



TUAIRISC AN CHATHAOIRLIGH 2020 ~ CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2020

Ní neart go cur le chéile ~ There is no strength without unity

This phrase has been used as the motto of many groups and organisations in the face of the challenges of COVID-19 over the past year. It is also an appropriate summary of how club members of all ages have shared a unity of purpose in coming together to support each other while for much of the year we've been required to stay apart.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee and the wider club community for their support in what has been a difficult year as we navigated our way through the various twists and turns of the pandemic, striving to adhere to GAA policies and public health guidance while continuing to provide opportunities for members to communicate, exercise and stay positive. At the time of writing this report we remain in lockdown and our club facilities closed. We encourage all club members to continue to adhere to these guidelines to ensure the safety of all our community.

Ar an pháirc ~ On the pitch

In unprecedented and challenging times, 2020 saw competitive action for only a certain number of teams and for limited periods.

Our Senior Ladies made it to the league semi-finals before bowing out to Trillick and saw off Castlederg in an opening round thriller (which went to extra-time) in the championship before losing narrowly to Drumragh at the quarter-final stage.

Our Senior Men had a disappointing league campaign which ended with a draw away to Loughmacrory on the final day of the season. After a very encouraging first round win over Donaghmore, we came tantalisingly close to beating eventual winners Dungannon at the quarter-final stage, losing out after extra-time at Edendork.

Our Senior Reserves enjoyed a solid league campaign and qualified for the league final before losing to Coalisland at the last hurdle.

Sincerest thanks to all our senior players and those involved in preparing these teams. A particular acknowledgement of the efforts of Noel O'Neill and Gavin Wylie who have stepped down from senior management after a number of years at the helm.

Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí ~ Praise the youth and it will prosper

We enjoyed significant success at youth level with both male and female teams contesting county finals in various competitions. This bodes well for the future of the club and is a reflection of the hard work being put in over a number of years by the many coaches who contribute consistently to developing our young players.

Our boys reached Grade 1 finals in three different age groups (U14, U16 and U18) and our Minor Girls and U16 Boys still have finals which remain unplayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Hopefully these games can take place in the very near future and prior to the start of 2021 competitions.

Having contested an enthralling Grade 1 league final, eventually losing out to a very strong Carrickmore side, a number of our Minor Boys have shown already their potential to contribute to the Senior Men in 2021 and beyond. Our U16 Boys await the opportunity to contest the Grade 1 league final (vs. Donaghmore) while our U14 Boys beat Trillick in the Grade 1 league decider and lost to Eglisk in the championship semi-final, our only defeat at this level in 2020.

After a stop-start campaign for the Minor Girls (with all games rendered null and void at one stage and the season started from scratch) the girls topped the table before defeating Glenelly in the semi-final to progress to the league final where we lost to Kildress – the fourth meeting of the season for these two teams. The girls are due to meet Trillick in the championship final whenever this game can be scheduled.

Unfortunately, our other youth teams had limited competitive game time despite working very hard on the training pitch and both boys and girls participated in a number of Go-Games (boys only) and challenge games against other local clubs in the absence of any organised fixtures.

A huge note of thanks is due to all our coaches, parents and players for their efforts in what was an unprecedented and challenging year. Thanks also to the various COVID-19 Officers and our Child Protection/Health & Wellbeing Officers for ensuring that we had a safe club environment for all, implementing appropriate protocols and completing registrations and attendance records accordingly.

Recognition is due to the endeavours of Sean-Paul Wylie as Coaching Officer (Boys), coordinating coaching internally and involving high calibre coaches from outside the club whenever possible. Thanks also to Claire Muldoon who has taken up the Coaching Officer (Girls) role this past year and is ably assisted by Lisa Mallaghan in providing our girls with the support and guidance necessary for their continued development.

Múineann gá seift ~ Necessity is the mother of invention

2020 was a year in which we were forced to do things differently and our normal approaches to coaching, facilitating games, fundraising and general club administration changed overnight. Thank you to all committee members and wider club volunteers who made themselves available to help in what has been a most difficult year for everyone associated with the club and beyond. A word of praise also for the innovation of some of our coaches

who have created new ways to stay in contact with players (via digital media, etc.) to ensure that a sense of togetherness prevailed even in the most challenging of times.

I would like to reassure the club members, players and parents that the Committee has at all times worked to ensure that all players are given the best chance to avail of our facilities and to achieve success on the pitch. Like most community organisations, our fundraising efforts have been greatly curtailed by the pandemic and it was a difficult – but correct – decision to postpone at the last minute our ‘Jigs and Reels’ event which was due to take place in March, right at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. By adhering to GAA guidance at the time, and in the absence of direction from government at the time, this postponement had a major impact in preventing the spread of the disease in our community. Hopefully we will be able to resurrect this event at some point in the future to provide an opportunity for all our dancers (professional and otherwise) to perform for us all. The continued support and forbearance of those who purchased tickets for this event is greatly appreciated.

While our weekly Club Lotto suffered badly due to the cancellation at various times of Parish Bingo, our online Lockdown Lotto has proved a success and we had two fantastic turnouts for Drive-in Bingo. Sincerest thanks to our hardworking events sub-committee for making this happen in difficult circumstances.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine ~ People live in each other’s shadows

The central role of the club has never been more evident than in the past twelve months. The idea that we are part of a community and depend on each other to get by has been a source of strength to many in difficult times.

Lockdown saw a wide range of non-conventional club and community activity, at all times focused on supporting the most vulnerable in our parish area. Weekly food parcels were delivered by club volunteers in collaboration with Mid Ulster District Council and we endeavoured to support those collecting and manufacturing PPE and other forms of equipment (even baby monitors) which were useful to various healthcare settings.

We established a helpline and worked closely with other local groups such as Ardboe Credit Union and St Vincent de Paul to support those most in need, providing food vouchers, collecting prescriptions and generally helping the most vulnerable in our community. In terms of keeping the spirits up, various family activities were coordinated (including our club/community litter-pick which featured on UTV Live in May) and the now famous Lockdown Quiz facilitated by our own Gerry Higgins every Sunday evening.

As we all spent more time at home, local facilities and amenities became more important to everyone. The walkway around the pitch has been an invaluable resource (and escape!) for many members of our community and we have recently completed some ground works to enhance the safety of the walkway and allow for the installation of a new basketball court for winter training.

Comhghairdeas ~ Congratulations!

Success in Scór Thír Eoghain has eluded us for many years but in 2020 our musicians, led by Cathy Quinn, triumphed in the *Ceol Uirlise* (Instrumental Music) at the Tyrone Final of *Scór Sinsir* in March and progressed to the Ulster Final with success in the semi-final at Glenuillin the following week. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has prevented the final taking place but we await this opportunity for this talented group of performers. Mo cheol sibh!

A word of congratulations also to two clubmen recently appointed as officers for the County Board. Brendan Hurl has been elected by CLG Thír Eoghain to represent Tyrone on Croke Park's Ard-Chomhairle and Patsy Forbes has just been announced as Honorary President of Tyrone GAA in recognition of his contribution at club and county level. I wish both men every success in these roles. Go n-éirí go geal libh!

Ar shlí na fírinne ~ Remembering our deceased members

Sincerest condolences to those club members who have suffered the loss of a loved one over the past year and an opportunity to reflect on the lives and contributions of those who have helped shape our club. In particular, tribute is due to former players Jim Curran (also former chairman and inter-county referee) and Joe Coyle (also former Vice-Chairman) who passed away in 2020. Since our last AGM we've also lost our long-serving Parish Priest and Honorary President Fr Brendan McHugh and much-loved curate Fr Vincent Darragh. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-amamacha uaisle.

Le buíochas ~ Thank You!

On behalf of the entire club I would like to thank all those club members who help us in ways that sometimes go unnoticed; our club referees, Martin Coney and Cathal Forbes; and our Parking group led by Seán McCartney. Also, a special word of thanks this year to all those associated with the club who are working in the health service, in support of the health service and in other essential roles during the ongoing pandemic. We have sought to support and celebrate the ongoing efforts of these frontline heroes at various points during the year but no words can communicate the pride we have in the efforts of these members of our community and the impact you all have on improving lives day and daily. Buíochas mór libh!

Ag amharc chun tosaigh ~ Looking to the future

While 2020 has presented many challenges, CLG Uí Dhonnabháin Rosa continues to occupy a special place in each of our lives and the support network provided by the club has never been more important. Plans are well underway in the preparation of our teams for the forthcoming season and whatever it might bring. If you are considering becoming involved then please get in touch and play your part in 2021. Wishing all our teams and members every success in the year ahead.

Ádh mór oraibh agus go raibh maith agaibh go léir!

Malachy Ó Néill (Cathaoirleach)