***Cumann Lúthchleas Gael***

***Ceatharlach***

“Tuairsc an Rúnaí 2016”

A Chairde,

This is my fifth and final Co Secretary's report for Convention as I come to the end of my time as County Secretary. Over the following number of pages, I will review all that has happened on the GAA scene in Carlow, during 2016.

***Comhbhrón***

*As always, a good number of GAA people died during the year and to all the families that suffered a bereavement during 2016, I extend my deepest sympathy.*

***Ar dheis De go raibh said***

***Club Competitions***

***Football***

1. Senior Football

Palatine retained their Senior Football title in 2016, a feat last achieved by Palatine in 1919/1920 In the County Final, Palatine overcame Rathvilly, by 2-13 to 0-12 after an excellent game.

In the semi-finals Palatine defeated Mt Leinster Rangers while Rathvilly beat Old Leighlin.

In the Relegation Final, Kildavin / Clonegal were beaten by O Hanrahans and so dropped back to Intermediate.

1. Intermediate Football

St Andrews will return to Senior Championship Football for 2017 as a result of becoming Intermediate Co Champions when they defeated Naomh Eoin by 3-5 to 1-8 in this year’s County Final.

In the semi-finals St. Andrews beat Kilbride and Naomh Eoin defeated Clonmore.

In the Relegation Final, Fenagh were beaten by Ballinabranna and so will be playing Junior Football 'A' in 2017.

1. Junior Football “A”

Éire Óg were crowned Junior Champions after beating St. Patricks by 3-14 to 2-9, in the County Final.

Both clubs had big wins in the semi-finals. Éire Óg beat Ballon and St Patricks beat Tinryland.

1. Junior Football “B”

Old Leighlin had a good win by 5-10 to 1-13 over Askea in the Junior 'B' Final. In the semi-finals Old Leighlin had a big win over Naomh Eoin and Askea had a good win over O Hanrahans.

1. Junior Football “C”

Tinryland beat Ballon by 2 pts in the Junior ‘C’ Final, on a score of 2-9 to 1-10. In the Semi-Finals Tinryland beat Clonmore while Ballon beat Leighlinbridge.

1. Under 21 Football “A”

Éire Óg had a good win over St Andrews in the Under 21 Final, winning by 3-10 to 1-8. In the semi-finals Éire Óg beat Tinryland and St Andrews defeated Mt Leinster Rangers.

1. Under 21 Football “B”

In the Under 21 ‘B’ Final Fenagh made up for losing last year’s final when they had a good win over Burren Rangers by 4-14 to 2-9 in this year’s final. In the semi-finals Fenagh had a big win over St Patricks while Burren Rangers beat Kildavin/Clonegal.

1. Minor Football “A”

*Éire Óg regained the Minor Football title, gaining revenge on Palatine by beating them in the Co Final, by 1-16 to 1-11, having been beaten by the same team in last year’s final. In the semi-finals, Éire Óg defeated Fenagh, while Palatine defeated Rathvilly.*

1. Minor Football Shield

In the Minor Football Shield Final Michael Davitts beat Burren Rangers by 0-18 to 1-6.

1. Minor Football “B”

Tinryland had a huge win over Naomh Eoin, by 2-17 to 0-1, in the Minor ‘B’ Final. In the semi-finals, Tinryland defeated while Naomh Eoin defeated Clonmore after a replay.

1. Football Leagues

Football League 1: Éire Óg defeated Old Leighlin in the Final.

Football League 2: Naomh Eoin defeated St Andrews.

Football League 3: Ballon defeated Éire Óg

Football League 4: Askea defeated Old Leighlin

Football League 5: Ballon.

Minor Football 'A' Palatine defeated Éire Óg.

***Hurling***

1. Senior Hurling Championship

St. Mullins retained the Senior Hurling Championship crown for the third year in row, the first three in a row for St Mullins since 1960, with a very good win over neighbours Mount Leinster Rangers in the Co Final, by 2-16 to 0-13.

In the semi-finals St. Mullins defeated Naomh Eoin, while Mount Leinster Rangers beat Erins Own after a replay.

1. Intermediate Hurling Championship

Mt Leinster Rangers won their third Intermediate title in a row, when defeating Carlow Town in the Final by 3-19 to 0-18. In the semi-finals, Mount Leinster Rangers beat St Mullins, while Carlow Town defeated Naomh Eoin.

1. Junior Hurling Championship

Naomh Eoin won the Junior title for the second year in a row when they beat Ballinkillen in the Junior Hurling Final by 3-13 to 1-7. In the semi-finals, Naomh Eoin beat Palatine after a replay, while Ballinkillen beat Naomh Brid.

1. Under 21 Hurling Championships

Mount Leinster Rangers were crowned 2016 Under 21 Hurling Champions with a one point win over St Mullins by 1-15 to 1-14, in the County Final. In the semi-finals, Mount Leinster Rangers beat Naomh Brid while St Mullins beat Erins Own.

1. Minor Hurling Championship

Mount Leinster Rangers continued their winning ways at minor level by winning their fifth title in a row with a narrow one point win over Naomh Eoin in the Final, on a score of 0-11 to 0-10.

In the semi-finals Mount Leinster Rangers beat Naomh Brid while Naomh Eoin beat Ballinkillen in a replay.

In the Minor Hurling Shield, Erins Own beat St Mullins by 1-12 to 1-8.

1. Long Puck Competition

The Long Puck competition in Carlow has gone from strength to strength in the last few years. From competing on the roads around St Mullins for 2 years to competing on Sliabh Bawn for the past 2 years, this event has become very enjoyable for all who take part and for all spectators. The fact that players take part from both U-16 Hurling and Camogie and Senior Hurling and Camogie adds greatly to a very enjoyable event and tensions are not as high as other Co Finals.

Congratulations to all the winners of all the Competitions.

***Leinster Club Competitions***

1. Senior Football

Palatine met one of the favourites for the All Ireland in the first round, St Vincents of Dublin. Played in Netwatch Cullen Park, St Vincents had a good win by 0-16 to 0-8.

1. Intermediate Football

St. Andrews were most unlucky to lose by one point to St Josephs, Louth, in the first round, in Louth on a score of 1-11 to 0-13.

1. Junior Football

St Patricks represented Carlow in the Junior, as Co Junior Champions Éire Óg could not, due to the rule which states that Clubs Second teams cannot take part. St Patricks were narrowly beaten by Kilcullen, Kildare in Newbridge, in the first round, by 0-14 to 1-10.

1. ***Senior Hurling Championship***

*In the first round St. Mullins were away in Mullingar against Westmeath Champions Raharney. After a great game St Mullins came away with a six point win. This put St Mullins in the Leinster Semi-final against Cuala of Dublin. Played at home in Netwatch Cullen Park St Mullins didn't play as well as in previous games and Cuala emerged winners on a score of 1-19 to 1-7.*

1. ***Junior Hurling Championship***

*Carlow Town represented Carlow in this grade, and in the first round, Carlow Town were beaten by Ratoath, Meath in Meath.*

***County Teams***

1. ***Senior Football***

*In the first round of the Leinster Senior Football Championship, Carlow played Louth in Portlaoise. In a very high scoring game Carlow were beaten by 2-24 to 3-11 after playing quite well.*

*That result put Carlow in to the qualifiers, where Carlow were drawn at home to Wicklow. Here Carlow played well and came away with a very good five point win, 1-17 to 1-12.*

*In the second round Carlow were drawn away to the losers of Cavan and Tyrone. Unfortunately due to Cavan drawing with Tyrone in the Ulster Championship this game was put back an extra week, and this was a major disadvantage to local fixtures as it meant that the start of the Senior Football Championship had to be put back.*

*Despite putting in a great effort, Carlow lost out to Cavan by 2-13 to 0-12 and so ended the championship campaign for 2016.*

*In the National Football League, Carlow had a very mixed campaign. It was hoped to be in the running for promotion, but this was not to be. Carlow had wins over Wicklow, Leitrim and London. Unfortunately defeat was suffered against Antrim, Waterford, Wexford and Louth*

*In the O’Byrne Cup, played in January, Carlow lost to Meath, Laois and U.C.D.*

1. ***U-21 Football***

*In the first round of the Leinster Championship Carlow played Wicklow in Carlow I.T. Grounds. This game turned into probably the most open and free flowing game played in Carlow all year. Both teams played great attacking football and the result was right in doubt until the final minute. After a very high scoring game Carlow lost out by 5-11 to 3-13.*

1. ***Minor Football***

*Carlow, as they were in the senior, were drawn against Louth in the first round. Played at home in Netwatch Cullen Pk, Carlow were beaten by 1-14 to 1-8 and so moved into a qualifier game where the opposition was Laois. Unfortunately defeat was again suffered in this game, losing by1-13 to 1-4 and so ended Carlow's minor football championship campaign.*

1. ***Senior Hurling***

*Carlow were once again this year in the Leinster Senior Hurling Championship Round Robin group, where each team had 3 games to either progress to Leinster Quarter Finals or not..*

*The first game was away to a high flying Kerry in Tralee. Here Carlow were well beaten on a score line of 2-19 to 0-17.*

*In the second game, 6 days later, Carlow played Offaly in Tullamore. Here Carlow were most unlucky to lose by 3 points, 1-17 to 2-11, having led for most of the game. Things weren't helped by the fact that Carlow had 3 players sent off with straight Red cards in the last 3 minutes.*

*Between players suspended and players injured, it was a much changed Carlow team which faced Westmeath in Carlow in Round 3.None the less, Carlow gave their best display in this game and, as in the Offaly match, were most unlucky to lose by 0-22 to 2-15.*

*These three defeats meant that Carlow were now relegated to the Christy Ring Cup for 2017.*

*In the National Hurling League, Carlow reached the Allianz Div 2 A League Final, where great rivals Westmeath were the opponents. Played on a bitterly cold wet day in Tullamore, Westmeath emerged winners by 2 points. 0-10 to 0-8.*

*To get to the final, Carlow had beaten Kildare, Derry, Antrim and Westmeath, with one loss being suffered against London.*

*In the Walsh Cup in January, Carlow beat Meath in Navan in the first round. However, Carlow lost their next two games in the Walsh Cup, to Carlow I.T. and Wexford, and so didn't progress to knock out stages.*

*Unfortunately at the start of the year, the Senior Hurlers found it very hard to get a panel together. This made it most difficult for the team management to have the team prepared properly for the National Hurling League. None the less, the team did very well to reach the League Final and were very unlucky to lose it.*

*Hopefully for the coming year, all the Carlow Hurlers who are asked in to join Co Panel will do so, and put in a big effort to try to win the Christy Ring Cup and get Carlow back into the Leinster Championship for 2018.*

1. ***U-21 Hurling***

*In the Leinster Quarter Final, Carlow had a very good win, for the second year in a row, over Laois, in Carlow by 1-17 to 1-15. This win gave Carlow a home semi-final against Offaly. Unfortunately this semi-final ended in a loss for Carlow losing by 5-16 to 1-13, with Offaly getting a lot of their scores in the last 10 minutes.*

1. ***Minor Hurling***

*In the Leinster Minor Hurling Championship Carlow began with a good 2 point win over Kildare in Carlow.*

*In the next round however, Carlow were knocked out of the championship by neighbours Laois, on a score line of 3-20 to 0-10.*

***County Team Mentors and Players***

*Many thanks to all the Team Mentors of all the various Carlow County Teams for their time and effort in preparing our County Teams. Huge effort was put in all year by the various team managements. Also thanks to all the Players who played for Carlow over the past year.*

*Again I would urge all Club Officials to encourage their Players to come in to play for Carlow, when asked. Carlow needs to have all the best Players to be competitive in the various competitions.*

***Netwatch Training Centre Fenagh***

*The Training Centre in Fenagh continues to go from strength to strength. Hard to know how we managed without it up to now, as between the various County teams and under age squads training and a lot of club matches in the summer and autumn time, it is nearly used every night.*

***Referees***

*Thanks to all the Referees who handled our games during the year. Referees have a thankless job and are often the target of a lot of verbal abuse, which is uncalled for. Also thanks to all the Linesmen and Umpires who officiated during the year.*

***Stewards***

*Many thanks to all the Stewards who help out at all the games during the year at all the various venues. Like Referees, Stewards are always needed and nowadays due to all the Health and Safety regulations more stewards are needed on big match days than ever before.*

***C E Scheme Workers and Grounds People***

*Thanks to the workers who keep both Netwatch Cullen Park and Netwatch Training Centre Fenagh looking so well for all our games and the pitches and the grounds are always in top condition for matches.*

***Coaching Staff***

*Thanks to all the Coaching Staff and to all the Development Squad Mentors for all their work with both Hurling and Football Squads.*

***Congratulations***

*Congratulations to the Carlow Camogie team on winning the Junior Camogie All Ireland in Croke Park with a great win over Armagh in the Final.*

*Also congratulations to Myshall Camogie Club on winning the Leinster Intermediate Championship and best wishes to Myshall in the All Ireland Semi-Final.*

***Congress***

*In February, Carlow hosted Congress for the first time ever, a great honour for Carlow Gatha venue was the Mt Wolseley Hotel and the whole event was an outstanding success, from early on Friday morning to late on Saturday night. Thanks to everyone involved with the running of this Congress, especially all stewards.*

***1916-2016 Celebrations***

*On Saturday 2nd April, Carlow GAA held their celebrations for the Centenary of 1916.A re-enactment took place of the two Co Finals from 1916.In football Tinryland played Tullow, while in hurling Bagenalstown played Graiguecullen. This event was a great success despite a very cold and wet day.*

***Turning on Floodlights and 80th Birthday Celebrations for Netwatch Cullen Park***

*On Friday 2nd September, the Official Switch on of the new floodlights took place in Netwatch Cullen Park. A Parade was held from Haymarket Town Hall Plaza with many clubs taking part and this was a very colourful and joyful parade on a fine sunny evening. After the parade the County Development u-14 squads played against Kildare in hurling and Laois in football. The lights were officially switched on at half time in the first game, which was the hurling game.*

*These lights should be of great benefit to the County in the years ahead.*

***Sponsors***

*A special word of thanks to all our Sponsors for 2016*

*Netwatch - Sponsors of Netwatch Cullen Park and Training Centre*

*Tickets.ie &Mt Wolseley Hotel - All Carlow County Teams and Development Squads*

*Michael Lyng Motors - Carlow Senior Football Championship Sponsor*

*JJ Kavanagh & Sons - Carlow Senior Hurling, Intermediate Hurling and Junior Hurling*

*Championship Sponsor.*

*Talbot Hotel -Carlow Intermediate Football Championship Sponsor.*

*O’ Neills House of Sport - County Team Gear Sponsor*

*Lucozade Sport - County Team Refreshments*

*Bramley Jewellers - Awards Night*

*Fairgreen Shopping Centre - Coisde na nÓg Sponsor.*

*All the Corporate and individual members of Club Carlow*

*All the sign advertisers in Netwatch Cullen Park.*

***County Board Officers and various sub committees.***

*I would like to thank all the County Board Officers for their help in the running of the County Board during the past year.*

*Special thanks to Co Chairman Sean Campion who in his first year as Chairman has done an excellent job and was always available to take calls from me whenever I needed him.*

*Also special thanks to Treasurer Cormac O Toole and Assistant Treasurer Vinny O Brien who ensured that all gates were collected at all matches.*

*Thanks to all the various sub committees, Coisde na nÓg, all who did their part in the running of GAA affairs in the County.*

*The championship fixtures went more or less according to plan this year and thanks is due to Michael Whelan for keeping the fixtures going to plan.*

*Two officers are stepping down this at this Convention, namely PJ Fox and Vinny O Brien and I would like to thank both most sincerely for all they have done for Carlow GAA over the years.*

***End of five years as County Secretary***

*My five years as Co Secretary, comes to an end at this Convention here in Ballon. It has been an absolute honour and privilege to be Co Secretary for the past 5 years. During that time I have been in contact with many great people from around the clubs, who are striving to do the best they can in their own clubs. It was great to be able to get to know all these people and I hope I was able to help out as much as possible with whatever problem arose.*

*Many, many people helped me out during the five years. Too many to mention but to everyone who helped, I am eternally grateful.*

*Special thanks to the two Co Chairmen I worked with, Michael Meaney for 4 years and Sean Campion for the past year. Both were always available for phone calls and any other request I might have had, and I was in daily contact with both. Both put Carlow GAA first and foremost. Also thanks to all the officers of the County Board over the past 5 years who were always helpful to me.*

*To Breda in the office in Netwatch Cullen Park who was always helpful to me at all times and was always very cheerful to me at all times, no matter what I was asking her to do.*

*The 5 years weren't long passing, but I would just like to say I enjoyed my time as Co Secretary and I wish the new Co Secretary the very best of luck.*

*Thanks to everybody for the past 5 years.*

***Conclusion.***

*Finally, I would like to thank everybody who helped out in any way during the past year.*

*Thanks to Dr Tom Foley for all the work he does for us with the County Teams and his help on big match days in Netwatch Cullen Park.*

*Also thanks to the Order of Malta for their help at games.*

*Thanks to the staff in Croke Park and the Leinster Council for their help during the year and over the past 5 years during my time as Secretary.*

*Thanks also to Operations Manager Ronan Dempsey, for his great work for Carlow GAA.*

*Finally a special thanks to Breda in the office in Netwatch Cullen Park for all her help during the year.*

*Go raibh mile maith agaibh go leir.*

***Gearóid Ó Lionnáin***

***Rúnaí Condae***

***Fixtures Committee Report***

*Looking back on my second year as Fixtures Chairperson there were a few problems*

* *Senior Football League Division 2 was held up in the later stages because Railyard, (Kilkenny), were involved in the Kilkenny Senior Football Championship*
* *Minor Leagues are a big problem, Football and Hurling, with County Team Commitments and other sports the main reason for postponement.*
* *Problems with Adult competitions are stag parties that might last for a week, weddings lasts for three days and 21st parties.*

*Allowing for all that the Fixtures programme was completed by the end of November.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Referees for their help during the past year, without the cooperation of this group of people no games can be played so a big thank you is due to all Referees and Linemen, old and new.*

*I would like to thank all the Chairpersons, Secretaries and Fixtures people in all the Clubs for their cooperation during the year, without their help I would not have been able to complete the Fixtures programme so successfully.*

*Finally I would like to thank all the County Board Officers, especially Chairperson, Sean Campion, Secretary, Gerard Lennon, Treasurer, Cormac O’Toole, Assistant Treasurer, Vincent O’Brien, Operations Manager, Ronan Dempsey, and groundsmen, Seamus Moore and Billy Brooks for all their help during the Year. A special thanks to Breda in the office for her cooperation and courtesy at all times.*

*Go Raibh mile maith agaibh go leir.*

***Is mise***

***Michéal Ó Faoláin***

***Competitions Control Committee Report***

*Competitions Control Committee (C.C.C.) met ten times during the year. I think discipline improved a bit in the past but it needs constant vigilance by Club Players and Officials, Referees and their Officials at all times.*

*Last year the Committee drew up a list of Match Day Rules concerning Disciplinary issues and a code of Conduct for Clubs, Officials and Referees but people in some of the Clubs seem to ignore them, next year they will have to be adhered to 100%.*

*I would like to thank Chairperson, Michael Doran and Committee members Martin Barry, Eddie Byrne, Liam Barry, Michael Murphy, John McDonald and Fran Mullins for their time, diligence and fairness in reaching their decisions. I would also like to say a big thank you to Breda in the Office for her co-operation, courtesy and attention to detail at all times.*

*To all the families that suffered bereavements during the year I extend my deepest sympathy.*

*Ar dheis De go raibh siad,*

***Michéal Ó Faoláin***

***Rúnaí C.C.C.***

***Hearings Committee Report***

*2016 was another busy year for the Hearings Committee. In total between appeals and hearings, we dealt with almost thirty cases. Sincere thanks to all of the committee members, Phil Meaney (secretary), Shem Brophy, Joe Somers, Paul Treacy, John Blanche & Ger Doyle for all of their efforts during the year. A big thank you also to Michael O’Toole (who began the year as secretary), Joe Walsh and Eamonn Molloy who left the committee during the year. We had almost full attendance of members who were eligible to sit on the various appeals and hearings throughout the year, even though sometimes they were called at very short notice.*

*Special thanks to the County Chairman, Sean Campion, and Secretary, Gerard Lennon, for all their help and advice during the year and also to Breda in Netwatch Cullen Park for all of her help.*

*While we dealt with fewer cases this year than last year, there were more successful outcomes for appellants. This indicates to me that clubs are becoming more aware of what is needed for a successful hearing and not as inclined to just appeal a decision or request a hearing automatically.*

*Finally, one area that arose quite a lot during the past year was verbal abuse of referees and match officials. This is something that seems to be getting worse each year and players, mentors and supporters are all becoming involved in. As a County we need to stamp this out and respect for officials needs to be re-established and maintained.*

***Eamonn Mac Colmáin***

***Cathaoirleach Coiste Éisteachta***

***Referees’ Administration Committee Report***

*The Referees Administration Committee met on three occasions this year.*

*16 new Referees were recruited this year, the biggest number in a number of years and the new Referees will commence refereeing games at Juvenile Level in 2017.*

*Currently a number of Clubs do not provide the County Board with a Referee and this will have to be addressed. We will need to recruit at least 6 new Referees every year for the next number of years to maintain refereeing standards*

*A lot of unfair criticism was levelled at Referees in 2016, particularly at County Final level and mostly by the losing Team. It is not acceptable for Mentors \ Players to come on to field of play during or after a game to abuse the Referee. Clubs will have to address this issue, one Club went as far as using local media through the Club Notice Section to criticise the Referee, and this is not acceptable. The standard of Refereeing in Carlow in no worse than any other County and I would go so far as to say it is as good or indeed better than most.*

 *Finally I would like to thank Breda in the office, all our Referees who took charge of all our games during the year and also the Referees Administration Committee. Without our Referees our games could not take place.*

*I would like to wish all our Referees and all our Clubs every success for 2017.*

***Is mise***

***Mairtín de Barra***

***Coaching & Games Development Committee Report***

1. *Staffing*
* *Des Shaw was appointed as Games Development Administrator, also on a part-time basis*
1. *Talent Academy Development Squads*
* *Programme developed and overseen by Carlow GAA’s Coaching & Games Staff in conjunction with team management and coaches*
* *Carlow Colts showed a marked increase in boys wanting to play for our County, evident in U.13 Trial numbers and Regional games.*
* *Carlow GAA’s S&C Winter Programme again being implemented in conjunction with I.T. Carlow who huge thanks goes to for their support throughout 2016.*
* *A far greater number of games played by The Colts this year with our very own U.16 Carlow Cup being run by Carlow GAA this year.*
* *Thanks to all Clubs for their support of the Carlow Colts County teams this year.*
* *U.12 Foals started this year with a view to casting the net across all boys born in 2004 and expose them to a pre-Academy system.*
* *2 major fundraisers planned for 2017. Support of Clubs needed.*
* *Thanks to all our volunteer Coaches who give so freely of their time, it is greatly appreciated.*
1. *Coach Education*
* *66 Award 1 Coaches qualified through the free Coach Ed. initiative introduced by Carlow GAA last January.*
* *Club Observation Tours began in the summer to varying degrees of success. ALL Clubs are requested to engage with the process which will be ongoing through 2017 and beyond.*
* *Autumn Series of Workshops ongoing as we speak. Poor turnout from Clubs to date, we must request a better engagement from Coaches.*
* *Planned Coaching & Games Conference next April 1st to be held in conjunction with IT Carlow & Leinster GAA.*
* *Carlow GAA’s ‘100% Principle’ gaining traction with coaches. Developing two sided players is a necessity for our County’s future progress. All Club coaches requested to work on this concept in tandem with the C&G Staff.*
* *BETTER COACHES = BETTER PLAYERS*
1. *Primary Schools*
* *Club-School Link Programme continues to enjoy the support of New Ireland Assurance who are proud partners of the initiative.*
* *Almost all Clubs in Carlow now participating in the Programme. Clubs encouraged to continue to work hard in sourcing the Club-School Coach as they play a vital role in the recruitment of all children in the locality.*
* *Skill based ‘Cluster Blitzes’ implemented across the County’s schools to great success again this year.*
* *An Urban Hurling Project planned for 5 target schools in Carlow Town in 2017.*
* *Go Games participation figures experienced growth again this year. It is suggested that the Club –School Link Programme is a major reason behind this increase.*
1. *Post-Primary Schools*
* *Carlow GAA staff still acting as support to teachers with regard to the implementation of the Post-Primary Schools’ games programme.*
* *New competitions planned by Carlow GAA for 2017.*
* *PELLA as a Super Games Centre now being played in all schools in the County. The provision of equipment is expected to increase again in 2017.*
* *The inaugural U.13 PELLA Championship run by the C&G Staff to great success. It is hoped all Clubs will enter in 2017. Thanks to Coisde na nÓg for their support of the project.*
* *Thanks to the Principals and staff of CBS Carlow, Gaelcholáiste, Presentation College, Presentation De La Salle, Colaíste Eoin, Borris VS, Bagenalstown VS, Carlow VS and Tullow CS for allowing Carlow GAA access to their teams.*
1. *Cúl Camps & Easter Camps*
* *Carlow GAA experienced an almost 60% increase in Cúl Camp participation numbers this year, our most successful ever.*
* *Many thanks to all our Coaches who along with our Camp Supervisors, ensured all the children who took part in the Camps enjoyed a happy, safe and fun environment in which to play our national games*
* *Target for 2017 is to consolidate these numbers and add at least one more venue to the programme.*
* *The Easter Camp run in conjunction with IT Carlow was again very successful and plans are afoot to roll out the model at other venues for 2017.*
* *A special word of most sincere thanks again to our Clubs, Coaches & Schools whose continued support and co-operation is essential for the smooth running of the many and varied programmes operated by Carlow GAA’s Coaching & Games Staff. It is greatly appreciated.*
* *Thanks also to all our partners. Their investment and belief in what Carlow GAA are doing is crucial and continued progress will require continued support.*
* *A very special work of thanks all the parents/grandparents/guardians across Carlow who travel from matches to training and back again with our players week after week. You are the unsung heroes who keep our special games alive and kicking/pucking!*
* *Thanks to each and every one of the Officers of both Coisde na nÓg and Coisde Bainistí whose continued support is invaluable. We are very lucky in Carlow GAA to have such dedicated people overseeing the running of our games. A special word to our outgoing Coaching Officer PJ Fox who has done Trojan work during his time in the role. He is a fountain of knowledge, a calming influence and a good friend. We are extremely sorry to lose him from the County Board but hope to see him return in some capacity in the not too distant future. Huge thanks also to outgoing County Secretary Ger Lennon who has always been at the end of the phone to offer advice and guidance which were very gratefully received. I wish him well in his new role.*
* *Thank you to Dónal McNally in IT Carlow for his support of all things Carlow GAA.*
* *Thanks to James Devane in Leinster GAA who is a constant supportive presence, it is greatly appreciated.*
* *A special word of thanks to Secretary Breda McDermott, she makes my job a lot easier!*
* *Thanks to Seamus Moore & Tommy Ramsbottom and his staff, they are truly a great team.*
* *Thanks to the Stewarding Team, a very special group of people.*
* *Finally thanks to the Coaching & Games Staff; Brendan Hayden, Seán Gannon, Michael Kehoe & Des Shaw. You are a hugely dedicated, driven group of men who are a pleasure to work alongside. Continue to push the bar higher.*

***Míle, mile buíochas daoibh go léir.***

***Rónán Ó’Díomasaigh - Operations Manager Carlow GAA***

*As Coaching Officer for the past five years, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me in my role – the Officers with whom I served, the clubs both Senior & Juvenile, the schools, the coaching staff, the Office Staff and all individuals who supported me in any way.*

*I would like to thank in particular Ronan Dempsey, for all his help in making my job so easy since he was appointed Chief Operations Officer.*

*Finally I would like to wish all incoming Officers and Carlow G.A.A. in general, the very best of luck in the future.*

***Coaching and Games Development Officer – PJ Fox***

***County Planning and Physical Development and Health and Safety Committee Report***

*Croke Park launched a Club Officer training programme this year. The purpose of this programme is to give Club Officers the skills on the running of their clubs.*

*Carlow ran a course in March about ten clubs attended the course they found it very useful.*

*The plan is to run another course in the new year.*

*The Club Planning Programme is ongoing and I would urge Clubs who haven't done their Plan to start. This is the time of year to start before the playing season begins.*

*The Leinster Council have a Club Grant Scheme for Clubs that improve their facilities. i.e. playing pitch, dressing rooms, gyms, walking track, etc. These grants have to be applied for by the 1st May each year.*

*As my five term as Development Officer is up I would like to thank the Clubs for their cooperation during my five years, I hope I was of help to them.*

*A special word of thanks to Breda in the office for all her help and patience to me.*

***John Dunphy***

***Development Officer.***

***Health and Wellbeing Report***

*As the year draws to a close and is assigned to history here under we look back at the workings of the Health & Wellbeing Committee 2016.*

***Health and Wellbeing Club Officer Training***

*On Monday March 21st at Netwatch Cullen Park there was a seminar and training for Club Health & Wellbeing Officers. The course was delivered by Aoife O’Brien and Emmett Haughian from Croke Park, twelve people representing their Clubs attended: Kathleen Mullins, Asca, Declan McDonald, Ballinabranna, Joe Meaney, Burren Rangers, Jennie Fitzpatrick, Tinryland, Richard Brennan, Leighlinbridge, Cillian McCabe, Naomh Eoin, Ciaran Dunne, Leighlinbridge, Elizabeth Connolly Michael Davitts, Katriona Lawlor, Naomh Brid, Sophie Kelly, Rathvilly, Joan Doyle, St. Mullins Juvenile, Tara Scully, Sarsfields Kildare, Tommy Murphy, Co. Officer. The people that attended will receive certificates and their manual at a later date.*

*A sincere thanks to the people that completed the training and to the two Tutors, everyone present felt it was an excellent presentation.*

*On the down side every GAA Club in Carlow both adult and juvenile, and especially the Health and Wellbeing Club Officers (in writing) camogie clubs, and ladies football clubs were all well notified and still that low attendance.*

*At the moment plans are being made for the second part of this training this is for the remainder of the clubs that didn’t take part, and I would ask clubs that are not named above to give a definite answer that they will or will not have a person attending. If this is a success there will be a gathering and presentation of Certificates and Manuals possibly early in January. We need all clubs to take part and if your club name is not in above list, please don’t be the one to leave your club behind.*

***Critical Incident Response***

*When the training and seminar was completed, Critical Incident Response was discussed and as Croke Park are training tutors to deliver Club training, Carlow will be one of the first counties to deliver the Club training, this will be Late February or early March.*

*Operations manager Ronan Dempsey launched a general Critical Incident Response Plan to all Clubs during the year, containing help guidelines and phone numbers of people to contact should an occasion arise.*

*There were 2 Meetings held during the year*

***Carlow GAA Health & Wellbeing meeting on Tuesday May 31st 2016*** *in Tinryland GAA Clubhouse*

*In attendance Chairperson Carrie Keating, Clonmore, Tim Healy, St. Patricks, Ciaran Dunne, Leighlinbridge, Niall Rennick, Palatine, Pat Kenny, Palatine, Jenny Fitzpatrick, Tinryland, Maura Murphy, Rathvilly, Liam Lawlor, Tinryland, Tommy Murphy, Co. Officer. There were four apologies from people not being able to attend. However there was no contact from any other club, adult or juvenile, camogie or ladies football and again all were notified.*

***Carlow GAA Health & Wellbeing meeting on Monday November 7th 2016*** *in Netwatch Cullen Park*

*In attendance Chairperson Carrie Keating, Clonmore, Tim Healy, St. Patricks, Niall Hickson, Palatine, Jenny Fitzpatrick, Tinryland, Elaine Kavanagh, Mount Leinster Rangers, Kathleen Mullins, Asca, Clare Byrne, Clonmore, Ciaran Dunne, Leighlinbridge, John Chatten, Éire Óg, Elizabeth Connolly, Michael Davitts, Tommy Murphy Co Officer.*

*Leithsceal; Katriona Lawlor, Naomh Brid, Cillian McCabe, Naomh Eoin, Sophie Kelly, Rathvilly, Alex Doyle, St. Mullins*

***Healthy Club Projects***

*Elaine Kavanagh, Mount Leinster Rangers Camogie Club, was congratulated on being part of the National Health Club project, Elaine spoke of what was entailed at the meeting.*

*Carrie Keating spoke of the simple different projects the Clonmore Club adult and juvenile has organised on the Healthy Club catering for all members of the community which they enjoy.*

*Miseal Juvenile Club has organised an internal football tournament catering for under eights, tens and twelve’s from the whole catchment area, the main aims, 1, to monitor and cater for constant exercise and fitness for all the young people, 2, to help them to love and improve their skills, 3, the biggest catch to get all parents involved which has happened.*

*Other clubs have organised projects and they also come in under the Healthy Club Projects*

***Gambling in Sport and in the GAA***

*Another serious ill facing individual player members and Clubs and is growing at an alarmingly rate let there be no mistake no Club is free of this addiction.*

*John Chatten, Éire Óg spoke of different positive measures the Éire Óg Club are taking such as signs logos on gear and much more to highlight the dangers and educate members of the pitfalls.*

*Mental Health and Social Inclusion for nonplaying members was also discussed.*

***National Health and Wellbeing Conference*** *held in Croke park on Friday October 2st & Saturday October 22nd Carlow were represented by Carrie Keating, Clonmore, Elaine Kavanagh, Mount Leinster Rangers, Tommy Murphy, Naomh Eoin, Clare Byrne, Clonmore and Shannon Kavanagh, Mount Leinster Rangers.*

*One of the points that came across from all Counties was that, Clubs, Co. Committees, Provincial Councils and Croke Park, need to seriously raise the status of the Health & Wellbeing officers at all levels.*

 ***Forward Training***

*A number of Carlow people will be attending Tutor Training in Croke park on the 6th and 7th of January 2017,and in turn they will, be able to coach and train Club Health & Wellbeing Officers in our own County*

***In conclusion***

*A sincere thanks to all the dedicated people who have worked so hard in their Clubs to promote Health & Wellbeing. To Chairperson, Carrie Keating and all the people who attended meetings, training and seminars it is deeply appreciated. A sincere thanks to Colin Regan, Aoife O’Brien, Stacey Cannon Croke Park for all their help*

***Tommy Murphy Carrie Keating***

***Secretary Chairperson***

***Cultural and Publications Committee Report***

*In the modern age there are now a large number of outlets and social media for our games to be portrayed around the world in an instant and that is good. We must treat every strand of social media equally. There are still a large number of our people who rely solely on the more traditional means, print media, local radio, club and parish newsletters and web-sites to be informed of club and county happenings. This is where the club PRO can shine by keeping all the news and club happenings updated constantly. Remember if the PRO or a designated person in the club does not do it how do we expect our supporters our community to know the work the club is doing.*

*I feel the minor grade (the future of our clubs) is losing out heavily. Games are often played and at times it is very hard to get a result and especially if there is a change of venue. Sadly this means out of sight out of mind. I would ask all clubs to make sure your games and results and a small fair report of matches are out in the public domain constantly.*

*I would like to acknowledge and thank Kieran Murphy of the Nationalist who makes every effort and a lot of phone calls to clubs to get all minor teams results and short reports for minor football A & B and minor hurling.*

***Promotion of our games***

*This is the third year we produced match day programmes for our championship games. I would sincerely like to thank all club PRO’s managers and people in the clubs who always submitted teams accurately and on the day all players wearing their numbers accordingly, supporters and people attending our games appreciate this as they now know the players especially in hurling. There is so much competition all around us Clubs & County we must do our very best to promote our own games in the best possible way.*

***Poc Fada ar Sliabh Laighean***

*2016 the second year the Carlow long puck competition took place on the slopes of Sliabh Bawn in the Shadow of Mt. Leinster. The competitors hurling and camogie, markers and supporters had a wonderful evening in glorious weather. Congratulations to one and all and especially the winners who competed in the Leinster Poc Fada Final on the Hill of Howth*

***26th Carlow GAA Awards***

*26th Carlow GAA Awards Presentation was held on Saturday January 17th 2016 in Mt. Wolseley Hotel Tullow. Congratulations to all our winners and teams on a very enjoyable evening. Carlow GAA honoured two people who have contributed so much to our games constantly for over fifty years Leo McGough and Michael O’Mhuirtheartaigh,*

*The 27th Carlow GAA Award will be held on Saturday January 21st 2017 at Mt. Wolseley Hotel Tullow. This year’s recipitants will be announced before Christmas.*

***1916-2016***

*The 1916 Carlow Hurling & Football Finals Re-enactment a wonderful nostalgic event that is documented elsewhere thanks to one and all for the memories took place on Saturday April 2nd 2016.*

***80th Birthday***

*The 80th Birthday Celebrations and the coming from Darkness into Light another great event on Friday September 2nd 2016*

***Role of the PRO***

*Sometimes I wonder is the PRO needed at all. There is always a big amount of people for the important events and games and want to be seen, however they are not there for the lesser events and games, but these are as important as the big events. I would hate to see that the PRO role turns in to the ‘GO FOR’ I would like to ask at all levels in the GAA that the Role of the PRO be respected and raised for the good of all.*

***Buiochas***

*Every year we say thanks but let us say it with meaning to all people who promote Carlow GAA in the best possible light.*

*To all club PRO’s thank you, John Foley sports editor, and Kieran Murphy Nationalist, Kevin Regan, and Brendan Hennessy KCLR, Leo McGough and Pat Delaney and all contributors to Carlow and Leinster programmes, Cora O’Reilly and Care Kavanagh who look after programme sales, Brian O’Donoghue ‘The Scoops,’ and anyone else who helped in any way to promote our games.*

*To Chairperson, Sean Campion, Secretary Gerard Lennon, Operations Manager Ronan Dempsey and all my fellow officers and especially the officers who are leaving at convention a sincere thanks.*

*Is Mise Le Meas*

***Tommy Murphy***

***Carlow County PRO***

***Report Coisde Páirc Uí Chuillinaigh 2016***

*Committee: Eddie Byrne, (Chairperson), Gerard Lennon, (Rúnaí), Michael Meaney, John Byrne, Pat Nolan, Sean Campion, Eamonn Molloy, John Blanche, Cormac O Toole, Jim Treacy, Declan McCarthy, B O Neill, John Dunphy, Vincent O’Brien and Ronan Dempsey.*

*This committee met three times during the year. All meetings were about the constant improvements that need to be done at all times to both Netwatch Cullen Pk and Netwatch Training Centre. This includes spectator comfort and safety as well as pitch maintenance.*

*Each year the pitches in both venues have to be maintained to the highest standard possible and this committee plans for the yearly upkeep of the grounds and the pitch maintenance in general.*

*The Training Centre in Fenagh continues to be developed and improved, both for players and spectators, as do facilities in Netwatch Cullen Park.*

***Gearóid Ó Lionnáin***

***Meetings Attendance Records 2016***

***County Committee Meeting:***

***Number of Meetings: 10****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

Asca 9 Leighlinbridge 7

Ballinabranna 7 Mt. Leinster Rangers 10

Ballon 9 Naomh Bríd 6

Ballinkillen 10 Naomh Eoin 8

Burren Rangers 6 Naomh Moling 7

Carlow Town 9 O’Hanrahans 7

Clonmore 8 Old Leighlin 4

Éire Óg 7 Palatine (F) 7

Erins Own 8 Palatine (H) 5

Fenagh 6 Rathvilly 6

Fighting Cocks 8 St. Andrews 4

Grange 5 St. Patricks 6

Kildavin-Clonegal 5 Tinryland 9

Kilbride 6

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Coiste Bainistí at Co. Committee & Executive Meetings:***

***Number of Meetings: 25\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

Liam Barry 18 Martin Barry 18

Eddie Byrne 21 Sean Campion 25

George Darcy 21 Michael Doran 18

John Dunphy 18 PJ Fox 23

Gerard Lennon 25 Tommy Murphy 20

Pat Nolan 24 Vinny O Brien 20

Cormac O’Toole 20 Michael Whelan 21

Ronan Dempsey (Op. Manager) 20

 ***Nominations***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Position:*** | ***Name*** | ***Club*** |
| ***Uachtarán***  | *Conway L.V.* | *Grange* |
| ***Chairperson***  | *Campion Sean* | *Ballinabranna* |
| ***Vice-Chairman*** | *Nolan Pat* | *Fenagh* |
| ***Secretary*** | *Doran Michael**Whelan Michael* | *Tinryland**Naomh Eoin* |
| ***Central Council Representative***  | *Lennon Gerard* | *St. Mullins* |
| ***Treasurer***  | *O’Toole Cormac* | *Tinryland* |
| ***Leinster Council Representatives (2)*** | *Barry Liam**Byrne Eddie* | *St. Andrews**Mount Leinster Rangers* |
| ***Assistant Treasurer*** | *Dunphy John**O’Donoghue Brian* | *Éire Óg**Rathvilly* |
| ***Assistant Secretary*** | *Whelan Michael* | *Naomh Eoin*  |
| ***Oifigeach Gaelach is Cultuír*** | *Barry Martin* | *Ballon* |
| ***Development Officer*** | *O’Donoghue Brian**O’Neill Brian* | *Rathvilly**Palatine* |
| ***P.R.O.*** | *Murphy Tommy* | *Naomh Eoin* |
| ***Children’s Officer*** | *Darcy George* | *Nominated Position* |
| ***Coaching & Games Dev Officer*** | *Brophy John**O’Donoghue Brian* | *Éire Óg**Rathvilly* |
| ***Delegates Leinster Convention***  | *County Chairperson**County Secretary**Lennon Gerard**Whelan Michael* | *(automatic)**(automatic)**Naomh Moling**Naomh Eoin*  |
| ***Delegates Congress*** ***(b) Adult (3)***  | *County Chairperson**County Secretary**Byrne Eddie**Lennon Gerard**Whelan Michael* | *(automatic)**(automatic)**Mount Leinster Rangers**Naomh Moling**Naomh Eoin* |

***Na Rúin (Motions)***

1. *That the following shall be deleted from rule 6.25 (a) (ii)*

*The Intermediate and Junior grades shall be confined to Clubs whose top grade is respectively Intermediate or Junior.*

***Mt Leinster Rangers G.A.A Club***

***2.*** *Inter Club transfers: Amendment to 96 weeks rule. Players not eligible for transfer if players seeking transfer have come through a club Juvenile System*

*and seek to move to a club with no juvenile structures. Attachment to First club*

*to take precedence. (Rules 6.5 (a) and 6.9(a))*

***Carlow Town Hurling G.A.A Club.***

***3.*** *Regarding Minimum Age Limits for players of our games, particularly in rural areas of our County. It is proposed the age limit restrictions currently applied to players of our games be reviewed and altered. We propose that current restrictions, whereby:-*

* *a player cannot play U14 unless he has celebrated his 12th birthday*
* *a player cannot play U16 unless he has celebrated his 14th birthday*
* *a player cannot play U18 unless he has celebrated his 16th birthday*
* *a player cannot play at Junior, Intermediate or Senior grade unless he has reached his 18th birthday*

*Be altered to provide for:-*

* *players who have celebrated their 11th birthday be allowed to play at U14 grade*
* *players who have celebrated their 13th birthday be allowed to play at U16 grade*
* *players who have celebrated their 15th birthday be allowed to play at U18 grade*
* *players who have celebrated their 17th birthday be allowed to play at Junior, Intermediate or Senior grade.*

*This is proposed so as to provide clubs situated in areas within our county who have rural populations and limited availability of players at certain age groups the possibility of fulfilling their desire to field teams and fend off the undesirable consequences of not being in a position to provide games for limited player numbers at certain age groups, potentially resulting in these players ceasing to play our games thereafter.*

***Kildavin \ Clonegal G.A.A. Club.***