



## Secretary's Report 2021

So once again the club AGM looms on the horizon – after what has been a slightly more normal than last year on the field of play at least. It's hard to believe this is my third attempt to secure some of the major international literary awards. Let me guess you are all feeling like this ahead of reading it:



### **\*\*\*Membership\*\*\***

The membership of the club continues to grow in line with the development within Carryduff and the surrounding areas. Originally hailing from a rural club, this is not something I have been familiar with before Carryduff. It is a testament to the club as a whole and the coaching/facilities it provides that so many people are keen to get involved and stay involved. It is especially noteworthy in the current climate where there is so much uncertainty. We thank each and every one of you for your support.

To that end, I must mention our Registrar, Sean Spillane for the work he has done in ensuring that everyone got registered ok within Foireann. I have often heard the phrase “a good workman never blames his tools”. In this instance, I think Sean would have every right to blame the tool as there were (& continue to be) challenges with using the Foireann system. Hopefully they are being resolved and next year will be a more seamless process for members and the registrar.

### **\*\*\*50<sup>th</sup> Year\*\*\***

The club, as I am sure you all know is 49 years in existence this year, so next year is going to be a major milestone in the club's history. There have been many landmarks to date in the history of the club and during the course of the 2022 year the club will be endeavouring to highlight and celebrate the efforts and struggles of those who have gone before us to help build the club into what it is today.

I would encourage you all to keep an eye on social media for activities and events & get engaged with the activities and to learn about the club if (like me) you maybe aren't originally from the Carryduff area. Any ideas, and of course offers to help and run or organise events would be greatly appreciated. Anyone with any stories, historical documents/artifacts etc concerned with the club would also be greatly received. This is our club and let's all chip in and (more importantly pull together in the same direction) make it the best it can be & have some fun along the way.

### **\*\*\*Chairperson\*\*\***

One major landmark event in the club's history occurred only last year. This was when Kate Connery was elected as the first female Chairperson of the club. She had big shoes to fill, in those of the outgoing Chairperson Paul McConville, however fill them she did. Kate was always a visible presence every night of the week at training no matter what the age-group or code, either at Lough Moss or at Pairc Aodha Dhuibh. She is an ideal role model for all of the young girls in our club to aspire to emulate.

I have known Kate for a good number of years being on the Executive Committee together. In that time, I observed a lady who never shied away from hard work and adapted to multiple different roles within the committee. To say she adapted seamlessly to the role of Chairperson is an understatement. With her previous experience of being Registrar, and having been in the fabric of this club from the beginning, she is the perfect figurehead as she knows everyone. That is no small achievement given the current size of the membership within the club. It has been my privilege, this year, to work alongside her as secretary of the club.

I salute Kate for the tolerance she has shown in the face of what can only be described as a very very challenging year.

### **\*\*\*Covid\*\*\***

I hope you and your loved ones are keeping healthy, safe and well. Please, as numbers appear to be on the increase and the delta plus appears to be the dominant strain, continue to do all you can to keep yourselves, your families and the wider community safe and well.

I also feel that I (on behalf of the club) need to acknowledge the super-human efforts of our club members who have been on the frontline during this pandemic. You are all amazing & we owe you such a dept of gratitude for all you have done (& continue to do) during such challenging times. To those club members who may not be on the frontline but helped out within the community in any way, I salute the selflessness and generosity shown. It's what makes being a member of this association, club and community so great. Please continue to assist any neighbours/friends if you can – but only if it's safe for all to do so.

It would be remiss of me to mention Covid without our Club Co-Ordinator, Louise, and the many volunteers who helped out across all the teams. Any positive cases within the club, Louise dealt with in a sensitive, compassionate and professional manner. Massive thank you all our Covid Supervisors, those who continued in the role from last year, and those who stepped up to the role this year. Without you we would not have been able to train or play matches. It takes time to send those early morning reminders, check the health questionnaires, chase the repeat late offenders and then to stand in the rain (sometimes sun!) checking in attendance and ensuring the use of hand sanitisers. Your perseverance has kept the club safe and a fantastic job done all season. Thank you!

### **\*\*\*Facilities\*\*\***

I must mention the club facilities and the sterling work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure everything is right for players, coaches & spectators. This can sometimes be overlooked and perhaps taken for granted. The effort from the facilities team has once again been exceptional. The group is led by our Vice Chairperson Gerard McKeever, who is ably assisted by both Liam McLornan and Jimmy Houston. We are hugely indebted to each for the work they do.

I don't think I could even begin to summarise the various roles and responsibilities these men fulfil on behalf of the club – everything from cleaning the facilities (vital at any stage but particularly so in Covid times), to cutting the grass, lining the pitches, opening and locking up. It seems strange to have to have someone responsible for locking up when there are multiple keyholders across every team but unfortunately this is something that they had to assume given the numerous lapses throughout the past, and previous years. They have better things to do every night of the week than have to check the premises & I would encourage the incoming managers & coaches to take pride in the facilities we have here at the club and ensure that they are treated properly and most of all kept safe and secure.

The headline item of facilities work by the club was/is probably the work with NIE to upgrade the electrical supply into the club. This was vital as the previous supply could not satisfy the addition of the health and well-being centre or the four floodlights on pitch 2. It has been a lengthy process in getting to this stage and the effort behind the scenes from Gerard to drive this on with NIE was enormous & we can't thank him enough that the floodlights can now eventually, be turned on.

Gerard, working closely alongside Louise also ensured that the club facilities are in a great place and now in accordance with both the association and local council guidelines. This was a very time intensive (but not visible to many) effort from both with countless correspondence going back and forth. I personally would like to thank them for the effort both put into this on our behalf. I would also like to encourage those in the incoming executive committee and sub committees to do things in accordance with these bodies rather than have to retrospectively seek it.

### **\*\*\*Development\*\*\***



The development of the club health & well-being centre has been completed since the previous AGM. It is now open & furnished with the state-of-the-art equipment to enable our teams to continue to compete at the very top level. Thanks to all involved in the process of getting this all complete, kitted out and opened. Special mention to the likes of Gary Morris, Sean & John McGeough who helped drive & implement this. I would encourage any members (both playing/non-playing) thinking of joining a gym to consider joining the club gym.

You will also have noticed that there is an ongoing scheme of work to create a third pitch, add drainage to pitch 2 & create a walkway around the pitches. This obviously presented some challenges with the work commencing when the playing season for numerous teams was still ongoing. Haffey's and H&H were tasked with delivering with minimal disruption to the functioning of the club on the field of play. They were great in facilitating this, especially round the time the club hosted the tournaments when the work had reached round Pitch 1 & the weather was particularly inclement. We thank them for the quality of their work, their patience in factoring in design changes and their professionalism.

Due to the size of the club and the number of teams we have across the codes, the provision of additional pitch facilities was vital & something that the Chairperson (and her predecessor) has been very passionate about delivering. Similarly, the ambition to add new codes (i.e. Camogie) to the club members is going to require additional space for the new teams to train and play. We look forward to seeing the work progress (weather permitting).

During the initial site investigations, it transpired that the trees planted recently by the parish were actually on club ground. We consulted with Fr Michael & the parish and it was agreed these would be relocated onto parish land before earthworks commenced. I hope we continue to be "good neighbours" (to borrow a phrase from the previous chairperson) to Fr Michael and the Parish. We all need to continue to be conscious and respectful of the demarcation in the carpark at times when there are mass/sacraments in the chapel.

For those who perhaps haven't been able to walk the layout of the new community walkway, it takes the route down between pitch 2 and the site of pitch 3 to the bottom of Pairc Beag. From there it goes across to the bottom of pitch 1, where walkers have the option of going the side nearest to the dressing

rooms or the far side around it. We look forward to seeing it completed and hopefully opened either late this calendar year or early next year.

Thank you to Eastwoods who through the Entrust process are subsidising the development work at a 10% cost to the club. Thanks also to Sean McGeough for initiating the engagement between the club and Suzanne & also chairing the development sub-committee responsible for delivering this. Once complete, it should give us a more robust pitch 2 to stand up to the rigours of our weather, scope to train safely after dark if needed & also a walkway round the grounds which parents/guardians could avail of when their kids are training.



### **\*\*\*Irish Language & Culture\*\*\***

Due to the restrictions in-place on facilities and indoor activities because of Covid it has been challenging to offer language and cultural classes etc. A massive thank you to Ana Marie for the efforts she and the committee put into promoting our culture and heritage. Ana Marie has provided the following update of the numerous and varied activities her and the committee carried out throughout the year.

The Culture Committee continued to take a broad approach to developing the scope of culture activities for 2021 with the aim of having a wider reach to club members. We certainly succeeded in our aim this year with welcoming attendances from club members across all ages, all codes, playing and non-playing members as well as guests from other clubs across Ulster, Ireland, UK and USA. We were able to deliver a diverse and very high-quality sessions that appealed to a wide range of interests across club members.

#### **Music and Language Classes**

Online platforms have been challenging for music and Irish language class delivery. Our face-to-face music and language classes continued to be on hold due to COVID-19 and, yet again, the Gaeltacht was cancelled for the summer, which was a huge disappointment for many young club members.

We wish to introduce the role of a club Irish Language champion to focus on developing the use of Irish across all activities and for all abilities within the club.

#### **Scór**

Scór was also postponed for 2020-2021. Scór was established in 1969 with the aim of promoting Ireland's traditional pastimes and culture, while offering club members the chance to meet up, have fun and represent their club during the winter months while Football and Hurling had ceased.

There are eight events/disciplines in Scór:

- · Rince Fóirne (Céilí Dancing)
- · Amhránaíocht Aonair (Solo Singing)
- · Ceol Uirlise (Instrumental Music)
- · Aithriseoirecht/Scealaíocht (Recitation/Storytelling)
- · Bailéad Ghrúpa (Ballad Group)
- · Nuachleas (Novelty Act)

- · Rince Seit (Set Dancing)
- · Tráth na gCeisteanna (Question Time)

We wish to introduce the role of a club Scór champion to focus on developing engagement with this key part of the GAA calendar

### **Guerrilla gardening**

Guerrilla gardening went on hold but the display of club colours certainly lifted the spirits during Spring lockdown. We hope that this creative group can get going again in association with the other Committees in the club.

### **Online Sessions**

We were able to continue to plan and deliver a broad range of activities within the context of COVID-19 guidance.

#### **1/2/21 St Brigid's Day Cross Workshop**

Imbolc, also known as the Feast of St Brigid, celebrates the arrival of Spring. We went online with the St Brigid's Day "Make and Take Workshop" which was a huge success. Rushes were cut from all around Carryduff and left for pick up at the Hub. Our guest teacher was Margaret O'Hare and 18 families joined the session. Happy people of all ages rediscovering or learning new skills, producing beautiful St Brigid crosses and a total of 444 people visited on social media.



#### **9/02/21 Our Townlands**

Dr Frances Kane, from the "Place Names NI Project", QUB, joined us to share her extensive knowledge and passion about place names in Ireland and to explore the origins of our local place names. A total of 41 homes signed up with multiple family members joining in. Frances was delighted to learn of member's knowledge of the local area and she is keen to return for a face-to-face session in the future.

#### **16/02/21 Irish Poets**

Margaret McCann presented "The Poetry of our Place" which examined how a range of Irish poets explore and try to make sense of the connection between people and their places. This inspirational session was attended by 34 homes and introduced us to the poetry of WB Yeats, Heaney, Kavanagh, Boland, Bleakley and Carson. There was a lively question and answer session and many attendees have requested further sessions to discover more about our contemporary and classic poets.

#### **4/3/21 World Book Day**

Mary Early read Eoin McLaughlin and Pauline Dunbar's "While we can't hug" and Declan Carville's "The Incredible Sister Bridget". This event was the social media hit of the year with 1550 views on social media and so much enthusiasm for listening to these charming stories read by such a skillful raconteur.

#### **16/03/21 Uisce Beatha**

A more adult focused event was "Uisce Beatha" which took place on the eve of St Patrick's Day. Thank you to Mark Hollywood and Stephen Magorrian for the organisation and to Ciaran Myler for sharing his

knowledge of the history of whiskey production and his guidance on its appreciation. Forty homes signed up with many having 1-3 participants per household. We were also joined by a guest from Liverpool who, along with others, was very complimentary about the event. The evening finished with a rendition of the "Humours of Whiskey" sung by one of our Scór participants, Caoimhe Magorrian.

#### 17/03/21 St Patrick's Day

St Patrick's Day dawned sunny and bright, with the right side of the stone turned up. Club members were invited to share videos of a virtual St Patrick's Day and we had fabulous performances from young dancers and musicians from across the parish. Thank you to everyone for sharing this celebration.

#### 23/03/21 Great figures in Irish History, Daniel O'Connell and Charles Stuart Parnell

Following an online poll to determine club member's preferences for history topics, Briega Moley presented her history lecture on O'Connell and Parnell. This very popular event on the Culture calendar was attended by 40 homes. Briega brought extensive knowledge and skill in presenting the lives of these two important figures in Irish history and we are grateful for her expertise and the time that she gives to the sessions.

#### 30/03/21 Irish History, The Famine in Ulster

The acclaimed scholar Prof Christine Kinealy from Ireland's Great Hunger Institute, Connecticut joined us online from the US for a thought provoking and hugely informative lecture on the Famine in Ulster. We were privileged to have a world expert who gave of her time so freely. In 1997, when Prime Minister Tony Blair gave an apology on behalf of the government for its inaction during the Famine, Prof Kinealy was invited her to speak about The Great Hunger to the Houses of Parliament.

The invitation was shared with local schools, QUB chaplaincy and our neighbouring clubs of Darragh Cross, East Belfast and Bredagh. A staggering 120 homes signed up from across Ulster, Ireland, UK and USA for a long lecture followed by an extensive question and answer session.

The lecture was very well received by everyone and some of the online feedback is below.

- "Excellent, very emotional and expertly told. Go raibh mile maith agat.
- "Christine, many thanks, stimulating and challenging lecture"
- "Thank you very much Christine and all the organisers. Fantastic talk, exposing a sad and shocking part of our history with themes that still echo today"
- "Another fantastic historical lecture tonight, thanks Carryduff GAC"
- "I'm originally from Co Down, watching in CT, USA "

Many people have requested further lectures and we plan to run this over the winter months via zoom.

#### 27/03/21 An T-Aonrú Mór Family online quiz

The very popular (and competitive) Family online quiz was expertly delivered by John Toal, Mark Hollywood and Ed McQuillan. Challenging questions, time clocks and online answers proved yet again to be a winning combination for entertaining evening of fun.

Plans for the year ahead 2021-2022



- Cultural events and activities for club 50th anniversary
- Restart of music and language classes
- Restart of Singing Circle with John Toal. Research reports that group singing is very beneficial for mental, physical and brain health.
- Introduction of a club Scór champion to increase awareness and participation in future competitions.
- Introduction of a club Irish language champion and survey of club members Irish language levels e.g. cúpla focal, silver and gold fáinne
- Ongoing survey of interest and subjects for winter lecture series.
- History – winter lecture series and walking tours planned · Book club – Croke Park [www.crokepark.ie/bookclub](http://www.crokepark.ie/bookclub) and club-based book club
- Sense of Place – Townlands art piece and welcome Dr Frances Kane, QUB to Hub

Thank you to John Toal, Rosaleen Rooney, Margaret McCann, Mark Hollywood and Brieghe Moley for all their work in developing and delivering the programmes. Thank you to Steven Cassin for all the help and guidance in advertising the events through multiple platforms.

Thank you to everyone who has helped, attended and participated in culture activities this year. This year has been challenging but has certainly given us all opportunities to deliver a richness of culture that we could have never envisioned before. We will continue with our programme of events throughout the year, welcome ideas and feedback and will continue to promote culture and lifelong participation (GAA Mission Statement)

### **\*\*\*On-Field Activities\*\*\***

To all our club members who represented school, college and/or county teams we are immensely proud of your achievements and salute the dedication and hard work you have put in to reach this level and would encourage you to keep going and be the very best that you can be. We as a club will always be here to support you in that. Unfortunately, injuries are part and parcel of the sport and we wish well to any/all players who suffered injury during the season.

To the many managers & coaches, thank you for the effort and dedication right the way from nursery up to senior level. There would be no club without the efforts of those who are willing to be there rain or shine (mostly rain) half an hour before to setup and maybe half an hour afterwards to tidy up after training. This doesn't even include the efforts with planning training sessions, organising tournaments, picking teams etc.

It was greatly appreciated the level of engagement with Joan Cunningham in her role of child protection officer for the club. This is a vital role in ensuring the safety of our younger members. It is necessary that all coaches are compliant with the rules and have performed their Access NI checks and attended a child protection course/refresher before they undertake any coaching position.

The County Board, East Down Board and the Ladies County Board have once again been very understanding and accommodating towards clubs as regards fixtures and postponements due to increased numbers affected by Covid. I understand it's a tough job at the best of times but I am sure it becomes a logistical nightmare when fixture plans are affected with little notice due to circumstances beyond control.



## Handball

While not being on-field, we saw the addition of a new code within the club this year. Similar to the culture and Irish language, it was affected greatly by the restrictions we faced on indoor activities. Mark McCartan assumed the role of the Head of Code for Handball and through careful collaboration with Fr Michael and Gerard McKeever we saw the erection of the indoor handball wall in the parish hall.



Mark has also pursued obtaining a ball wall up at Lough Moss which could be used not just for handball but for enhancing skills in football/hurling/camogie. I am sure he is keen to get going and having played the game during my school years I would encourage as many people as possible to take part. It's a really enjoyable game.

## Hurling

The first place to begin with this year has to go to the club hurlers. Once again under the expert guidance of Ronan McCaughey as head of code. Unfortunately, they were the group most affected by the impact of Covid last year as regards fixtures and competitions. They have more than made up for it this year and won the league and 2020 championship and were unfortunately narrowly pipped at the post in their efforts to retain the championship crown.

The updates from the hurling coaches are as follows.



- **Senior**

The 2021 season started with very little time allowed for pre-season training due to Covid restrictions. Newly appointed Senior Manager, Damien McCallin, made his initial introduction via Zoom, and panel members were restricted to individual training plans.

A combination of boys returning, fewer boys travelling away and new recruits meant that our Senior Hurling panel saw an increase in numbers training this year. This was a great help in training sessions, allowing for 15-a-side internal games and created much more competition for places.

We played in Antrim Div 3, and won the Div 3 League Cup with a great run of games in the knockout phase. Promotion to Antrim Div 2 was one of the keys goals for this season.

Victory in Antrim provided great momentum going into the delayed 2020 Down Intermediate Championship, and helped us in our first IHC win, with victories over Newry in the semi-final and Liatroim in the final.

We entered a Senior Reserve team into the Betsy Gray Shield, which ensured that all panel members got game time in competitive fixtures.

In the Down League, we moved up to Div 1 this year for the first time, winning all but one game in the league phase, and making it through to the semi-finals.

We were represented on the county panel by Conor Cassidy, Donal Rooney and Conor McLornan.

The long season has not yet completed with the 2021 IHC starting in mid-October and running through to the end of November.

- **Minor/U17 Hurling**

A continued amalgamation, Cuchulainn's, with our neighbours Bredagh again in 2021 provided a solid platform on which to develop our U17 players in Down Division 1. This arrangement has provided a basis to run training sessions with greater numbers that creates a competitive edge for starting positions and most certainly brings the best out in the lads.

The league campaign began with a heavy defeat to Portaferry. However, we had victories during the campaign against Ballycran (home and away) and Ballygalget (home), but again suffered a defeat against Portaferry and Ballygalget at home. The notable point being that we had a much-reduced score-line against Portaferry on our second outing. The league finished with a victory to an extremely talented Portaferry side with Ballygalget and ourselves finishing level on points and Ballygalget securing second place on score difference.

Championship was split into 2 qualifying groups with Cuchulainn's drawn with Portaferry and Warrenpoint. Following a decisive victory over Warrenpoint once again we suffered at the hands of that strong Portaferry side who went on to win the Championship at their ease. We faced Liatroim in a semi-final from group 2 and despite a valiant effort in a tight game we lost the chance at another bite at Portaferry in the final.

We had three of the Carryduff lads represent the club at county level all of whom enjoyed their involvement.

We again are hopeful that we will transition a number of these lads to our ever-growing senior team next year.



- **U15 Hurling**

U15 hurling commenced practice back in March and finished in September.

First competitive match took place May 23rd against O'Rahilly's and coincidentally the last match on 12th September was against the same opposition in the Championship Shield final. A relatively successful season, the boys finished 4th in league Division 1, won Feile division 2 and Championship Shield.

Five players were selected for the county panel, four of whom had game time in the only inter County blitz so far this year.

- **U13 Hurling**

The U13s moved up to played in Division 1 this year following on from last year's Division 2 success and as the season progressed, they improved immensely.

Despite the shortened season they still participated in 15 games, finishing third in the league and narrowly losing in the semi-final of the championship to the eventual winners Castlewellan.

They ended the season with a tournament hosted by Castlewellan where they got to play against teams from other counties and several members of the panel have been selected to attend a seven-week development programme organised by the county board to round off the year for this promising set of boys.

- **P7/U11.5 Hurling**



The season for U11.5 hurling began on 12 April with the first of our final total of 39 training sessions. Numbers were strong and to balance these numbers with U13.5 training, several P7 players trained with U13 team who trained at the same time, a deliberate decision made by the two team managers.

Training concentrated on developing seven Essential Skills (rising, striking, hand passing, catching, first touch, hooking and blocking), developing Game Sense (First to the ball, Tackling, Marking and Positional Play) and developing core Core Strength (Squats and Lunges).

The team played 11 matches (a ratio of approximately 4 training sessions to 1 match) with every player given game time.

In early July, the coaches organised a Summer Camp which was attended by Ulster GAA Coach and Down senior player, Danny Toner.

Our P7 players attended the Gerard McGrattan Memorial Trophy tournament in Portaferry and acquitted themselves very well by reaching the semi-finals.



Thanks to coaches James Byrne, Niall McCullagh, Paul Hodkinson and JP Woods, to Fearghal Casey for his contribution and to Brian Keenan acting as Covid Supervisor. None of this would or could have happened with their time and effort.

Autumn training re-starts on 11 October with 9 weekly sessions planned up to mid-December.

- **P5/U9.5 Hurling**

A group of 30 returned to Hurling training in April with great anticipation for the year to come. We had a month of well attended training before the Go Games fixtures began. The group attended fixtures in Kilclief, Ballycran, Bredagh, Castlewellan and Liatroim as well as the return fixtures in Carryduff. The children developed greatly from these experiences. We were lucky to have challenge games, in the summer, against Antrim's St Pauls and Sarsfields which were great for progress.

The children had the opportunity to attend a July hurling camp. The coaches found that the camp greatly benefited the children and it was a great week for all involved. Following on from this we found the children's skills had progressed from the extra training.

The children also had a great experience of the winning Senior hurlers taking a Sunday morning session after their great final wins during the year and we thank them for this great experience.

We added an additional Thursday evening session during July, August and September in the 3G. The objective for the Thursday evening sessions was reinforcement of basic skills and we saw the benefits of progression due to this. This approach proved popular with the children and the parents and was attended in big numbers.

Due to the success of the Carryduff summer Cul camp we had a great uptake of returning boys, new boys recruiting and girls joining which has pushed the numbers for the group over 40.

We still have great numbers attending on a Sunday morning and have also the opportunity to participate in South Antrim Go Games in October and November.

I think I speak for all the coaches when I say it has been great to see the development of the skills and mindset of all the children.

It has been great to have a big coaching group and thanks to Andy, Anthony, Conor, Hugh, Joseph, Malachy, Michael, Terry and Tony for giving up their time throughout the year.

Like all our club teams this year we have an indebted gratitude to Erin Marsh and Siobhan Caughey for giving up their time to be Covid Supervisors throughout the year.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir!

- **P3/U7.5 Hurling**

We have had a successful year training wise with attendances of 30+ on a regular basis with a mix of roughly 2/3 boys & 1/3 girls.

The kids were taught the basics (proper grip/ground striking/rules/format of match) with some able to move to more advanced skills (lifting/striking from the hand/etc) in preparation for moving up.

We had a dedicated coaching team & others providing vital help with Covid Supervisor/other roles.

We had several games throughout the year which were all well attended, the kids enjoyed, and we competed well at.

There were a number of new members kids/coaches who joined the club which was encouraging.

Overall, an enjoyable year given the restrictions.

A big thank you to all involved.

- **P1/Nursery Hurling**



The P1/Nursery Hurling started at the end of May and has continued every Sunday morning for the last 20 weeks. We intend to stop at the end of October. Normally we would move then to the Parish Hall for the winter, however the hall is currently unavailable due to COVID restrictions. We hope to be back there early in the new year.

We have had up to 40 players attending. We have had a strong interest from both boys and girls. Our programme focuses on the development of fundamental skills, through fun and enjoyment. We work on Agility, Balance, Co-ordination every week. We have introduced the basic skills of striking, passing and catching. Over the last few weeks, we have introduced small sided games. We have been blessed by having a great team of coaches and we cannot thank them enough for their time and dedication.

## **Ladies Football**

Ladies football saw a change in Head of Code, with Colette Morris Spillane taking over the reins from Siobhan. Colette wasted no time in getting the ball rolling and getting coaches appointed.

Unfortunately, the Ladies County Board then decided to change the age groups to match what was introduced in male football, so managers had to be re-ratified and some new managers were required. Colette has also diligently pursued the provision of games for the u7.5/u9.5 age groups with the county board as there is no equivalent for the girls compared with the boys in the same age groups.

Here are some updates provided from the coaches of the various teams:



- **U9.5 Ladies Football**

The Under 9.5 girls started back training mid-April this year and have a squad of approximately 55 girls.

We have consistency trained twice a week since returning and have played matches almost every week since May 22nd against either County Down teams or Belfast U10 teams.

Playing U10's in Belfast has been both a challenge and an opportunity to learn each time they play and the girls have consistently responded to each training session and match, regardless of who it is, with a fantastic attitude, effort, teamwork and ever-increasing skill set.

The girls had a memorable day in September when they won their first tournament organised by St Paul's in Hollywood when they beat another Carryduff team in the final.

During the summer the girls raised approximately £1500 for the club when they collectively completed a virtual run of around 500km. It was great fun and kept the girls connected during the July fortnight break.

I have had fantastic support from the girl's parents who have formed a consistent and dedicated Coaching and Covid Supervisor team which enables us all to train.

We plan to continue training into November and work with the girls, continuing to press the importance of fun, intensity, effort and teamwork which they have responded to so well all season.

\*\*Special word of mention to Eamon O'Neill who generously provided the entire squad with pizza on the final night of team training.





- **U11.5 Ladies Football**

Season commenced with first training session on 16th April and ran through to Friday 8th October.

Training / Matches:

- There were 25 training sessions over the course of the season.
- We entered 2 teams into Down LGFA U11.5 Leagues and played in Sections 1 & 2. Both teams competed well across both sections, playing 22 league matches in total.
- The girls also played in 2 Tournaments this season, as follows;
  - Dromintee U10.5 Tournament – Got through to the Semi-final of the cup competition, losing out narrowly to Kilcoo.
  - Watty Graham Glen, Maghera Tournament – A team were runners up in the A Shield final. B team won the B Shield final.
- We also played against Teconnaught in a challenge game in July.

Squad:

- There was a panel of 34 girls over the course of the season.
- We started the season with 6 new squad members that hadn't played ladies football before and a further 2 girls joined during the course of the season. All seemed to enjoy their first season with the club.

Team Management:

- Coaches: Damien Collins, Nuala Bradshaw, Kristy Napier, Philip Cooper & Conor O'Neill
- Covid Supervisors: Kevina Collins, Hilary White, Maeve Holland, Mark Harvey.

Fundraiser:

- The girls took part in a "Solo the Belfast Marathon" Fundraiser event on 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- Through sponsorship, the girls raised a fantastic £960 for the club.

Summary:

It's been a very successful season for the girls. They have all progressed very well over the course of the season. The leagues were a great opportunity for the girls to progress their skills and gain match play experience. The older members of the panel are now ready for the step-up to U13 level next year and this years' experience for the younger squad members will stand to them for the U11.5 leagues again next year.

Most importantly, all the girls seemed to enjoy their season with the U11.5 squad and will hopefully be looking forward to returning to the club again next spring.



- **U15 Ladies Football**

*\*This updated was written & submitted by Shane before the team went on to win the championship, to add to the league and Feile detailed below.*

- 29 players, including 5 new or returning to the club after a prolonged absence. 18 of those players are underage again next year.
- 8 coaches including 4 senior ladies
- 4 covid supervisors
- 60 training sessions since 14th April start, including min 1 per week at club
- 62% attendance over the full season with 20 players (69%) registering 75% attendance or better with a number of those below that threshold missing through prolonged injury
- 22 matches across the full squad

Throughout the season, we approached coaching and matches on the basis of a single squad. That required movement up and down between A and B but by season end, every player had experienced at least some part in an A match during the season. It was also clear that most, if not all our players are more than capable of playing at A standard given sufficient playing time to acclimatise.

We were delighted with the performance of the B team throughout the league, being competitive in every match and ultimately finishing mid table. We were reliant on the U13s to field, and they were terrific throughout. That said, every U15 available started each league game and played a minimum of a half.

Bs met Castlewellan in the quarter final of the championship. Despite a great effort, the girls lost out. All players continue to train as part of the squad for the remainder of the season.

The As put in a good showing in the league losing only to Burren mid-summer, finishing top and league winners.

They participated in Co Down Feile mid-summer with all available U15 players included in the squad and getting game time. Eventually won with strong performances against Bredagh in the semi-final and Saval in the final.

In the A championship, we have drawn Burren in the semi-final, having benefited from a bye in the previous round. This is due to be played at home 17 October. Burren will be a significant

challenge and probably one of the best teams left in the competition so will need to be at our best to beat them.

Overall, as coaches, we are reasonably satisfied with the season past. We have a very committed bunch who work hard and are very team oriented. The level of injuries through the squad is of some concern, albeit no particular theme is obvious, but it may be a factor of the various lockdowns last year. This is something as a club we should consider over the winter re strength and conditioning / injury prevention work across all age groups.

The number of competitive matches has also been disappointing this year for the girls with games, at best, every other weekend, and postponements pre summer leading to no matches for 4 weeks. The differing age groups vs neighbouring counties and other counties adopting a covid-policy of no challenges matches outside the county.

Facilities and kit for the season all in line with requirements. Bar a few clashes late in the season for re-fixed home matches, we had access to pitches at the club and Lough Moss as required. We also had all our necessary equipment and balls from the outset.

- **Minor Ladies Football**

The restructure of the age groups meant that there were three years groups, therefore 29 girls at minor level this year. While it is heartening to see that in Carryduff we don't have the same drop out levels in ladies' football that many other clubs see, the big numbers don't come without their challenges. After much discussion we decided that we didn't have enough players to make two teams, leaving a lot of players for one team. We also had the added challenge of bringing together two groups of players that didn't know each other. As a management we decided that the first half of our season would be about bringing the two groups together, get them to know each other and most importantly ensure that all players got meaningful game time.

Our plan for the league was about participation and ensuring that every girl that made herself available played at least one half of football and also that no player started every game as a sub. Every girl rose to the challenge and we won every home game and lost three on the road finishing second in a very competitive league.

We are currently preparing for a championship semifinal away against the league winners and are looking forward to the game.

Away from the Carryduff minor team, we have had 17 players involved with the adult teams in the club this year. This has provided the girls with an incredible opportunity to progress their skill and bring some of their experience at the older level back to minors. We also had 8 players represent Down in the Ulster minor campaign this summer.

- **Senior Ladies Football**

Poor preparation as there was poor participation in the Non-County League. We had 4 matches all were non-competitive. The rest of the games did not proceed as other teams didn't field. Senior Championship v Bredagh was encouraging whilst we didn't play well against Castlewellaan in the Semi Final. A lot of injuries and simply not good enough on the night.

Senior B Final - only able to field 4 of the team who started the Bredagh Championship game and were well beaten by a well organised Saval side.

The senior ladies would like to thank Brendan Sloan for his generous sponsorship for the team over the past 3 years.



- **Gaelic For Mothers & Others**

We have 38 G4MO registered this year including a number of new members. We have trained twice per week Monday and Thursday evenings from February 2021 and will continue into November.

Due to Covid restrictions we have only been allowed to play one game per month. We hosted Loughinisland in June and travelled to Glenn in July for a game. The Ulster and All Ireland blitzes were cancelled this year but Croke Park organised a series of mini blitzes with up to 5 teams taking part. We travelled to Derrymacash, Lurgan to take on host club Wolfe Tones and Aticall in July. We played our next one at Saval in August, playing Dundrum, Clann na Banna, Crossmaglen and hosts Saval. We then played at Dundrum in September taking on our hosts, Crossmaglen and Clann na Banna again. We are due to play another blitz on 16th October at Kickhams Creggan and will host one at Carryduff on 23rd October. We also have another couple of games arranged with St Johns, Belfast and St Pauls, Holywood before the end of the season.

The G4MO ladies have organised a 'Cash for Clobber' weekend 15th-17th October as our fundraising effort for the year. The G4MO initiative continues to be very successful within Carryduff GAC.

## **Male Football**

Male football this year was headed by Ger Connery and supported as secretary by Gavin Kelly. Ger and Gavin would like to place on record their appreciation and thanks to all our Head Coaches, Coaches, Mentors, Covid Supervisors and anyone else who played their part in assisting male football continue its development. Most teams are now finished for the season, but the U20 team remain in action in the Patrick Dinsmore cup competition.

Similar to the massively successful Gaelic For Mothers and Others initiative, the GAA have introduced a male equivalent. It's called GAA for Dads and Lads. It is social hurling/football without the competitiveness. It is suitable for any age, experience or fitness level. Should there be sufficient interest in this and someone willing to undertake being the main contact/organiser for it, it is definitely something the club would like to offer to the membership.

Here are the updates received from the management teams:

- **U7.5 Male Football**

We all endeavoured to try to give all our players, equal opportunities to play at a realistic level and to get a taste of what Carryduff GAC is about. We had huge numbers with over 100 from the P2 and P3 ages.

To adhere to 'return to play' we structured training whereby we had the P3's on the Tuesday evenings and the P2's on the Wednesday evenings along with Saturday mornings when there were no matches.

With the help of a dedicated coaches, some new to coaching, we tried to make training purposeful and enjoyable and to give our players a chance to play. We had 51 training sessions in total throughout the season and played in the East Down U7.5 Go Games and entered a team in the South Antrim U7 League. These matches were very worthwhile and enjoyable.

The Joe Beattie U7.5 Blitz was a great way to end the year, we had over 70 players involved in the Carryduff teams on the day itself, it brought people together in a way which will live long in the memory of all those who were there. Playing Gaelic games is only a small part of what we do after all!

Marius Mulligan – Head Coach

- **U9.5 Male Football**

The U9.5 boys football coaches were delighted to provide a full season's training and Go Games and an outlet for the boys physical and mental well-being with their friends. The boys have come on leaps and bounds with the regular schedule of games and training. Thanks to all the coaches who gave up their time to provide this opportunity for the boys and the parents for their help and support.

This age group ran the Peter Cassidy Memorial Tournament on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 5 evenly mixed teams from Carryduff were joined by teams from Antrim, Armagh, Derry and Tyrone. We were



delighted that Roisin and Conor could join us for the tournament and it was a great experience for the players which they have gained so much from.

After 68 games between 16 teams, teams from Carryduff, Magherafelt Rossa and Errigal Ciaran won different tiers and we congratulate them.

Andrew Moohan – Head Coach

- **U11.5 Male Football**



Training commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> April and saw a change in approach to incorporate a second night of weekly training for 2021. This resulted in 44 training sessions over the season. We started the year with a group of 51 boys and ended with 62 boys all ably supported by 14 coaches. 3 teams were entered in East Down U11.5 leagues with each team playing no less than 10 fixtures. A total of 44 competitive fixtures were played across the 3 teams. The Division 1 Team won their league and have remained unbeaten all season. The Division 3 Team won their league with only 2 defeats registered. Unfortunately, the Division 2 title was beyond us due to the strength of a few of the teams in the division, however, we consistently used these players across the A and C teams to ensure everyone shared in our league successes. The latter stage of the season saw further success in winning the Liatroim Blitz (Pat Doyle Cup) by the Div 1 team.

The season concluded with our own Terry Lawlor Memorial Blitz. After a great day of football, we were successful in Tier 4 and our first team won the big one, the Terry Lawlor Cup, which was presented by Terry's son, Ronan. Overall, a very successful season greatly enjoyed by players, parents and coaches alike.

Barry Donnelly – Head Coach

- **U13 Male Football**



Coaches Paul Hickson, Paul Dougan, Stephen McConnell, Rowan Lyons, Micheal McGrath, Ruairi Boyle

Covid officers: Mark Cunningham and Brian Illand

Played a number of hard challenge games before league campaign Burren (Down), Glen (Derry) and St Brigids (Antrim).

Entered one team with limited numbers of 23 players – we have grown that to 27 players over the course of the season working closely with our hurling comrades giving more boys more opportunities at two codes. There were limited opportunities to play every boy every week. We subsidised that with challenge games against St Brigids's B, Bredagh B and Davitts.

Aim was to encourage the development of a team to challenge in a very competitive East Down A league with Bredagh, Bac an Doire, Castlewellan, Bryansford, RGU Downpatrick. The campaign got off to a great start with victories over RGU and the Bac and Doire before being beaten by Castlewellan. Bredagh and Bryansford in Round one. Round two saw victories over RGU Downpatrick, Bac an Doire and Castlewellan.

As a first time for many in championship we had the comfort of round robin style competition winning against Castlewellan and Bredagh ensured a semi-final with RGU Downpatrick. We won this match in Downpatrick and had a final opportunity v Bryansford. We were totally competitive for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the game when we were not able to win against their physical dominance this time. The boys had a great experience with the ability to have spectators

Successes saw a development in style of play and pace. Worked on delivering a high standard for all and setting the boys up for future opportunities in the club at under 15 and beyond.



Development is still working with parental expectations and educating on the requirements for competitive and development teams.

Paul Hickson – Head Coach

- **U15 Male Football**

Under 15 footballers had an enjoyable but frustrating year.

Having assembled a large backroom team, the boys were always supported and showed great enthusiasm and effort at training sessions. Particular thanks to all the mentors involved. It was unfortunate that we would only manage enough players to field one team throughout the year, however, attendances remained strong with the younger panellists developing as the year progressed.

The boys began collective Zoom training in February with those that followed and committed fully beginning the year especially well. The league was a mixed success with notable victories against Bredagh and on the road in South Down in Bosco, Clonduff, Burren and Warrenpoint. Mayobridge really set themselves apart as the team to beat and put in a dominant display against our weakened team.

Following the league campaign our training schedule increased to two trainings per week as we continued to cater for a large number of dual players (hurling & soccer). Our opening Championship fixture cost us dearly as we lost on the road to Liatroim. Our other performances highlighted the vast improvement in fitness and team play as the boys won a battle in Burren again and narrowly lost to Bryansford and a much-improved performance against Ballyholland. Our loss to Liatroim and a disputed result between Burren /Bryansford was enough to end our Championship campaign early.

Our year probably peaked at the end of the summer club at Feile. Two points separated us from County Kingpins and treble winners Mayobridge in the Semi Final, whilst victories against Burren, Ballyholland and Bryansford was a testament to how far the team had come along.

It is hoped all panellists will be involved in a Winter training program from November to January. We also hope to lean on all parents for one last fundraiser as the U15 footballers and hurlers combine to undertake a 'Last Man Standing' competition to raise funds for the club. A congratulatory note to Dara Cunningham and Peter Murchan who continue to represent the Club and U15 County Development Squad.

Micheal Ennis – Head Coach

- **U17 Male Football**

The minor male boys fielded 2 football teams with the A team playing in Division 1 (finishing fourth) and the B team playing in Division 4 (finishing 5th).

It was a very challenging year due to injuries, with 11 players out injured at one stage. We rallied on due to the support of a number of u15 players, having 3 of them play in the Championship semi-final. We only entered one team in the championship and unfortunately lost out to Bryansford in the semi-final.

Highlights were having Tom McCarroll and Lorcan Swail on the Down minor squad, with Tom having the honour of being Captain. We also had 6 players on the U16 Down Development squad. A number of the players also represented the u19s who reached the All-County final, which gave them a fuller understanding of the commitment and dedication required as they progress from underage to the senior ranks.

Paddy McGrath – Head Coach

- **U19 Male Football**

With only four teams in Division 1 there were enough games for under 19 players in the league.

Following wins against Burren and Clonduff and a loss to Kilcoo we finished joint top of the league and played Kilcoo in a semi-final. After a poor first quarter we turned the game around and won through to meet Burren in the final. In a very tight match with Burren we lost narrowly. The disappointment for the players was that there was no championship to follow the league but most of them represented the club at senior, premier reserve and reserve league and championship.

Joe Tunney – Head Coach

- **Reserve Football**

Our reserve team acted as a great platform for players of all ages to push themselves onwards to Premier Reserve and Senior Football. In particular this afforded a talented number of U19 players to gain experience in adult football.

We played the full league program of the Father Davies Reserve League and finished top of our section with a 100% record. We then entered the quarter final of the Father Davies Cup where we beat Attical and followed that up by beating Kilcoo in the semi-final to reach the Father Davies Cup Final for the second year running. Unfortunately, after a great come back we were beaten by 2 points after conceding a very late goal to a strong Mayobridge team.

There is scope to continue to use the Reserve team as part of the wider adult football set up to develop our younger players via an introduction to adult football and give those rehabilitating from injury the platform to return to play at a higher standard.

I would like to thank Mark McCartan, Michael Tunney, Kieran Swail, Eamon Rooney, Pat Maguire, Joe Tunney and the first team management for their assistance.

Gavin Kelly – Head Coach

- **Premier Reserve Football**

2021 was another good year for our Premier Reserve squad with a league final and semi-final championship appearance. In the league the squad won all their group games and progressed to the league final with victories over Bryansford in the quarter finals and Clonduff in the semi-finals. Unfortunately, the team came up short against a strong Kilcoo team in the final with a 2-point defeat.

Championship was a similar story with good victories against Rostrevor and Clonduff only to come up short against a strong Warrenpoint team at the semi-final stage.

The huge positive to take from this year was the competition for places and the quality of the football played. We have consolidated our place as one of the top premier reserve teams in the county which bodes well for the future of senior football within the club.

I'd like to thank Pat Maguire along with the senior and reserve team management team for all their help with the squad during the season.

Eamon Rooney – Head Coach

- **Senior Male Football**

1 year at minor (county semis) and 5 at senior with a Div 2 league title and a 3 in a row U21 titles and more recently Senior Championship finalists in 2020 it's been an interesting and evolutionary journey with the Club. A very satisfactory return and with the Premier Reserves and Reserves very much established as participating teams feeding the senior panel the club should be well placed to build upon recent improvements/successes.

Covid interrupted the usual pre-season this year, and the players were completing pre-season programs individually. We ran some online classes but generally the players were self-motivated, and the mgmt. were happy with this arrangement.

The Corn An Dun early season preliminary competition ran while the county payers were away. This was satisfactory with players from the reserve panels getting an opportunity. We had mixed results in this competition.

When the League proper started in July, the county players returned. We had some injuries and also, we had too many games on the weekends which affected the senior teams performance. Some

weekends we had 3 games and some players were playing Prem Reserve/Reserves, U19s and Firsts. In some ways this was down to our success as a panel, as the Prem Reserves and Reserves were in the final shake up in both league and championship and the u19s made the league final, during our senior league campaign.

We finished 5th In a league of 10 in Div 1 with notable victories over Kilcoo and Clonduff. This was seen as a good finishing position, proving we were worth our place at the top table. It lacked a bit of bite in the end as there was no relegation from Div 1 this year due to Covid issues.

After a faltering start against RGU, the Div 2 champions, in the 1st round of the championship, we then proceeded to round 2 (back door). With some senior players getting back to form we beat Saul and then Longstone in the 3rd round to arrive at the quarter final stage of the Senior Championship. We exited at the quarter final stage after a 1-point loss to County and 2019 Ulster champions Kilcoo after extra time. This is our 3rd year in a row we made the quarter finals again this is good progression for the club.

Finally, a big thank you to the senior management team of Paddy Doherty (who returned after a serious illness), Shane O Neill, Cathal Murray and Mark Donnelly (GK Coach) and all who supported us over the past season including Kit Man Stevie Anderson, Eamon Rooney Prem Reserves Head Coach, Gavin Kelly Reserves Head Coach and Joe Tunney U19s Head Coach. We would also very much like to thank Shay McAleer and Kingsbridge Hospital Group for our Physio support and also our Major sponsors of Brennan Building Contractors, Burnview Group and Sentel.

DJ Morgan – Head Coach

The Senior Management team have decided to step away from the role to pursue an opportunity at intercounty level. The impact this management team have had on the fortunes of the current crop of players during their 6-year tenure is amazing. There is of course the silverware (the threepeat of U21 championships, Division 2 title), appearances in the Ulster U21 final, the clubs first county senior championship final & promotion to Division 1 after a lengthy absence. However, it is also the way they have developed the players individually and collectively as a group. We wish them every success in their future coaching careers. They will always receive a warm welcome at Pairc Aodha Dhuibh.

We extend a very warm welcome to the incoming management for the senior team, Finnian Moriarty and Conor McCaughley. Finnian brings a wealth of experience from his playing days as a star on the Armagh team and has already enjoyed success in management with Maghery. I'm sure they will leave no stone unturned in their quest for success & we wish them & all the players the very best for the forthcoming season.

### \*\*\*Nursery\*\*\*

This year thankfully saw the return of the Carryduff Nursery/Academy. It was unfortunate that we could not offer it last year to the kids due to the restrictions imposed by Covid and the numbers we typically have in attendance. For some of the kids & indeed the parents of kids at the nursery/P1 age-groups it was perhaps a first visit to the club. We hope they enjoyed it & are looking forward to returning next year.

The format for this year changed from previous years, with the typical Tuesday night slot being replaced with a Saturday morning slot and it being relocated to pitch 1. Credit for the implementation & seamless transition goes to the Nursery Coordinator Enda McKenna. Enda has been running the nursery for a number of years now and taken the existing format and tweaked it to add his own stamp on things. Just looking at the faces of kids leaving the pitch would indicate it was a massive success.

Hosting such a number of kids requires a lot of planning and organisation, from Covid Supervisors, to coaches to training plans etc. Enda on his own would not have been able to deliver this, so thank you to all the coaches (both new and returning) who helped throughout the year. Special mention to the clubs U13 girls who were a regular fixture helping with the coaching. It's great to see, even at this tender age, a willingness to give back to the club and help the next generation of players.

### \*\*\*Cul Camp\*\*\*

The club once again hosted a very successful Cul Camp this year. The format was changed slightly to adhere to a model similar to the 26 counties, therefore as a result the numbers who could attend were reduced from previous years. This was something beyond the club's control & understand that some of our members were unable to obtain a spot.

Thank you to all who volunteered to help with coaching, help out in the hub or in any other way on the days. Without the number of volunteers for coaching during the week we would have had an even more restricted number who could attend. All the kids seem to have had an enjoyable experience as the photos below indicate.











To the wonderful Orla McKeever (honestly the work that entire family do for the club is incalculable) who took over the running of the Cul Camp at fairly short notice we cannot begin to express our gratitude. To continue in the exemplary way Hilary ran it in previous years is no small undertaking, but to do so on only a few days/weeks' notice was truly amazing.

### **\*\*\*Fundraising\*\*\***

Thanks to all the squads that ran their fundraisers throughout the course of the year, to the senior squads, who helped to drive the sales of the Down Draw tickets & to all those who through their membership bought Down Draw tickets. The Down Draw is very lucrative to clubs as £96 from each ticket goes back to the club of the person purchasing. Fundraising is an essential part of us as a club being able to provide & maintain such top-class facilities for our members.

Thank you also to those who have sponsored the club (via shirt or pitch side sponsorship), made donations & contributed to the club financially in any way – it is greatly appreciated. Apologies for not going through all the sponsors individually but given the size of the club and the number of events, teams I would be afraid of missing anyone out.

A massive GRMA to Orla McKeever, who once again has done such an amazing job in administering the club lottery. I don't mean to put more work her way but would like to encourage you all to partake in the club lottery if possible.

It has maybe been covered above but a number of teams ran very successful tournaments. These were hugely successful events in the benefit each of the players and teams took from them. The organisation



was exceptional for all – with only the weather being a letdown. While these events were successful from a sporting sense, they were also extremely successful from a fundraising perspective and for that the coaches/managers have to be greatly acknowledged. GRMA.

### \*\*\*Hub\*\*\*

This is another area of the club where the effort has been superhuman. There have been a number of enhancements that have taken place over the course of the year – e.g. the creation of the outside shop with shutter door (see pic), painting of the hub exterior etc. Thanks to Liam, Gerard and particularly Michael for this. Some of the hours the volunteers put in during the running of the Cul Camp and the club tournaments was exceptional.



I would also like to mention at this point the donations Michael received from Brackenvale for the kids at the club tournaments and the Cul Camp - it was greatly appreciated and I would encourage our members to support them. Similarly, the BBQ donated by Brendan Sloane was a massive success during the club tournaments – being used for breakfast rolls in the morning and burgers/hotdogs in the afternoon.

Michael & Joan took over the running of the hub in recent years and have taken it to a new level. They have a small but dedicated team (and are always on the lookout for new volunteers). The hub has grown and expanded to incorporate some of the Carryduff gear which was available from O'Neills orders. It has also been providing breakfast deals during the nursery Saturday mornings, with ice-cream available during the summer months in the good weather. A range of Carryduff branded merchandise (keyrings, umbrellas, flags etc) has also been designed and is available for purchase.



### \*\*\*Communication\*\*\*

Steven took over the mantle of PRO from Philip this year and continued the good work with regular updates of matches, photos etc. across the club's social media channels. It is beneficial to those no longer able to attend games (for one reason or another) to be able to keep up to date on all things Carryduff GAC.

There was also some fairly substantial work in upgrading/updating the club website. As someone who works in IT, I can appreciate the effort Steven put into this. Thanks a million for all the effort and hard work Steven, especially when it was balanced alongside, work, family and coaching commitments.

### \*\*\*Sympathies\*\*\*



The Club and community were deeply saddened by the deaths of club members throughout the year. Our club are indebted to many who have gone to their eternal reward and it is only right that we acknowledge their memory.

All those club members who lost family and friends during the year will continue to be remembered in our thoughts and prayers. Our sympathy and condolences are extended to all those families who have been bereaved during the year.

**\*\*\*Thanks\*\*\***

I need to finish this by again thanking my wonderful wife Aisling and our kids for the patience, tolerance and support that they have shown me in order to allow me fulfil this role during the past year. It continues to be a very intensive role timewise, especially when trying to balance this on top of family and work commitments and I would not have been able to do this without them.