**Chairperson’s Address 2020.**

As a consequence of the enormous impact it had on society in general, 2020 will be remembered as the year of COVID-19.

Our sympathies and thoughts are with all club members, their families and our friends who suffered bereavement through this year with whom we could not share our condolences and support as is our usual tradition through attendance at wakes and funeral services.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anamanna dílís.

**COVID-19**

I extend my thanks to everyone who assisted in any way to help Carryduff GAC safely manage our limited activities throughout this most challenging of years in compliance with GAA and Public Health advice, guidance and direction. I extend my gratitude to Louise McMahon who very competently and conscientiously co-ordinated the response required by the club to assure the continued wellbeing of everyone involved in our activities.

Thanks are due to all who came forward to volunteer as Covid-19 Supervisors and fulfilled that role diligently.

The response necessary to Covid-19 presented significant challenge to us all and provided a significant test of our patience and our collective responsibility to each other to prioritise everyone’s health and wellbeing.

It required us all to adapt our collective and our personal attitudes, our approach, our opinions and our actions because of how these can have a significant effect for and upon others.

It is the reason why our AGM is being held in this Microsoft Teams meeting format this year

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the membership of the club who have endured and continued to support us, the club, through this most testing of times.

When many could have very justifiably questioned ‘what am I getting for my membership fee?’, so very many of you did not do so but continued to give your club a ‘vote of confidence’ by retaining your membership and involvement throughout this most testing of years.

If anything that was a very noticeable and tangible commitment to all we are trying to do.

Go raibh mile maith agaibhse.

As we face into our future we hope to see an effective vaccine to Covid-19 but we must also remember the contribution we all have to make to our collective safety into the future.

I would therefore ask all Club members to remember that those things that at points in time individuals or groups think to be the most important things may not be – be patient and to be kind to each other in the knowledge that the welfare of others may depend on the actions we all take at points in time.

I ask that we all continue to follow all advice coming from our Association’s guiding body, our Ulster Council and our County Board as well as the Public Health Agency and the wider Health services.

I would also ask that we continue to operate our club in the spirit of doing the right thing simply on the basis that it is the right thing to do.

There may be future scenarios when the advice and guidance in place will result in us being in positions of there being things that we *can* do; the question may then arise as too whether we *should* do something on the basis of being able to do it or whether there is a safer thing to do that places the welfare of all Club members, our families and friends front and centre.

We exist to promote Gaelic games and culture and there is no-one in the club who wants to have to face into actions that actually go against that purpose.

However, it is important to remember that health and wellbeing of all our members is a collective responsibility for all of us.

It is in that context that I ask for the continued patience of all our members and your continued support to those we entrust with the responsibilities of managing Carryduff GAC’s affairs into the future.

**2020 - A year of achievement**

Despite COVID-19 and its impact, 2020 has been a year of remarkable achievement for Carryduff GAC on and off the field of play and, as I come to the end of a three year tenure as Chairperson, it is gratifying to see the remarkable progress the Club continues to make.

**Male football**

I am extremely proud to see our senior male footballers having had the remarkable season they and the entire Club have enjoyed. Promotion to Division 1 and our remarkable run to the final of the Down Senior Football Championship have firmly established Carryduff as a serious footballing force in the County. I know that many of our squad were disappointed not to have seen the fairytale ending of a first Down Senior Football Championship title come to Carryduff in 2020 but I have pointed out to those footballers that they were competing against a Kilcoo squad that have claimed nine Down Championship titles in the past ten years, are Ulster Club Champions and last year contested the All-Ireland Club Final.

There is more to come from this talented and exciting young panel and I encourage them to stick together, to remain resilient and single-mindedly focussed on encouraging and supporting each other to bring greater success to our Club and Community.

I extend my thanks to the management team who took principled decisions not only to progress the football squad but to expand the experience within the management set-up and introduce new contributors in the pursuit of development and success. Having served three years as Club Chairperson in the same three years as we have claimed three County Under-21 titles, secured promotion to Division 1 and contested that first Down Senior Football Championship Final, it will likely come as no surprise that I commend the continued support of that management team and our senior football squads to my successor and to the incoming Executive Committee for 2021.

Our appearance in the Down Senior Football Championship Final had an enormous effect within our club and within our community. Our primary schools were abuzz with excitement, colour and the inculcation of dreams for many boys and girls that they too, may in future, be the local heroes that may go on to contest games at this or even higher levels.

It was so heart-warming to see the Community bedecked, very respectfully, with our beloved purple and gold all around our grounds and all the way from Brackenvale to the Carryduff Roundabout and beyond.

A word of thanks to everyone who was involved in making the occasion such a carnival by giving of their time to put up flags and bunting and ensure such a splash of colour and visible support. A particular word of thanks to one very industrious player’s relative who spent so many hours producing so many flags to decorate the community.

Thanks also to everyone involved in the very timely and respectful collection of our flags and bunting after the game. Not only does it assure their availability to the Club for our next big outing, it has secured for us a considerable level of respect from abroad representation of our wider community.

I was grateful for all the expressions of support we received from all sections of our local community to wish us success in the County Final.

And it was indeed gratifying to see the support we had from so many people with historical associations with the club and from some of the footballing greats from other counties in Ireland.

I have tremendous admiration for all those people who, over all those years, shared the dream and gave so much of their own time selflessly and did so much to help Carryduff GAC realise those ambitions (and you know who you are!). It has been a rollercoaster ride for many, with so many ups and downs, highs and lows. It has been your vision, contribution and commitment that has set us on the path to the achievement of our new found status. On behalf of our club and future generations of Carryduff Gaelic athletes I salute you and thank you for the gift you have bequeathed and given us.

Having reached the famous appearance in our first ever Down Senior Football Championship Final on the very special ‘third Sunday of September’ 2020, it was such a pity that the COVID-19 restrictions limited the numbers of supporters who could travel to Páirc Esler on the day.

That limit deprived so many Carryduff supporters of the opportunity to be there in person to be part of the greatest day to date in the club’s footballing history.

It also left the Executive Committee with the additional headache of having to find the fairest way possible of allocating those very precious Final tickets and, after an allocation to members of the players panel, an open draw for all club members and members of Club Carryduff was agreed as the fairest means of allocating tickets.

I remain hopeful that those who were fortunate to have the opportunity to support Carryduff GAC on the day of the final will continue to actively support Carryduff GAC through their participation in Club Carryduff and our wider fundraising efforts.

It has been gratifying to again see Carryduff footballers representing County Down in senior football competition. I wish these players every success in those hallowed red and black jerseys. I wish success to Daniel Guinness, James Guinness and Owen McCabe for the 2021 season and hope to see the further inclusion of Carryduff footballers into the County panel.

Their inclusion into the county squad will bring its own demands for Carryduff GAC as 2021 dawns and these players may be unavailable for club competition when ‘starred’ games are scheduled. It is so important that our senior football squad continues to have considerable strength and depth to consolidate our Division 1 and Senior Football Championship status. A challenge to all footballers who have that desire to represent our club at the top level of football in County Down.

It is important that the work undertaken for years to develop our footballers from our youngest juveniles up through the age grades not only continues but becomes more consistently focussed upon producing quality senior footballers. This will require the concerted collaborative effort of everyone involved in football in the club.

It is a very positive indicator that we have been able to field 3 teams in senior male football competition and it is essential for the future of the club that this is maintained to assure we provide as much football for as many as possible.

We are grateful to those who have given of their time and energies to contribute to this.

Similarly at juvenile grade it is important that we continue to provide as much football for as many as possible and retain players from their earliest engagement with the club right up to senior grade. We know from experience that it is seldom the players who excel at a very young age who actually progress to representing the club at senior grade. It is those who develop such a grá of the game that they commit to making themselves the best they can be. Our focus requires to be upon retention and development: retention to ensure that we lose no-one as we never know the full potential of players who can be lost to the club when still developing as juveniles; development because we should make every effort to enable and assist every players in that commitment to making themselves the best they can be.

And that rings true across our three playing codes.

Our Ladies football and Hurling continue to develop.

**Ladies football**

Our ability as a club to field 3 Ladies Teams at senior grade is a reflection of the development that has taken place since the first ladies teams took the field in 2002. Our success in the Ladies junior Championship Final augers well in respect of the younger talent coming up through the club. Our Senior Ladies were disappointed to lose the Senior Down Ladies Championship Final to a very strong Breadgh outfit but the ambition and will to win is still there and I look forward to a renewed commitment in 2021 to bringing that Senior title to Páirc Aodha Dhuibh.

Again, it has been very encouraging to see Carryduff Ladies footballers representing County Down in senior football competition, with six players in the panel that overcame Leitrim in the Intermediate Championship on Sunday 15 November – Kate McKay, Megan Doherty, Jessica Foy, Oonagh Lavery, Orla Swail and Aisling Cull. I also wish these players every success in those hallowed red and black jerseys and again hope to see the further inclusion of Carryduff footballers into the Ladies County panel.

Our juvenile Ladies teams continue to compete in all respective grades and the same focus upon retention and development of players should be a key priority in our club’s plans for the future in that regard.

**Hurling**

Hurling has continued to progress since its earliest days in Carryduff in 2003. It has been a source of great disappointment that the 2020 Intermediate Hurling Championship fixtures became victim to the restrictions imposed in response to COVID-19 as there had been a growing momentum and appetite in Carryduff for this competition and the panel were seriously in pursuit of silverware. At the time of writing the intention is to complete this competition in early 2021 and I earnestly believe that the opportunity to reclaim some silverware form the 2020 season awaits our senior hurlers.

Conor Cassidy, Donal Óg Rooney and Conor McLornan represented County Down in the panel that historically overcame Offaly in a penalty shoot-out on Saturday 14 November to set Down up at the time of writing for a big day out against Kildare at Headquarters. The very best of luck to both representatives and the Down squad on this historic occasion.

**Development of Our Juvenile Potential**

The foundation for all that success at senior level is the contribution made to the development of our juveniles and young people and I want to record my gratitude to every volunteer who came forward across the three years I had the privilege to act as chairperson of our club to assist with the management and coaching of our juvenile players.

From experience I know the rewards are great but I also know the challenges to be significant.

A certain degree of courage, tenacity and resilience is required to step forward as a Head Coach and as a mentor in a club where success is the expectation of so many but contribution can be the gift from so few.

To continue building our success into the future we need a committed and coordinated collective contribution, a focus on what we want to achieve and a clear vision of how we want to achieve it, an environment wherein the contribution of everyone is made to contribute to the betterment of our club in its entirety.

I believe this begins in our Nursery. It is there that we nurture not only the fun element for our very youngest ‘players’ but the fun element for their parents and the social glue that holds a club together.

Our juvenile tournaments of previous years were great ambassador events that represented that to the full. They have become widely known and respected throughout not only the 9 counties of Ulster but further afield as our ‘offer’ to other clubs expands. I thank everybody who has contributed in any way over the years to the success of our juvenile tournaments and made such memories for all the children who participated in them.

Long before we begin to ‘compete’ we should focus on having fun together and delight is seeing our children and grandchildren develop.

I personally have taken great delight in witnessing the contribution made on Tuesday nights to the development of our future generations of heroes and I thank those volunteer parents who have stepped forward to contribute, to assist the coaches and to ‘put something back’ to help us with the development of these wonderful opportunities for all our youngest members.

There is little that is as inspiring as the laughter of our children!

It is a cause of anxiety that we may enter into 2021 with the question hanging over us as to whether the pandemic response will determine whether our Nursery and our juvenile tournaments will be able to progress in 2021.

The retention and development of players has also been typified by the enormous contribution made to the ‘upper’ end of the club by the progress of our Gaelic for Mothers and Others (G4MO) and the example they have set of continuing the fun, the craic and the laughter into post-competitive camaraderie is something we all should learn from.

Maybe they could teach us some lessons in relation to how to ‘retain’ some of those male players who believe they have come to the end of the line simply because they cannot participate in competitive games any longer.

(And No, Ladies. It shouldn’t be construed as “Gaelic for Bothers and others”)

**Cultural Activities**

Our cultural activities have been seriously hampered by the ability of people to meet in social contexts as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions.

However, we need to and can emerge from this pandemic with a focus on the promotion of our cultural activities and promotion of the Irish language in our club.

We must have enormous potential given the musical and dramatic abilities within our club to give some of the Scór na n-Óg and Scór Sinsear competitions a serious rattle in the years ahead.

**Executive Committee**

All the activities of our club require the support of a strong organisational and administrative Executive Committee and I remain indebted to those club people who have previously and for the past three years assisted me on our Executive Committee in trying to lead this club forward, particularly so when we faced the enormous challenge of a pandemic.

We are a diverse Association and that is reflected in all our structures and perhaps nowhere more so than in a club like Carryduff with over 1,600 members, where different individuals will have different interests, motivations and priorities.

The challenges that diversity brings are beneficial and to be welcomed. Constructive challenge ensures we remain reflective, considerate of the views of others and measured and balanced in our views, our thinking and decision-making.

However, when challenge is not constructive it has the potential to be damaging.

We all have aspirations, priorities and things that – for whatever reason - are important to us as individuals.

However, the things that should concern us most as we go forward, together, into 2021 must be the things that are important to Carryduff GAC, to its continued development and progression and its standing in our local community.

I had previously borrowed the GAA’s take on that famous JF Kennedy mantra translated as “Ask not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club” and I have tried across all the years of my involvement in Carryduff GAC to live out an ethos of “One Club” and “Cuidiú linn a chuidiú libh” (Help us to help you) in everything we do.

I would urge the incoming and future Executive Committees of the Club to retain focus on those ‘key messages’.

I am grateful to everyone who has assisted me on each and every occasion I have served on The Executive Committee of Carryduff GAC and in a variety of roles. I am particularly grateful to those who have worked with me for the good of the club during my tenure as Chairperson.

I personally am particularly indebted to the consistent hard work, perseverance and support of Niall Ferguson who stepped forward to serve as Secretary to the club when many others who were approached declined the responsibility that goes with the most significant and demanding role on the Executive Committee.

Having fulfilled that role myself I know the demands the post places upon a volunteer and particularly so for a club that is fielding 38 teams in competition.

Without the support of Niall in that role I simply could not have kept managing the affairs of the club. I want to extend my gratitude and appreciation to Niall for the service he has given to me and to this club and I also want to take this opportunity to thank his wife Aisling and his young family for the contribution he has made (as I know personally it does not come without considerable ‘latitude’).

GRMA.

Thanks also to our East Down Chairperson and previous club chairperson, Ger Connery, for his counsel and advice and keeping me between the hedges as I careered along the road of chairing a club of our size with so much activity.

I also want to thank our Treasurer, Paul Lavery, who not only has ensured the efficient and effective management of the club’s financial affairs before and during my chairing role, but has also represented our club’s best interests as our County Board representative.

I am grateful to our Registrar, Kate Connery who, having taken up the mantle from Barney Clarke has ensured probity and consistency across the management of our membership affairs.

Thanks to Club Development Officer, Mark Hollywood, who has pursued every potential funding opportunity that our club could potentially avail of.

Thanks also to PRO Phillip Loughran who has maintained our social media presence during my term as chair.

And a particular thanks to the three ‘heads of code’, Mark McCartan, Siobhan Hyland and Ronan McCaughey for not only co-ordinating the activities and interests of each of the three individual codes but who, together, contributed so much to promoting that ‘One Club’ ethos by developing the cross-code club interest and achieving consensus that had not previously existed as noticeably.

And a sincere thanks to Enda McKenna for all his work to support and co-ordinate our Nursery that provides such an important ‘entry level’ to all those children who want to experience and enjoy our Gaelic games. As mentioned earlier, the restrictions necessary consequent to COVID-19’s emergence robbed so many children of so much fun. And I know there was considerable disappointment on part of those volunteers who looked forward to seeing the Nursery develop further in 2020.

Thanks to Seán Spillane who diligently fulfilled the responsibilities of Club Child Protection Officer and helped assure that our most precious resource, our children, were able to participate in activities in a safe, secure environment that parents could have full faith in.

Our ability to promote our cultural activities was hampered in-year by our inability to meet and share time together but, as I extend my thanks to Ana-Marie Magorrian, our cultural officer, I sincerely hope that 2021 will afford us the opportunity to regroup and prepare ourselves for future participation in Scór na n-Óg and Scór Sinsear.

Thanks to Gerry McKeever, our facilities manager for every effort made, many relentlessly, to improve our facilities and the fabric of our ‘estate’, often at low cost or indeed, no cost, to the club. Barney Clarke had set a high cross-bar in this regard having previously served so well as facilities officer: if the cross-bar was high, Gerry proved to be a fella who could take his points! Long may the good work continue!

A word of thanks to our groundsman Jimmy Houston and to Liam McLornan for all their efforts to maintain our premises and facilities.

Thanks to MIchael Cunningham and his dedicated team who managed our Community Hub until COVID-19 ‘closed our doors’: there is much more potential in our ‘Hub’ and I look forward to its continued development and hope Michael and the team will be able to return to action in 2021.

Our Club is, like all other GAA clubs, solidly founded upon a volunteering ethos so I want to thank all volunteers who have contributed for so many years to our development.

The work of our “Guerrilla gardeners” did not realise its full glory this year because of restrictions imposed on Páirc Aodha Dhuibh because of coronavirus restrictions but their efforts pre-2020 will continue to ‘flower’ into the future and provide us a growing splash of purple and yellow to welcome all visitors to Páirc Aodha Dhuibh as our season commences in the spring time.

**Additional Resources**

I want to thank the cross-code senior playing body who have led on the development of the Health and Well-being Centre and have driven the fundraising to realise this project.

The 2020 Executive Committee supported this endeavour from the outset and, thanks to a very generous donation from an anonymous benefactor, were able to contribute to the costs to expand the project.

The development of this facility should be a priority for the club as we enter 2020 and as we enter serious competition at our highest levels across our playing codes in County Down.

I encourage our playing body to continue to lead on the development of this project and the necessary fundraising to make it the best it can be so that it can contribute to our playing body being the best they can be in all codes.

To achieve this our first priority must be the upgrade of our electricity infrastructure to assure that we can deliver safely to meet all club needs.

I commend this to the incoming Executive Committee as a priority and seek the support of the entire club to assure this progression.

It will not only assist to meet our own needs, but also has the potential for us to promote an ‘outreach’ to the wider community that may also have benefits to us as a club.

**The development of Carryduff GAC in the context of Community Development**

I want to extend a sincere thanks to those members of the Executive Committee who have supported the concept of engaging with Lisburn Castlereagh City Council’s Key Institutions Initiative to promote understanding across the diverse institutions that are the GAA, the Orange Order and the Bands Forum.

On behalf of the Club a number of the Executive Committee members in 2018 and 2019 engaged in an organised programme, the intention of which was to create greater understanding between institutions and achieve a greater sense of co-existence and ‘shared spaces’.

I am delighted that our participation has helped ‘debunk’ some of the mythology that has historically been ascribed to our (and other institutions) which must live together and share space in a community that offers opportunities for all our citizens and children.

And I am pleased that this engagement positioned us with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to be able to build further upon it and demonstrate the contribution we, as a club, make to the wider locality and community

**Development of Lough Moss Centre’s capacity**

During my tenure as Chairperson,considerable work was undertaken to promote the contribution Gaelic games also makes to the priorities of our Local Council and the contribution that our Local Council should make to the promotion of Gaelic games alongside all other sports.

 I extend a sincere thanks to all those who supported the concept that Carryduff GAC, in partnership with Carryduff Colts FC, would outline to LCCC the need for an enclosed floodlit sports facility at Lough Moss Centre that would include a full-size 3G or 4G Gaelic football pitch that could be used to GAA senior grade with two soccer pitches defined across it that would enable Carryduff Colts FC to host senior soccer fixtures.

This exciting development looks ready to progress to planning stage, having received approval at LCCC Leisure and Recreation Sub-Committee and most recently in Full Council meeting.
Carryduff GAC and Carryduff Colts FC have committed to collaboratively sharing the facility to the benefit of both clubs and, as I hand over to my successor Chairperson and future Executive Committee, I urge you to continue to progress this commitment to the realisation of our Gaelic Games, along with and in partnership with other sports, being supported by our local council.

I want to express gratitude on behalf of Carryduff GAC to our local elected representatives from all political parties who provided so much support in this venture and who have been so supportive of the other efforts and activities of our club.

**Our Sponsors, Our Supporters**

I want to extend a particular thanks to those who, previous to and during my tenure as chairperson, have sponsored and supported us financially and ‘in kind’. We appreciate ever support offered to us including from those who simply support us and do not want ‘recognition’ for their contribution!

That support is appreciated in every sense. I appreciate that we have supporters who do not come forward to be in a ‘big picture’ but who recognise the contribution that the Association that is the GAA makes to ‘making people’

I would urge you all, as members of our club, to support those who support our club.

Thank you to Fr. Micahel, our Parish Priest and Honorary Club President for every assistance and support that he and the Parish have provided over the past few years and for the very many accommodations made to us to enable our activities to progress.

**Looking Backward and looking Forwards**

I want to extend a very sincere thanks to the efforts of all the ‘Cairde Gael’ who have preceded me and contributed so much to the development of our club.

I have been privileged to know these people, share their vision, their dreams and their passion.

Personally, I have enjoyed three great years as Chairperson of Carryduff GAC because of the contribution of others. I was building on very firm foundations.

When I reflect upon three years in the chairperson role, I have, despite the very negative impact of COVID-19, an enormous sense of satisfaction.

Taking up office in 2018 I stated that my ambitions were twofold: - to do no harm and to leave the Club in a better position when I left post than it was in when I took up post.

As a consequence of the enormous work that preceded my tenure I ‘inherited’ a dynamic and progressive club with ambitions to be at the top table of all GAA activities in County Down.

With the dedication and assistance of those who served on the Executive Committee and in the maintenance of our club, I hope, despite COVID-19 that I have been helped to realise those targets.

One of my first ‘duties’ upon taking up post was to attend the Gaelic Life GAA Awards ceremony the night before we were to contest our very first Under-21 Ulster Club Championship fixture (which had obviously been fixed on my radar since our first County title success).

So Edna and I set off to take our seats politely to acknowledge the greatness that was Slaughtneil’s achievements of a clean sweep of 2017 Club success in Football, Hurling and Ladies Football.

I was genuinely very proud and almost choked with emotion when Gaelic Life announced, before progressing to Slaughtneils’ achievements, that they had that year instigated their inaugural GAA Merit Award for a highly achieving club and called out “Carryduff GAC, County Down” as the first recipient of that award.

When I recovered and found my feet beneath me again, that certainly set a standard for me.

That was what those ’in-the-know’ thought of us.

That caused me to think and reflect on what the GAA and my participation in Club Life meant to me.

I tried to describe it in my foreword to our Club Development Plan and looked to all my experiences in the GAA and described Legacy as “passing on that which is cherished to those who are cherished”.

Our future generations of all Carryduff Gaelic Athletes should be cherished by us all!

They have the potential to become the heroes we wish them to be!

And they are ‘ours’.

Muintir ar munitir – mic ‘s inionacha Ciumann Lúthcleas Gael Ceathrú Aodha Dhuidh

The people of our people – sons and daughters of Carryduff GAC

**We** must look after **them** and continue to provide for them!

Carryduff GAC had the benefit of hosting the East Down Convention at the beginning of 2020 before the COVID-19 ‘lockdown’. At that meeting I, as club chairperson, fulfilled the formalities of welcoming all delegates to Carryduff GAC Hub.

One East Down Club Representative decided to speak to address the Convention in advance of the formal proceedings commencing. That speaker went on to say that the Club he represented had seen its fortunes alter over decades and recounted how that club had been in the doldrums of County Down Football for a very significant number of years but how his club had progressed to develop their own footballers to be ‘champions’.

He articulated how Kilcoo viewed Carryduff – not as a ‘city club’ or as ‘nomads’ nor no longer the ‘United Nations’ of Gaelic footballers from all over Ulster living in ‘Belfast’, but as a “now established serious Gaelic club with serious credentials and serious aspirations in Down football”.

His greatest accolade was “we respect you!”

On Páirc Esler, just in advance of the Down County Senior Football Championship Final I met him and moved to remind him what he said, adding “you probably didn’t think you’d see us here today”.

He pulled me, saying ‘You don’t need to remind me, Paul, I remember what I said because I meant it”.

We just couldn’t wish each other ‘Good Luck’ on the day in advance of the game, but we met in the centre of the field after that game.

He quietly told me “Keep at it. Keep doing what you’re doing. You’ll get there!”

I believe we’ll get there!

After three years I can look back on the successes of Carryduff GAC footballers securing 3 consecutive County U21 Football Championship titles, having narrowly lost an Ulster U21 club final, having secured promotion to Division 1 and our first ever appearance in a Down Senior Football Championship Final against such august opposition as Kilcoo.

Our Ladies have been ‘kicking at the door’ of senior championship success.

Our Hurlers continue to develop and still may have a shot at that IHC title

Let’s keep our representation at County level across all three codes progressing in the right direction.

Let’s get our Cultural contribution back up there to County and All-Ireland Scór titles.

I ask all members to play their part and keep the dreams alive for the incoming Executive Committee. And make **your** contribution to make it real. Don’t think “somebody else will do it!” Be responsible. Take responsibility.

Honour those who had the foresight to get us to where we are. Be part of a Legacy. Deliver on their Legacy. Hand on “that which is cherished to those who are cherished”.

Coinnigh Cuidiú Linn a chuidiú Libh. Keep helping us to help you.

**Pól Mac Conmhaoil**

**[Outgoing Chairperson]**