on the proposal of John Lawlor (Bracknagh) and seconded by Alan Mulhall (Walsh Island).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Michael Casey, Byrne Casey & Associates confirmed that the Financial Statement for the 12-month period ended 30th September 2022, gave a true and fair view of the state of the assets, liabilities and financial position of Offaly GAA as at 30th September 2022.

An Cisteoir, Dervill Dolan provided a detailed explanation of all areas of income and expenditure for the year and in particular any major variance between 2021 and 2022 figures. An Cisteoir, thanked everyone involved in Offaly GAA for their contribution to a very strong set of accounts for the year past. The contribution of Christy Todd to the daily management of the accounts was noted.

The Financial Statement was adopted following a proposal from Toni Ryan (Drumcullen), which was seconded by Paul Craven (Kilcormac/Killoughey).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following Officers were appointed/ratified:

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Chairperson | Michael Duignan | Vice Chairperson | James Murphy |
| Secretary | Colm Cummins | Assistant Secretary | Christy Todd |
| Treasurer | Dervill Dolan | Assistant Treasurer | Nessa Feighery |
| Central Council Delegate | Paddy Scales | P.R.O. | Padraig O' Meara |
| Leinster Council Delegate | Ciaran Groome | Leinster Council Delegate | Dolores Slevin |
| Planning & Training Officer | Brendan Minnock | Coaching Officer | Carina Carroll |
| Cultural Officer | Michelle Hogan | Childrens's Officer | TBC |
| Safety & Facilities Officer | Peter Lyons | | |

Pat Horan (St. Rynagh's H) withdrew his nomination for Leinster Council Representative and Ciaran Groome (Bracknagh) was deemed elected to the role of Leinster Council Delegate. Joe Higgins was thanked for his years of long service.

On proposal from Des O'Brien (Crinkill) and seconded by Leo Dempsey (Clonbullogue) the following Officers were appointed to attend Annual Congress; Michael Duignan, Colm Cummins, Dervill Dolan & Dolores Slevin.

On proposal from Olly Bryant (Shamrocks) and seconded by Paurig Gallagher (Ballinagar) the following Officers were appointed to attend Leinster Convention; Michael Duignan, Colm Cummins, Dervill Dolan & Brendan Minnock.

CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

Cathaoirleach, Michaél Ó Duigeannáin addressed Convention and commenced by extending thanks to all volunteers, the Management Committee, Sub-Committees, Club Officers, and supporters for their cooperation during the year and highlighted that this was our first in-person Convention in 3 years.

He outlined that the Strategic Plan for the County continues to be implemented and the key pillars of the plan has guided our direction over the last few years. The plan, built around five key pillars, is the driver for much of the positive change being implemented. He referenced the advancements in the area of coaching and games, including the formation of a series of new Club Nurseries in 2022, up to 31 from 7 in 2021. The encouragement of the next generation is key to the survival of all of our clubs. In this regard, he mentioned the changing nature of society and its impact on small rural clubs. He suggested we may need closer examination of these changes into the future. The importance of the integration process with our sister associations was highlighted, he welcomed the appointment of Mary McAleese at National Level to progress the assimilation process.

The growth of the games programme was acknowledged with 552 Adult games and 680 underage games played in the 2022 season. The 43 Offaly Referees were thanked and the Referee Administration Committee was encouraged to continue with recruitment. The increase in activity across all of the schools was highlighted and the importance of the role of the GPO was acknowledged. Retaining focus on the development of the basic skills is key.

The Coaching and Games Committee were thanked for their efforts in relation to the refreshments of policies and procedures around Development Squads. An Cathaoirleach, used his address to announce the appointment of Damien Coleman as the new Offaly GAA Operations Manager. Damien is a very experienced GAA Administrator, and we look forward to working with him.

The importance of Financial Stability was outlined, and the work of the Treasurer and other Officers was acknowledged in delivering a strong financial position for 2022 through sponsorship & ticketing. Whilst acknowledging the support of Carroll's over many years he welcomed Glenisk onboard and acknowledged the ongoing support from Shane Lowry.

In working towards our goal of building Offaly as a Respected Brand, recognised for excellence on and off the field, An Cathaoirleach thanked the Minor Hurlers for their efforts in 2022 and the wonderful journey that they brought us on.

An Cathaoirleach completed his address by thanking and teams and management for their outstanding efforts in 2022. He wished all Offaly teams the very best for 2023. He concluded with a moments silence to remember all of the great Gaels lost in the previous year.

MOTIONS

Bye-Law Motion No.1 submitted by Ballinamere GAA was debated. Pat Cleary (Ballinamere) proposed the motion and it was seconded by Eamon Phelan (Ballyskneagh/Killavilla). Pat outlined the rationale for the motion and how it would work in practice. There was a number of queries from Delegates in relation to the operation of the motion and possible unintended consequence of the motion, particularly on the U20 Championship and the formation of Independent Teams. James Murphy (CCC) highlighted that was concerns over the policing of the Bye Law. An Cathaoirleach stated that many understood the good intentions of the Bye Law but care was needed so as not to create new problems. Pat Cleary (Ballinamere) withdrew the Motion and it will be revisited next year.

Bye-Law Motion No. 2 submitted by Tullamore GAA was withdrawn ahead of Convention.

Bye-Law Motion No. 3 submitted by Edenderry GAA was passed on proposal of Pat Horan (St. Rynagh's H) and seconded by Damien Martin (St. Rynagh's F).

CLUB OF THE YEAR

Shinrone GAA were announced at the Club of the Year winners for 2022.

Tullamore GAA were announced at the Underage Club of the Year winners for 2022 and Scór Club of Year 2022.

DATE FOR FIRST COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING IN 2023

The first County Committee meeting in 2023 was confirmed for 10th January 2023.



TUARASCÁIL AN RÚNAÍ 2023

Following a very successful year for Offaly GAA, it gives me great pleasure to present my third annual report as Runaí Chontae Uíbh Fhailí to County Convention. This report is customarily an opportunity to reflect on the themes and events of the previous twelve months and highlight some likely topics for emphasis in the year ahead. A condensed Inter County season brought many challenges for our volunteer Officers, but we look ahead to the 2024 season with optimism with the added support of new full time staff. We aim to replicate the success of the last few years and provide some more great days for the Offaly Faithful.

The report covers three sections, firstly a brief synopsis of the year on the playing fields, secondly a commentary of the key administrative issues and finally some comments on our goals and objectives for 2024.

ON THE FIELD ACTIVITIES

It was an exceptionally condensed and busy year on the playing fields once again. Between the 7 Jan and 17 June, our six Offaly teams played 57 games in 161 days - a game every 2.8 days. April proved to be the busiest month with 20 games played in 30 days. This put a strain on all involved but we expect that the addition of new full-time staff will be a huge assistance in 2024, however the burden of work was eased with the successes on the field. Promotion to Div. 1 of the National League for the Senior Hurlers, a big Championship win at home to Meath for the Senior Footballers and the exploits of the U20 Hurling team were highlights that provided joy to all. In particular, a magical evening in Carlow winning the Leinster U20 Title and chants of 'Uí Fhailghe' at the end of the U20 All-Ireland Final in Thurles will live long in the memory.

Senior Football

Our Senior Footballers season was turned on its head on Sunday 12 March when the shocking news emerged of the sudden passing of Liam Kearns who was in his first year as Offaly Manager. Liam had settled well into the role and was building a great rapport with the players. He was delighted with the response he was getting from the squad and he had a route planned to the Leinster Final. We had performed well in the O'Byrne Cup and recorded a win over Dublin to make the Semi-Finals. Liam was very unhappy with the scheduling of the competition considering our opening league game was just around the corner and many of our players were involved with their respective college teams. We therefore took the unprecedented step of withdrawing from the competition in order to ensure our team could prepare for the opening round of the Allianz National League.

This proved fruitful as we recorded two victories in rounds 1 & 2. This excellent start moved us away from potential relegation worries and allowed the team to concentrate on promotion. Liam's final game was an important victory away to Longford and afterwards he was confident we could be in the promotion shake up.

On behalf of Offaly GAA I wish to acknowledge the mature and respectful response from our Senior Squad around Liam's funeral and within a few days stepping up

| Allianz National Football League Results 2023 (Div. 3) | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
| Rd. 1 | 29/01/23 Belfast | Antrim | 0-12 | Offaly | 2-12 |
| Rd. 2 | 05/02/23 OCP | Offaly | 1-09 | Fermanagh | 1-08 |
| Rd. 3 | 19/02/23 Mullingar | Westmeath | 2-12 | Offaly | 0-12 |
| Rd. 4 | 26/02/23 OCP | Offaly | 0-14 | Cavan | 0-21 |
| Rd. 5 | 05/03/23 Longford | Longford | 1-16 | Offaly | 2-14 |
| Rd. 6 | 18/03/23 Thurles | Tipperary | 0-13 | Offaly | 2-14 |
| Rd. 7 | 26/03/23 OCP | Offaly | 0-09 | Down | 1-17 |
| Leinster GAA Senior Football Championship 2023 | | | | | |
| Rd. 1 | 09/04/23 Longford | Longford | 1-11 | Offaly | 1-12 |
| Q/F | 23/04/23 OCP | Offaly | 1-11 | Meath | 0-10 |
| S/F (AET) | 30/04/23 Croke Park | Louth | 0-27 | Offaly | 2-15 |
| GAA Tailteann Cup 2023 | | | | | |
| Rd. 1 | 14/05/23 OCP | Offaly | 2-14 | London | 0-11 |
| Rd. 2 | 20/05/23 Portlaoise | Laois | 1-11 | Offaly | 1-11 |
| Rd. 3 | 03/06/23 Longford | Cavan | 2-25 | Offaly | 2-9 |
| Q/F | 10/06/23 OCP | Offaly | 2-14 | Wexford | 1-22 |

to represent the county at a very emotional fixture away to Tipperary. We recorded a fine victory and afterwards

the team attended a dinner in Liam's honour in Semple Stadium. Martin Murphy and his team of selectors should also be commended for the manner in which they stepped up to take the reins.

We entered the final day of the league with an outside chance of promotion but a strong Down outfit took the points in Tullamore. With the Championship only two weeks away it seemed that the emotions of the previous few weeks may have taken its toll on the lads but they regrouped really well and went on a great run in the Leinster Championship.

A hard fought battle away to Longford in the first round set up a home quarter final against Meath. In a blistering opening half, Offaly put Meath to the sword and set up a famous victory in front of an energised home support. The reward for this win was a Leinster Semi-Final against Louth in Croke Park. We played and battled hard against a well prepared Louth team and were only a kick of the ball away from a Leinster Final appearance but ultimately lost out in extra-time and moved to the Tailteann Cup.

Following the highs and excitement of the Leinster Championship we failed to carry the same energy into the Tailteann Cup and exited at home to Wexford after qualifying from our group with a win over London and an away draw with Laois. It was a disappointing end to a season that had such a mix of emotions. However there is huge potential in this group and as we look forward to 2024 and we trust Declan Kelly and his Management team will get the best from them.

U20 Football

After working to provide more games at this age group we looked forward to a round robin format in the Leinster Championship. The positives for the year was players at this age grade were provided with an opportunity to represent their County, however the results did not go as expected.

We secured a late draw against Louth in gale force conditions in the opening round and despite peppering the Wicklow goals at Faithful Fields we came up short and lost by a point. This left an uphill battle against Dublin in the final game and as a result we failed to emerge from the group, which was disappointing given the levels of preparation. Ken Furlong has been retained as Manager for 2024 and as we look toward the coming years we need to use this grade to further develop our players and advance as many as possible to the Senior ranks.

| Leinster U20 Football Championship 2023 | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------|------|---------|------|
| Rd. 1 | 21/03/23 Louth | Louth | 0-10 | Offaly | 2-04 |
| Rd. 2 | 28/03/23 Faithful Fields | Offaly | 1-10 | Wicklow | 2-08 |
| Rd. 3 | 04/04/23 OCP | Offaly | 1-09 | Dublin | 1-15 |

Minor Football

The round robin format in the Leinster Minor Championship provided many games for Roger Ryan and the Minor Football Management to use the full extent of the squad. Despite an opening defeat to Kildare, Offaly recovered well to beat Laois and Longford to ensure progression to the knock-out stages of the Championship. The team displayed their battling qualities to record a narrow victory over Louth however, a stronger test was awaiting against Dublin in the Semi Final. The eventual Leinster Champions, Dublin over powered Offaly in the semi-final. However, playing five meaningful Championship games will stand to this group in the longer term and many will wear the Offaly colours again in the future.

| Leinster Minor Football Championship 2023 | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------|------|----------|------|
| Rd. 1 | 05/04/23 Hawkfield | Kildare | 3-15 | Offaly | 2-11 |
| Rd. 2 | 12/04/23 OCP | Offaly | 2-10 | Laois | 0-09 |
| Rd. 3 | 27/04/23 OCP | Offaly | 1-11 | Longford | 1-10 |
| Q/F | 16/05/23 OCP | Offaly | 2-11 | Louth | 1-13 |
| S/F | 24/05/23 OCP | Offaly | 1-08 | Dublin | 6-15 |

Senior Hurling

The Walsh Cup provided an opportunity for Johnny Kelly to commence his managerial career with Offaly. Early games against Kilkenny, Wexford & Laois helped us prepare for the National League and Joe McDonagh Cup. The goal from the outset was to win both competitions and there can be no doubt that the players and management team applied themselves to the delivery of that goal. In a season of high intensity with important games coming week on week, the team delivered some big performances and were only a whisker away from fulfilling their goals. The team continue to improve and are building towards a return to top flight Championship hurling. Importantly it is recognised that when we return we want to remain in the top flight, so as we get over the disappointment of losing the Joe McDonagh Cup this year we realise that when we do win it, we want to go and compete at the top level.

| Allianz Hurling League Div. 2A 2023 | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|------|-----------|------|
| Rd. 1 | 05/02/23 Ballycran | Down | 0-18 | Offaly | 0-21 |
| Rd. 2 | 12/02/23 OCP | Offaly | 0-33 | Derry | 1-15 |
| Rd. 3 | 25/02/23 Killarney | Kerry | 1-18 | Offaly | 0-22 |
| Rd. 4 | 11/03/23 OCP | Offaly | 1-19 | Carlow | 1-12 |
| Rd. 5 | 19/03/23 OCP | Offaly | 2-17 | Kildare | 0-23 |
| S/F | 25/03/23 OCP | Offaly | 0-23 | Kerry | 0-19 |
| Final | 02/05/23 Portlaoise | Offaly | 0-24 | Kildare | 1-18 |
| Joe McDonagh Cup 2023 | | | | | |
| Rd. 1 | 08/04/23 OCP | Offaly | 3-19 | Laois | 1-22 |
| Rd. 2 | 16/04/23 Hawkfield | Kildare | 3-11 | Offaly | 2-22 |
| Rd. 3 | 22/05/23 OCP | Offaly | 1-26 | Down | 1-14 |
| Rd. 4 | 07/05/23 OCP | Offaly | 1-24 | Kerry | 0-16 |
| Rd. 5 | 13/05/23 Carlow | Carlow | 1-29 | Offaly | 0-14 |
| Final (AET) | 27/05/23 Croke Park | Carlow | 2-29 | Offaly | 1-31 |
| Liam McCarthy Cup 2023 | | | | | |
| Prem. O/F | 17/06/23 OCP | Offaly | 3-18 | Tipperary | 7-38 |

As the league progressed the team grew into itself and began to perform consistently. The fight back to draw with Kildare in the final round of the league seemed to be a turning point as they went on to easily account for Kerry in the semi-final and after a slow start in the final got the upper hand on Kildare to win the Division 2A Title and returned to top flight league hurling for 2024.

An opening win in the Joe McDonagh over favourites Laois was a huge boost as the team went on a run of victories and entered the final round game against Carlow following a total of 11 games unbeaten. With a final berth assured the management team used the final game to rest some players with injury concerns ahead of the final following a very intensive campaign.

The final of the Joe McDonagh, played live on TV was one of the games of the year but this was of little consolation to a team and management that had poured everything into the performance. We were beaten by a point in extra-time and as a finalists were due to play the preliminary quarter final of the Liam McCarthy Cup at home to Tipperary 3 weeks later. Tipp came to Tullamore seeking to get their season back on track and demonstrated little compassion and put Offaly to the sword.

The value of the preliminary quarter final berth to the losing Joe McDonagh team is debatable, however this is to remain part of the Championship structures following confirmation at Special Congress.

U20 Hurling

As Leo O'Connor made the move to U20 Manager, he blooded a few of last years successful minors into the squad. At the outset, hopes were high for further development but this team embarked on an eight game journey that lit up the county once again.

The team travelled through the Tier 2 group in a workman-like manner and accounted for Kildare in the preliminary quarter final to set up a home game versus a fancied Galway side. A huge performance from a very young team raised expectations that Offaly might have a say in the Leinster Championship. A huge crowd turned out for a mid-week semi-final against Dublin and they were not disappointed with Offaly again performing to a high standard to reach the Leinster Final.

A sell-out crowd at Dr. Cullen Park were treated to an excellent game with young Offaly players excelling and enthralling supporters at the game and live on TV. The provincial silverware was very welcomed and it set up an All-Ireland appearance against Cork in Semple Stadium for the June Bank Holiday weekend. On the day we were over powered by a more physically mature Cork side but Offaly battled well and fought right to the end to display true Offaly fighting spirit.

The confidence with which this group of players played with throughout the Championship engaged a new generation of Offaly supporters.

| Leinster U20 Hurling Championship T2 G1 2023 | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------|------|-----------|------|
| Rd. 1 | 01/04/23 OCP | Offaly | 2-22 | Westmeath | 1-17 |
| Rd. 2 | 06/04/23 Trim | Meath | 0-09 | Offaly | 2-17 |
| Rd. 3 | 15/04/23 Darver | Offaly | 2-17 | Antrim | 0-08 |
| Leinster U20 Hurling Championship 2023 | | | | | |
| Prem. Q/F | 21/04/23 OCP | Offaly | 2-20 | Kildare | 1-10 |
| Q/F | 29/04/23 OCP | Offaly | 3-20 | Galway | 2-17 |
| S/F | 10/05/23 OCP | Offaly | 1-19 | Dublin | 2-12 |
| Final | 17/05/23 Carlow | Offaly | 1-21 | Wexford | 0-22 |
| All-Ireland U20 Hurling Championship 2023 | | | | | |
| Final | 04/06/23 Thurles | Cork | 2-22 | Offaly | 3-13 |

Minor Hurling

Following the excitement of the 2022 Minor journey, this year was more about developing a group of players. Enda Mulhare and his team were realistic about their task and worked to use the games to improve each player.

The additional group stage games provided were correctly used to develop players and expose them to a higher level of hurling. This group battled hard throughout the campaign and learned a great deal on their journey.

The improvements in the team were evident by their display in the Leinster quarter final at home to Kilkenny. The lads were in the game right to the end and their season demonstrated the value of incremental development of a group.

| Leinster Minor Hurling Championship T1 G1 2023 | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|------|----------|------|
| Rd. 1 | 25/03/23 Parnell Pk. | Dublin | 4-18 | Offaly | 0-19 |
| Rd. 2 | 01/04/23 OCP | Offaly | 1-15 | Kerry | 0-06 |
| Rd. 3 | 07/04/23 Birr | Offaly | 0-10 | Wexford | 3-12 |
| Leinster Minor Hurling Championship 2023 | | | | | |
| Rd.2 | 16/04/23 Mullingar | Westmeath | 0-06 | Offaly | 0-17 |
| Q/F | 23/04/23 Faithful Fields | Offaly | 0-14 | Kilkenny | 2-15 |

Development Squads

A Player Centred Approach forms a critical element of our ambition to re-establish Offaly GAA as a renowned county in all codes and in all activities on and off the field. A restructure of our Development Squads was identified as necessary to achieve this goal.

Our revised model for the operation of Development Squads has resulted in a very focussed approach and importantly buy-in from players and parents alike. Our adjustments to our Development Squad model should not be considered in isolation. The growth of our games programme and ongoing working relationship with our schools is a fundamental element of our new structure. Our approach may differ from other counties but we are confident that our tailored approach best serves the needs of our county.

It is critically important to everyone involved in Offaly GAA that every player enjoys their hurling and football but to be selected for an Offaly Development Squad is a significant milestone for any player on his journey of development. We in Offaly GAA want to provide the best

journey possible to ensure that the correct environment is in place to ensure that the player can flourish. It is important to acknowledge the effort of our coaches and players in raising the standards in our squads, along with the support of the parents.

The Faithful Fields forms a critical element of the Development Squad experience. The immeasurable value of cross fertilisation of ideas and relationships among our coaches across all grades should not be underestimated. In addition, players of all ages mixing together builds a sense of community among our players representing our county.

Players and Management

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of the Players, Management, Selectors, Back-room Teams and Team Secretaries for their outstanding dedication to the Faithful County. We are immensely proud of the manner in which you represented your County over the last twelve months and look forward to the season ahead.

Club Championships

The CCC led by James Murphy and Christy Todd met over 40 times in 2023 to ensure the smooth running of both adult and under-age games programmes. With the support of a committed team of referees and clubs they delivered an ever expanding programme of games.

Growing and sustaining a vibrant games programme is critical to the development of both codes in Offaly. Our players at adult and under-age level need a consistent games programme that provides opportunities to grow and develop with certainty around scheduling. Much has been achieved in recent years expanding the under-age games programme but our adult competitions have contracted in the same period. The changes at national level and introduction of the split season and the demands of provincial competitions on the other end of the season has resulted in a very narrow window for a dual county like Offaly to deliver a robust games programme. We must work with Leinster Council for ways to tighten up the current games window for provincial competitions to free up more weeks for the counties.

Furthermore, a culture has developed within our own county over many years that once a side exits the championship their season is over. In this regard we are an outlier, as most counties run extensive league programmes that run from March to October and provide the club player with an extensive programme of games. Expanding our adult playing season along the

| 2023 Offaly GAA Championships/Competitions | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Level/Award | Championship/Competition | Cup/Trophy/Shield | 2023 Winners | Relegated Teams |
| Adult Football Championships | Senior Football Championship | Dowling Cup | Tullamore | Clara |
| | Senior B Football Championship | Bob Carr Cup | Ballycommon | St. Rynaghs |
| | Intermediate Football Championship | Bill Kelly Cup | Daingean | Shannonbridge |
| | Junior Football Championship | Corn Tomás Ó Cuinn | Kilcormac/K. | Ferbane |
| | Junior B Football Championship | Andy McCormack Cup | Clara | - |
| | Junior C Football Competition | (No Name) | Ballycommon | - |
| | U20 Football Championship | James Guinan Cup | Tullamore | - |
| Adult Football Leagues | Division 1 Football League | Casey Memorial Cup | Tullamore | - |
| | Division 2 Football League | Tom Bracken Memorial Cup | Tubber | - |
| | Division 3 Football League | Pat Direen Cup | Daingean | - |
| | Division 4 Football League | Kenny Malone Cup | Edenderry | - |
| | Division 5 Football League | (No name) | Shamrocks | - |
| Adult Hurling Championships | Senior Hurling Championship | Sean Robbins Cup | Kilcormac/K. | Seir Kieran |
| | Senior B Hurling Championship | Michael Verney Cup | Kilcormac/K. | Shamrocks |
| | Intermediate Hurling Championship | Michael Keary Cup | Carrig & Riverstown | Belmont |
| | Junior Hurling Championship | James Clarke Cup | Ballinamere | Carrig & Riverstown |
| | Junior B Hurling Championship | Brendan Doyle Cup | Birr | - |
| | U20 Hurling Championship | Corn Phadraig S. Úí Theacháin | Kilcormac/K. | - |
| Adult Hurling Leagues | Division 1 Hurling League | Pat Carroll Cup | Kilcormac/K. | - |
| | Division 2 Hurling League | Shane Ryan Cup | Clodiagh Gaels | - |
| | Division 3 Hurling League | Loughnane (Oil) Cup | Coolderry | - |
| | Division 4 Hurling League | Tim Egan Cup | Kilcormac/K. | - |
| Under-Age Football Championships/Competitions | Minor Football Championship | Corn Naomh Mhuire | Cloghan | - |
| | Minor B Football Competition | Pat Colgan Memorial Cup | Shamrocks | - |
| | U15 Football Championship | Corn An Bhr. Ó Murchú | Tullamore | - |
| | U15 B Football Competition | Fr. Doran Memorial Cup | Ferbane/Belmont | - |
| | U15 C Football Competition | Shield | - | - |
| | U15 D Football Competition | Shield | - | - |
| | U13 Football Championship | Offaly Association (Birmingham) Cup | Tullamore | - |
| | U13 B Football Competition | Sonny Conway Memorial Cup | Na Fianna | - |
| | U13 C Football Competition | Shield | - | - |
| Under-Age Hurling Championships/Competitions | Minor Hurling Championship | Fórsa Cosanta ÁitFCA Cup | SBK | - |
| | Minor B Hurling Competition | Kenneth Buggy Cup | Birr | - |
| | U15 Hurling Championship | Birr No. 1 Cup | Kilcormac/K | - |
| | U15 B Hurling Competition | Peter Fox Cup | Ferbane/Belmont | - |
| | U15 C Hurling Competition | Shield | St. Rynagh's | - |
| | U13 Hurling Championship | Corn Uí Chaoimh | Shamrocks | - |
| | U13 B Hurling Competition | Oran Caulfield Cup | Birr | - |
| | U13 C Hurling Competition | Shield | Na Fianna | - |
| | U13 D Hurling Competition | Shield | SBK | - |
| Club of the Year Awards | Adult Club of the Year | Fr. McWey Cup | TBC | - |
| | Under-Age Club of the Year | Gerry Carroll Cup | Shamrocks | - |



Leinster U20 Hurling Champions and All-Ireland Runners Up 2023

lines of our under-age games programme will provide more games for our players to develop and also greatly improve the games to training ratio.

Congratulations to all the teams that participated in all Championships and Competitions and particularly to the winners at all levels. Collecting the silverware can make all the efforts worthwhile but there are always runners-up and clubs should be very proud of the levels of participation being achieved in very difficult circumstances. There was a worrying growth in the number of walk-overs in Championship games. Once a rare occurrence, it is something we would like to see reducing in 2024.

At the time of writing our hurling clubs are enjoying very successful runs in the Leinster Club Championships, unfortunately 2023 did not bring any success for our football sides, however, congratulations to all clubs that represented Offaly in these competitions this year.

ADMINISTRATION

In 2023, we returned to a more pre-covid model of holding meetings in person, however we used online methods when required and going forward a hybrid model will probably work best.

This year we continued to build on the significant Governance Audit work completed in 2022. We

endeavoured to implement the recommendations of the audit putting procedures in place for the county.

Overall our systems are considered robust and some updated policies will be implemented in early 2024 once further guidance is received from Croke Park. As we move forward, we will continue to improve the administration function and capacity of the County. Our aim is to ease the burden for Club Officers, who give so much to the Association and assist new Officers moving into roles with their clubs.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the efforts on the Offaly GAA Management Committee and their work for the County throughout the year. The detailed reports set out in the Sub-Committee Reports section of this document are testament to the hard work carried out in 2023. In particular, I would like to recognise the work of Paddy Scales and Dolores Slevin, who after many years service, complete their respective 5-year terms as Central Council and Leinster Council Representative.

HR & Full Time Appointments

Following an unsuccessful process to appoint an Operations Manager throughout 2022, we worked with HR in Croke Park to backfill the position on a temporary basis by seconding Damien Coleman from Connacht GAA for a 6 month period while we restarted the appointment process. This appointment facilitated a review period, to establish the best resourcing needs for the County.

During this review period, we identified that a part-time Administration Role would be required to successfully support a Head of Operations Role in the County. In this regard, following approval from HR, both positions were advertised at the start of the summer and successfully filled with two very experienced administrators in August 2023, John Hackett - Head of Operations and Carina Carroll - County Administrator.

John and Carina have settled into their roles very well and I believe they will be a critical part in providing stability to the County into the future. They are very experienced and full of enthusiasm for their respective roles. Their energy when combined with an excellent Coaching & Games Staff will lead the County on the journey it needs to travel, guided by elected officers on an annual basis.

A National HR Review and Funding Model for Coaching and Games has resulted in positive change to our Coaching and Games staff also. Michael Cleary resigned his position as Games Manager in April to explore opportunities outside the GAA and we wish Michael well in his endeavours. This coincided with the aforementioned HR Review and Adrian Clancy was appointed as Head of Games Development. Gary Flannery was added as Performance GDA and Nigel Dunne as Games Development Coordinator. These full-time positions will be reinforced by the appointment of further Coaches in the coming weeks. In addition, the above staff are supported by a number Participation Officers formally known as GPO's.

Notwithstanding the recent turnover of staff, we now find ourselves in a very strong position with the personnel at our disposal. There is a very clear vision for the delivery of a high performance programme for the county along with a robust support structure for our clubs. This is paramount to deliver of our core objective of providing a player centred experience in Offaly GAA.

Our team of full-time staff shall ensure the consistent implementation of our Strategy over the coming years. This will provide the consistency in approach to deliver on our goals in a meaningful way and establish our county as a force in both codes once again.

Coaching & Games

Our new Coaching & Games staff model combined with an energised Coaching & Games Committee ensures that the county is continually striving to improve playing standards across the county. Working closely with Coiste na Óg, an expanded and robust games programme has

been delivered and this forms a critical element for the growth and improvement of standards across the county for our young players.

Our reorganised Development Squad model has proven very successful in providing an outlet to nurture elite performance. There is a strong desire among our young players to be involved and this is a credit to the work of Coaching and Games and the coaches involved.

It is worth noting that many Clubs continue to strive towards best practice in relation to Coaching and Games and it was positive to see clubs initiate Nursery Programmes in 2023. Work will continue in 2024 to encourage the best standards in club coaching. We are encouraging clubs to embrace the opportunities offered by the small sided Go Games Programme to enter teams as individual clubs as opposed to Independent Teams.

Go Games Programme 2024

The Club is the basic unit of the Association, and its objective shall be the promotion at local level of the Association's aims, as stated in the Official Guide. In a predominately rural county, where some clubs do and will continue to play as Independent Teams at competitive age grades in order to field teams, the Go Games Model offers the opportunity to foster the sense of club from an early age. In 2024, we are encouraging clubs to field U8 & U10 teams under their own banner, especially as games at U8 can be 5-a-side. If successful, this will provide the further benefit of a more varied games programme within smaller geographic areas. The cornerstone of this strategy is to grow the games, be more inclusive, make the games more accessible whilst optimising fun, friendship, fair-play and enjoyment.

Gaelic Football - Worrying Trends

Across the Association we continue to invest in Coaching & Games and in Offaly we have committed to additional expenditure across all of our teams with a view to improving performance and delivering success for the county and this is being replicated at club level also.

However, as Officers of the County Committee or indeed as an Officer of a Club, we should reflect very carefully on what this increased expenditure is delivering. As custodians of Gaelic Games I believe we have a collective responsibility to protect our games and ensure that they are passed to the next generation in better condition than we received them. Particularly, with regard to the game of football at present, can we honestly claim that our collective investments are improving the quality of the game?

The game of Gaelic Football was based on risk and reward, moving the ball quickly that resulted in a high portion of contested possession among opponents that marked each other tightly which in turn facilitated a spectacle of individual contests throughout the field. The uncertainty and speed of play resulted in a game that was attractive to the spectator and rewarded honesty of endeavour as there was no place for shirking of individual responsibility for players on the field.

Whilst the argument will be made that the game evolves with each generation, I contend we should be very careful not to allow the game to evolve too far from its original principles. The origins of the GAA are based in the fact that we wished to protect our indigenous games from the influences of alien games. At the foundation of the GAA, Archbishop Croke described Hurling and Football as games '*racy of the soil*' and forming '*manly exercises*' in comparison to imported field sports of the time. I pose the question, are we now importing coaching methods, statistical measures and game plans designed for other games to the overall detriment of our own games.

Tinkering with rules to fix the problems will not work. In the absence of a more principled approach, new methods and strategies will be developed to counteract any proposed rule changes. I believe we must encourage our players and coaches to embrace a return to the fundamental principles of our games. Through our Coaching & Games Strategies we should insist on the promotion of the skills, developing man marking, contested possession and quick play.

Failing to address this will result in patrons voting with their feet, falling attendances and falling revenues. The current levels of investment in our games could not be sustained in that scenario. Already there are trends toward lower attendances at National, Provincial and Club level. Underpinning falling attendances with additional games and competitions shall not solve the problem either. We should not be afraid to call out coaching and negative play that deviates from the original principles of the game and we need to monitor the situation very closely.

Match Ticketing

Over the past couple of seasons we have moved to online ticketing for the vast majority of our fixtures. This has proved extremely successful and I wish to recognise the work of our Finance Committee and our Treasurer's Dervill Dolan and Nessa Feighery for their commitment to the success of the project. In addition, I would like

to thank all the volunteers that operate gates for the County on a regular basis and to the Clubs for their support with the transition to cashless games. Issues in relation to access to ticketing systems, particularly for older generations was acknowledged in 2023 and a Season Pass solution for OAP's was developed that helped alleviate those concerns.

O'Connor Park & Faithful Fields

Throughout 2023, both O'Connor Park and Faithful Fields witnessed huge levels of activity. For the first time in a few years we hosted some big Inter-County fixtures including Kildare GAA fixtures as St. Conleth's park was being redeveloped. The Grounds staff at both locations should be suitably proud of how the grounds were presented at all times.

Sponsorship & Fundraising

In 2023 we expanded our Sponsorship Partnership with Glenisk, when we announced the partnership would extend to the naming rights of O'Connor Park. The deal, when combined with their overall contribution to Offaly, represents a major opportunity to progress Gaelic Games in Offaly. It offers financial stability and the resources to implement our ambitious plans for the future. The sales for the Offaly Jersey carrying the Glenisk logo have been very high to date, with a new design being released ahead of the 2024 season.

We were delighted to welcome Galvins Menswear onto the sleeve of the Offaly Jersey in 2023. This well known and popular brand is an excellent fit with Offaly GAA.

Again, in 2023, Molloy Environmental & the Tullamore Court Hotel provided sponsorship for our Senior Hurling & Football Championships. These are very important partnerships for the County and this year, we were delighted to add EJ Access Solutions as sponsor of our under-age championships.

We are delighted that our continued partnership with Shane Lowry continues to flourish. Shane is a wonderful ambassador for the County and role model for our players. I would like to congratulate Shane on his part in the Ryder Cup win for Europe in 2023.

In addition to our existing generous sponsors we raised monies through the Grand Canal Walk, in conjunction with the Clubs of Offaly. We are very grateful to all our sponsors and to all those people who supported our fundraising initiatives during the year.

We continue to grow our pitch side sponsors at Glenisk

O'Connor Park, with many new partners coming on board in 2023.

I would also like to acknowledge the work and commitment of Club Faithful over many years. Thanks to the Offaly Association in Dublin for their contribution in 2023 through their very successful Golf Classic held to support Offaly GAA.

Club Support

Offaly GAA can only ever be the sum of its parts and in this regard the 41 Clubs of Offaly are important cogs in the machine. Without the army of volunteers in each and every club, the GAA would not exist and would not operate successfully. Every volunteer can be very proud of their contributions.

We look forward to working in partnership with our Clubs and Volunteers in the year ahead to continue the drive toward on-going success for our County. Sustaining high performance for our County teams can only be achieved through the development of our players at Club level. Therefore it is imperative that each Club strives to raise their own standards and the Officers of the County Board are here to assist in this regard.

This year we held a number of engaging meetings with the Senior Officers from each club and these meetings proved very beneficial. We debated issues such as the Age Grades, Go Games Policy and Competition Structures. The debates are robust and honest which is the way things should be. Challenging the way we do things will have long-term benefits for Gaelic Games in Offaly.

I would like to express thanks to the Clubs of Offaly for aligning their respective Financial Year and AGM timetable to meet the requirements of the latest rule changes. Consistency on timing of administration issues like the above will allow us to further streamline administrative processes and improve preparations for the year ahead.

Scór Sinsir

I would like to acknowledge the work of Michelle Hogan and the Cultural Committee and their promotion of Scór. 2023 competitions were held this year and Offaly was well represented in the All Ireland Finals. Birr & Edenderry represented the County with distinction with Birr winning the Rince Foirne.

Comhghairdeas libh go léir!

In Memoriam

As mentioned earlier, Offaly GAA experienced the tragic loss of our Senior Football Manager Liam Kearns. This was a huge shock to all and particularly those that worked closely with him. However in a time of great sadness I was very proud to see how our players showed a maturity and a great sense of decorum around how they represented Offaly GAA at the time of the funeral.

Over the past 12 months Offaly GAA suffered the loss of former County Board Officers, Players and Club Officers. In July, the death of Offaly GAA Life President and former County Board Chairman, Mr Brendan Ward was announced. Although Brendan had lived a long and fruitful life, there was huge sadness at his passing for he had been such a great Gael and ambassador for his county.

Former County Players Sean Brereton (Daingean), Jimmy Dunne (Kilcormac), Donie Hanlon (Gracefield), Pat Heffernan (Tullamore) Donal O'Neill (Edenderry), Ray Horan (St. Rynagh's) and Tom Carroll (Seir Keiran) passed away during the course of the year. The death of Kevin Kilmurray was announced last December and the former player and manager was one of the best footballers of his generation. Former Referee Jimmy Lowry also sadly passed away in February.

Also during 2023, a number of administrative stalwarts, who showed great commitment to Offaly GAA in their roles on various committees, passed away. Most notably Michael Nestor (Clara), Danny Bergin (Killavilla), Joe Parlon (Coolderry) and Eddie Kenny (Edenderry).

Other Gaels worthy of mention are Jim Larkin & Alo Lawlor (Tullamore), and from the steps of the Hogan Stand, one of the most famous Stewards in Croke Park, Johnnie Crosbie (Edenderry).

Everyone above and many others, have made valuable contributions to Offaly GAA during the course of their lives, directly and indirectly through work in their Club. It is therefore, important that we remember them and all club administrators who died in the past year, on the occasion of County Convention.

LOOKING AHEAD - 2024 & BEYOND

The strategy developed for the County in 2020 'The Offaly Way Forward' has served our administration well over the last number of years. The principles of the plan have guided the work of the Management Committee and all of the Sub-Committees operating under the

auspices of Offaly GAA. Striving towards the delivery of the key goals and objectives of the plan has established a solid platform to allow the county to excel over the coming years.

An important element of the consistent implementation relies on the appointment of a dedicated team of full time staff. The experienced and energised group we now have in place will continue the incremental improvement of the county through aligned annual operation plans. This structure is essential to ensure Offaly GAA remains on the pathway to returning to the highest levels of competition. The recent successes of our under-age teams proves that Offaly can dine at the top table once again. We must ensure we are prepared and organised to capitalise on our ambition.

Our ambition in the coming years is to further develop the five pillars of the plan, that will ensure the continued delivery of the goal of an 'Unrivalled GAA Experience' in County Offaly. The five pillars will be further refined in 2024, as specific projects are identified for implementation.

1. Sustainable Club Coverage

A sustainable network of Clubs providing positive entry points to the Gaelic Games family by maximising participation & provision of excellent facilities

2. Vibrant Games Programme

A defined calendar of games via Club & Schools providing meaningful participation for all levels

3. High Performance Pathway

Provide clear pathway for high performers to excel at County level

4. Financial Stability

Our Clubs and County Board are financially stable with robust governance procedures in place

5. Respected Brand

The Offaly brand is synonymous with success and excellence

On reflection, 2023 was a very positive year on the field of play with all teams back participating with full schedules. The intensity of the split season is very challenging for a dual county and the sheer number of games in a condensed period amplifies the efforts required to maintain a true dual county. We feel those substantial efforts should be very clearly reflected in the funding model allocated nationally to each county and this is an area that we shall be perusing in the coming year. Following recent under-age success in both codes, there can be an expectation that our adult teams should automatically improve. However, patience will be required in order to develop and nurture our emerging talent. There is a body of work to be completed to bring our developing players through and be ready to make an impact at Senior level. Our ambition is to bring ourselves back to the top level in both codes and importantly sustain our position at that level.

The U20 Hurlers were certainly the stand out team of the year and brought us so close to All-Ireland glory once again. Many of these players are under-age again this year and this brings an expectation that we will compete for honours again this year.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who helped me in my role as County Secretary. I have received wonderful support from volunteers across the County, my colleagues on the Management Committee, Leinster Council and from Croke Park full time staff.

Le gach dea-mhéin

Colm Ó Comáin
Colm Ó Comáin

Rúnaí an Coiste Chontae





Sub-Committee Reports

Coiste Airgeadais

Author: Mark Gorman

Cathaoirleach: Mark Gorman

(Cumann Béal Átha na gCarr)

Runaí: Dervill Dolan (Cumann An Clarach)

Committee:

Paul Craven (Cumann Cill Chormaic/Cill Aictí)

Padriag Egan (Cumann An Dún)

Tony Flanagan (Cumann An Tulach Mhór)

Aiden O'Neill (Cumann Seir Keiran)

Eamon Phelan (Cumann Baile Sceannach/Cill an Bhile)

Nessa Feighery (Cumann Cill Chormaic/Cill Aictí)

The Finance Committee for 2023 comprised Mark Gorman (Chair), Dervill Dolan (Treasurer), Paul Craven, Padraig Egan, Tony Flanagan, Eamon Phelan, Aiden O'Neill and Nessa Feighery, (Assistant Treasurer).

The committee was supported by our Operations Manager, John Hackett, and we thank John for all his work and support.

Offaly GAA recorded a surplus of €88,983 for the year ended 30th September, 2023. While this represents a significant reduction on the 2022 surplus of €410,321, it should be noted that the 2022 surplus includes gate income of €288,179 (€241,337 after costs) for the 2021 championship which concluded in December 2021. The 2023 accounts include all gate income for the 2023 championships.

The detailed audited financial statements for 2023 are attached with this report.

Income and Expenditure Account Summary

| Results by Area | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| County Committee - Surplus | €161,493 | €514,452 |
| O'Connor Park - (Deficit) | (€25,126) | (€38,263) |
| Faithful Fields - (Deficit) | (€47,384) | (€65,868) |
| TOTAL - Surplus for Year | €88,983 | €410,321 |

Some of the key movements in the financial accounts for 2023 include the following;

- Gross gate income for our 2023 Leagues and Championships was €516,870 compared to €815,243 in 2022. The gate income in the 2022 accounts includes €288,179 arising from the 2021 championship. For comparison purposes, the 2022 gate income was €527,064, resulting in a small decrease in gate receipts in 2023 of €10,194 or 1.93% year on year.
- A new financial structure was introduced in 2023 to support our Games Development and Coaching. The total income from Central Council, Leinster GAA and Club contributions was €347,451, while the total Coaching and Games Development costs were €350,161. This new grant support structure has allowed Offaly GAA and our clubs to significantly increase the number of coaching staff in 2023 to 10 coaches at present.
- The Cúl Camp surplus of €49,085 (2022 -€41,719) represents a significant contribution towards our Coaching and Games Development costs again this year.
- As a result of our Senior Hurlers reaching the Joe McDonagh final, Offaly GAA received a County/Holiday Grant of €60,000. The Senior Hurling panel and management have requested that Offaly GAA retain this grant towards training costs. We would like to thank the Senior Hurling panel and management team for this kind gesture.
- The County Team Administration costs of €1,160,854 represents a significant expense for Offaly GAA. While the costs this year represent a reduction of €48,480 on last year, we must continue our focus on managing these costs while ensuring we continue to provide quality facilities and good supports for all our teams and development groups.
- The O' Connor Park Income and Expenditure Account reflects a surplus of €24,743 after adjusting for non-cash items.

The Balance Sheet at 30th September 2023 shows an improved position on last year as a result of the surplus for the year with an Accumulated Fund Surplus of €543,006 compared to €454,023 in 2022.

The OCP redevelopment loan balance has reduced by €108,008 from €1,357,071 in September 2022 to €1,249,063 in September 2023.

While the financial position of Offaly GAA has improved significantly in recent years, it is very important that we continue our focus on all our income streams while ensuring that all expenditure is managed efficiently. A continuing strategic approach to investing in our structures and infrastructure with good governance and oversight will help put our Clubs and County in the best position to achieve success into the future.

We are very grateful to all our sponsors and to all the people who supported our fundraising initiatives during the year. The Universe ticketing system is now fully operational for our games and provides greater control and security managing our gate income. Thanks to all our clubs, volunteers and supporters for your continued support throughout the year.

Thanks also to Leinster Council and Central Council for their support throughout the year.

A special word of thanks also to the Offaly GAA Management Committee for all their support. Again this year, members of the Management Committee did not claim honoraria and other expenses this year.

On the field of play, our U20 Hurlers captured the imagination in 2023 following the fantastic success of our Minor Hurlers in 2022 and our U20 Footballers in 2021.

Thanks to everyone involved with our teams, clubs, sponsors, volunteers and supporters who have contributed to our success both on and off the field.



Sub-Committee Reports

Coiste Cheannais na gComortaisí

Author: Seamus Ó Murchú

Cathaoirleach: Seamus Ó Murchú (Cumann An Ród)

Runaí: Christy Todd (Cumann Baile Uí Chomáin)

Committee:

Joe Higgins (Cumann An Tobar)

Dave Coffey (Cumann Biorra)

Carina Carroll (Cumann Baile an Maor)

Eamon Dunican (Cumann Erin Rovers)

Eamon Phelan (Cumann Baile Sceannach/Cill an Bhile)

Denis Hoctor (Cumann An Charraig & Baile Uí Lachnáin)

Padraig Keating (Cumann An Daingean)

The “*Split-Season*” has resulted in benefits and obstacles in respect of the delivery of a comprehensive Club Fixture Programme. The “*Window*” for club championship fixtures is sandwiched between all of Offaly’s adult team’s exit from the Provincial/All-Ireland series and the commencement of the Provincial Club Championship. Therefore, the options for providing a meaningful club Championship Structure are restricted due to the tight time-scale. The 2023 adult championships proceeded in accordance with the approved Fixture Calendar with the exception of the senior B football championship which concluded later than scheduled due to a successful Club DRA Claim and the U20 championships where there were a number of issues.

The five Adult Football League and four Adult Hurling League Competitions were completed prior to the commencement of the 2023 Club Championship Programme. League Competitions can only proceed without Inter-County panellists. Unfortunately, the absence of Inter-County panellists impacts on the competitiveness and intensity of the League Competitions. Some concerns were expressed with regard to the absence of League promotion and relegation.

The 2023 Adult Championship Programme commenced early in July and concluded before the end of October with the exception of U20 hurling. In 2023, the U20 Championships were organised on a League/Knock

basis, in the interest of providing more games for this Age-Grade. However, the revised structure was not a success. There were seven games conceded (four hurling & three football). There were issues around compliance with the Approved Fixture Plan and concerns were expressed by some Clubs along with adult and U20 Club Team Management members.

There were 15 games conceded in the 2023 Junior B championships (Seven hurling & eight football). Some of these concessions may have been as a result of the long gap between the team entry date and the championship commencement. However, there may be other reasons. Match concessions, and team withdrawals after Championship Groups have been confirmed, are very unfair on the remaining teams in a Championship/Group.

There were 29 championship match concessions in all adult Grades in 2023. The provision of just three guaranteed fixtures in the league stage of a number of adult football championships was mentioned on a number of occasions during the year.

The Offaly Under-age Games Hurling & Football Programme had an active and comprehensive season with various leagues, competitions & games from March to November. It's unfortunate that 30 games were conceded, but it's still an achievement to ensure that all boys from U8 to Minor had the opportunity to play at least 9 matches in one code or 18 dual matches in 2023. Sincere thanks to host clubs for their contribution to this successful season.

Infractions (Players & Team Officials), Membership, Player Registration and Playing Eligibility issues were all included in Disciplinary Reports prepared by the Competitions Control Committee during 2023. A total of 25% of those Disciplinary Reports were in respect of under-age activity. The current non-compliance with the Guidelines for Governance, Finance, Child Safeguarding and Registration, in respect of Independent Teams, is a cause for concern. Some of these issues were addressed at the recent Adult/Under-age Club Briefing. However, full implementation of the Guidelines for Independent Teams is a matter for the County Committee and relevant Clubs.

A sincere thank you to all referees who officiated at games during 2023. Thanks also to the members of the Referee's Administration Committee, for their work in recruiting and training referees. There were some new additions to the referee's panel in 2023. I appeal to clubs

to support the Referee's Administration Committee in their efforts to recruit additional referees.

The cooperation and support of clubs, players, referees, Sub-Committees and County Committee during 2023 was very much appreciated by the Competitions Control Committee.

Club venues throughout Offaly are of a very high standard and clubs deserve credit for the ongoing developments and improvements. Floodlit venues were in high demand towards the end of the 2023 playing season due to a higher number of postponements than normal as a result of weather/pitch conditions. We appreciate the efforts of clubs in preparing venues to a high standard and request that they strive to maintain a consistent high standard.

In light of the greater demand for match facilities, late in the Club Championship Season, it may be necessary for the County Committee to consider the option of floodlighting O'Connor Park and/or providing a full-size all-weather pitch within the County.

Sincere thanks to all other members of the Competitions Control Committee: Joe Higgins, Dave Coffey, Carina Carroll, Eamonn Dunican, Eamon Phelan, Denis Hctor, Padraig Keating and Christy Todd.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the late Brendan Ward to Offaly GAA. Brendan was a hugely respected figure in Offaly GAA and his term as Chairman of Offaly County Board coincided with a period of huge success for the County.

Finally, on behalf of the Competitions Control Committee, I wish to extend sincere congratulations to the Offaly U20 hurlers on their Provincial success, the senior hurlers on their Allianz League success and all our adult and under-age club championship, league and competition winners.

Seamus Ó Murchú
Cathaoirleach, Coiste Cheannais na gComórtaisí.



Sub-Committee Reports

Coiste Éisteachta

Author: Máire Ní Dhubhlaóich

Cathaoirleach: Éamann Ó Ciosóg (Cumann Darú)

Runaí: Máire Ní Dhubhlaóich
(Cumann Baile Sceannach/Cill an Bhile)

Committee:

Seosamh Ó Briáin (Cumann Druim-cuilean)
Éamonn Mac Mathúna (Cumann an Rachra)
Clár Brádaigh (Cumann Fear Bán)
Pól Ó Síoráin (Cumann An Daingean)
Liam Ó Caomhánach (Cumann Cill Cluain Feirt)

As per the Treoraí Oifigúil, the function of the Hearings Committee is to *“adjudicate on all disciplinary matters where a hearing is prescribed and requested, relating to the enforcement of rules arising from matters under the jurisdiction of the county committee or the executive committee of a club within the county.”*

The County Hearings Committee does not seek to be seen as a defender of referees, committees or players and assesses the evidence put before it in a fair and impartial manner. Depending on the specific circumstances of each case and the evidence presented, the members of the committee are sometimes left with difficult decisions to make and must strive at all times to be fair and objective in arriving at their decision, while complying with the Treoraí Oifigúil.

In October of this year an additional document, “GAA Codes”, was added to the suite of publications relevant to the disciplinary process. The Disciplinary Handbook was also updated. These publications are available on the GAA website and all club officials are urged to familiarise themselves with their contents, as well as the relevant portions of the Official Guides.

An Coiste Éisteachta dealt with twenty-four hearing or appeal requests in 2023. Two hearing requests were withdrawn, two appeals were ruled out of order for non-compliance, one appeal was deemed to have been lost, three cases were referred to the CCC for

re-processing and one disciplinary case involving a supporter was dismissed. Of the remaining fifteen cases, the majority concerned playing infractions, with one red card rescinded and suspensions imposed in all other cases.

It is important to note that the committee is bound by Code 16.1 (aa) (vi), which states *“A Referee’s Report, including any clarification thereto, shall be presumed to be correct in all factual matters and may only be rebutted where unedited video or other compelling evidence contradicts it”* and also Code 16 (bb) which states *“An infraction shall be treated as proved if, in the opinion of the Hearings Committee, the infraction alleged is more likely to have occurred than not to have occurred”*. Without clear video evidence it is very difficult to provide sufficient evidence to overturn a referee’s report. Clubs should consider these points in particular and ensure that any member who is considering requesting a Hearing is fully informed and is also aware that they could incur a greater penalty than originally proposed by the CCC. Rule 3.1 (b) states *“A Club shall be obliged to obtain a current copy of the Official Guide, and its members shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the Rules and Regulations in it and shall be bound by them.”*

Where any member or unit is not satisfied with a decision by the Hearings Committee, they have the right of appeal to the Leinster Hearings Committee. Efforts were made to appeal a small number of cases this year, but none progressed as the submissions to Leinster were not in compliance with the Official Guide. Club officials should familiarise themselves with the rules for submitting an appeal and must fully comply with these. It is important to note that a successful appeal hinges on demonstrating that the decision maker infringed or misapplied a rule – it is **not** a re-hearing.

Thank to our referees for clearly stating infractions on reports, club secretaries for their timely and responsive communications, and to all who attended Hearings throughout the year for their courtesy and conduct. Thanks to the members of the CCC who represented their committee at meetings. Finally, thanks to all members of An Coiste Éisteachta for the time and commitment in their efforts to ensure that all Appellants received a fair hearing.

Máire Ní Dhubhlaóich
Runaí, Coiste Éisteachta



Sub-Committee Reports

Coiste na nÓg/Coaching & Games

Author: Debbie Uí Scolaí

Cathaoirleach Coiste na nÓg

Keith Screeney (Cumann Cill Chormaic/Cill Aictí)

Cathaoirleach Coaching & Games

Carina Carroll (Cumann Baile an Maor)

Runaí

Debbie Scully (Cumann Páirc De Grás)

Committee:

Paul Dillane (Cumann Tulach Mhór)

Philip Kelly (Cumann Clodiagh Gaels)

Ollie Bryant (Cumann Na Shamróga)

Tomás Flaherty (Cumann Peile Naomh Raghnach)

Elaine Kelly Dunne (Cumann Cill Cluain Feart)

Enda Mulhare (Cumann Iom Naomh Raghnach)

John Ferris (Cumann Fear Bán)

Michael Cleary (Cumann Suí an Róin)

Conor Mooney (Cumann Biorra)

Declan Kelly (Cumann Cill Cluain Feart)

Toni Ryan (Cumann Druim-Cuilleán)

Clement King (Cumann An Charraig & Baile Uí Lachnáin)

Seamus Hoyne (Cumann Cúl Doire)

William Flynn (Cumann An Clarach)

Eoin Meagher (Cumann Baile Sceannach/Cill an Bhile)

Tom Robinson (Cumann Ceann Eitigh)

Dean Bracken (Cumann An Tobar)

Simon Whelehan (Cumann Biorra)

Aisling Romano (Cumann Éadan Doire)

Morgan Lee (Cumann Ráithín)

Ciara Spain (Cumann Cill Chormaic/Cill Aictí)

Gerard Noonan (Cumann An Ród)

Roy Cronin (Cumann An Clarach)

Objectives for 2023

- Continue to provide an extended season to Juvenile Players with meaningful Competition.
- Provide additional support and training to Club Officers on Foireann/Club Structures.
- Provide a safe and fun environment for Go Games through Silent Sidelines.
- Continue to strengthen Development Squads through training and ongoing testing.

The first meeting of the Coiste na nÓg Committee was held in Glenisk O'Connor Park on 24.01.2023 and saw the addition of some new members, outgoing members were thanked for their previous contribution and help. Keith Screeney will Chair Coiste na nÓg and Carina Carroll will Chair Coaching and Games.

Fixtures Calendar

The year got off to a flying start with our Under-age pack from U8 to Minor issued to all Clubs in Mid-February to allow for planning by Clubs and Parents, this was well received and included a new tournament for U12's in both hurling and football the Shane Lowry tournament. Coaching Education and Development plans were also sent out to allow coaches to up-skill during the quiet part of the year.

Feile Competitions

Feile competitions were held over the weekends of the 4th March Football and due to unplayable pitches Feile Hurling was delayed but played on the 7th April.

Silent Side-lines

Silent Sidelines was a new and welcome initiative taken up in the County this year with games from U8-U12 promoting an encouraging sideline with no shouting or instruction from the sideline with the exception of one designated coach to assist with instruction. This was to allow children learn and grow in the game and enjoy the experience of match days without a barrage of shouting coming for every direction. This was well received in clubs and thank you to our fantastic supporters Glenisk for providing signage and bibs for clubs to use to promote the initiative. This initiative also generated interest from around the country with other clubs and counties getting in contact to see how they would also promote this...we started a trend!!

County Team Support

Again 2023 provided us with plenty to cheer about as our County Teams gave us some great days out to fly the County flag and instil a pride in our county jersey and colours. In particular we again promoted the FILL THE STADIUM initiative and boy did our county turn up on the big days to cheer on our players. From O'Connor Park to Croke Park from Dr Cullen Park and Semple Stadium families and children got behind our Hurlers and Footballers both Senior, U20 and Minor players. We truly are a special county.

Go Games Days

March saw the commencement of our Senior Inter County league and Offaly GAA encouraged the

promotion of clubs playing mini half time games during the adult fixture at home venues our County ground Glenisk O'Connor Park. This proved to be very successful with all clubs across the county getting to play at half time games, many thanks to team managements and players for giving their time to meet teams, get photos and give some encouraging words to our future county stars. It was great that we then continued this promotion of games when our club championship started and children again got to play at half time in venues across the county, supporting their club players and making a very important link between the adult and juvenile players in clubs. I would like to thank our PRO Pdraig O'Meara who assisted me in promoting this and collaborated some great promotional photos and pieces for social media.

Club Briefings

On Tuesday July 11th a meeting was held in O'Connor Park to offer support to Clubs with their under-age structures, the room was filled with representatives from all 41 adult Clubs. Chairman Michael Duignan and Secretary Colm Cummins along with Carina Carroll and Adrian Clancy spoke on the night and there was a real sense of support and positivity on the night of the work we are trying to achieve as a county.

Shane Lowry Leagues

September saw the completion of our U12 Shane Lowry Leagues for both Hurling and Football and these were a spectacular occasion for every child at that age in the County. The teams were treated to a full match day experience as they ran out on to the field on our County Grounds, with a team photo and line out for our National Anthem.

These games finished with teams climbing the steps to receive their cup a full match day experience which will hopefully instil in the children the desire to return and compete again and again as they go up the age ranks in their clubs. Thanks to the wonderful work of Mark Forde for capturing these special moments.

Championships & Competitions

| 2023 Championships/Competitions | |
|--|-----------------|
| Champ/Comp Name | Complete |
| U13 Hurling | ✓ |
| U15 Hurling | ✓ |
| U17 Hurling | ✓ |
| U13 Football | ✓ |
| U15 Football | ✓ |
| U17 Football | ✓ |

Winter Plans

As in 2022 the Jack Wyer and Jerry Conway tournaments were ran in October and provided an extra month of games to players at U12 from across the County. U8 and U10 Go Games also continued in an opt in option for Clubs which again saw a prolonged season for children at that age.

Plans were set in place to provide a Winter Training Hub for U13,U14 and U15 boys from across the County to attend training sessions provided by Offaly Coaching and Games staff. These were initially in Club venues but due to a huge uptake in the sessions they have now been centralised in Faithful Fields on a Wednesday night. There has been an overwhelming response with children from Clubs across the County taking up the opportunity to train and learn in Faithful Fields weekly. These will continue into November and we would like to thank all coaches for giving their time to train our future club and county stars.

Development Squads

Development Squads have been making great progress over the year and following a short break in August/September they are now back training and preparing for the year ahead. Again, this has been on ongoing process and a huge body of work has gone into structures and planning to provide the best possible start for our players. We thank all coaches who have given their time to train teams and travel to games and tournaments across the country. Thanks to our Directors of Football and Hurling Declan and Toni for their commitment to the development of the games.

Structures

Coiste na nÓg and Coaching & Games are again working tirelessly to prepare structures and plans for 2024 to allow for clubs and parents to plan for the 2024 Season. Our members are working with their Clubs to ensure a satisfactory plan which will provide meaningful competition and maximum participation for Juveniles across the County. We await a final vote on Age Grades for 2024 before we can finalise plans, but it is hoped to have this plan out early in the new year to allow players, parents and clubs the opportunity to plan for the year ahead.

Club of the Year

Club of The Year criteria for 2023 will look at Clubs who participated fully and engaged all their juveniles in games, competitions, tournaments and will also include how Clubs conducted themselves on and off the pitch.

Clubs who are actively engaging their juveniles in Winter Programmes and assisting with the recruitment of young whistlers is also part of the criteria for selection.

Conclusion

Finally, the Coiste na nÓg/Coaching and Games Committee would like to thank Clubs for their continued support throughout the year and for facilitating games and training sessions for teams. It is important also to thank all the Referees and Match Officials who officiated at all Juvenile games across the County during the year and those who gave up their time for the Winter Leagues also. Many thanks to the CCC for their tireless and efficient management of fixtures with over 1000 games a year it is no mean feat to prepare and plan these fixtures, thankfully the weather only played havoc in the minimum number of instances and so everything ran smoothly!

Debbie Uí Scolai - Runai Coiste na nÓg Uibh Fhaili



Sub-Committee Reports

PR Communications / Marketing

Author: Padraig O'Meara

Cathaoirleach: Padraig O'Meara

(Cumann An Clarach)

Runai: Brendan Minnock

(Cumann na Seamróga)

Committee:

Ciara Spainn (Cumann Cill Chormaic/Cill Aictí)

Eamonn Cusack (Cumann An Daru)

Jack Ryan (Cumann Rachra)

Adam Harte (Cumann An Biorra)

Sinead Toolan (Cumann Clodiagh Gaels)

Barry McLoughlin (Cumann An Tobar)

Jackie Kinahan (Cumann Clodiagh Gaels)

Social media in twenty first century is the most powerful tool in our world and one that every business and organisation uses daily, 2023 was by far the busiest year yet as we tried to flood our social media platforms with content of all that is happening on the ground in Gaelic Games in Offaly. We tried to get scores and results out as quickly and efficiently as possible, promotion of our championships, leagues, underage programmes, development squad activity, County teams, the cultural side of our organisation and give our sponsors the acknowledgement they deserve throughout the year.



40,020 Followers

twitter.com/Offaly_GAA



17,980 Followers

facebook.com/OfficialOffalyGAA



14,560 Followers

instagram.com/officialoffalygaa

Social/ Digital Media

We have Facebook followers from 14 different countries. An average Facebook post hits approximately 18k accounts. We brought a young man in from Edenderry, Mark Forde who has a massive interest in videography.

He put together several videos throughout the year. One video in particular that he produced, the Leinster u20 hurling final in Carlow went viral, this video was viewed over 250k times on all our social media platforms. We have received numerous emails and calls from County PRO's, Clubs, and coaching staff from around the Country regarding the content put up about the under-age initiatives that were accomplished during the year. Offaly have more under-age activity than most other Counties who are now copying and following our lead. Social media is so important for getting our message out there, I would encourage all club PRO's to try to keep the club social media accounts more active. Fake links directing people under comments to watch live streams is becoming a massive problem, there is ways to drastically reduce the amount seen on clubs' accounts. Contact me for more details.

Programmes / Team Sheets

Team sheets were provided for as many adult championship games as was possible in both codes and all league finals throughout 2023. This was also done for all knock-out under-age games in both codes. We probably took on too much at times, but it was made easier with the continued support of Club Secretaries and the new Microsoft form that was put into use. I want to thank all Club Secretaries for respecting deadlines and their help in preparing programmes and getting player pictures in for promotional purposes.

We have built up a small and dedicated team that have been of great assistance in dropping programmes to Club grounds all over the County for various games. I want to sincerely thank them. A lot of work went into preparing national football and hurling league games earlier in the year as we welcomed some big crowds to both O'Connor Park and St. Brendan's Park in Birr. I want to also thank all County team secretaries for their support and efficiency in getting teams in promptly and on time. I would also like to thank Brendan Minnock, Patrick Donegan, Kevin Egan, Kevin Corrigan and Pat Teehan for statistical information for the more in-depth programmes and of course the dedicated programme sellers who turned up every weekend to help.

Coaching & Games - Coiste na nÓg

There was never as much activity on the ground in relation to Coaching & Games in 2023, this comes back to two very hard-working officers who I want to sincerely thank Carina Carroll and Keith Screeney. They have provided details, pictures, and content for our social media platforms all year. Every initiative,

training course, All County Blitzes, Be A Goalkeeper Initiative, All County Nursery, Shane Lowry leagues, Jack Wyer Memorial hurling tournament and Jerry Conway Memorial tournament were heavily promoted. One of the most exciting initiatives that got the most online traction was the All-County Training Development Hubs, where approximately 400 players got to train and see what it would be like to be a member of an underage development squad for a few sessions. This is exactly what the PR committee was striving to do from the start of the year, to feed all the great work and activity that is going on with our underage and adult teams and get this out to the public through our social media platforms.

Adult Championships & League Sponsors

I want to sincerely thank all our sponsors in both adult hurling and football, league, and championship. The Buggy family (Adult hurling leagues), Brosna Press (Adult football leagues), Philip O'Brien and the Court Hotel (Adult football championships) and Donal Molloy and all at Molloy Environmental (Adult hurling championships). For the first time ever an under-age championship sponsor was secured for both hurling and football, I'd like to welcome Daithi Regan and EJ Access Solutions on-board and thank them for their support. It's great to have local businesses supporting our championship deals, so I hope and am sure that we are giving them as much exposure as is possible on our social media platforms. Mile Buíochas.

Glenisk

What an incredible company that we have as our main sponsor. At the start of 2023, they took another step in their commitment to Offaly GAA as they became the Offaly Camogie and Offaly Ladies Football sponsors also. They are the only company outside of Dublin GAA that sponsor all the inter county teams in both hurling and football. They provide yogurts for all our development squads and adult teams and were willing to support any initiatives supplying jerseys and gear to help us encourage children to attend matches. Over 2400 under-age children turned up on Wednesday evening 10th May when we knocked Dublin out of the under 20 hurling championship 30 jerseys and other gear were won based on a number that was written on the back of yogurt packs. I wish Glenisk every success and look forward to working with them in 2024.

O'Connor Park

As is the case with stewards and gate personnel, the PR committee have a group of very dependable people that assist on match days, whether it be P.A. announcers, manning the scoreboard, taking photos and providing

updates on our social media platforms. Many thanks to Eamonn Cusack, Oisín Cusack, Brendan Minnock, Johnno Kinahan, Alex Roe, Ciara Spain, and Jack Ryan who were the main contributors and anyone else that stepped in to help out.

Media Coverage

I want to thank all the local print and radio media for continuing to provide excellent and extensive coverage of Gaelic Games within the County. They are another way to sell our product and in fairness they have been very helpful in doing so throughout 2023. I also want to thank the National media for their coverage of our county teams with our senior hurlers winning division 2 of the national hurling league and getting to the Joe McDonagh Cup final and our courageous under 20 hurling team that won a Leinster title and put in a great performance in the All-Ireland against Cork.

Conclusion

Public Relations Officer is a time-consuming job that I could not do this without the help and support of some very good GAA people that I have around me. I want to thank a hard-working committee in particular Brendan Minnock who has helped me throughout the year and Ciara Spain who has great expertise in social media and was also a massive help. Thanks also to Mark Forde who gave us different and modern content to put out on our social media accounts. I want to thank Carina Haverty, Christy Todd, Adrian Clancy and Gary Flannery for their continued support also thank my fellow county board officers for their assistance. A special word of thanks and best wishes in the new role he has taken up in 2023, our new operations manager John Hackett. Our official website will be modernised and made more user friendly in 2024, to continue growing our following on all social media platforms, to continue to make the public aware of the trojan work going on around the county, and to continue to promote Gaelic Games as ultimately this is our chosen sport, and this is what we are elected for.

**Is Mise,
Pádraig O'Meara
Oifigeach Caidrimh Phoiblí**



Sub-Committee Reports

Cultural Committee

Author: Michelle Ní Ógain

Cathaoirleach: Michelle Ní Ógain
(Cumann An Biorra)

Runaí: Damien Martin
(Cumann Peile Naomh Raghnaich)

Committee:

Frances Teehan (Cumann An Biorra)
John Scanlon (Cumann An Clarach)
Niamh Clarke (Cumann An Tulach Mhór)
Eamon Flynn (Cumann Fear Bán)
Frank Healy (Cumann Baile Átha Chomair)

Scór 2023

Scor season 2023 commenced in March with Scor Na nÓg. The County Final was held on the 12th March in Tullamore Gaa Centre. 8 Clubs were represented across various categories and while the numbers may be small the talent on display was of the highest standard. The winners on the night were:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rince Foirne | Tullamore |
| Amhranaoicht Aonair | Claire Flynn - Ballycumber |
| Aithriseoiracht/Scealaoicht | Lexi Walsh - Ballycumber |
| Traith na gCeist | Birr |
| Ceol Uirlise | Tullamore |
| Bailead Ghrupa | Tullamore |

The winners went on to represent Offaly in the Leinster Semi-final on the 27th of March in the Downes GAA Centre, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. The Traith na gCeist preliminary round took place prior to the Leinster Semi-final with the top 3 teams qualifying for the stage competition and the All-Ireland final. Following high standard competition our Amhranaoicht Aonair competitor Claire Flynn emerged victorious and qualified for the Leinster Final. Our other representatives on the day performed to the highest standard and did themselves, club and county proud.

The Leinster Final took place on the 3rd of April in Opera House Wexford - Offaly's representative on the day was

Claire Flynn in the Amhranaoicht Aonair and as usual Claire did both herself, club and county proud and when the results were announced Claire had won the Amhranaoicht Aonair and would now go on to represent her club, county and province in the All-Ireland Final.

The All-Ireland Final took place on the 1st of May in Killarney. The standard of all competitions was extremely high and while Claire Flynn did not emerge victorious she performed to a very high standard and can be very proud to have represented her club and county on the highest stage.

Scór Sinsir

Next up was Scor Sinsir which held on the 4th and 5th October, 7 clubs were represented across various categories. The standard of competition was of the highest calibre and the adjudicators had some very difficult decisions to make. Following the evening competitions, the winners on the night were:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rince Foirne | Birr |
| Amhranaoicht Aonair | Ciaran Reynolds - Ballinamere |
| Aithriseoiracht/Scealaiocht | Joanna Troy - Ballinamere |
| Traith na gCeist | Edenderry |
| Ceol Uirlise | Ballinamere |
| Bailead Ghrupe | Clara |

The winners went forward to the Leinster Semi-final in the Marian Hall, Birr and all of Offaly's representative qualified for the Leinster Final on the 22nd October in Carnew Co. Wickow.

The Leinster Final took place on the 22nd October - Offaly were represented in 4 competitions with both Birr and Edenderry defending the titles they won in 2022 and Birr's Rince Foirne were hoping to make it 4 in a row. The standard of competition on the day was of the highest standard and the adjudicators had some very hard decisions to make. When the winners were announced Offaly were victorious in the following competitions;

Rince Foirne Birr - Four in a row titles
Traith na gCeist: Edenderry - 2nd in the final but qualify for the All-Ireland Final.

The All-Ireland Final was held on the 18th of November in Killarney Co Kerry. Offaly were represented by Birr in the Rince Foirne and Edenderry in the Traith Na gCeist. The standard of competition was one of the highest standards ever seen in Scor Sinsir. Following

hours of tremendous entertainment, the ladies from Birr emerged victorious to scenes of great jubilation and claimed Offaly's first ever All-Ireland title in the Rince Foirne competition. This is truly an outstanding achievement by the Birr ladies who were competing in their fourth consecutive All-Ireland Final.

The Traith Na gCeist competition commenced with the table quiz format first. This format comprised of 60 questions, with the top 3 teams progressing to the on-stage competition later in the afternoon. Following the conclusion of the table quiz section the three teams who progressed to the on stage were Cork, Kerry and Offaly. The on-stage competition proved to be extremely closely fought between the three teams and concluded with Cork emerging victorious by 1 point margin over Offaly with Kerry a very close third. This is the third consecutive year that Edenderry have reached the on-stage section of the All-Ireland Final and having emerged victorious in 2021, they were also third in 2022 and second in 2023. This is a tremendous achievement in a competition that continues at extremely high standards year on year. Well done to both our representatives and we also acknowledge the large amount of Offaly supporters who travelled to Killarney to support our competitors. Thank you one all.

As this is the final competition of the Scor Season for 2023 I would like to thank all the clubs of Offaly who took part in both Scor na nÓg and Scor Sinsir, without your time and effort we would not be achieving Leinster and All-Ireland titles. To Tullamore GAA club and Banagher GAA Club for hosting our county Competitions and the Marian Hall Birr who hosted the Leinster Semi-final go raibh maith agaibh.

To my fellow committee members and all those who helped out at all our venues go raibh maith agaibh. To our PRO Padriag O Meara who was always there to assist in the promoting of Scor on all our social media platforms thank you very much as social media is very important in promoting Scor.

Scór Club of the Year 2023

Ballinamere

Le meas

Michelle Ni Ogain

Culturtha Cathaoirleach



Sub-Committee Reports

Children's Officer

Author: Elaine Kelly-Dunne

2023 has been another year of many positives and challenges within Offaly GAA from the Children's Officers' perspective and I would like to start by extending a huge thank you to all those in their clubs who have taken on the role this year. Club officers are to be commended for their continued efforts in ensuring that the guidelines from Croke Park & Offaly GAA are being adhered to and are taking their Child Protection responsibilities seriously, insisting that all who work with our underage players have been vetted, safeguarded, and have received the appropriate level of coaching qualifications.

Again, this year an audit was carried out by Croke Park to assess the risks associated with our underage structures across the country. While these audits can be a little time consuming it served well in highlighting the core areas within our association that need more focus and enables us to provide the best and safest environments for our children, to grow and development their GAA skills at both National & local level.

With all the above taken into consideration Offaly GAA are committed to providing our clubs with all the resources necessary to maintain best practices and standards within our county. It is hoped that in 2024 we will provide even more safeguarding and coaching qualification courses, to meet the needs of clubs. Each year, there are some issues that arise, and all clubs need to be continuously mindful of.

One such issue is that of Respect - abusive language both on the field and towards match officials in our games. All clubs should have a zero-tolerance approach in this area and all team mentors and club committees should be aware of the procedures in place to deal with the issue if it arises. We, the adults, need to lead by example so that our young people see that there is no place for this type of behaviour in our National Games.

The issue of negative side-line behaviour by coaches and onlookers was also raised. In the current climate where Child Protection is paramount and anxiety in young people is becoming all too prevalent this is completely unacceptable. The responsibility lies with clubs to ensure

that the highest standards of behaviour during games are set and maintained, and that players, coaches and supporters are aware of these and lead in this regard, setting good example.

Sport is intended to be primarily fun and as the adults involved, we need to promote a positive side-line culture. "Sport when working with underage players" and the "Guide to Maintaining Appropriate levels of Behaviour in our Work with Children and Young People".

These are available at the Safeguarding course and also online at:

<http://gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-welfare-and-protection/>

Another major issue of concern in our current climate is the use and misuse of social media in our clubs & games. While there are many great benefits to the use of these platforms in the day to day running of our clubs, it is important to reinforce that - All GAA members, coaches, mentors & players are subject to a code of conduct when online, even when they are not acting on behalf of the GAA. All members are responsible for their own actions and must be aware that those actions may have consequences for the GAA. We all have a responsibility when using social media platforms not to do anything that might tarnish the GAA's image and reputation or bring the GAA into disrepute. It is paramount that all clubs continue to exercise a duty of care, advise and police the guidelines around the use of social media to protect our most vulnerable.

Finally, I would like to commend the Coiste Na nÓg committee for their extensive games planning over the last year, offering huge opportunities to underage football & Hurling across the county. I would like to compliment the clubs in continuing to raise their standards in Child Protection and compliance and trust that this will continue into 2024. I wish all club officers all the best as we approach another new year filled with lots of new challenges and opportunities, while we work hard and continue to serve the young players of Offaly GAA.

Elaine Kelly-Dunne
Childrens Officer



Sub-Committee Reports

Planning & Training

Author: Brendan Minnock

Club Officer Training

Similar to 2022, Club officer training in 2023 consisted of on-line webinars organised by the GAA at central and provincial level, and promoted within Offaly by the Planning & Training Officer.

The first webinars in January for Club Chairpersons, Secretaries, Treasurers and P.R.O.s received a positive response in Offaly, particularly by those who were new to their roles.

Club officers were also notified of other webinars held during the year and provided with relevant links to the GAA Learning Portal.

There has been a positive response from Clubs to regulations pertaining to the organisation and timing of Annual General Meetings.

Chairperson/ Secretary Forum

A successful meeting of Chairpersons and Secretaries, which took place in October to complement the schedule of County Board meetings, covered a range of topics. Feedback from the meeting was positive and consideration will be given to holding a similar event in the new year.

Club Compás

Clubs have been encouraged to engage with 'Club Compás', a self-assessment tool which is accessed through Foireann. It allows clubs to review their performance and get direction on how to address any operational shortcomings.

Brendan Minnock
Planning & Training Officer



Sub-Committee Reports

Safety & Facilities

Author: Peter Lyons

Committee Members

Peter Lyons chaired this group along with members, Christy Todd (Event Controller O' Connor Park), Brian O'Neill (Clonbullogue) & Adrian Foy (Clonmore Harps).

Meetings

The Committee met once in 2023 to review the list of ongoing projects in the county and to assess and score two applications to Central Council for loan funding.

Projects

All clubs should be aware of the need to notify the Safety and Facilities officer of any projects being undertaken in a club and the committee can advise and assist then on contractual, safety and insurance obligations of their project in addition to funding options. The table below shows the current live list of projects known to the committee.

| Club | Est. Costs | Project |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Ballycumber | €450,000 | Covered Astro Area |
| Killurin | - | Walking Track |
| Rhode | €112,000 | Dressing Rooms/Gym |
| St. Rynagh's (F) | €145,000 | Land Purchase |
| Bracknagh | - | Lease |
| Rhode GAA | €55,000 | Land Purchase |
| St. Rynagh's (H) | €61,675 | Dressing Rooms |
| Shamrocks | €350,000 | All weather Astro |
| Birr | - | Awaiting Details |
| Daingean | - | Clubhouse extension |
| Ballyfore | - | Fencing |
| Clonmore Harps | - | Dressing Rooms |
| Edenderry | €140,000 | Floodlights |
| Durrow | - | Groundworks |

St. Brendan's Park

In September 2023 two members of the S&F committee visited St Brendan's Park to review ongoing works in advance of the Hurling County Final and carry out an inspection of the stadium. Following this meeting information and assistance was provided to Michael Slattery to inform his review of the stadium capacity which was updated for the County Final.

Comhairle Laighin Grants 2023

In 2023 an online system was set up for clubs to apply for Leinster Council Grants. One of the questions on the application required clubs to have notified the S&F officer of the project for which funding was being sought. This again is a reminder of the importance of notification of projects. The following is a list of the grants approved in November for Offaly Clubs.

| Club | Development | Purchase |
|--------------|-------------|----------|
| Ballycumber | €23,000 | |
| Birr | €6,700 | |
| Durrow | €7,500 | |
| Kinnitty | €3,500 | |
| St. Rynagh's | €2,700 | |
| Shamrocks | | €11,000 |
| Tullamore | €20,000 | |

Peter Lyons
Safety & Facilities Officer



Sub-Committee Reports

Referee Administration

Author: Denis Hoctor

With a total of 43 referee's available to cover over 652 adult Games and 995 Juvenile games from League commencement in mid-March to Championship completion in November, we do owe a huge thank you to this group.

All our games happened over the year without any major incident and a big thank you especially to our umpires for assisting with them. Similar to 2022 we had official linesmen at all rounds from quarterfinal stages to conclusion which happened and for as many senior championship matches as was possible. I would like to acknowledge the clubs who assisted us with linesmen through the year and also to thank the clubs for the facilities at club grounds which have definitely improved throughout 2023 for our refs and his officials.

A clear crisis now facing the Association is the shortage of referees. While there remains a band of outstanding officials operating across the county, it is clear that the numbers are not increasing in line with the number of games now being played at all levels. An increased focus will be required with ongoing recruitment and retention of referees and a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of officials must be adhered to. We have 17 clubs in the county who are not supplying referees, and this has to change throughout 2024.

Indeed, the now seemingly automatic reflex to appeal almost any proposed penalty is most disappointing. Clubs have a responsibility here to discourage those that they must know to be guilty from submitting frivolous appeals and thus undermining the credibility of referees and their reports. We welcome the national initiative by the GAA to focus on the respect for referees, umpires, lines-persons and sideline officials.

To improve standards our committee organised six training sessions in the Faithful Fields throughout 2023 which consisted of physical training, question and answer sessions on knowledge of the rules and detailed video analysis clips on analysis of games in the Offaly championship which led to great debate between the groups. We also held prior to first round of the championship open meetings with club officials and

club managers which was a twofold scenario where the committee outlined the rules and explained what they expected from the players and management with video clips and new guidelines now in place. Club managers also had the opportunity to outline their views. This was part of a concerted effort to improve standards and to ensure they receive full respect at games.

The Competitions Control Committee and Management Committee were also very supportive during the year. We are very proud that Offaly now have approximately up to 10 referees between Provincial and Leinster panels.

Sincere thanks to all members of the Referee's Committee with Brian Gavin as Chairman, Damian Brazil, Bill Kavanagh, Brendan Troy, and Declan Ward.

Finally on behalf of the Referee's committee, I wish to extend sincere congratulations to the winners of all our competitions

Denis Hctor
Referee Administrator



Sub-Committee Reports

Health & Wellbeing Committee

Author: Liam Hackett

In 2023 The Healthy Club Project concluded Phase 5 with 271 clubs accredited nationally. We are delighted that now 11 Offaly Clubs have achieved accreditation and the HWC committee would like to compliment the clubs who achieved Healthy Club Status Recognition Awards which were presented at the recent Leinster Irish Life GAA Healthy Club Event held in Portlaoise on October 19th.

The following clubs are now accredited as Healthy Clubs: Ballinamere, Ballycommon, Coolderry, Gracefield, Kilcormac/Killoughey, Kilclonfert, Raheen- Foundation Status, Bracknagh, Daingean, Seir Kieran and St Rynaghs Hurling – Silver Status. Other clubs who had participated in the programme were Tubber, Shamrocks St Rynaghs Football.

In 2024 with the next phase of the Healthy Club Programme being planned the County Health and Wellbeing Committee aim to focus on engaging with clubs on how they can become hubs for health information and programmes thereby helping and enabling their members and communities to enjoy healthier and more inclusive lifestyles ensuring a healthier future for everyone. One of the key areas we aim to highlight is how clubs can leverage on and work with partnerships from outside organisations for example Offaly Local Development Company and the HSE.

The GAA Healthy Club Annual Conference took place on Saturday 18th November 2023 and County Health and Wellbeing Committee Forum on Friday 17th. It was good to see several of the Offaly Healthy Club Project participants in attendance.

Special guest speakers where Kerry legend Aidan O'Mahony, former Antrim hurling captain Neil McManus, and Eimear Kelly, Clare camogie star. Dr. Eilis Lawlor presented her key findings of her recent independent evaluation of the Healthy Clubs programme, highlighting the positive impact on participants and on the GAA volunteers who deliver it on behalf of their members and communities.

The County Health and Wellbeing Committee were represented at 3 Leinster Provisional Meetings during 2023 (1 Online) the final one on September 14th at which the meeting was updated on the ongoing work improving the reporting progress and aligning the timelines of the Central Health and Wellbeing Committee annual action plan more closely with the Healthy Club timelines which was welcomed by all parties present.

Finally thank you to all who participated in the Health & Wellbeing structures and supports and to the Offaly County Board for their support during the year. With the easing of the pressures from the impact of COVID we look forward to working directly and engaging with all clubs during a healthier and safer 2024.

We would strongly advise clubs who have not participated in the Healthy Club project to date to apply for inclusion in next phase which will be open to all clubs.

Liam Hackett
Chairperson Offaly Health & Wellbeing Committee.



Associated Bodies Report

Offaly Handball

Author: Caoimhín Mac Cúaigh

It was another good year for the county with plenty of handball action at all levels.

4-Wall

The first competition of 2023 started with our juveniles who competed in the Cumann na mBunscol 4-Wall championships in Carlow. The county was very well represented with eleven children taking part in both the boys and girls U11 and U13 grades. We advanced through some of the preliminary rounds making four quarter finals and two semi-finals. We lost out on a final spot in both the girls U13 doubles and boys U12 doubles by only a few aces.

A few weeks later some of these children took part in the Leinster championships. Our boys competed first

with Charlie Mortensen and Issac Mullarkey settling for 2nd and 3rd place in the boys U14 singles. In the U12 singles Keelan Grogan-Barnes and Shane Cummins both had a couple of wins but came up a few aces short to be placed. Hugo Baskakovas put in an outstanding performance in the U13 singles and had to settle for 3rd place on the night.

Our girls were well represented in the U14 singles with Saoirse and Emma O'Meara. Saoirse had a tough battle in her opening round with Hannah O'Reilly of Kilkenny. Saoirse played some great shots, but Hannah was too strong. Emma, who was on the other side of the draw gave a great account of herself and was unlucky to have lost her semi-final to Sophie Farrell of Westmeath in the tie breaker on a score line of 15-11.

Our last young lady to take to the court were Grace Johnston and Alice Murray in the U13 singles. Both girls were very competitive with only a few scores between them throughout the competition. Grace and Alice finished in 2nd and 3rd place respectively with only one point deciding 1st and 2nd place. Westmeath's Emma Finneran won it out on a scoreline of Emma 42, Grace 41, and Alice 34 points.

The Crinkle club was represented with a girls' team at Féile na nGael in Moycullen, Galway last May. The team consisted of Saoirse and Emma O'Meara, Grace and Lily Johnston and Mollie King. It was a fantastic day of handball with the girls getting to compete as a team and to make great memories and new friends from different clubs. We played in Division 3 with the local team Moycullen, Claregalway of Galway, Clogh of Kilkenny, and Liscarroll of Cork. The girls played some very entertaining matches with only a couple of aces between any of the teams. The girls certainly had an enjoyable day and are looking forward to next year's competition.

On the adult scene we had a few mixed results with some of county players making the semifinal stages in the Leinster 4-wall singles and doubles. Our best performer was David Hope in the Masters A where he had to settle for silver against Cork's Brendan Flemming in the All-Ireland final.

Softball

We had a more productive run in the softball with Sian Cooke making the All-Ireland Semifinal where she lost out to the eventual winner Clare Conway of Tyrone. Sian partnered with Christina Donoghue in the junior softball doubles, but they would only make the Leinster

semifinal stage where they were defeated by Wexford. Our male contingent had a mixed bag of results with several final appearances.

The most successful competitors we had were Declan Cooke and Declan Kilmurray in the Golden Master B championship. Both Offaly men contested the Leinster singles final with Kilmurray coming out on top winning it in two straight games, 21-18, 21-12. Kilmurray went on to contest the All-Ireland final against Philip O'Carroll of Cork but lost out on a score line of 21-8, 21-7.

In the provincial doubles campaign, Kilmurray and Cooke teamed up together and won the province very convincingly. The All-Ireland semifinal would see them fixed to play Roscommon in Mullingar. This Offaly duo was far too strong for their opponents and won it, 21-7, 21-16. With a place booked in the final, the Offaly pairing took on last year's runners-up Kevin Buckley and Christy Carey of Tipperary and a hard-fought contest ensued with Offaly coming out winners 21-14, 21-17.

The pairing of Noel Murphy and David Hope advanced to the All-Ireland final in the Master A doubles where the Offaly duo was pitted against a very balanced Tipperary team of John Ferncombe and David Maloney. With the Tipp men having home advantage it proved a little too much for the Offaly duo as they had to settle for silver. Murphy competed in the singles of this competition but was defeated in the All-Ireland semifinal by Ollie Conway of Galway.

Cathal McNamee had a great run in the Junior B singles championship seeing off some tough challenges along the way. He was carrying an injury going in the All-Ireland final against Tipperary's Ned Reilly and it would prove too much of a burden in the end with him losing out 21-21-11, 21-4.

In the softball Irish Nationals Cathal was again defeated in the Men's C doubles where he partnered Stephen Smullen of Kildare. David Hope after his defeat in his opening game of the senior nationals went on to win the Plate competition defeating Diarmuid Mulkerrins of Galway.

1-Wall

Our juveniles kicked off the 1-Wall season in the Leinster championship with some outstanding performances from Fionn Kilmurray, Michael Hosey, Tagh McNamee and Jack Curley. All players gave a great account of themselves with some fantastic wins in the preliminary

and quarter final stages. All 4 players were in hard luck not to have reached the Leinster final in the U12 and U13 singles with the opposition defeating us by as little as one ace in our 4 semifinals.

The Feile na nGael was held in Kilglass, Roscommon and a team consisting of Michael Hosey, Fionn Kilmurray, Ryan McNamee, Jack Curley and Senan Kerrighan of Fahy Cross travelled to take on the best of the country. They saw off tough opposition from, Abbeylara, Longford, Mayobridge, Down and Clann Éireann, Armagh to win out the Boys Division 4. Also, Jack Curley was successful in winning the skills competition.

In the adult grades we were well represented in the provincial championships with Anthony and Cathal McNamee, Anthony, and Declan Kilmurray. Both Anthonys were defeated in the semi finals with Cathal and Declan advancing to their respective finals. Cathal lost the Junior B final to Gary Donoghue of Wicklow by one ace in the tie breaker. Declan won the Golden Masters final against Louth's Ollie O'Connell and was later defeated in the All-Ireland semifinal by Galway's Graham Cashburn.

After yet another busy year we performed very well on the handball stage with plenty of silverware in all three codes. To put a final tally on our achievements we secured 6 Leinster Gold, 2 Leinster Silver, 5 All-Ireland Silver and 2 All-Ireland Gold medals during 2023. A great achievement for Offaly handball. Well done to all of our players.

Caoimhín Mac Cúaigh ***Cathaoirleach***



Associated Bodies Report

Offaly Cumann na mBunscol

Author: Declan Ward

2023 marked another very successful year for Offaly Cumann na mBunscol. In the highlight of the year, we celebrated winning an All-Ireland title, when Scoil Mhuire Naofa Rhode won the All-Ireland Cumann na mBunscol GAA school of the year competition.

Over the course of the year, over 230 individual group games and 36 finals were played. After a break of over 15 years, we also returned to Croke Park on two occasions to take part in the Cumann na mBunscol half time game. Finally, we also showed our support for the Under 20 hurlers when every primary school in Offaly took part in an Offaly jersey day in the lead up to the All-Ireland under 20 hurling final.

Scoil Mhuire Naofa Rhode - All Ireland GAA Cumann na mBunscol school of the year winners 2023

Congratulations to Scoil Mhuire Naofa Rhode who won the prestigious All Ireland Cumann na mBunscol Small School of the year award at the national Cumann na mBunscol awards held in Letterkenny on the 3rd of March 2023. It is the first time a school from Offaly has won this award and is a fantastic achievement for all involved.



Deirdre Fay, Scoil Mhuire Naofa Rhode presented their Award

Winning this award is due recognition to the incredible amount of work completed by Rhode N.S over the past number of years. Great credit is due to school principal Mary Bray, teachers Deirdre Fay, Neill Hannigan, Joe Ward, and Games Promotion Officer (GPO) Recce Cuddihy for all their work. Great credit is also due to Rhode GAA club for all their support.

As part of their prize, the school received a fully expensed trip to Croke Park, where they were invited to a special reception with the GAA president and received a tour of the Croke Park and the GAA museum.

Scoil Phroinsiais Naofa Clara - All Ireland GAA Cumann na mBunscol school of the year 2023 - Third Place

Congratulations are also due to Scoil Phroinsiais Naofa, Clara (Clara Boys School) who were awarded third place in the large school of the year competition and second place in the promotion of culture and gaelic games at national Cumann na mBunscol All Ireland School of the year awards.

Scoil Phroinsias Naofa received prize money of €700, from which they purchased a brand new set of goalposts for their school. Well done to their school principal Mrs. Madge Bourke, teachers Ronan Lally, Clodagh Elliffe and Declan Ward for all their hard work. Thanks also to Clara GAA for all their support in promoting Cumann na mBunscol at Scoil Phroinsiais Naofa.

This competition will be taking place again this year and we would like to encourage as many schools as possible in Offaly to enter. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 10th January 2024. Further details can be found on our twitter account @offalyschoolsgaa or by emailing offalyschools@gmail.com

Leinster Cumann na mBunscol Handball Blitz

In February, two Offaly schools - Crinkill N.S. and Ballybryan N.S. Represented Offaly at the Leinster Cumann na mBunscol handball blitz in Carlow.

A big thank you to Sandra Nolan, principal Crinkill N.S., teachers Lisa Kennedy and Ciara Lynch from Crinkill N.S., Declan Cooke handball coach from Crinkill handball club and Brian Darby, principal Ballybryan N.S. who organised the handball teams in their respective schools. Thanks also to the parents of the children involved for all their help and cooperation.

The following children represented Offaly Cumann na mBunscol at the Leinster Cumann na mBunscol handball blitz.

| Girls Handball | Name | School |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| U11 Singles | Lily Johnson | Crinkill N.S. |
| U11 Doubles | Emily Enright & Beibhinn Hctor | Crinkill N.S. |
| U13 Singles | Saoirse O' Meara | Crinkill N.S. |
| U13 Doubles | Alice Murray & Mollie King | Crinkill N.S. |

| Boys Handball | Name | School |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| U11 Singles | Keelan Grogan- Barnes | Crinkill N.S. |
| U11 Doubles | Cillian Cleary & Shane Cummins | Crinkill N.S. |
| U13 Singles | Ryan McNamee | Ballybryan N.S. |
| U13 Doubles | Hugo Baskakovas & Shane Milne | Crinkill N.S. |

Subsidised Equipment Scheme for Schools

In February, Offaly Cumann na mBunscol organised a subsidised equipment scheme for schools. In total 61 dozen sliotars, 33 indoor hurls and 70 footballs were sold at a reduced cost to schools.

Equipment was bought at a bulk cost from suppliers and an additional subsidy was passed on to schools to reduce the cost even further.

This year the subsidised hurls and helmets scheme for schools was organised by Micheal Cleary and Adrian Clancy from Offaly GAA coaching and games. We wish to thank Micheal and Adrian for all their work in delivering the hurls and helmets to our schools in such an efficient manner.

A big thank you to Offaly County board for having the vision to place such a large subsidy on the cost of hurls and helmets and for providing them to schools and children at such a reasonable price. A key factor in promoting hurling in a primary school is the availability of hurls and helmets at an affordable price.

Spring 2023 Competitions

During our 2023 Spring competitions which ran from March 2023 to May 2023, 145 games were played in boys' and girls' football, camogie and hurling. Fifty-six schools in total took part.

Twenty-five finals were played at the end of May in O' Connor Park Tullamore and in St. Brendan's Park, Birr. As always, our finals proved to be a very special occasion for all our players. A local piper Pat Middleton led out the teams in a pre-match parade each day, and together with big crowds in attendance, it served to create a great atmosphere for all the children involved.

In a new initiative, all of the May 2023 finals were video recorded and can be purchased on our website at www.offalycumannnambunscol.ie. A big thank you to Sean De Cleir and transition year students from Colaiste Choilm Tullamore who videotaped all our finals. Thanks also to John Kinahan and Liam White for their match commentary.

Looking forward to our spring 2024 competitions, we will be encouraging as many schools as possible to enter a hurling or camogie team. If your school is interested in entering a hurling or camogie team for the first time, please make contact with the Cumann na mBunscol

committee at offalyschools@gmail.com and we will provide you with every possible assistance.

Skills Competition/Croke Park Half Time Games

In May, over 120 of the best hurlers, camogie players and footballers from the 59 primary schools in Offaly took part in the annual Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Uibh Fháilí Skills Competition.

This skills competition is used to assess and select children to represent Offaly at the INTO Allianz Cumann na mBunscol half time exhibition games which take place during half time interval at the All-Ireland Semi Finals and All Ireland Final in Croke Park.

These skills competitions are a great way to see the stars of the future and a good indication of the standard of players that are coming through. For example, in 2017 Dan Ravenhill won the Offaly Cumann na mBunscol skills competition with full marks and then played at the Cumann na mBunscol half time game in Croke Park between Waterford and Galway later that year. Five years later in 2022, he captained Offaly to win the Leinster minor hurling championship.

| Girls Football Skills Winners 2023 | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Place | Name | School |
| 1st Place | Emily Lynam Carroll* | Pullough N.S. |
| Runner Up | Katie Cuskelly | Ballingar N.S. |
| Runner Up | Leah Stack | Killeigh N.S. |
| Runner Up | Annie Mulhare | St.Mary's N.S. Cloghan |

*Emily Lynam Carroll played in Croke Park at the Cumann na mBunscol half time game during the 2023 All Ireland Football Final between Dublin and Kerry

| Boys Football Skills Winners 2023 | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Place | Name | School |
| 1st | Scott Mannerings* | Scoil Phroinsiais Naofa Clara |
| 2nd | Sean Grennan* | St. Cynoc's N.S. Ferbane |
| 3rd | Patrick Óg Moore | Scoil Bhríde Croghan |
| 4rd | Rhys Mulligan | Scoil Mhuire Naofa Rhode |

* Sean Grennan, St. Cynoc's N.S., Ferbane and Scott Mannerings, Scoil Phroinsiais Naofa, Clara played in Croke Park at the Cumann na mBunscol half time game during the 2023 All Ireland Football Semi Final between Kerry and Derry.



Offaly Cumann na mBunscol Spring Competitions 2023

| Competition | Winners | Runner up |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Spring 2023 Boys Football Group A | Scoil Bhríde Edenderry | Daingean N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Boys Football Group B | Ballybryan N.S. | Cappagh N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Boys Football Group C | Clonmacnoise N.S. | Scoil Bhríde Croghan |
| Spring 2023 Boys Football Group D | Clonbullogue N.S. | Scoil Mhuire Naofa Rhode |
| Spring 2023 Boys Football Group E | Rashina N.S. | Tullamore Educate Together N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Hurling Group A | St. Brendan's N.S. Birr | St. Rynagh's N.S. Banagher |
| Spring 2023 Hurling Group B | Ballyboy N.S. | Kinnitty N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Hurling Group B Shield Final | Rath N.S. | Shinrone N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Hurling Group C | Lusmagh N.S. | St. Mary's N.S. , Cloghan |
| Spring 2023 Hurling Group D | Carrig N.S. | Seir Kieran N.S., Clareen |
| Spring 2023 Hurling Group E Colin Dunne Cup | Mucklagh N.S. | Ballinamere N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Hurling Group E Shield Final | Durrow N.S. | Rahan N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Hurling Group F | Crinkill N.S. | High Street Clonmacnoise |
| Spring 2023 Hurling Group G | Boher N.S. | Scoil Bhríde Edenderry |
| Spring 2023 Camogie Group A | St. Rynagh's N.S. | Killeigh N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Camogie Group B Cup Final | Coolderry N.S. | Kinnitty N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Camogie Group B Shield Final | Rath N.S. | Shinrone N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Camogie Group C | Clonlisk N.S. | Seir Kieran N.S. Clareen |
| Spring 2023 Camogie Group D | Ballinamere N.S. | Crinkill N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Camogie Group E | Gaelscoil an Eiscir Riada | Scoil Mhuire Tullamore |
| Spring 2023 Girls Football Group A | Daingean N.S. | St.Colman's N.S. Mucklagh |
| Spring 2023 Girls Football Group B | Gaelscoil an Eiscir Riada | Gaelscoil Eadan Doire |
| Spring 2023 Girls Football Group C | St. Mary's N.S. Cloghan | Pullough N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Girls Football Group D | Ballybryan N.S. | Cloneygowan N.S. |
| Spring 2023 Girls Football Group E | St Broughan's N.S. Bracknagh | Scoil Mhuire Naofa Rhode |



| Camogie | | |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Place | Name | School |
| 1st | Kate Harris* | Kinnitty N.S. |
| 2nd | Bronagh Mulrooney** | Seir Kieran N.S. Clareen |
| 3rd | Ava Toohar** | Coolderry N.S. |
| 4th | Kate Brady | Killeigh N.S. |
| 4th | Ruth Claffey | Scoil Naisiúnta Naomh Eoin, Rath |

** Bronagh Mulrooney played in Croke Park at the Cumann na mBunscol half time game during the 2023 All Ireland Hurling semi-final between Limerick and Galway.



* Kate Harris and Ava Toohar played in Croke Park at the Cumann na mBunscol half time game during the 2023 All Ireland Hurling semi final between Clare and Kilkenny.

| Hurling | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Place | Name | School |
| 1st Place | Conor Mahon | Carrig N.S. |
| Runner Up | Keith O' Rourke | St. Colman's N.S., Mucklagh |
| Runner Up | Cillian Maloney | Scoil Chrónáin Naofa, Dromakeenan |
| Runner Up | Taylor Evans | Ballinamere N.S. |
| Runner Up | Cillian Moran | Rahan N.S. |
| Runner Up | Colm Boylan | St. Rynagh's N.S., Banagher |
| Runner Up | Harry Larkin | Killeen N.S. |
| Runner Up | Frank Scanlon | Scoil Phroinsiaís Naofa, Clara |
| Runner Up | Ryan Legace | St. Brendan's N.S., Birr |

* Conor Mahon played in Croke Park at the Cumann na mBunscol half time game during the 2023 All Ireland Hurling Final between Limerick and Kilkenny.

The remaining players who were runners up in our hurling skills competition were invited to play in Croke Park at half time during the Joe McDonagh Cup Final. This proved to be a very special occasion for the players involved. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time a half time game at the Joe McDonagh Cup Final actually involved children from the same counties that were taking part in the senior game.

A big thank you to Colm Cummins and Carina Carroll in Offaly GAA, Michelle Harte in Croke Park, Carlow Cumann na mBunscol, Carlow GAA and Michael Smyth and Gerry O' Meara from Dublin Cumann na mBunscol their help in organising the Joe McDonagh Cup Final half time game. Míle Buíochas!

Offaly Under 20 Jersey Day

Offaly Cumann na mBunscol organised an Offaly jersey day in the lead up to the All-Ireland Under 20 hurling final and it proved to be a major success!

Every school in Offaly took part sharing their songs, poems, photos & videos on their social media platforms to help promote the All-Ireland Under 20 hurling final. A compilation video of each school's entry was made, and it received over 30,000 views in two days on our twitter account page.

Autumn 2023 Competitions

Between September and October 2023, Cumann na mBunscol Autumn football competitions were played, with 177 group games being played in six weeks.

Before the October mid-term break, seventeen finals were played in O' Connor Park Tullamore, Kinnitty GAA grounds and Crinkill GAA Grounds. Each team was led out by a piper each day and a programme and team sheet were made up for each fixture. A six-page report on our finals also followed in the local papers.

We are very thankful to Offaly GAA who allowed us to play twelve finals in two days in O' Connor Park despite the exceptionally bad weather which took place the week before the mid-term break. A special word of thanks to Carina Carroll, Jim Kelly, John Hackett and all the stewards in O' Connor Park for all their help.

Thanks to Kinnitty GAA and in particular to Maggie Ryan, Conor Dooley, Ger Ryan for their help in organising our finals in Kinnitty. Thanks also to Declan Cooke and Des O'Brien for their help with Crinkill GAA pitch. We are very thankful to both clubs who obliged us with a venue in the midst of very wet weather. Thanks also to teachers Jonathan Dunne, Tomas Flaherty, Ger Ryan who for their help in coordinating our finals days in Crinkill and Kinnitty.

Twitter and Offaly Cumann na mBunscol Website

We now have 1225 followers on our Twitter account at @offalyschools and we would encourage people to follow us on twitter to keep up to date on all that is happening in Offaly Cumann na mBunscol.

All our fixtures, results and news can be found on our website at www.offalycumannambunscol.ie

This website helps to generate the fixtures for each division and competition. Each teacher also has their own login, and using the website or app, can record their

Offaly Cumann na mBunscol Autumn Competitions 2023

| Competition | Winners | Runner up |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Autumn 2023 Boys A Cup Final | Scoil Eoin Phoil Naofa II Tullamore | St Pat's Edenderry |
| Autumn 2023 Boys A Shield Final | Scoil Phroinsiais Naofa Clara | Scoil Bhríde Edenderry |
| Autumn 2023 Boys Football Group B | Durrow N.S. | Daingean N.S. |
| Autumn 2023 Boys Football Group C | Ballybyran N.S. | Cappagh N.S. |
| Autumn 2023 Boys Football Group D | St Ciaran's N.S. Boher | Scoil Bhríde N.S. Croghan |
| Autumn 2023 Boys Football Group E | Clonmacnoise N.S. | Pullough N.S. |
| Autumn 2023 Boys Football Group F | St. Brendan's N.S. Birr | Crinkill N.S. |
| Autumn 2023 Boys Football Group G | Scoil Naomh Eoin , Rath | Kinnitty N.S. & Roscomroe N.S.> |
| Autumn 2023 Boys Football Group H | Coolderry Central N.S. | High Street N.S. |
| Autumn 2023 Boys Football Group I | Coolanarney N.S. | Gortnamona N.S. |
| Autumn 2023 Girls Football Group A | St. Rynagh's N.S. | Scoil Bhríde Clara |
| Autumn 2023 Girls Football Group B | Durrow N.S. | Ballinamere N.S. |
| Autumn 2023 Girls Football Group C | St. Broughan's N.S. Bracknagh | Scoil Mhuire Naofa Rhode |
| Autumn 2023 Girls Football Group D | Kinnitty N.S. | Coolderry N.S. |
| Autumn 2023 Girls Football Group E | Crinkill N.S. | St. Mary's N.S Cloghan |
| Autumn 2023 Girls Football Group F | Gaelscoil Éadan Doire | High Street/ Clonmacnoise |
| Autumn 2023 Girls Football Group G | St. Philomena's N.S. | Scoil Mhuire Tullamore |



Joe McDonagh Cup 2023 - Half Time Game Team who played in Croke Park

Back Row: Cillian Moran Scoil Charthaigh Naofa, Rahan ; Cillian Moloney Dromakeenan N.S., Ryan Legace St. Brendan's P.S. Birr, Keith O' Rourke, St. Colman's N.S. Mucklagh, Jack Haverty Ballinamere (referee).

Front Row: Taylor Evans Ballinamere N.S., Theo Kilmartin Ballyboy N.S., Harry Larkin Killeen N.S., Colm Boylan St. Rynagh's N.S., Joe Furey Scoil Bhríde Edenderry , Cillian Collins Seir Kieran N.S. Clareen.

own results or change their fixtures. All the results are live and up to date, and a table of standing is automatically generated.

Thank You

We wish to thank all the teachers, trainers and for helping to keep Gaelic games flourishing in our primary schools. A big thank you to all the parents around the county who have shown such support for our games. A particular word of thanks to those parents who brought children to play at the half time game in Croke Park.

Thanks to the Cumann na mBunscol committee of Jonathan Dunne (Chairperson), Declan Ward (Secretary), Michelle Maher (Treasurer), Martha Boylan (PRO), Patrick McCarthy, Sean McCann, Niall Larkin, Tomas Flaherty, Vincent Henry, Ger Ryan, John Healy, Marion Crean, Mary Guest, Mike Forde, Ann Marie Gaughan, Declan Hogan, Tom Naughton, Catriona Howell, Conor Dooley, Jack McNamara, Carol Breslin, Keith O Connor and Owen Breslin.



Cumann na mBunscol Chairperson Jonathan Dunne presents the Fr. Vaughan Cup to the 2023 Group A Hurling Winners St. Brendan's P.S. Birr.

Thanks to clubs for their use of their facilities for Cumann na mBunscol games. A special word of thanks to Birr GAA for their use of St. Brendan's Park and in particular Pat Thompson, Joe Kinsella and Padraig Grainger for all their help with our finals. Thanks also to Maggie Ryan, Ger Ryan, Kinnitty GAA club, Declan Cooke, Des O'Brien and Crinkill GAA club for hosting some of our October finals during an exceptional period of wet weather.

Thanks to all the referees around the county who make themselves available to referee our games.

Thanks to the Offaly GAA county board, Jim Kelly, Christy Todd, John Hackett and all the stewards for all their help hosting our finals in O' Connor Park. Thanks to Clara GAA club, Clara GAA club secretary Miriam Clerkin, St. Rynagh's GAA club and Paddy Scales for the use of their club grounds for our skills competition.

Thanks to Mrs. Niamh McDermott, transition year coordinator in Coláiste Choilm Tullamore and the transition year students themselves who helped with

the running of our finals in O'Connor Park Tullamore. Likewise, thanks to the transition year students at St. Brendan's Community School who helped with the running of our finals in Birr.

I would also like to thank the county board executive and in particular Micheal Duignan, Colm Cummins, Dervill Dolan for all their help throughout the year.

Thanks to Padraig O' Meara, Offaly GAA PRO who has helped to promote our finals and events on the Offaly GAA Facebook and social media platforms. Any time we contacted Padraig, our social media posts were immediately shared and publicised on Offaly GAA social media platforms. Our social media reach grew immensely as a result.

A special personal word of thanks to Carina Carroll, Offaly GAA Coaching Officer who was very helpful and supportive to me as secretary and to everyone in Cumann na mBunscol during the year. I have contacted Carina on numerous occasions throughout the year and have always received great assistance. Thank you, Carina, for your help.

Finally, we are always trying to increase the number of schools who have entered Cumann na mBunscol competitions. If any school wishes to enter Cumann na mBunscol for the first time or wishes to enter a camogie or hurling team time, please contact us and we will provide you with whatever support is necessary.

Declan Ward Rúnaí Offaly Cumann na mBunscol.



The Offaly Cumann na mBunscol half time game pictured at the Louth vs Offaly Leinster GAA Football in Croke Park.

Back Row - Declan Ward, Secretary Offaly Cumann na mBunscol; Jake Conlon Scoil Eoin Tullamore; Frank Scanlon, Scoil Phroinsiais Naofa Clara; Cian Egan Scoil Phroinsiais Naofa Clara; Conor Spollen Scoil Mhuire Naofa Rhode; Éanna Mahon, St. Rynagh's N.S., Banagher; Sarah Boylan, Offaly Cumann na mBunscol Committee; Katie Boylan, Offaly Cumann na mBunscol committee.

Front Row - Tom Halligan, St. Ciaran's N.S. Boher; Ballycumber; Andy Hynes - Scoil Bhríde Tullamore; Jake Cornally, Scoil Phroinsiais Naofa Clara; Billy Feighery Broughall N.S. Kilcormac; Shane Moore St Patrick's Primary School Edenderry.



Action from Fr. Vaughan Cup Final A Hurling Final - St. Brendan's P.S. Birr Vs. St. Rynagh's N.S.



COUNTY CONVENTION NOMINATIONS 2024

| POSITION | OUTGOING | NOMINATIONS | NOMINEE'S CLUB |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Chairperson | Michael Duignan | Michael Duignan | Durrow |
| Vice Chairperson | James Murphy | James Murphy | Rhode |
| Secretary | Colm Cummins | Colm Cummins | Edenderry |
| Assistant Secretary | Christy Todd | Christy Todd† | Ballycommon |
| Treasurer | Dervill Dolan | Dervill Dolan | Clara |
| Assistant Treasurer | Nessa Feighery | Nessa Feighery† | Kilcormac/Killoughey |
| P.R.O. | Padraig O'Meara | Padraig O'Meara | Clara |
| Central Council Representative | Paddy Scales* | Michael Duignan Dolores Slevin | St. Rynagh's (H) Kilcormac/Killoughey |
| Leinster Council Representatives (2) | Dolores Slevin* Ciaran Groome | Joe Cleary Ciaran Groome Alex Roe Declan Ward | Shinrone Bracknagh Clara Crinkill |
| Cultural Officer | Michelle Hogan | Michelle Hogan | Birr |
| Coaching Officer | Carina Carroll | Carina Carroll | Ballinamere |

Note:

* Denotes that the Officer has served five years either consecutively or cumulatively as per Rial 3.9 (b) T.O.

† Denotes that the Officer as per Offaly Bye Law 1.2 has indicated they will not be seeking election at Convention.

The Planning and Training Officer, Demographics Officer, and the Children's Officer shall be appointed by County Convention following a recommendation by the outgoing County Committee.



COUNTY CONVENTION MOTIONS 2024

BYE -LAW MOTIONS

Amend/include the following Bye-Laws (Amendments/Additions highlighted in red)

MOTION No. 1

EDENDERRY GAA CLUB

1. COUNTY CONVENTION (Rules 3.8 to 3.15 T.O.)

- 1.1.** County Convention, convened in accordance with Rule 3.8, shall elect/appoint Officers and Representatives in accordance with Rule 3.9 and Delegates in accordance with Rule 3.10 following nomination in accordance with Rule 3.11.

Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant-Treasurer, Coaching Officer, Officer for Irish Language and Culture, Public Relations Officer and shall appoint a Planning & Training Officer, **Demographics Officer** and a Children's Officer recommended by the outgoing County Committee.

It shall further elect two representatives on Provincial Council and one representative on Central Council.

- 1.2.** A person nominated for any of the above elected positions shall, 10 days before Convention following a request from the County Secretary, confirm in writing their willingness or otherwise to seek or not seek election.
- 1.3.** Rule 3.9 (b) (2) shall not apply to the office of Treasurer **i.e., five-year limit applies.**
- 1.4.** Before publication of Convention Motions submitted in accordance with Rule 3.12 these shall be examined by the Management Committee. Motions considered out of order should be returned to the submitting Unit indicating reasons and affording an opportunity to re-submit **by a date specified in advance of County Convention.**

2. COUNTY COMMITTEE (Rules 3.16 to 3.19 T.O.)

- 2.1.** The County Committee shall consist of the Officers elected/appointed pursuant to Bye Law No. 1, the two Provincial Council representatives, and the one Central Council representative, (elected pursuant to Bye Law No. 1 above who shall be ex-officio members), one named delegate from each affiliated club, the County Safety and Facilities Officer, **Demographics Officer**, County Referees' Administrator, the Coiste na nÓg Chairperson, one named representative each from the County Primary Schools Committee, the County Post Primary Schools Committee and the County Handball Committee **and the Head of Operations (without voting rights).**
- 2.2.** In accordance with Rule 3.18 and subject to Rules 3.19 and 4.1 T.O. the County Committee shall appoint the following sub-committees whose powers and functions shall be as detailed therein and, in these Bye Laws where appropriate. **The County Secretary shall retain a current list of members of each sub-committee and circulate to the County Committee.** The membership of each shall be determined as follows:

(i) **Management Committee**

It shall consist of the Officers **elected/appointed at Annual County Convention**, the Coiste na nÓg

Chairperson, representatives to Central and Provincial Council and the Head of Operations Manager (without voting rights).

In accordance with Rule 3.18(i) a recommendation of the County Management Committee on a matter of Finance may not be upset save by a three-fifths majority of members of the County Committee present, entitled to vote and voting.

(ii) **Competitions Control Committee**

It shall consist of a Chairperson, Secretary and two other members, nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee, two named nominees of Coiste na nOg, a named representative of the Finance Committee, one Fixtures Analyst together with the County Referees' Administrator (who shall vote only on the appointment of Referees).

(iii) **Fixtures Analysts**

As per Rule 3.18 (iii) T.O.

(iv) **Hearings Committee**

It shall consist of a Chairperson and six other named members (one of whom shall act as Secretary), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

(v) **Safety and Facilities Committee**

It shall have six members including County Safety and Facilities Officer who shall be Chairperson, a Qualified Event Controller. The remaining members, nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee, should be suitably qualified in areas relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee as outlined in Rule 3.18 (v) T.O.

(vi) **Planning and Training Committee**

It shall consist of five members, the Chairperson of which shall be the County Planning and Training Officer. All members shall, upon appointment, complete the necessary training as prescribed by The National Officer Development Committee and Club and County Planning Committee.

(vii) **Referees' Administration Committee**

It shall consist of the County Referees' Administrator and five other named members (one of whom shall act as Chairperson and one of whom shall act as Secretary), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

(viii) **Coaching and Games Development Committee**

It shall consist of the County Coaching Officer, as Chairperson, Head of Games Development (who shall act as Secretary), all full-time employed Games Development Coordinators, and four other named members, one of whom shall be the Hurling Coordinator and one of whom shall be the Football Coordinator, nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

(ix) **Cultural Committee**

It shall consist of the Officer for Irish Language & Culture, as Chairperson and four other named members (one of whom shall act as Secretary), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

(x) **Public Relations/Marketing Committee**

It shall consist of the County Public Relations Officer, as Chairperson and four other named members (one of whom shall act as Secretary), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

(xi) **Youth Committee**

It shall consist of five named members (one of whom shall act as Chairperson and one of whom shall act as Secretary) nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

(xii) **Finance Sub-Committee**

It shall consist of eight named members (one of whom shall act as Chairperson and one of whom shall act as Secretary) nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

(xiii) **Information Technology Committee**

It shall consist of the County Public Relations Officer and three other named members (one of whom shall act as Chairperson and one of whom shall act as Secretary) nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

(xiv) **County Teams Management and Panels Sub-Committee**

The membership of the County Teams' Management and Panels' Committee shall be as outlined in the Charter for County Committee/Player Relationships and as approved by Árd Chomhairle from time to time and shall be nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

(xv) **Audit & Risk Committee**

It shall consist of no more than five named members including a Chairperson nominated by the Management Committee and approved by the Provincial Audit and Risk Committee and up to four members nominated by the Management Committee. The Treasurer shall not be a member.

(xvi) **Demographics Committee**

It shall consist of the County Demographics Officer, who shall act as Chairperson and four other named members (one of whom shall act as Secretary), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

(xvii) **Health and Well-Being Committee**

It shall consist of the Children's Officer and four other named members (one of whom shall act as Chairperson and one of whom shall act as Secretary), nominated by the Management Committee for appointment by the County Committee.

2.3. In accordance with **Rule 3.17 (m) T.O.** the County Committee shall appoint the following Sub-Committees whose powers and functions shall be as set out in these Bye Laws.

(i) **County Post-Primary Schools Committee**

It shall be responsible for the promotion of the aims of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael in all Post-Primary Schools in Offaly through the preservation and promotion of Gaelic Games and pastimes. It shall encourage as wide a participation in Gaelic Games, as is possible. This Committee shall be appointed annually, by the County Committee and shall include a representative of each affiliated Post-Primary School, a representative of the County Coaching and Games Development Committee and an Officer of the County Committee. The County Chairperson shall nominate the Chairperson, for appointment by the County Committee.

(ii) Coiste na nÓg Committee

It shall be responsible for the promotion of underage club activities, for minor grades and below, shall be controlled by a Sub-Committee of the County Committee to be known as Coiste na nÓg.

- (a) Coiste na nOg shall promote underage club activities, for minor grades and below, except where the County Bye Laws provide otherwise. It shall make recommendations to the Competitions Control Committee for arrangements for all Competitions and/or Championships of underage football and hurling up to and including the Minor grade.
- (b) Coiste na nOg shall consist of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary, who shall be appointed at the first meeting of the County Committee each year following a nomination from the Management Committee. One representative from each of Cumann na mBunscol, County Handball Committee, County Camogie Committee (non-voting), County Ladies Football Committee (non-voting) and one representative from each club's underage sub-committee or where clubs combine to form an Independent Underage team one representative from that team (one representative to represent all underage teams up to and including the Minor grade). The Coaching Officer and Children's Officer elected and appointed respectively at County Convention shall act ex officio on Coiste na nOg.
- (c) Coiste na nOg Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Coaching Officer and Children's Officer shall be responsible for the day to day running of the affairs of Coiste na nOg.
- (d) Coiste na nOg shall **meet as required**.

3. ATTACHMENT TO FIRST CLUB

3.1. In accordance with **Rule 6.3 (c) T.O.** a person seeking to become a member of the Association shall be restricted to joining a Club in the Catchment area of his permanent residence or where he has other relevant connection with a particular club as defined by **6.2 (b) (i) T.O.** **A Club Catchment Area shall be defined as within the Parish and within the County boundary, based on the boundary of the Roman Catholic Parish.** If a player wishes to become a member of the Association, by joining a club, outside of the catchment area of his permanent residence, he or the club must submit to the County Secretary, his entitlement to do so.

Exception.

- (a) **The above definition of Club Catchment applies except where an existing agreement approved by the County Committee is in place.**

4. PERMANENT RESIDENCE

4.1. Permanent Residence is defined in **Rule 6.2 T.O.** with the following exception.

Exception.

- (a) **To meet the requirement of permanent residence, a player must be residing at his current address for at least 16 weeks. In such cases the onus of proof of new permanent residence shall be on the applicant. Acceptance of proof of residence shall be at the discretion of the Competitions Control Committee.**

5. OTHER RELEVANT CONNECTION

5.1. **Rule 6.2 T.O.** sets out criteria considered to constitute 'Other Relevant Connection' with a particular Club.

6. TRANSFERS

- 6.1. Transfers within the County shall be dealt with in accordance with **Rule 6.4 (a) T.O.**
- 6.2. Applications for transfers, within the county, shall be submitted on a duly completed official transfer application form. All Such applications must be submitted to the County Secretary prior to the first meeting of the County Committee each year, which shall be held in January, and no further applications will be considered after that date.
- 6.3. Such application shall not be granted unless the player is in permanent residence in the Parish in which his new club is located (~~Regulation No. 43 – Catchment Area – permitting~~); is opting for his First Club or has “Other Relevant Connection with a particular Club as defined in sub-section (b) (i) of **Rule 6.2. T.O.**
- 6.4. The Competitions Control Committee shall process and make initial decisions on all applications for Transfer and Permission to Play within the county. Such decisions shall reflect the ethos of the Association as outlined in Rule 6.1. T.O. and give due consideration to the negative effect, if any, it may have on the player’s First club.

7. CLUB TEAM GRADINGS

- 7.1. No club may have more than one team at each grade.
- 7.2. A club that wins any grade of championship shall have that team graded at the next highest level for the following year. A club that loses a relegation final (as outlined in Championship regulations) shall have that team graded at the next lowest level for the following year.

Exceptions.

- (a) If a club that wins a Championship, already has a team in the next highest grade, that team cannot be graded at the next highest level for the following year. In this instance, the team that loses a relegation final, at the next highest grade will not be regraded for that year only.
 - (b) If a club loses the relegation final of a particular grade and has a team at the next lower level, no relegation will take place from the higher grade for that year only.
 - (c) Clubs entering teams in the Junior A, B or C, Championships may apply to the Competition Control Committee for a change of grade, within Junior level.
- 7.3. Requests for grading of teams in (c) above shall be accepted by the CCC, not less than 10 days prior to the first County Committee Meeting of the year. No other request for grading shall be accepted. The Competitions Control Committee shall make a recommendation in relation to any such applications to the County Committee. The County Committee retains the right to make the final decision on an application for grading by a Club.

8. PLAYER GRADINGS

- 8.1. On a date specified by the Competitions Control Committee, a Club may apply to have players regraded by one level, subject to the Club retaining a minimum of fifteen players, approved by the Competitions Control Committee, in each of the required grades, at the Championship status level of the previous year, other than where a Club has been relegated from a Championship.
- 8.2. A player may not be regraded by more than one level.

Exception.

- (a) Players who played on the winning team in Senior B, Intermediate or Junior championship finals shall be considered to be of Senior, Senior B or Intermediate status respectively for

the following year's championships, unless they have been regraded.

- (b) Clubs impacted by Offaly Bye Law 7.2 (a) & (b) may submit an exceptional player regrading application to the Competitions Control Committee as per Code (10.8).

8.3. In Accordance with Code 10.8 (b) a player aggrieved by a decision on his application for Regrading shall have the right of appeal to the County Hearings Committee whose decision shall be final.

9. AFFILIATION

9.1. In accordance with Code 4.3 (C) entry fee for Championship shall be €80 for each adult team and €8 for each under-age team.

10. ~~INTER-COUNTY PLAYERS AVAILABILITY TO CLUBS~~

~~In accordance with Rule 6.22 (A) T.O. The period of time during which Senior Inter-County Players shall not be expected to fulfil Inter-Club Championship Fixtures prior to Inter-County Championship Games, in the same Code, shall be as follows 6 days (144 hours) for County Senior, U-20 and Minor Championship knockout games.~~

11. PLAYING RESTRICTIONS (Rule 6.7 T.O.)

11.1. Subject to the Exceptions hereunder and Bye Law 3.1 Exception (a), the Parish Rule shall be in force for all grades.

Exceptions.

- (a) In accordance with Rule 3.17 (o) and Rule 6.7 T.O., Exception (1) (a) or (b): Where there is no under-age team in a Parish (including Minor & U20), a player in that Parish, may play with an Independent Team within the County which shall not bear the name of an adult Club within the County.
- (b) In accordance with Rule 6.7 (c) T.O. where there is no adult football team in a Parish, a player from a hurling Club, in that Parish, may play with a football team, and vice versa, within the County.

11.2. Applications for Exceptions shall be processed by the County Competitions Control Committee and approved by the County Committee each year. All applications for Exceptions shall, be submitted, on duly completed application forms, to the Committee, by the relevant Club Secretary seven clear days (168 Hours) in advance of the 1st meeting of the County Committee each year.

Exception.

- (a) In exceptional circumstances the Competitions Control Committee may consider an application for an individual under-age player (up to and including U17) during the playing season. Acceptance of such a request shall be at the discretion of the Competitions Control Committee.

11.3. Applications for Independent teams shall only be accepted, on an annual basis, for a team formed in accordance with and complying with the Central Council Policy for the Regulation of Independent Teams.

11.4. If a Club or Independent Team fields an ineligible player, the player and club officials shall be subject to the penalties outlined in the codes and rules of the Official Guide. For the avoidance of doubt the officials concerned shall be the Chairperson and Secretary of each club that forms an Independent Team.

Financial Statements

for the year ended 30th September, 2023

Offaly County Committee

Gaelic Athletic Association

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association

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OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association

Offaly County Committee & O'Connor Park Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 September 2023

Management Committee

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Chairperson | Michael Duignan |
| Vice Chairperson | James Murphy |
| Secretary | Colm Cummins |
| Assistant Secretary | Christy Todd |
| Treasurer | Dervill Dolan |
| Assistant Treasurer | Nessa Feighery |
| P.R.O. | Padraig O'Meara |
| Central Council Delegate | Paddy Scales |
| Leinster Council Delegate | Ciaran Groome |
| Leinster Council Delegate | Dolores Slevin |
| Planning & Training Officer | Brendan Minnock |
| Children's Officer | Elaine Kelly-Dunne |
| Irish Language and Culture Officer | Michelle Hogan |
| Coaching Officer | Carina Carroll |
| Coiste na nÓg Chairperson | Keith Screeney |

Solicitors

OMD Solicitors LLP
Abbey Moat House,
Abbey Street,
Naas,
Co. Kildare

Bankers

AIB
5/6 William Street,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly

Auditors

BCA Tax & Business Consultants Limited
Clonminch Hi-Technology Park,
Clonminch,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly

**REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

The Management Committee present their annual report and the financial statements for the year-ended 30th September 2023.

Reporting Entity

Offaly County Committee (County Board) Cumann Lúthchleas Gael is an unincorporated Association.

Principal Activities

The principal activity of Offaly GAA is the promotion and development of Gaelic Games in Offaly.

Business Review/Results

The surplus for the year after providing for depreciation and amortisation amounts to €88,893
The detail of the financial results for the year are set out on pages 9-15

Balance Sheet

Offaly GAA has net current assets of €187,505 (2022: €248,552) at the end of the year.

Future Development

Offaly GAA intends to continue the development of coaching and games across all age groups.

Post Balance Sheet Events

No significant events occurred since the balance sheet date which require disclosure in the financial statements.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

There are a number of potential risks and uncertainties which could have a significant impact on Offaly GAA's long term performance. Offaly GAA's Management Committee review existing risk and identify new risks on quarterly basis.

Suitable controls are put in place and action plans are established to mitigate risks.

These risks and uncertainties and the related controls and plans are monitored by the County Board Audit & Risk Committee on a regular basis and will be reported to the Management Committee.

Books and Records

The Management Committee is responsible for ensuring that proper books and accounting records are kept by the County Board. The Management Committee have appointed appropriate accounting personnel to ensure compliance with those requirements.

The books and accounting records are maintained at O' Connor Park, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Statement of Relevant Audit Information

Each of the persons who are members of the Management Committee at the time when this Management Committee Report is approved has confirmed that:

- * so far as the Committee Member is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware, and
- * the Committee Member has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a member of the Management Committee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

BCA Tax & Business Consultants Limited have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

Signed on behalf of Management Committee

Michael O'Duigeartaín
Michael Duignan
CHAIRPERSON

Colm E. Cummins
Colm Cummins
SECRETARY

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association
STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

The Management Committee is required to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the County Board and the surplus or deficit of the County Board for that period.

In preparing those financial statements Management Committee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify the standards in question, subject to any material departures from those standards being disclosed and explained in the notes to the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the County Board will continue its activities.

The Management Committee is responsible for ensuring adequate accounting records are kept which correctly explain and record the transactions of the County Board and enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the County Board to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the County Board and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Management Committee are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the organisation and financial information included on the County Board website. Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Signed on behalf of Management Committee

Michael O'Duignan

Michael Duignan
CHAIRPERSON

DATE: 30/11/2023

Colm Cummins

Colm Cummins
SECRETARY

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Offaly County Committee Gaelic Athletic Association ('the County Board'), for the year ended 30 September 2023, which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Change in Reserves, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council (FRS 102).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the County Board as at September 30, 2023, and of its surplus for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report.

We are independent of the County Board in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and the provisions available to small entities, in the circumstances set out in Note 4 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that managements' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the County Board's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
OFFAIX COUNTY COMMITTEE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

(continued)

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of management with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

Management are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other matters

In our opinion, based on the audit work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- we have obtained all the information and explanations which we considered were necessary for the purposes of our audit; and
- in our opinion proper accounting records have been kept by the County Board; and
- the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of management for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Management's Responsibilities Statement set out on page 5, management are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

(continued)

In preparing the financial statements, management are responsible for assessing the County Board's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the County Board or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority's website at:

http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8fa98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the County Board members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the County Board's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the County Board and the members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Michael Casey
For and on behalf of
BCA TAX AND BUSINESS CONSULTANTS LIMITED
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit Firm
Clonminch Hi-Technology Park
Tullamore
Co. Offaly


Date: 30/11/2023

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association

Offaly County Committee / O'Connor Park / Faithful Fields Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 30 September 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| INCOME | € | € |
| Offaly County Committee | 1,959,306 | 2,057,407 |
| O'Connor Park | 419,740 | 334,900 |
| Faithful Fields | 136,225 | 145,597 |
| <hr/> | | |
| Total Income | 2,515,271 | 2,537,904 |
| <hr/> | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Offaly County Committee | 1,797,814 | 1,542,955 |
| O'Connor Park | 444,865 | 373,163 |
| Faithful Fields | 183,609 | 211,465 |
| <hr/> | | |
| Total Expenditure | 2,426,288 | 2,127,583 |
| <hr/> | | |
| <i>Surplus for the year</i> | 88,983 | 410,321 |
| <hr/> | | |

The financial statements were approved by the board on the 30th of November 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Treasurer: 
Dervill Dolan

Secretary: 
Colm Cummins


OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 September 2023

| | Schedule | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| INCOME | | € | € |
| Gate Receipts | 1 | 516,870 | 815,243 |
| Commercial Income | 2 | 378,162 | 438,763 |
| Income from Associates Bodies | 3 | 819,025 | 469,821 |
| Other Income | 4 | 245,249 | 333,580 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total Income | | 1,959,306 | 2,057,407 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Match Expenses | 5 | 139,368 | 247,592 |
| County Teams' Administration Expenses | 6 | 1,160,854 | 1,209,334 |
| Interest and Bank Charges | | 1,223 | 1,103 |
| Administration Expenses | 7 | 123,537 | 65,057 |
| Grants and Subscriptions | 8 | 22,671 | 12,469 |
| Coaching and Games Development | 9 | 350,161 | 7,400 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total Expenditure | | 1,797,814 | 1,542,955 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Surplus for year | | 161,492 | 514,452 |
| <hr/> | | | |

The financial statements were approved by the board on the 30th of November 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Treasurer: 
Dervill Dolan


Secretary: 
Colm Cummins

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association

O'Connor Park Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 September 2023

| | Schedule | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|--|----------|------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Rents for Matches | | 96,841 | 91,219 |
| O'Connor Park Development Fund | | 148,202 | 148,202 |
| O'Connor Park Shop and Misc | | 21,962 | 21,885 |
| O'Connor Park Signage | | 117,603 | 56,969 |
| Long Term Finance Credit | | 16,625 | 16,625 |
| Energy Grant | | 18,507 | - |
| Total Income | | 419,740 | 334,900 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Rent and Rates | | 53,673 | 43,996 |
| General Repairs and Upkeep of Grounds and Equipment | | 102,265 | 59,632 |
| Other expenses | | 39,205 | 34,900 |
| Insurances | | 10,006 | 10,056 |
| Depreciation | | 214,695 | 197,549 |
| Loan Interest | | 25,021 | 27,030 |
| Total Expenditure | | 444,865 | 373,163 |
| Operating Deficit | | (25,125) | (38,263) |
| (Deficit) for year | | (25,125) | (38,263) |
| Statement of Non-cash Movement | | | |
| (Deficit) for year | | (25,125) | (38,263) |
| Addback: | | | |
| Depreciation | | 214,695 | 197,549 |
| Deduct: | | | |
| O'Connor Park Development Fund | | (148,202) | (148,202) |
| Long Term Finance Credit | | (16,625) | (16,625) |
| Adjusted Surplus/(Deficit) for year | | 24,743 | (5,541) |

The financial statements were approved by the board on the 30th of November 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Treasurer: 
Dervill Dolan

Secretary: 
Colm Cummins

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association


Faithful Fields Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 September 2023

| | Schedule | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|--|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Rents for Matches | | 1,945 | 4,367 |
| Faithful Fields Development Fund | | 55,480 | 55,480 |
| Faithful Fields Sponsorship | | 58,800 | 25,750 |
| Grant Received For Upkeep of Grounds | | - | 60,000 |
| Energy Grant | | 20,000 | - |
| Total Income | | 136,225 | 145,597 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| General Repairs and Upkeep of Grounds and Equipment | | 121,221 | 150,156 |
| Other expenses | | 1,547 | 468 |
| Insurances | | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Depreciation | | 55,841 | 55,841 |
| Total Expenditure | | 183,609 | 211,465 |
| Operating Deficit | | (47,384) | (65,868) |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for year | | (47,384) | (65,868) |

Statement of Non-cash Movement

| | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Surplus/(Deficit) for year | | (47,384) | (65,868) |
| Addback: | | | |
| Depreciation | | 55,841 | 55,841 |
| Deduct: | | | |
| O'Connor Park Development Fund | | (55,480) | (55,480) |
| Adjusted Surplus/(Deficit) for year | | (47,023) | (65,507) |

The financial statements were approved by the board on the 30th of November 2023 and signed on its behalf by

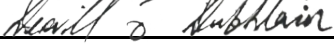
Treasurer: 
Dervill Dolan


Secretary: 
Colm Cummins

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association
Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2023

| | Notes | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|------------------------------------|-------|------------------|------------------|
| FIXED ASSETS | | | |
| Tangible Fixed Assets | 8 | 9,037,616 | 9,220,233 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Debtors and Prepayments | 9 | 374,006 | 577,307 |
| Bank Balances | 10 | 416,373 | 102,573 |
| Prize Bonds | | 381 | 381 |
| Total | | 790,760 | 680,261 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Creditors and Accruals | 11 | 603,255 | 431,709 |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | 187,505 | 248,552 |
| CREDITORS | | | |
| Amounts falling due after one year | 12 | 1,234,659 | 1,363,624 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| NET ASSETS | | 7,990,462 | 8,105,161 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Represented by: | | | |
| ACCUMULATED FUND | | | |
| Accumulated Fund | | 543,006 | 454,023 |
| O'Connor Park Redevelopment Fund | | 5,054,777 | 5,202,979 |
| Faithful Fields Development Fund | | 2,392,679 | 2,448,159 |
| | | 7,990,462 | 8,105,161 |

The financial statements were approved by the board on the 30th of November 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Treasurer: 
Dervill Dolan

Secretary: 
Colm Cummins

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association
Statement of Changes in Reserves
FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

| |
|---|
| Statement of Changes in Reserves |
|---|

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| | € |
| At 1 October 2021 | 7,898,522 |
| Surplus for the year | 410,321 |
| O Connor Park Redevelopment Fund - Transfer to Income and Expenditure | (148,202) |
| Faithful Fields Development Fund - Transfer to Income and Expenditure | (55,480) |
| At 30 September 2022 | <u><u>8,105,161</u></u> |
| | € |
| At 1 October 2022 | 8,105,161 |
| Surplus for the year | 88,983 |
| O Connor Park Redevelopment Fund - Transfer to Income and Expenditure | (148,202) |
| Faithful Fields Development Fund - Transfer to Income and Expenditure | (55,480) |
| At 30 September 2023 | <u><u>7,990,462</u></u> |

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association
Statement of Cash Flows
AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

| |
|--------------------------------|
| Statement of Cash Flows |
|--------------------------------|

| | <i>Note</i> | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | € | € |
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Operating profit for the financial year | | 88,983 | 410,321 |
| Adjustments for: | | | |
| Depreciation of property, plant and equipment | | 270,637 | 253,515 |
| Amortisation of funding | | (220,308) | (220,308) |
| Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables | | 203,301 | (292,213) |
| Increase/(decrease) in trade payables | | 167,215 | 38,064 |
| Interest paid | | 25,021 | 27,030 |
| Net cash from operating activities | | <u>534,849</u> | <u>216,409</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| Purchases of property, plant and equipment | | <u>(88,020)</u> | - |
| Net cash from investing activities | | <u>(88,020)</u> | - |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | | |
| Repayment of borrowings | | <u>(133,029)</u> | (126,443) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | | <u>(133,029)</u> | <u>(126,443)</u> |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | 313,800 | 89,966 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | <u>102,573</u> | <u>12,607</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year (Note 10) | | <u>416,373</u> | <u>102,573</u> |

1. General Information

Offaly County Committee is a sports organisation in which the registered office and principal place of operation is O'Connor Park, Arden Road, Tullamore Co. Offaly. The organisation is responsible for the development and oversight of Gaelic games in Offaly.

Statement of Compliance

The entity financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The entity financial statements comply with Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Currency

The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the Association in Ireland.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation of financial statements:

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates.

It also requires management to exercise judgment in applying the County Board's accounting policies.

Going concern

The entity financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

In assessing going concern management has considered budgets and forecasts for the foreseeable future and the impact of severe but plausible downside scenarios.

Management is satisfied that the use of the going concern basis is appropriate.

Foreign currency translation

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the financial year end date.

Non-monetary items that are measured at historical cost are translated at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

Non-monetary items measured at fair value are translated at the rate of exchange at the date of the valuation.

All foreign exchange differences are taken to the Statement of Income and Retained Earnings.

Government and Other Grants

Grants are accounted under the accruals model as permitted by FRS 102. Government Grants relating to expenditure on tangible fixed assets are credited to the Income and Expenditure Account at the same rate as the depreciation on the assets to which the grant relates.

The deferred element of the grant is included in creditors as deferred income.

Grants of a revenue nature are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the same period as the related expenditure.

Revenue recognition

Revenue is derived from gate receipts, Sponsorship, Leinster and Central Council contributions, affiliations fees, entry fees and fundraising activities.

Income is recognised when it is capable of reliable measurement and the principal risks and rewards of ownership have passed to the County Board.

Income from gate receipts and fundraising activities is recognised on the date of the activity.

Income from sponsorship, Leinster and Central Council contributions, and affiliation fees are recognised in accordance with the individual agreements.

Financial instruments

The organisation only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and creditors, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in ordinary shares.

Borrowing costs

All borrowing costs are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the year in which they are incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets under the cost model are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Office Buildings | 20% straight line |
| Equipment | 20% reducing balance |
| New Stand | 2% straight line |

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the income and expenditure account.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Cash

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Provisions for liabilities

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the organisation a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefit, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to Income and Expenditure account in the year that the organisation becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the Statement of financial position date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Statement of financial position.

3. Judgement in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The officers consider the accounting estimates and assumptions below to be its critical accounting estimates and judgements:

Useful life of tangible fixed assets

Long-lived assets represent a significant portion of total assets. The annual depreciation charge depends primarily on the estimated lives of each type of asset and, in certain circumstances, estimates of residual values.

The Management Committee regularly review these useful lives and change them if necessary to reflect current conditions.

In determining these useful lives the committee members consider physical condition and expected economic utilisation of the assets.

Changes in the useful lives can have a significant impact on the depreciation charge for the financial year.

The net book value of Tangible Fixed Assets subject to depreciation at the financial year end date was €9,037,616 (2022 €9,220,233)

Allowance for impairment of debtors

The County Board estimates the allowance for doubtful trade debtors based on an assessment of specific accounts where the Management Committee has objective evidence comprising default in payment terms or significant financial difficulty that certain customers are unable to meet their financial obligations. In these cases, judgement used is based on the best available facts and circumstances including but not limited to, the length of the relationship.

Accruals

The organisation has accruals recorded in the Statement of Financial Position and this is reviewed monthly by the organisation.

Estimates on the accruals is based on the most reliable evidence at the time the estimates are made. These estimates take into consideration the cost or income directly relating to events occurring subsequent to the reporting date to the extent that such events confirm conditions existing at

the end of the reporting period.

Prepayments

The organisation has prepayments recorded in the Balance Sheet and this is reviewed monthly by the organisation.

Estimates on the prepayments is based on the most reliable evidence at the time the estimates are made.

These estimates take into consideration the cost or income directly relating to events occurring subsequent to the reporting date to the extent that such events confirm conditions existing at the end of the reporting period.

4. Provisions Available for Audit of Small Entities

In common with many other entities of our size and nature, we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

| 5. Turnover | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | € | € |
| Gate Receipts | 516,870 | 815,243 |
| Commercial Income | 378,162 | 438,763 |
| Fundraising | 89,837 | 150,522 |
| Other Income | 155,412 | 183,058 |
| | 1,140,281 | 1,587,586 |

| 6. Employees | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | € | € |
| Staff costs consist of: | | |
| Wages and Salaries | 6,132 | - |
| Social security costs | 670 | - |
| | 6,802 | - |

During the year, Offaly GAA engaged their coaches through the means of Leinster Council and engaged their Operations Manager from Central Council.

Offaly GAA employed one person in finance and administration during the financial year.

| 7. Interest payable and similar expenses | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | € | € |
| Finance leases | - | - |
| Bank loans and overdrafts | 27,275 | 27,030 |
| | 27,275 | 27,030 |

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

| | Office Furniture & Equipment | Office Building | Faithful Fields | Grounds Equipment | New Stand & Terrace | Total |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Cost or Valuation</i> | € | € | € | € | € | € |
| At 1 October 2022 | 12,310 | 24,329 | 2,792,027 | 201,595 | 9,763,297 | 12,793,558 |
| Additions | - | - | - | 88,021 | - | 88,021 |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| At 30 September 2023 | 12,310 | 24,329 | 2,792,027 | 289,616 | 9,763,297 | 12,881,579 |
| <i>Depreciation</i> | | | | | | |
| At 1 October 2022 | 11,932 | 24,329 | 324,636 | 195,016 | 3,017,412 | 3,573,325 |
| Charge for the year | 101 | - | 55,843 | 19,428 | 195,266 | 270,638 |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| At 30 September 2023 | 12,033 | 24,329 | 380,479 | 214,445 | 3,212,678 | 3,843,963 |
| <i>Net Book Value</i> | | | | | | |
| At 30 September 2022 | 378 | - | 2,467,391 | 6,579 | 6,745,885 | 9,220,233 |
| At 30 September 2023 | 277 | - | 2,411,548 | 75,172 | 6,550,619 | 9,037,616 |

9. Debtors

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| Trade receivables and prepayments | 71,232 | 67,042 |
| Other Debtors | 248,093 | 336,688 |
| Due from Central Council | - | 134,559 |
| Due from Leinster Council | 54,681 | 39,018 |
| | 374,006 | 577,307 |

10. Cash in Bank and in hand

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| Float Control Account | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Cash in bank and in hand | 412,373 | 98,573 |
| | 416,373 | 102,573 |

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2023

11. Creditors: (amounts falling due within one year)

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| Trade Payables | 170,080 | 109,839 |
| Accruals | 87,979 | 114,666 |
| Deferred Income | 40,000 | 60,000 |
| Due to Central Council | 117,608 | - |
| Due to Clubs | 37,934 | 4,136 |
| Loans Owed to Central Council | 149,654 | 143,068 |
| | 603,255 | 431,709 |

12. Creditors: (amounts falling due after more than one year)

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | € | € |
| Loans Owed to Central Council | 1,234,659 | 1,363,625 |
| | 1,234,659 | 1,363,625 |

13. Loans

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | € | € |
| Analysis of loans owed to Central Council | | |
| Amounts due within one year | 149,654 | 143,068 |
| Amounts due between 1 and 2 years | 149,654 | 143,068 |
| Amounts due between 2 and 5 years | 448,962 | 429,204 |
| Amounts due greater than 5 years | 636,043 | 791,353 |
| | 1,384,313 | 1,506,693 |

Breakdown of Amounts Due

| | € | € |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| O' Connor Park Redevelopment | 1,249,062 | 1,357,071 |
| Central Council - Refinancing | 135,251 | 149,622 |
| Balance at end of year | 1,384,313 | 1,506,693 |

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2023

14. Capital Commitments

Offaly GAA had no capital commitments at 30 September 2023.

15. Contingent Liability

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| Offaly GAA has guaranteed the following amounts | | |
| Birr GAA Club | 5,722 | 12,361 |
| Clonbullogue GAA Club | - | 4,951 |
| Edenderry GAA Club | 55,026 | 65,862 |
| Killeigh GAA Club | - | 5,481 |
| St. Rynaghs GAA Club | 89,239 | 99,339 |
| Balance at end of year | 149,987 | 187,994 |

16. Government Grants

Details of 2023 Government Grants as required by Circular 13/2014

| | |
|--|---|
| Agency: | Sport Ireland |
| Government Department: | Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaelteacht, Sport and Media |
| Department Grant Programme: | Sport Ireland Return to Play |
| Purpose of the Grant: | Ensure Clubs can continue to deliver sporting opportunities at a local level |
| Grant Term: | Year-ended 30th September 2023 |
| Grant taken to income in current financial statements: | €32,041 |
| Grant received in the current year: | €32,041 |
| Grant outstanding at end of current financial year: | Nil |
| Grant income to be deferred to following period: | Nil |
| Capital grant: | - |
| Restriction on use: | Sporting opportunities at a local level |
| Government Funding issued directly to County Board: | |
| Agency: | |
| Government Department: | |
| Department Grant Programme: | SI Energy Grant |
| Purpose of the Grant: | Contribution to the uplift in energy costs |
| Grant Term: | Year-ended 30th September 2023 |
| Grant taken to income in current financial statements: | €38,507 |
| Grant received in the current year: | €38,507 |
| Grant outstanding at end of current financial year: | Nil |
| Grant income to be deferred to following period: | Nil |
| Capital grant: | - |
| Restriction on use: | Against energy costs incurred by the County |

17. Taxation

Offaly GAA is a listed sporting body that has been granted tax exemption under Section 235 of Taxes Consolidation act 1997.

18. Related Party Transactions

Ard Chomhairle, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael is the governing body of the Association. It governs and administers the national competitions that Offaly GAA teams participate in. It administers grant funding (Infrastructure & Revenue), state funding, insurance cover and the injury fund on behalf of the units of the Association.

Leinster Council CLG governs and administers Leinster competitions that Offaly GAA participate in. It administers grant funding to the units of the Association in the province. There are additional governing functions reserved to the Leinster Council and Central Council under the Official Guides.

The County Committee is the governing and controlling body of all the affairs within the county and including competitions that the clubs participate in.

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|--|----------------|------------------|
| | € | € |
| The net transactions to / (from) CLG related parties: | | |
| Central Council | 117,608 | (134,559) |
| Clubs | 37,934 | 4,136 |
| Leinster Council | (54,681) | (39,018) |
| | 100,861 | (169,441) |

Key Management Personnel

Key Management personnel comprises the members of the Management Committee who manage the affairs and business of the County Board.

The Management Committee currently comprises 14 volunteer members, none of which receive remuneration for their services.

Travel and subsistence costs of nil were reimbursed to Management Committee members in relation to their duties.

19. Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting Offaly GAA since the financial year end.

20. Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved for issue by the Offaly GAA County Board on the 30th of November 2023.

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

THE FOLLOWING PAGES DO NOT FORM PART OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association

Schedules to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2023

SCHEDULE 1

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| GATE RECEIPTS | | |
| 2021 Senior Football Final | - | 48,710 |
| 2021 Senior Football Final - Replay | - | 24,540 |
| 2021 Senior Hurling Final | - | 29,060 |
| 2021 Senior Football Semi Finals | - | 26,962 |
| 2021 Senior Hurling Semi Finals | - | 13,875 |
| Senior Football Final | 45,330 | 50,847 |
| Senior Hurling Final | 67,032 | 59,327 |
| Senior Football Semi-Finals | 15,450 | 23,850 |
| Senior Hurling Semi-Finals | 25,728 | 49,592 |
| Season Ticket | 38,197 | 17,275 |
| Other Matches | 325,133 | 471,205 |
| | 516,870 | 815,243 |

SCHEDULE 2

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| COMMERCIAL INCOME | | |
| Sponsorship | 311,916 | 359,664 |
| Royalties | 59,409 | 76,019 |
| Programme income and expenses | 6,837 | 3,080 |
| | 378,162 | 438,763 |

SCHEDULE 3

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| INCOME FROM ASSOCIATED BODIES | | |
| Central Council | | |
| National League Shares/Grant | 81,442 | 93,732 |
| Commercial Income (Croke Park) | 185,000 | 185,000 |
| Administration Grant | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Games Development Grant | 173,332 | - |
| Senior Panel Travel Grant | 88,504 | 85,589 |
| County Holiday Fund Grant | 60,000 | - |
| Central Council/Sports Ireland COVID-19 Grants | - | 22,000 |
| Leinster Council | | |
| Team Expenses | 13,000 | 14,000 |
| Club Contributions - Coaching | 90,478 | - |
| Games development grant | 83,641 | 23,000 |
| Administration Grant | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Other | 3,628 | 6,500 |
| | 819,025 | 469,821 |

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association

Schedules to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2023

| SCHEDULE 4 | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| OTHER INCOME AND FUNDRAISING | | |
| League income | 15,800 | 16,800 |
| Club Affiliation and Other Fees | 12,550 | 12,436 |
| Club levy | 100,500 | 100,500 |
| Lotto (Net of expenses) | 3,839 | 18,480 |
| Fundraising | 89,837 | 150,522 |
| Video / Streaming / TV (Net of Expenses) | 19,671 | 31,987 |
| Miscellaneous | 3,052 | 2,855 |
| | 245,249 | 333,580 |

| SCHEDULE 5 | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| MATCH EXPENSES | | |
| League expenses | 10,050 | 10,300 |
| Medals and Trophies | 15,107 | 19,269 |
| Match day expenses | | |
| Venue Rental - Club | 53,840 | 109,782 |
| Ticketing Costs - (Net of Loyalty Bonus) | 20,728 | 55,311 |
| Referees | 20,943 | 28,984 |
| Field Marking | 15,400 | 19,190 |
| Floodlight | 3,300 | 4,756 |
| | 139,368 | 247,592 |

| SCHEDULE 6 | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | € | € |
| COUNTY TEAMS ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES | | |
| Catering | 194,235 | 191,246 |
| Players Travelling Expenses | 220,049 | 213,194 |
| Team Administration Expenses | 374,889 | 365,913 |
| Buses and Accommodation | 45,117 | 53,096 |
| Sportsgear, Equipment, Gym and Laundry | 221,393 | 250,127 |
| Medical Expenses including Physiotherapy | 97,436 | 133,518 |
| Players Injury Insurance for County Teams | 8,095 | 3,240 |
| Fines | (360) | (1,000) |
| | 1,160,854 | 1,209,334 |

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association

Schedules to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2023

SCHEDULE 7

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | € | € |
| ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES | | |
| Printing, Stationery and General | 9,581 | 6,216 |
| Postage and Telephone | 5,958 | 5,170 |
| Administration Wages | 6,802 | - |
| Operation Manager Wages | 45,618 | 11,800 |
| Audit Fees | 6,000 | 4,920 |
| Accountancy Fees | 3,616 | 8,696 |
| Legal and Professional Fees | 14,068 | 11,895 |
| County Convention and Other Meetings | 626 | 62 |
| Depreciation | 101 | 126 |
| Advertising and IT Support | 9,608 | 592 |
| Complimentary/Sponsors Tickets | 21,559 | 15,580 |
| | 123,537 | 65,057 |

SCHEDULE 8

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | € | € |
| GRANTS, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND PROMOTIONAL | | |
| Presentation Dinners | 12,363 | 2,489 |
| IT Scholarships | 5,000 | 7,000 |
| Scor | 3,708 | 2,980 |
| Donations | 1,600 | - |
| | 22,671 | 12,469 |

SCHEDULE 9

| | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | € | € |
| COACHING AND GAMES DEVELOPMENT | | |
| Hurley Helmet Scheme | (403) | (910) |
| Coaching and Development Expenses | 67,543 | 45,117 |
| Coaches Wages and PRSI Costs | 328,686 | - |
| Summer Camp | (49,085) | (41,719) |
| School Coaching Expense | 3,420 | 4,912 |
| | 350,161 | 7,400 |

OFFALY COUNTY COMMITTEE Gaelic Athletic Association
Schedules to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2023

| SCHEDULE 10 | FY2023 | FY2022 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | € | € |
| FINANCIAL EXPENSES | | |
| Bank and Interest charges | 1,223 | 1,103 |
| Loan Interest | 27,275 | 27,030 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 28,498 | 28,133 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |



CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL
Bord Chontae Uíbh Fháilí