

Tuarascáil An Rúnaí

Is mór an onóir dom tuarascáil mo Rúnaí Contae a thíolacadh. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le hOifig Bhord an Chontae agus leis na clubanna as a gcúnamh. Ba mhaith liom aitheantas a thabhairt don tacaíocht atá faighte agam dár gclubanna ar fad agus don fhoireann anseo i bPáirc Pharnell.

Football Review Committee (FRC)

Last year I opened my report with the FRC, the new trial rules, quoting the “opportunity it offers to further enhance our game.” While I was optimistic that the new rules would enhance the games experience for both players and spectators alike, the impact in year one far exceeded my expectations.

All through the League and Championship the FRC monitored and analysed the impact of the rules and, where required, changes were proposed and swiftly implemented. The FRC used a rigorous scientific method that ensured that all amendments were based on data & detailed analysis and relevant reports were provided to key stakeholders throughout the journey.

Enormous credit is due to Jim Gavin and the FRC for the well-considered changes they have delivered for the game of football. The Committee ensured that our game benefited from their expertise, experience and diligent commitment to the GAA. Most notably they were brave and innovative - and for that we are all very grateful.

The FRC were not afraid to embrace change nor were they averse to changing what may not have been working. They have shown that change can be good for our games and that open mindedness is welcome. These new rules have now been made permanent at Special Congress 2025, and it is important that we continue to monitor and analyse the game, patterns of play and how the enhanced rules evolve.

The enhanced rules have delivered for the players, improving their experience at all grades with a greater focus now on rewarding the core skills of our game. It has given players the opportunity to showcase their wonderful talents, once again bringing to the fore these skills such as high fielding, long kicking and one on one defending.

This in turn has translated into an improved spectator experience with supporters being treated to faster-paced and more open games where front foot football has been embraced. We have seen a significant shift away from the defensive-focused tactics which had become prevalent at all levels of our game. The improvement has reflected positively with increased attendances and interest in our flagship competitions and hopefully this will continue into 2026 and beyond.

It has also provided our coaches with fresh challenges. They now need to adapt tactics and gameplans to this new style of game where attacking football is rewarded. It will be fascinating to see the innovation that the coaches bring to our game in the coming seasons as both they and the players become more accustomed to playing a more expansive game under the new rules.

Demographics

There has been a lot of talk in recent times about the significant demographic challenges facing the GAA. Typically, this is seen as two main issues for the Association. On the one hand you have clubs in some rural areas with proud histories, traditions and excellent facilities but with declining numbers due to emigration and rural depopulation. Then on the other hand you have large urban areas, particularly on the Eastern seaboard, which have ever increasing populations but a chronic shortage of facilities.

On the ground in Dublin the issues are often more complex and can vary from club to club and area to area. Some Dublin clubs face challenges which are more in keeping with those facing rural clubs. These are clubs that also have proud histories and traditions and who have been promoting Gaelic games in their communities for many many years. Based mostly in more mature areas of Dublin, these clubs are experiencing little or no further growth, with decreasing birth rates in the area, smaller family sizes and an ageing population. Allied to this are ever increasing house prices - which are unaffordable in many parts of our city for younger families.

Certainly, there are some very large clubs in Dublin. Clubs that are extremely well run – but clubs that are actually stretched to breaking point in terms of facilities and resources to cope with ever-growing memberships.

There has also been talk of the need for new clubs in certain areas of the county but in Dublin suitable, available and most importantly, affordable land is a scarce commodity. Historically, land here has always been at the top end of the price range but with the current housing crisis and pressure to build on every available space, it is almost impossible for clubs to secure playing facilities. The nearer the city the more acute the problem becomes.

We are back to the problem of pitches and facilities, etc. If the bigger clubs cannot secure facilities, then a newer club just starting out is going to face the same problems, armed with far less assets.

Dublin also faces fairly unique demographic challenges in areas of the county where whole new suburbs and towns are being developed. Greenfield sites that have previously had very little population are springing up. There are whole new areas where there is little or no GAA tradition.

In addition to no existing clubs serving these particular areas, the people buying the houses are also obviously new to these areas so there is a real challenge in cultivating and growing

our games. Already faced with the ever-present issues of acquiring land and facilities, the situation is compounded by the lack of existing GAA activity.

But I am delighted that the level of participation in Gaelic games continues to rise within Dublin and nowhere is this seen more than the ever increasing participation by girls/woman in both Camogie and Ladies Football. Dublin clubs which operate under the “one club model” are now, on average, fielding four girls teams for every five boys teams - and this gap continues to narrow.

There are already vast areas across Dublin city and county where the level of participation in Gaelic games is not where we would want it to be. Huge work and investment has gone into tackling this problem but it remains an ongoing challenge. This is why we need to be on the ground, especially in these new suburbs, from the off. In the schools and communities, providing the best possible opportunities to play our National games.

These specific challenges in Dublin – of increasing participation and ensuring that there are adequate clubs and that they have the requisite facilities and resources is an ongoing one. It is a challenge that needs careful consideration not just at county level but at National level. It is a challenge that needs foresight, planning and funding. A strong and vibrant Association in Dublin can only be good for our games.

Infrastructure

As mentioned above, the ongoing growth in participation has not been matched by an equal increase in available playing pitches and this continues to be a massive issue across the county. Clubs are trying to innovate and to upgrade existing facilities in order to maximise their utility but demand still outstrips supply. Many are having to access the facilities of other sporting organisations and sometimes this means clubs using non-standard pitches for training or even leaving the county to access facilities.

There is a real challenge for the GAA here in that nobody wants to see young people not catered for or maybe even turned away from clubs. The reality is that we may be approaching that point soon in some areas. The real danger in situations like this is that you have an unnatural attrition where young players who may not yet have developed their skills are possibly lost to the game through sheer weight of numbers. We have to avoid that scenario.

The lack of sporting infrastructure in new housing developments is a widely recognised issue in Ireland. It is particularly acute in rapidly expanding urban areas like Dublin, stemming from challenges in land acquisition, financing, and planning priorities. While we all appreciate that we are in the midst of a housing crisis and that we need to increase the housing supply, this must be done in a sustainable manner, with the long-term well-being of the communities as the core focus.

The dearth of sporting and community infrastructure in these areas certainly impacts the development of Gaelic games, but more worryingly it has significant negative impacts on community well-being and public health and is a major barrier to helping to turn these new developments into communities.

This is of particular significance now given the focus on the promotion of higher density residential provision on brownfield sites within a compact development model, many of which have no provision in any of the proposed open spaces for even one playing pitch of adequate size for Gaelic games.

It is worrying that the emphasis in terms of the provision of housing seems to rest on one word – density. We have seen in the past that large scale housing provision with no attendant recreational facilities does not work. It is absolutely essential that we do not repeat these mistakes. Adequate recreational and sporting facilities must go hand in hand with all residential development.

As you are aware the Dublin County Board are tackling the facilities issue head-on through the development of cluster facilities at Hollystown and Spawell. These clusters will supplement clubs' own pitches as well as providing facilities for our own development squads and intercounty teams.

The news on these developments is mixed. The tender process for Hollystown is almost complete, marking another important milestone in the project. All going well we hope to have our main contractor in place in the coming weeks and to be in position to break ground in the Spring of 2026. From commencement the project is estimated to take between 18 – 24 months, meaning that we will hopefully see games in Hollystown in 2028.

The project will deliver three floodlit grass pitches, a full sized floodlit all weather pitch and a ball wall. The main pitch will have a modest stand which will cater for up to 500 spectators. This will allow us to host club championships at both adult and juvenile level as well play some underage intercounty fixtures, alleviating the demand on Parnell Park.

There will also be a pavilion building with modern dressing rooms, a gym, storage rooms, medical room and meeting spaces. Hollystown will be a fantastic development and a much need resource for the playing of our games.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed by Dublin GAA to the Board and development committee of the Hollystown project, Sean Benton, Michael Hand, Brendan Waters, Mick Seavers, Sean Shanley, Jim Brogan, John Costello, Ken O'Sullivan, Elaine Dolan, Bernie McLaughlin and Gerry McGreevy. It has been a pleasure to work with this group and their time, expertise and dedication to the project is hugely appreciated. Like them I now look forward to the next exciting steps and to seeing this facility opened and being used by our members from all over the county.

With regard to the Spawell development, there has been no significant progress this year. South Dublin County Council made a decision to grant permission for the development on 14 November 2024. This decision was the subject of three third-party appeals which were lodged with An Bord Pleanála on 11 December 2024.

While we respect the planning process and await the decision of An Bord Pleanála, it is unfortunate that in the event of the granting of permission we are likely to experience considerable building cost inflation due to the significant time lapse. This is concerning and particularly unfortunate given the nature and scale of the proposed development, the enhancement of the range and quality of playing facilities assets available to the local community and the promotion and growth of Gaelic games in the area.

It is my hope that in the future, the provision of sporting facilities similar to our projects in Spawell and Hollystown will be recognised as key infrastructure projects - essential and beneficial not just to sporting organisations but to the wider community and economy in general. If planning for housing is to be fast-tracked then surely it would make sense that complementary amenity infrastructure would also be expedited.

The Government's revised National Development Plan which was published in July recognises that investment in infrastructure is the best way to safeguard our economy, drive growth and opportunity, protect jobs, increase competitiveness and ensure prosperity for our people and communities.

In the Culture, Communications & Sport sector, the Government outlined a commitment of €2.22 billion for capital investment across 2026-2030, of which over 30%, or €660 million, is earmarked for capital investment in sport.

A key ambition in this sectoral plan is to sustain significant investment in our sporting facilities through the Community Sport Facilities Fund (CSFF) and larger scale projects through the Large-Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF).

I welcome the intent of this funding – to improve sporting infrastructure in this country. In my opinion investment in sport offers the highest returns of almost any investment with the benefits measured across a whole range of indicators, including physical and mental health, enhancing the social fabric and growing happier communities.

I hope that Gaelic Games in Dublin will see plenty of this funding over the lifetime of the Plan so that we can properly address some of the huge and unique challenges outlined above that are facing our games here in the city.

Coaching and Games

Our coaching and games strategy can be condensed to a single simple aspiration “as many as possible, for as long as possible and in the best possible environment”.

Winning the hearts and minds of youngsters in the world we live in today is a tough battle. There is so much competition from other sports ... even virtual ones! A city environment is also very different from a rural one and brings its own unique and distinct challenges.

I firmly believe that we need to engage with the future generation of players as early as possible in their lives. I am very proud of our coaching structures and how we have tackled these challenges in Dublin.

Working in partnership with our clubs we have been active in over 370 schools with over 70,000 schoolchildren receiving coaching. Our schools coaching which signposts young children to their local clubs has been hugely important in growing participation here and giving as many young schoolchildren as possible an opportunity to play and experience our national games.

Within the club environment our GPOs are instrumental in working with the club volunteers in establishing good underage structures from academy level, through Go Games and into CCC2 level. This creates a pathway for all of our young players, boys and girls, to come to our clubs. Here they will begin what we all hope will be a journey of lifelong enjoyment regardless of ability. A place they will have fun in a safe, well-managed environment while learning the skills of our games.

To provide support to clubs, Dublin GAA provides an extensive training and development programme for coaches, parent, referees and club volunteers. The scale of this work is huge, on an annual basis we have over 1,600 people complete the Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games (ICGG) and more than 6,000 people complete the Safeguarding 1 training courses.

Contrary to some uninformed rhetoric which has thankfully fallen silent in recent times, our coaching programme is one of partnership, centred on providing opportunities for children to enjoy playing our games. It is a partnership led by our clubs and supported by the County Board. This partnership includes schools coaching by the GPOs and club coaches, an extensive coach education programme managed by our Coaching and Games Development Staff and the delivery of a top class games programme by Coiste na nÓg Átha Cliath.

Our coaching programme is and always was about increasing participation through our clubs. It is about affording every child, both boys and girls, in Dublin the opportunity to enjoy our national sports – both hurling and football. There is no juggernaut. But there are thousands of young children who deserve the same opportunity to play our games as any other child. The battle for their hearts and minds is a constant one - where any form of retreat could be very damaging not just to Dublin GAA but to the Association. And long-term.

I am very proud that we in Dublin have always promoted our great games equally in terms of the resources we have invested in them. We have assisted clubs financially, enabling them to put boots on the ground in their own communities, to go into their local schools and say ‘come and play our great games’. Unfortunately, funding is finite, but I do believe that our

investment in this area has delivered a rich dividend in terms of promoting our organisation, our games, and increasing our playing numbers and therefore membership.

There is much discussion about expenditure in other areas of our games but in my opinion any reduction of coaching and games funding is an own goal. We must continue to target where it can be most effective and efficacious and surely that points to our underage structures and club academies. It is quite clear that if we don't invest in our grassroots we are reducing the quality and quantity of the harvest in the long term.

Senior Footballers

The work of the Football Review Committee brought a keen interest to the start of the Allianz National Football League and our Senior men got their first taste of the Committee's experimental rules in late January against Mayo. Despite a lightning start which saw us lead by seven points we found ourselves 2 points down at halftime, 1-10 to 1-08. The second half was a tight affair with the sides swapping scores regularly. But thanks mainly to the contribution of Sean Bugler with seven points from play, Dublin prevailed by two points and so collected the two League points on offer.

A trip to Ballybofey followed on the first day of February for a second round encounter with Donegal. The home side had the better of the first half going in ahead by five points. Dublin rallied in the second however and when Ciarán Kilkenny became our first player to register a 2 point score the deficit was down to one. That was as close as it got unfortunately with Donegal closing out the game on a scoreline of 0-20 to 0-16.

It was another long trip to the far side of the country in mid-February when the team travelled to Tralee for Round 3. Kerry opted to play with the aid of the strong wind in the first half and it looked like a good decision when they went in at the break leading by 1-12 to 0-04. However the importance of 2 point scores was very telling in the second half with Dublin registering four of them through Lee Gannon, Ciarán Kilkenny and a late brace from Lorcan O'Dell. These scores and a last gasp Luke Breathnach point were enough to secure a memorable victory by the minimum, 1-15 to 0-19. Our first win in Tralee since 1982!

It was back to Croke Park for Round 4 on 22 February and the visit of Derry who had beaten us on penalties here in the 2024 final. A fine attacking display in the second quarter, including a Niall Scully goal, saw Dublin register 1-07 without reply to lead by seven points at halftime. A debut goal by Conor Tyrrell and another from Lorcan O'Dell in the second half as well as an overall six point haul for Sean Bugler saw Dublin comfortably home on a scoreline of 3-20 to 2-12.

So we headed to the Box-It Athletic Grounds in Armagh on 1 March for Round 5 sharing top spot in the League table with Donegal and Galway on 6 points each. The then reigning All-Ireland champions were clearly keen to show their mettle and had scored 1-09 before we registered our first point. A half time deficit of 1-12 to 0-03 was increased by three points

before we got motoring. A Dublin purple patch saw five points from Con O'Callaghan (including a couple of two pointers) and an assist for a Lorcan O'Dell goal. Suddenly it was a five point game and the home crowd were getting nervy. Unfortunately for us this was as good as it got and the Orchard kicked on again and were deserving winners by 1-20 to 1-12 at the final whistle.

Galway arrived at Croke Park for Round 6 of the League on St Patrick's weekends as the only unbeaten side in the Division. But a goal in each half by Sean Bugler meant that Stephen Cluxton's first appearance since our quarter final defeat to the Tribesmen the previous June was avenged. Cormac Costello also helped himself to five points as Dublin ran out winners by 2-19 to 2-13 and joined Galway and Donegal at the top of Division 1 with 8 points each.

Before a ball was thrown in for Round 7 on 23 March there were all sorts of permutations and what ifs. Derry's relegation was the only thing confirmed and Dublin knew that victory in Omagh would secure a League final place for the second year in a row. Galway were in a similar position with Donegal ready to pounce if we or the Tribesmen slipped up. Mayo and Kerry knew defeat could spell relegation danger while Armagh knew only a win would save them – probably at the expense of Tyrone.

So Tyrone needed a win to have any chance of staying up and the way they started the game showed they were desperate to remain in Division 1. Their attack was very lively and an early Con O'Callaghan goal was quickly cancelled out by a home green flag and Tyrone took control as the half progressed, leading 1-14 to 1-04 at the break. Despite the wind advantage for the second half the Red Hands were able to keep us at bay though Cormac Costello's brace of 2 pointers reduced the deficit somewhat. The final scoreline of Tyrone 2-20, Dublin 1-16, meant no final place for us but Armagh's win also meant that the home side's efforts were in vain.

With Galway and Donegal also losing, wins for Kerry and Mayo not only eased their relegation concerns, it also gave them both a final spot. So a mixed Allianz League campaign ended for Dublin. The new rules certainly made the games more entertaining as the teams adapted to them and it was also interesting to see further minor modifications made during the League.

While we enjoyed three good wins in Croke Park, our first half away performances consistently gave us too much to do in the second half of our away games. That said an excellent second half comeback in Tralee may have been the highlight of the campaign, one that saw us just lose out on a final place on score difference.

So everybody faced into a first football Championship under the new rules having familiarised ourselves with them during a competitive League competition. Our first port of call was Echelon Park, Aughrim on a bright breezy day in mid April. The home side had wind advantage in the first half and used it well, racking up three 2 pointers. But goals by

Niall Scully and a penalty rebound by Con O'Callaghan saw us lead 2-09 to 0-11 at the break. Wicklow continued to battle hard in the second half but 2 pointers from Con O'Callaghan and Tom Lahiff and a steady flow of white flags saw us into the Leinster semi-final by 2-21 to 0-18.

This meant a trip to Laois Hire O'Moore Park in Portlaoise and a meeting with Meath on a blustery Sunday in late April. Again playing into the wind in the first half we struggled as our opponents took full advantage of the conditions. Underlining the importance of the new scoring system, Meath racked up four 2 pointers in the opening 35 minutes to lead by a dozen points at the break, 0-17 to 0-05.

Con O'Callaghan began the second half with a two pointer and Paddy Small added three more white flags. When Cormac Costello netted after 54 minutes the gap was reduced to six points. Further scores by Paddy Small and Con O'Callaghan and a Colm Basquel two pointer left the gap at just two with five minutes to go.

Despite a frantic finale we could not add to our score and it was the Royals who closed out the scoring with two further points, leaving it at 0-23 to 1-16 at the final whistle.

So an unbelievable run came to an end. Meath's repeat of their 2010 semi-final win over us again booked them a final date with Louth and ended our 14 in a row Leinster wins, or 19 provincial wins in 20 years. Those statistics are stunning and unlikely to ever be repeated in truth. But all good things must come to an end and what a journey our players and managements have given us since 2005. A huge thank you to each and every one of them.

The new Championship structure saw us in a round-robin group with All-Ireland Champions Armagh, Connacht champions Galway and Derry.

Our first fixture was a trip to Salthill on a glorious Saturday afternoon in the middle of May. A packed Pearse Stadium enjoyed a see saw encounter that was only decided at the death. Galway had a slight wind advantage in the opening half and despite registering a couple of 2 pointers trailed by 1-09 to 0-08 at the break. This was largely due to a strong second quarter showing by Dublin which included a clinical finish to the net by Cormac Costello and a patient score by Ciaran Kilkenny after the hooter.

The home side began the second half strongly and a quickfire 1-02 saw them lead by the minimum. We regained our composure however and pulled four clear again with Lorcan O'Dell to the fore. Then a ball that looked destined to go wide somehow found itself across goal and in the Dublin net and another Galway point meant the game was tied again. Cormac Costello put us ahead again before a harsh over-carrying call meant Galway were level. The game was certainly in the melting now and Dublin had secured possession when the hooter sounded. Some excellent composure saw us work the ball in front of the Galway defence before finding Tom Lahiff who stroked over from 30 metres to secure a valuable win and a precious two points, 1-18 to 2-14.

Next up was a date with champions Armagh in Croke Park on the first day of June. We started brightly and led 0-06 to 0-03 after a little over 10 minutes with Cormac Costello to the fore registering five first half points. Overall however our accuracy was lacking as we racked up seven first half wides. This seemed to energise Armagh who built a 0-13 to 0-09 half time lead, including three 2 pointers.

Our wides tally worsened in the second half as we registered another ten. Conversely three 4/3 rule breaches gifted Armagh three scores. Despite Cormac Costello adding a further three points, including adding a 2 pointer to Paddy Small's, Armagh were able to keep us at arm's length and ran out winners by 0-24 to 0-19. It meant that our trip to Newry would likely be a must-win game.

Our final group fixture against Derry in mid-June in Páirc Esler was indeed winner takes all with the Oak Leaf also needing Armagh to do them a favour and beat Galway. We started well with Con O'Callaghan pointing after ten seconds and then Killian McGinnis and a brace from Paddy Small putting Dublin four up with just two minutes gone. Derry recovered however and a string of scores including six points in a row saw them lead 0-08 to 0-06 in a high scoring opening quarter.

We responded with five points ourselves including a 2 point free from Stephen Cluxton. In keeping with the nature of the half Derry hit the next three points to tie the game again at 0-11 each. A 2 pointer from Cormac Costello was then cancelled out by Derry's third 2 pointer of the half to leave an enthralling contest level at 13 points each at the break.

The second half continued as the first with the teams trading scores before Dublin hit a purple patch over the next quarter of an hour, outscoring Derry by seven points to two to open up a crucial five point lead. The last phase of the game saw a number of goal chances none of which were converted. The gap opened up in the third quarter meant Dublin were able to control the game down the final straight and despite Derry outscoring us by four points to one in the closing stages Dublin eased home by 0-22 to 0-20 to secure a preliminary quarter final tie against Cork.

The longest day of the year began in the exact same fashion as our previous game, with Dublin getting out of the blocks fast and hitting the first four points, again with two from Paddy Small. The Rebels roared back into it however and a goal after eleven minutes and some smart forward play saw them lead by two points, 1-08 to 0-09 at the interval.

We started the second half brightly also restoring parity before a piledriver from Brian Howard saw us establish a three point lead. Cork refused to go away however and were a point ahead themselves by the 53rd minute. It was nip and tuck all the way to the finish after but we wrested control down the home straight to pull clear by three, finishing the winners by 1-19 to 1-16. Cormac Costello and Sean Bugler with five points apiece and Paddy Small with four kept the scoreboard busy throughout and were largely instrumental in our win. The victory set up a quarter final tie with Tyrone the following Saturday.

Before a crowd of over 61,000 in Croke Park, the opening score of the game was a 2 pointer from Tyrone and was followed by another in the fifth minute. Cormac Costello's tally of three points and Brian O'Leary's brace in the opening quarter kept us in touch and Niall Scully's point had us in front for the first time in the 21st minute. However, the Red Hands ability to raise an orange flag was pivotal in this game and four of them in the first half alone left the visitors leading by 0-11 to 0-10 at the break.

Tyrone began the second half well stretching out a three point lead and despite us closing the gap we could not get back to parity. In the 64th minute Luke Breathnach's point brought us to within one but unfortunately that was as good as it got. A string of scores in the final minutes including another 2 pointer saw Tyrone close out the game by 0-23 points to 0-16.

For the second year in a row our Championship season finished in Croke Park at the quarter final stage. There is no doubt that the rules changes made for a much better spectacle in terms of the football played by most counties and the importance of the 2 point score came to the fore. The hooter added to the excitement also, nowhere more than in Salthill.

Injuries to key players at key times did not help our cause but that is the lot of many counties and is part of the game. For the first time since 2004 our season finished with no major silverware – quite an incredible run of success really.

A major part of this success in those years, at all levels, was Dessie Farrell. As well as delivering an All-Ireland as a player in 1995, as manager he added All-Ireland underage titles at minor and U21 before taking over the Senior job in 2020. In his first year, Dessie delivered Sam Maguire – securing an unprecedented 6th consecutive All-Ireland Senior football title for Dublin. Another Sam arrived in 2023 after a memorable final victory over old rivals Kerry.

So there was great sadness in Dublin GAA when Dessie announced he was stepping away from his role after the Tyrone game. We are indebted to him for almost 40 years service to the sky blue of Dublin. The Na Fianna man has been an integral part of Dublin GAA fabric since first wearing the blue jersey in the late 1980s. We wish him well in the future and I am sure that the GAA in Dublin will continue to benefit from his fantastic knowledge and understanding of the game into the future. I would also like to thank his backroom team, Darren Daly, Mick Galvin, Brian O'Regan and Ger Lyons – again men who are steeped in Dublin blue and who helped bring great honour and success to our county.

A new era now dawns for Dublin GAA with Ger Brennan taking over the manager's role. The St Vincent's man is no stranger to success himself both on and off the pitch, with a hugely successful playing career at club and county level. This has been followed by similar success at management level, with Ger delivering a Leinster Senior football title with Louth earlier this year, bridging a 68 year gap since their last.

I look forward to working with Ger and his management team of Dean Rock, Stephen Cluxton, Denis Bastick and Niall Moyna. I know that no stone will be left unturned as the management team seek to make Dublin the team to beat again.

Senior Hurlers

In late January, just six days after famously guiding his Na Fianna club to the All-Ireland hurling title, Niall Ó Ceallacháin was back on the sideline at Croke Park. It was the beginning of his tenure as manager of the Dublin Senior hurling team and Antrim were the opposition in the opening round of Division 1B of the Allianz Hurling League.

An excellent early goal from debutant Conal Ó Riain settled the team and Cian O'Sullivan's unerring accuracy gave us an eight point lead at the break, 1-14 to 0-09. Dublin scored the opening three points of the second half and despite our accuracy deserting us for periods, managed to coast home by double scores, 1-25 to 0-14. It was a heartening win for our new management especially as we were short the Na Fianna contingent as well as a number of other regulars. The new faces in the squad did well but it was All-Star Cian O'Sullivan with 13 points who stole the headlines.

With a bye in Round 2 our next fixture was on 9 February when we travelled to TEG Cusack Park to take on Westmeath. Another early goal from Conal Ó Riain saw us ahead by 1-06 to 0-04 approaching fifteen minutes but the home side then hit a purple patch and five consecutive scores drew them level. Diarmaid Ó Dulaing's accuracy from the placed ball in the second quarter helped to re-establish our lead and we went to the break ahead by 1-12 to 0-12.

The third quarter was a low scoring affair with Diarmaid Ó Dulaing converting a couple of frees before we lost Conal Ó Riain to a red card. At that stage we enjoyed a five point lead. Westmeath came back at Dublin but an excellent save by Eddie Gibbons on 70 minutes and three late unanswered points saw us home by 1-22 to 0-18, earning another two valuable League points.

We welcomed Offaly to Croke Park on 22 February for our third League fixture. In an open and entertaining encounter it was real nip and tuck stuff with both teams trading scores consistently throughout the first half but we led by four at half time (0-14 to 0-10) with the returning Colin Currie on free duty.

Offaly made their move in the third quarter with four unanswered points to reduce the gap to a single point. Donal Burke was also making his first League start and took over the free duties landing three in a row to push the gap back to four points.

However a late red card for Conor Burke swung the momentum back to Offaly and they outscored us by 0-11 to 1-03 from the hour mark on. Brian Hayes' goal early in injury time briefly gave us the lead but the Faithful levelled before what seemed a harsh 77th minute free

for a throw ball gave Offaly the opportunity to win the game from distance. It finished 1-23 to 0-27 – a disappointing loss after an excellent game.

Next up was a trip to Walsh Park on 2 March to take on an in-from Waterford side. The first half was again a close affair with both teams swapping points and neither able to open up any clear advantage. In injury time Cian O’Sullivan scrambled a long range free to the net to give us a narrow interval lead, 1-11 to 0-12.

The second half proceeded along the lines of the first and a goal line clearance by substitute Kevin Burke with his first contribution ensured we were still ahead entering the last quarter, 1-15 to 0-16. A pacey run by Brian Hayes was then finished to the net by Cian O’Sullivan but a few minutes later we were down to 14 when the goal-scorer was red carded. Waterford then piled on the pressure and a late goal tied the scores. Donal Burke edged us ahead again but three consecutive injury time points by the Deise saw them prevail by 1-23 to 2-18. Another late and disappointing defeat after we lost a player to a red card for the third game in a row.

Round 6 saw us return to Parnell Park on 8 March for the first time in 2025 to take on unbeaten Carlow. With a number of changes to our line-up it wasn’t surprising that we took a while to get going. After trailing by three points early on a couple of scoring bursts settled the team. With just over twenty minutes played David Purcell netted a fine solo goal to push our lead out to six points, 1-11 to 1-05. Another flurry of points followed before Brian Hayes netted our second goal and now with less than half an hour played there was a dozen points between the teams. Carlow responded with a goal of their own but half time saw Dublin 2-19 to 2-08 clear and with ten different scorers registering on our new scoreboard.

Carlow came storming into the second half with five of the opening six points and in the 50th minute were awarded a penalty. A fine Sean Brennan save effectively halted the visitors’ momentum and Dublin regained control to comfortably see out the game by 2-29 to 3-17. The game saw the return to intercounty hurling of Conor McHugh while Andrew Jamieson Murphy and Danny Sutcliffe also made appearances from the bench. Donal Burke top-scored with nine points, namesake Conor had five from play while Conor Donohoe grabbed three, including a fine sideline cut.

With Waterford entertaining Offaly in Round 7 Dublin knew that promotion and a place in the 1B final were highly unlikely but still travelled to Laois Hire O’Moore Park on 22 March looking for a good performance and a win to round off the campaign.

The home side were already relegated but a miserably wet evening meant Dublin could take nothing for granted. A goal from Darragh Power midway through the first half meant that we went into the break leading by three, 1-09 to 0-09, despite playing into a strong wind.

Dublin used the elements well at the start of the second half as we stretched our lead. Just as the midway point of the half approached, a dangerous Laois attack brought a fine save from

Sean Brennan. A quick counter attack saw the sliotar reach sub David Purcell who raised a green flag with his first touch and effectively ended the game. With a great spread of scorers for the second game in a row, ten in total, Dublin cruised home notching 2-21 to 0-13 for Laois.

Results elsewhere meant we finished third in Division 1B, narrowly missed out on promotion and a place in the League final. Both of our two defeats came in late, late injury time when down a man so there was much to be upbeat about facing into the Championship. In addition a number of new and returning faces in the squad meant there was healthy competition for places as the Leinster Championship came into view.

Our Leinster campaign began with a home game against Offaly on 19 April. The game mirrored our League fixture with both sides trading scores throughout the first half. We pushed three points ahead but were pegged back by an Offaly goal on 14 minutes. Cian O'Sullivan brought a fine save from the Offaly goalkeeper in injury time but it was the Faithful who led at the break, 1-10 to 0-11.

Three scores in three minutes had us ahead at the start of the second half but again Offaly raised a green flag to halt our momentum. We began to dominate again with Brian Hayes and Sean Currie keeping the scoreboard ticking over but we were also hitting too many wides. This enabled Offaly to stay in touch and they crept two points ahead on the hour mark and then stretched it to three. With time running out and the home support getting nervy Chris Crummey delivered a long ball towards the Offaly goal and when it broke to Ronan Hayes he finished it superbly to the net to bring the teams level. The score inspired Dublin and points from Conor Donohoe, Brian Hayes and John Hetherton down the home straight were the difference between the teams, Dublin 1-25, Offaly, 2-19. So a vital win in the group stage and two points on the board with Wexford next up.

The following Saturday (26 April) Wexford arrived at Parnell Park having defeated Antrim by eleven points in their opening game. We started brightly with the first two scores but a Wexford goal in the fourth minute was a body blow. The response was emphatic however as we reeled off seven of the next eight scores to go four points ahead. The sides then swapped scores and as the half hour approached we still led by three. The lead disappeared however when Wexford raised another green flag and they finished the half strongly with the final three points to lead 2-11 to 0-16.

Dublin were level after five minutes of the second half but soon after were again undone by a Wexford goal. Again we responded and when Cian O'Sullivan was fouled in the square Sean Currie's penalty found its way over the line. Soon after John Hetherton punished a Wexford defensive error with a decisive finish to the net. Wexford responded with a brace of points but Hetherton pounced for his second goal soon after and Dublin then took control. A string of points in the closing minutes meant that a late Wexford goal was merely a consolation score as we finished out the game by 3-26 to Wexford's 4-19. We were now two wins from two games with a trip to Belfast next on the agenda.

A sunny Corrigan Park greeted us on 10 May as we sought a third consecutive Championship win. Playing with a strong breeze we got off to a good start with Sean Currie finding the range from play and frees, and we led by five after eleven minutes. Quick-fire goals from Cian O'Sullivan and Ronan Hayes then further increased the lead by the 21st minute. Antrim rallied with three scores of their own but we finished the half strongly with a series of points to go in ahead at the break by a dozen points, 2-13 to 0-07.

The Saffrons began the second half with real intent scoring three quick points but we soon dashed any hopes of a comeback with three scores of our own. We continued to keep the scoreboard ticking over with Conor McHugh scoring his first ever senior hurling point in the 46th minute. Chris Crummey got in on the act with a brace of points and then Fergal Whitely finished clinically to the net against a tiring home defence. At the final whistle Sean Currie had amassed twelve points in an emphatic Dublin win on a scoreline of 3-25 to 0-19.

With three wins out of three, Dublin headed to UPMC Nowlan Park on Sunday, 18th May seeking a result that would likely earn them a provincial final slot. The Cats were also on maximum points and in no mood to see that change. We were on the scoreboard after twelve seconds courtesy of Cian O'Sullivan and led by two points after just seven minutes. This was as good as it got however.

A couple of Kilkenny points levelled things and then a defensive mistake led to the home side's first goal after fifteen minutes. This was soon followed by a second Kilkenny goal following a quickly taken sideline ball. Dublin were back within three points by the 20th minute when Cian O'Sullivan scored his fifth point from play. We were keeping the home side in our sights as the half hour approached when a mishit shot found the back of our net – a real hammer blow. A fourth goal and a string of Kilkenny frees before the interval left us with a real uphill task, trailing by 14 points, 4-12 to 0-10.

The Cats extended their lead at the beginning of the second half before Sean Currie found the Kilkenny net following good work by John Hetherton. Conor Donohoe added a brace of points and suddenly Dublin had found our rhythm again. Sean Currie then found the net with a free in the 53rd minute and this was immediately followed by an excellent finish to the net by Cian O'Sullivan. An excellent save by the Kilkenny keeper soon after prevented another Dublin goal and the Cats then added two crucial points to give themselves some breathing space. We continued to take the fight to the home team with AJ Murphy impressing from the bench but couldn't get the margin below three points. And when Kilkenny netted a fifth goal in the 70th minute that was that. A rousing second half comeback had come up just short with the Cats prevailing by 5-19 to 3-21.

This result meant that we had to beat Galway in our final game in Parnell Park on 25 May to book a place in the Leinster hurling final. We began the game with a slight wind advantage though it was a tricky, swirling breeze which caused both teams problems. Cian O'Sullivan opened our account after seven minutes but we then shot six wides in the opening 15 minutes which allowed the Tribesmen to quickly build a 0-06 to 0-01 lead. We needed some

inspiration and it duly arrived when Rian McBride finished to the net from an acute angle. Three points followed in quick succession and we now led for the first time with twenty minutes gone. We swapped scores with the visitors up to half time to retain our one point lead at the break, 1-07 to 0-10.

We again swapped scores at the start of the second half before the visitors opened up a two point lead with three consecutive scores. Cian O'Sullivan was still splitting the posts but Galway were finding their range now too and edged seven points ahead. A brace from Sean Currie helped to reduce the margin by the end of the third quarter before Galway tagged on another four points and suddenly the gap was out to eight points. Galway continued to add to their tally and despite late goals by Sean Currie, again from a free, and Conal Ó Riain, the visitors had built enough of a lead and were victors by 3-15 to 0-29. Though our hopes of a Leinster final were dashed, our third place finish in the group ensured us a preliminary All-Ireland quarter final against Joe McDonagh Cup winners, Kildare.

Dublin travelled to St Conleth's Park on Saturday 14 June for a first Senior Hurling Championship meeting with Kildare since 1976. The teams shared the opening four scores before Dublin seized the initiative with a 10th minute goal from Ronan Hayes. Kildare replied with a brace of points but we replied with a quartet of our own to push the lead to five points at the end of the first quarter. An excellent team move then put Diarmaid Ó Dulaing in for our second goal and Kildare heads dropped. They managed just one more first half point as Dublin piled on the scores to lead 2-14 to 0-05 at half-time.

It was more of the same in the second period as Dublin kept the scoreboard ticking over. As the final whistle neared Sean Currie hit three points in a row before Fergal Whitely raised a green flag in the 65th minute to underscore Dublin's dominance, leaving a final score of 3-25 to 0-13.

The win set up an All-Ireland quarter final meeting with Limerick the following Saturday, 21 June in Croke Park. It was a bright sunny day and we played with a slight wind advantage in the first half. We started well and led by a point early on before Limerick reeled off four consecutive scores to take the lead. We were just two points in arrears in the 14th minute when we received a massive blow with a straight red card for Chris Crummey.

If anything the setback galvanised the team and when an in-form Sean Currie hit three points in a row, a brace from Ronan Hayes moved us into a two point lead on the half hour. A further three points extended our lead but the Treaty replied with two points of their own to leave the half-time score at 0-15 to 0-12.

The teams swapped points at the start of the second half and a promising goal chance for Dublin went just wide. Limerick made the most of this escape and scored the next four points to move in front by a single point. It was looking ominous as the final quarter approached but then Dublin turned the game on its head with two goals in quick succession. First John Hetherton fired to the roof of the net from a tight angle and then he knocked the

sliotar down into the path of Cian O'Sullivan who slammed home a second. Suddenly it was 2-18 to 0-19 and a famous victory was in sight.

Limerick battled back but crucially Dublin retained a scoring threat which kept the scoreboard ticking over and the Treaty could not close the gap beyond two points. Sean Brennan also made a fantastic save from Aaron Gillane and heroic Dublin defending denied Limerick the goal they needed. A last gasp Limerick free was bravely blocked and the final whistle signalled a famous victory. With the footballers playing straight after it was great to see such a large crowd there to witness the occasion. The Cork hurling fans in attendance also seemed to enjoy the Dublin win! Ironically it set up a semi-final date with their hurlers on 5 July.

The game marked our first semi-final appearance since 2013 – when the Rebels were also the opposition - and we were hoping for a first final appearance since 1961. A Cian O'Sullivan point after fifteen seconds was a good start and the teams shared the first four scores in the opening five minutes. Brian Hayes then scored the game's first goal - unfortunately it was the Cork version and the Leesiders led by three. Fergal Whitely then hit two points but they were quickly negated by a couple of Cork frees.

Things got considerably worse for Dublin when Cork scored two goals in quick succession before the 15th minute mark, opening up a nine point gap. We needed a score fast and Cian O'Sullivan duly obliged with a clinical finish after a lovely pass from Sean Currie. Our own Brian Hayes then pointed but Cork hit back with three points in a row. The gap was eight on twenty minutes when Fergal Whitely's rasping shot struck the crossbar with the Cork goalkeeper beaten. We plugged away with the next two scores from Conor Burke but a fourth Cork goal on 32 minutes saw us go to the break ten points down, 4-13 to 1-12.

Cork opened the second half scoring with a couple of points and when a goal chance for us went begging, Cork punished us fully with a fifth goal on 42 minutes. Six minutes later Cian O'Sullivan had his second goal, again thanks to a clever Sean Currie pass from a Dublin free. We added another brace of points but once again this was quickly cancelled out by another Cork goal with less than twenty minutes remaining.

The game was effectively over as the teams exchanged scores in the closing stages with Cork adding a seventh goal with five minutes left. The Rebels' forwards were simply unstoppable on the day as they moved into a second consecutive All Ireland final by a score of 7-26 to 2-21.

A harsh end to a season that had many highlights. Our League campaign promised much but two late defeats proved very costly. Our Championship journey had its high points too not least a quarter final victory over Limerick that will live long in the memory.

His great success at Na Fianna meant Niall was straight into inter county management within a week – gan sos ar bith! I want to thank him and his management team for all their efforts in

their first year. There is certainly a feel good factor about Dublin hurling at the minute and progress is being made. I look forward to the year ahead, confident that our hurlers can build on the progress to date and deliver more high points in 2026.

U20 Footballers

Our U20 footballers were drawn in a tough group alongside Meath, Offaly and Westmeath, with two away fixtures and one home game. The opening game was a short trip to Donaghmore Ashbourne club to play Meath at the end of March. The opening half was a tightly contested affair with Dublin grabbing the only goal, but Meath recorded four two-pointers to edge in front on a score of 0-11 to 1-07.

We mirrored our strong start in the early stages of the second-half and went ahead. Despite threatening the home goal on numerous occasions a second Dublin goal never materialised. Instead it was a Meath penalty with less than ten minutes to go that proved the game's decisive score, the Royals winning by 1-22 to 1-18, in what was a highly entertaining game.

Another away trip, this time to play Offaly in the Faithful Fields was next on the agenda for our young footballers on 2 April. Dublin again started well and a goal after just five minutes helped to settle the team into the game. Offaly kept battling away and a goal of their own just before half time reduced the deficit to a single point at the break, with Dublin leading 1-09 to 1-08.

A strong third quarter saw Dublin hold our opponents scoreless and extend our lead. A second Dublin goal five minutes from time put the result beyond doubt, securing the two points on a final score of 2-17 to 1-13.

Westmeath were the visitors to Parnell Park on 9 April for the final group game, with Dublin knowing that a win would be enough to secure our passage to the quarter final. The game followed a similar pattern to the previous two, with both teams well in the game at the break. The first half saw four goals split evenly and it was the young Dubs who were behind at the interval, 2-06 to 2-04.

Upon the resumption Dublin seized dominance at midfield, giving us a solid attacking platform that yielded sixteen second half points. A late Westmeath goal proved to be a consolation score and was not enough to prevent our progress to the next round. In the end we were comfortable winners on a scoreline of 2-20 to 3-09.

Our prize was another away day, this time on 16 April in Baltinglass, with a clash against Wicklow the latest challenge to face our team. The home sided settled into the game more quickly but by the second quarter we had gained the initiative and enjoyed a five point lead at the break, 0-13 to 0-08. However Wicklow came right back into the game and at the midpoint of the second half the sides were level at 0-15 points apiece. Crucially, a Dublin goal inside the final ten minutes gave us the cushion we needed to see out the game and a book a spot in the Leinster semi-final, 1-19 to 0-17.

The reward for Ciaran Farrelly's charges for beating Wicklow was a trip to Louth, and a fourth away game out of five. Despite it being 22 April, it was a filthy night for football in Darver, with driving rain exacerbated by an incessant breeze. We started brightly but it was the hosts who finished the half stronger to lead by one at the break, 0-07 to 0-06.

Playing conditions didn't improve in the second half but it was Louth who adapted better to them, crucially pushing five points clear at the end of the third quarter. We kept pressing in the rain but the goal we needed to ignite a comeback never arrived despite sustained late pressure on the Louth goal. The Wee County ultimately held on to win by three points, 0-14 to 0-11, so bringing the season to an end for our U20 footballers.

I would like to sincerely thank Ciaran Farrelly and his management team for all their work and efforts with our U20s over the past two years.

The responsibility has now passed to Jonny Cooper and his management team. I mentioned above that 2025 was the first year since 2010 that our Senior Footballers didn't win major silverware. But 2010 was of course the year when a Dublin U21 side managed by Jim Gavin and captained by Jonny Cooper captured Dublin's only second All-Ireland title at this grade. It is a hugely competitive grade and a very difficult one to win. Hopefully Jonny can add his name to the list of previous Dublin winning managers - Tommy Lyons, Jim Gavin and Dessie Farrell. Indeed he has the unique opportunity to be the first Dublin man to win at the grade as a player and a manager! Ádh mór air!

U20 Hurlers

A first round bye in a group with Wexford and Kilkenny meant it was 5 April before our U20 hurlers took the field in competitive action. We travelled to UPMC Nowlan Park to face the black and amber who had the benefit of a game under their belt when seeing off Wexford a week previously. The home side started on the front foot grabbing an early goal but we played our way into the game and competed well. Just before the break however Kilkenny scored a second goal, so although both sides had registered ten scores, Kilkenny's two green flags gave them a 2-08 to 0-10 advantage.

The concession of a third goal at the start of the second half left Dublin with it all to do. The team refused to lie down however and responded immediately with a goal of their own. Kilkenny were keeping us at arm's length but a second Dublin goal with ten minutes to go offered some hope. But the Cats regrouped and added a few scores down the home stretch to ensure victory by 3-20 to 2-16.

Next up for us was Wexford at home on April 12, and as it would turn out, the only time this season that our young hurlers enjoyed the home comforts of Parnell Park. Both teams recorded early scores but as the half progressed it was Dublin who were the more clinical, building a four point lead at the break, 0-12 to 0-08. While the visitors levelled matters within seven minutes of the resumption, Dublin resettled and looked to have done just enough to

earn the points. However, a converted penalty by Wexford in the final minute of the game nudged them ahead at the death and gave them both points, Dublin losing by 0-18 to 1-17.

A preliminary quarter final followed, which meant a trip to Dowdallshill, Dundalk on 23 April to face an unbeaten Antrim, who had topped their Tier 2 group. Despite conceding two first half goals, Dublin, aided by a goal of our own, were good value for our four point lead at the half. Having played into a stiff breeze we led by 1-11 to 2-04.

A second Dublin goal within ten minutes of the restart put daylight between the sides and we were looking like comfortable winners. But the concession of two late goals left things tighter than anticipated in the closing stages. Dublin had done enough though and a scoreline of 2-19 to 4-10 secured our passage to the Leinster quarter final.

A 'home' game followed in the very unfamiliar surroundings of the recently renovated St Conleth's Park in Newbridge on May Bank Holiday Monday. Facing a much fancied Offaly team, reigning All-Ireland U20 Champions and recent minor champions, was deemed to be the end of the road for this team accordingly to the experts. Thankfully nobody told Fintan's charges.

Although Dublin struggled for scores in the opening thirty minutes, a late first half goal was vital to staying in touch with Offaly, and it meant we trailed by just three at the break, 0-09 to 1-03. That goal seemed to give our players renewed confidence and we were much improved from the restart. Our early dominance was rewarded with two goals which put us well in control of the game. A strong defensive showing ensured Offaly never looked likely to get the goals they needed to get back into the game. They had to settle for clipping over points from range while Dublin rounded off the scoring with a fourth goal to run out winners by seven points, 4-12 to 0-17.

A Leinster semi-final match-up against Galway in O'Connor Park, Tullamore was next on the cards on Wednesday, 14 May. Dublin played with the strong breeze in the first half and despite grabbing two goals inside the first six minutes, we couldn't shake Galway off. But we had done enough to lead by 2-08 to 0-11 at the break.

With the wind at their backs, Galway did enjoy some dominant periods in the second-half but they were unable to reflect this possession on the scoreboard. This allowed Dublin to stay ahead on the scoreboard and we then finished strongly. By the time we were awarded an injury time penalty, which we elected to point, the game was wrapped up. Dublin were through to the final to face Kilkenny, recording a 2-18 to 0-17 win in Tullamore.

Laois Hire O'Moore Park was the venue for the Leinster U20 final on Wednesday, 21 May as Dublin sought to secure our first provincial title at this grade since 2020. Our hopes were severely dented early on when Kilkenny struck for two goals in the first quarter which were ultimately the difference between the sides at half-time, when we trailed 2-09 to 0-09.

When we lost a player to a second yellow early in the second half any hope of a Dublin comeback faded further. In all truth Kilkenny were able to hold on to their sizeable lead with a fair degree of comfort. To their credit, the Dublin team never stopped battling but each time they ate into the Cats lead, the opposition responded with scores of their own. Realistically we needed a goal or two but there was to be no green flag for Dublin on this day. Kilkenny prevailed on a final score of 2-21 to 0-17 to claim another Leinster title and in the process, end a season for Dublin that offered lots of positives.

The lads made a lot of progress throughout the year and the team made great strides as the season went on. For that huge credit is due to all involved - Fintan Clandillon, his backroom team and the players. I look forward to seeing them building on this in 2026 as they take charge of the U20s again. Go n-éirí an bóthar libh.

Minor Footballers

Dublin's Minor footballers were drawn in a group with Laois, Louth and Offaly for the 2025 Leinster Minor Football Championship.

Our opening game was a trip to Tullamore to face Offaly at the end of March. The concession of two goals in the opening two minutes was certainly not the start to their Leinster campaign that Dublin were looking for! However the team responded brilliantly with five goals of their own before the break leaving them well-placed at half-time, leading 5-06 to 2-03. The second-half was a more even affair, but we were rarely troubled despite some sporadic home pressure and eased home fairly comfortably on a scoreline of 5-10 to 3-07 to earn two valuable points.

Next up was a home fixture in Parnell Park against Laois, in what turned out to be a nervy and closely contested game. Both teams enjoyed periods of possession and pressure in the first half but neither could convert this into scores, leaving us narrowly leading at the break, 0-05 to 0-04. Scores were no easier to come by in the second half though both sides did manage to find the net. We again sneaked the second half, scoring five times with just four for Laois, ensuring we were winners by 1-09 to 1-07, thus securing another valuable two points.

Dublin rounded out the group stages with a home game against Louth. We enjoyed a narrow 1-06 to 0-06 interval advantage thanks to an early first half goal. However, Louth controlled the second-half for the most part and looked the far more likely to slip away with the win. But Dublin salvaged the game with two late goals and escaped with a one point victory margin, 3-11 to 1-16, thus topping the group with three straight wins.

This qualified Dublin for the provincial semi-final and once again Louth provided the opposition. With Parnell Park out of action, Naul was chosen as the venue for this game. I would like to sincerely thank Clann Mhuire for their efforts in hosting this important fixture.

The club could not have been more helpful and obliging and proved themselves to be excellent hosts. Go raibh maith agaibh.

The pattern of the semi-final was similar in many ways to the earlier meeting of the two sides. We had a well contested first half but this time Dublin were on the wrong side of a one score game at the interval, trailing 1-08 to 1-07. As in the first meeting, Louth again bossed the second half. Unfortunately for Dublin this time they ensured their dominance was registered on the scoreboard, and didn't allow any avenue back into the game for us. The Wee County side recorded a comprehensive 2-17 to 1-08 victory in north county Dublin and so bring to an end to involvement in this year's Leinster Minor Championship.

However our year was not over and next up was Armagh in the All-Ireland Tier 2 Paul McGirr Cup quarter final in Crossmaglen. Dublin started brightly and an early goal after just six minutes provided reason for optimism. But Armagh responded with three first half goals of their own to take control of the game and led by 3-06 to 2-03 at the interval. The Orchard's dominance continued after the break as they limited us to just four second half points. Armagh themselves added two more goals in the second period to ensure the win by 5-12 to 2-07, and a place in the semi-final of the competition.

As Damien Fennelly and his management team step away after three years in charge of the minor footballers, I'd like to thank them for all they have contributed to Dublin football over this time. They have played a significant role in the development of these groups of minor players, both on and off the field.

Minor Hurlers

Next year's Leinster Minor Hurling Championship will see some changes to the competition which will ensure that all competing counties are given a meaningful games programme as well as the opportunity to be crowned Leinster champions.

The changes by the Leinster Council recognise the importance of providing each county with a comprehensive games programme that will give them the best opportunity to compete and improve throughout the year. The current tiered system will be largely retained but crucially so too will the pathway that allows counties not competing in Tier 1 to progress, through competition, to play Tier 1 teams.

This year Dublin played in Tier 1 along with Kilkenny, Wexford and Galway. Martin Barry's side opened the campaign against Galway in Parnell on 20 April. On the day the Galway side started much the brighter and at half-time had built a healthy seven point lead. Dublin improved as the game progressed but were unable to reel Galway in and the margin at full time remained the same as that at the interval, with Dublin losing 2-17 to 1-13.

Next up was a trip to Wexford and despite playing into the breeze in the opening half, Dublin were right in the game at half-time, trailing only by the minimum on a scoreline of 0-7 to 0-6. We started the second half brightly and were very much in the game until the concession of a

goal with just ten minutes to go. A second goal Wexford goal shortly after put the contest beyond the reach of the young Dubs, with the home team closing out the game by 2-15 to 0-12.

With Parnell Park unavailable due to damage to the pitch, O'Toole Park was the venue for the visit of Kilkenny in our final game of the group stage. Dublin delivered a spirited display in the Crumlin venue and started the game very well. Unfortunately the concession of two first half goals meant that we trailed by six at the break, 2-11 to 0-11. We were unable to find a goal to provide a lifeline back into the game early in the second half as Kilkenny continued to grow their lead. Dublin brought the battle to the Cats throughout the second half but in the end Kilkenny were comfortable winners on a score-line of 2-25 to 0-18.

A trip to Westmeath to face an unbeaten home side who had won all five of their games through the Tier 2 group was next up for the young Dublin hurlers. We settled into the game well and three first half goals ensured that we had a comfortable lead at the break, 3-09 to 0-06. The second half witnessed six more goals, and it was a slicker Dublin side who grabbed four of them to ensure safe passage to the semi-finals, winning a high scoring encounter by 7-17 to 2-18.

Dublin's reward was a trip to Nowlan Park to face an unbeaten Kilkenny in their own backyard, a team who had already accounted for Dublin in the group stage of the competition. We delivered a committed performance but it was the home side who were much more clinical in the first half, and deserved their 2-11 to 1-07 interval time lead.

Dublin dominated the third quarter and were right in the mix at the three-quarter mark but it was the Cats who pushed on in the final quarter to retain their unbeaten status and qualify for a final that they would comfortably win. The final scoreline of 4-19 to 3-10 was a little harsh on a young team that gave their all to the final whistle.

In what proved to be a disappointing end to their campaign, Dublin succumbed to Clare by thirteen points in their All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship preliminary quarter-final in Semple Stadium. The Banner were much the brighter team in the first half and the concession of two late first half goals, leaving a half time score of 2-13 to 0-07, effectively dashed any chance of a Dublin win. Matters were far tighter after the break but Clare were deserved winners in a contest that brought our young hurlers year to a close.

My thanks to Martin Barry and his management team for all their work with this team and I am delighted that they will be back at the helm again next year.

Results

The following is a record of the performances of our various teams in official competitions during the past 12 months:

National Hurling League

25/01/25	Croke Park	Dublin	1-25	Antrim	0-14
09/02/25	Mullingar	Dublin	1-22	Westmeath	0-18
22/02/25	Croke Park	Dublin	1-23	Offaly	0-27
02/03/25	Waterford	Dublin	2-18	Waterford	1-23
08/03/25	Parnell Park	Dublin	2-29	Carlow	3-17
22/03/25	Portlaoise	Dublin	2-21	Laois	0-13

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship

19/04/25	Parnell Park	Dublin	1-25	Wexford	2-19
26/04/25	Parnell Park	Dublin	3-26	Wexford	4-19
10/05/25	Belfast	Dublin	3-25	Antrim	0-19
18/05/25	Kilkenny	Dublin	3-21	Kilkenny	5-19
25/05/25	Parnell Park	Dublin	3-15	Galway	0-29

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship

14/06/25	Newbridge	Dublin	3-25	Kildare	0-13
21/06/25	Croke Park	Dublin	2-24	Limerick	0-28
05/07/25	Croke Park	Dublin	2-21	Cork	7-26

National Football League

25/01/25	Croke Park	Dublin	1-17	Mayo	1-15
01/02/25	Ballybofey	Dublin	0-16	Donegal	0-20
15/02/25	Tralee	Dublin	0-19	Kerry	1-15
22/02/25	Croke Park	Dublin	3-20	Derry	2-12
01/03/25	Armagh	Dublin	1-12	Armagh	1-20
15/03/25	Croke Park	Dublin	2-19	Galway	2-13
23/03/25	Omagh	Dublin	1-16	Tyrone	2-20

Leinster Senior Football Championship

13/04/25	Aughrim	Dublin	2-21	Wicklow	0-18
27/04/25	Portlaoise	Dublin	1-16	Meath	0-23

All-Ireland Senior Football Championship

17/05/25	Galway	Dublin	1-18	Galway	2-14
01/06/25	Croke Park	Dublin	0-19	Armagh	0-24
14/06/25	Newry	Dublin	0-22	Derry	0-20
21/06/25	Croke Park	Dublin	1-19	Cork	1-16
28/06/25	Croke Park	Dublin	0-16	Tyrone	0-23

Leinster Minor Football Championship

29/03/25	Tullamore	Dublin	5-10	Offaly	3-07
10/04/25	Parnell Park	Dublin	1-09	Laois	1-07
17/04/25	Parnell Park	Dublin	3-11	Louth	1-16

07/05/25	Naul	Dublin	1-08	Louth	2-17
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All-Ireland Minor B Football Championship

24/06/25	Crossmaglen	Dublin	2-07	Armagh	5-12
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Leinster Minor Hurling Championship

20/04/25	Parnell Park	Dublin	1-13	Galway	2-17
26/04/25	Wexford	Dublin	0-12	Wexford	2-15
03/05/25	O'Toole Park	Dublin	0-18	Kilkenny	2-25
10/05/25	Ratharney	Dublin	7-17	Westmeath	2-18
17/05/25	Kilkenny	Dublin	3-10	Kilkenny	4-19

All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship

24/05/25	Thurles	Dublin	0-13	Clare	2-20
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Leinster U20 Hurling Championship

05/04/25	Kilkenny	Dublin	2-16	Kilkenny	3-20
12/04/25	Parnell Park	Dublin	0-18	Wexford	1-17
23/04/25	Dundalk	Dublin	2-19	Antrim	4-10
05/05/25	Newbridge	Dublin	4-12	Offaly	0-16
14/05/25	Tullamore	Dublin	2-18	Galway	0-17
21/05/25	Portlaoise	Dublin	0-17	Kilkenny	2-21

Leinster U20 Football Championship

26/03/25	Ashbourne	Dublin	1-18	Meath	1-22
02/04/25	Faithful Fields	Dublin	2-17	Offaly	1-13
09/04/25	Parnell Park	Dublin	2-20	Westmeath	3-09
16/04/25	Baltinglass	Dublin	1-19	Wicklow	0-17
22/04/25	Darver	Dublin	0-11	Louth	0-14

Club Championships

Once again, this year we enjoyed a really entertaining Dublin Club Championship programme across all grades and codes. I would like to thank the Competitions Control Committee for their work in the efficient and timely delivery of this complex undertaking.

This time last year I was lauding Na Fianna and Cuala for sharing the distinction of being the first Leinster Clubs to win Senior Provincial Club titles in both codes. Remarkably neither club rested on their laurels and earlier this year went on to add the All Ireland hurling and football titles. A fantastic achievement for both Cuala and Na Fianna and one which brought great pride to everybody involved in Dublin GAA. Comhghairdeas arís!

This year's Go-Ahead Ireland Senior Football Championship saw Ballyboden St Endas win their fifth title and first since 2019. Boden began and finished their Championship journey

with wins over Na Fianna, enjoying a four point margin in the decider when prevailing by 1-16 to 1-12.

Ballyboden are clearly intent on more success and have since enjoyed Leinster Championship wins on the road against Castletown Liam Mellows in Wexford and Tullamore to set up a Provincial Final meeting against Athy. Everyone in Dublin GAA is behind the blue and white as they seek to land a third Leinster title, a decade after their first.

The Go-Ahead Ireland Senior 2 final saw Skerries Harps mark their instant return to Senior 1 with a 3-14 to 1-17 win over St Oliver Plunketts/Eoghan Ruadh. Despite a late fight back the Navan Road men had to be content with the consolation of a return to Senior 1 after a four year absence.

Round Towers, Lusk produced an excellent final performance to defeat St Annes and claim the Go-Ahead Ireland Intermediate title on a scoreline of 1-22 to 0-12. They then travelled to Tullamore for a Leinster Intermediate quarter final against Clara but came up just short losing 0-18 to 0-16.

The Go-Ahead Ireland Junior 1 final was a battle of the St Finians with the Swords outfit deserving winners over the Newcastle men on a score of 0-18 to 2-04. Their Leinster campaign was dashed at the first hurdle however when a late flurry of scores gave Wexford side Cloughbawn victory by 4-09 to 0-14 at Parnell Park.

On the hurling front, Na Fianna continued their domination of the Go-Ahead Ireland Senior 1 Championship with a third consecutive title. The final was a hugely entertaining and exciting affair with the Mobhi Road men staging a late late show to beat Lucan Sarsfields by the minimum, 1-20 to 0-22. It was a tough defeat for Lucan but they can take heart from a great showing and learn from the defeat as Na Fianna did before claiming a maiden title in 2023.

It was on to Leinster for the reigning Leinster and All Ireland champions with a tough quarter final assignment in Wexford against St Martins. The teams met in 2024 in Parnell Park in the semi final when Na Fianna had four points to spare after a great battle. However, St Martins had their revenge this time with a similar finale to the Dublin county final but this time going against Na Fianna, with Martins getting the crucial last scores to prevail by 1-21 to 2-17.

So Na Fianna's reign as Leinster and All Ireland champions came to an end but they have been great ambassadors for Dublin hurling and still the team to beat in Dublin.

There was huge drama in the Go-Ahead Ireland Senior 2 final which went to a penalty shootout. Faughs and Ballyboden St Endas could not be separated in regulation and extra time, with the teams finishing 1-17 apiece. Both goalkeepers excelled before Faughs claimed the title 2-1 in the shootout. They will be joined in Senior 1 next year by Erin's Isle who defeated Raheny 2-14 to 1-12 in the promotion play-off.

Commercials were convincing winners of the Go-Ahead Ireland Premier Intermediate Championship when defeating St Sylvesters by 1-22 to 0-13 after an imperious first half display. They carried their good form into Leinster convincingly beating Carlow outfit Naomh Bríd 3-19 to 0-12 in Parnell Park before losing out to Danesfort in UPMC Nowlan Park.

Lucan Sarsfields secured Dublin hurling silverware when winning the Go-Ahead Ireland Intermediate Championship with a 0-22 to 0-13 win over Scoil Uí Chonaill in Parnell Park.

The Go-Ahead Ireland Dublin Junior 'A' Hurling Championship was claimed by St Kevins who defeated Ballyboden St Endas by 0-19 to 0-15 in the final. However, the Junior champions came up just short in the Leinster quarter final when losing by 0-19 to 0-16 to Laois club Clonad in O'Toole Park.

Comhghairdeas also to all of our other clubs who won leagues and championships at all grades.

The games programme is designed to provide a comprehensive programme for players who wish to play both codes or a single code, catering to all grades and skill levels. This is a complex undertaking which would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the Competitions Control Committee (CCC) who meet each week through the season. I would like to thank and acknowledge the members of CCC for their contributions and in particular Chairperson Elaine Dolan, committee members John O'Brien, Colm Crowley, Tom Rock, Gerry Rowley, Denis Molony, Padraig McCarthy, Paul Smith Paddy Kiernan, and Michael Errity. I would also like to thank John McNicholas and Carol Monahan for the professional and efficient manner in which they support the games programme.

The preparation and rollout of the annual master fixture plan takes considerable time and effort from the Committee, trying to ensure that we maximise our games programmes for players, avoiding clashes where possible with the intercounty programme. The plan allows players, coaches and clubs to plan for the year ahead and to arrange training schedules accordingly.

However, it is the co-operation and support of the clubs that is the key to ensuring our games programme delivers for our clubs' players. I would like to thank all the adult and juvenile games coordinators and club secretaries for their ongoing support and help in ensuring the smooth running of our competitions.

Multimedia

Dublin GAA's online presence allows us to connect with members and supporters across the county and beyond, while also providing us with an opportunity to show and promote our games to new audiences all over the world.

Both of our Senior 1 finals were carried live on air on terrestrial television again this year. Dublin GAA also streamed 36 games from the Go-Ahead Ireland Dublin Club Championships on the newly revamped DubsTV platform. This meant that 38 games were available free-to-air, ensuring that our club championship games were available to the widest possible audience.

Thanks to all the team behind the scenes for making this happen and especially our commentary teams who really bring the games to life.

Dublin GAA is very active on social media, and we have over 430,000 followers across our platforms, an increase of almost 6% since last year. These platforms are hugely valuable as we continue to engage with our supporters and members to promote our games, post GAA news, scores and match reports and share club/county initiatives and activities.

This year also saw the launch of our revamped website, Dublingaa.ie, which now incorporates all four codes at both adult and juvenile level across the county. This is the first website of its kind which will combine all three associations' county websites under the one banner.

This is a first step on the digital integration journey and further changes and improvements will be rolled out in the coming months and years to ensure Dublingaa.ie is the online home for all things Gaelic Games in the county and a key resource for our clubs and supporters.

None of this important work could be done without our brilliant team of volunteers who provide photography, match previews, match reports, video content, match programmes and team sheets and interviews for distribution on our official channels.

These volunteers are key to our output, and we are very thankful to everyone who gives up their time to help promote GAA in Dublin – either with the County Board or with their clubs. A special thanks to Derek, Darragh, Ellen & James from our communication team who drive this output.

The continued collaboration with FM104 as Dublin GAA's official media partner allows us to promote our intercounty teams and our Go-Ahead Ireland Dublin Club Championship games.

Refereeing

Coiste na Réiteoirí play a vital role in the administrative work of Dublin County Board. They are responsible for the recruitment, training and development of referees in the county, including their assessment and classification. My thanks to the committee, Paddy Kiernan (Chair), Sean McCarthy, Barry Tiernan, Chris McGinn, Paddy Power, John Rutherford and Kevin Roche.

In addition to his role as chair of the committee Paddy Kiernan also fills the role of adult games referee coordinator. Danny Harrington fills this role at juvenile level. These roles are vital to the smooth operation of our games programmes, it is a very time consuming role, and we are fortunate to have such passionate and committed individuals.

Dublin are well represented on the National and Provincial panels with Thomas Gleeson, Chris Mooney and Sean Stack on the National Panel of Hurling Referees and Barry Tiernan on the National Panel of Football Referees. Mark Ryan, Rory Hanley, Ian Howley, Seamus Farrelly and Dan Stynes are officiating at Provincial Level.

I also want to thank all of our club referees, from our juvenile Go-Games referees all the way to those who handled our Championship finals, with a special word of thanks to Rory Hanley and Darren Delaney who handled our Senior Championship Finals.

I would also like to pay tribute to Aidan Shields who gave a lifetime to service to Dublin GAA and referees within Dublin and whose steady stewardship and experience has served Dublin well over many years.

Commercial Partners

I would like to thank Staycity, as our primary commercial partner for their support. Thanks to CEO Tom Walsh and his team and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the years to come. Their support helps facilitate our coaching and games programme within Dublin to improve participation rates among juveniles and assist our clubs in their work.

Go-Ahead Ireland Ireland continued their sponsorship of our adult club leagues and championships. They are an excellent fit for our club competitions, and their partnership greatly assists our games programme at grassroots level. Our thanks to CEO Dervla McKay and her colleagues for their support.

I would like to thank our family of partners including O’Neills, Britvic, Bytek, FM104, UPMC and Peugeot who all provide valuable support to Dublin GAA. We value our partnerships with the corporate sector and look forward to another fruitful year, working to our mutual benefit.

I also look forward to welcoming Marcus Ó Buachalla to Dublin GAA as he takes up his role of Chief Commercial Officer this month.

Cumann na mBunscol / Second Level Schools

I would like to again acknowledge the work of Cumann na mBunscol and our second level schools for the role they play in introducing our games to new players, developing our juvenile players and for helping to promote and grow our games.

Every year they organise a fantastic programme of games which culminate in two great days of games in Croke Park. These are special days for all involved and anyone who is fortunate enough to attend can see the joy it brings to the children, their parents and indeed the teachers.

Our thanks to all the teacher who coach, organise and help out with these competitions. The students are so fortunate to have so many caring and passionate role models who give their time so freely to ensure these games can be played.

I would also like to give a special mention to Michael Smyth, Rúnaí Cumann na mBunscol whose dedication, commitment and organisation have been evident over many years. Dublin's loss will surely be Galway's gain as Michael moves back home. Míle buíochas.

Talent Academy & Player Pathway

While the topic of talent academies can be devise in some quarters, a properly designed and run talent academy should contribute to the development of players and coaches for the benefit of both the clubs and ultimately the intercounty teams from minor through to senior level.

The talent academy is not there to replace the clubs and to remove players from their clubs but it is there to provide complimentary coaching and a player pathway that builds on the foundations provided by the work of the clubs and the county's juvenile games programme.

This year, Dublin conducted a comprehensive engagement in conjunction with key academy stakeholders to review the performance of our talent academy. The committee reviewed similar models from other counties but were cognisant that Dublin is a dual county with a vibrant club games programme catering for club players in both football and hurling.

Stemming from the review, we have made a number of structural changes to the operation of the talent academy, former All Ireland winning captain Dr Bryan Cullen takes up the full time role of Head of Talent Academy. Bryan brings a wealth of academic and practical experience and will be responsible for the future development of the talent academy.

The academy is also fortunate to have former intercounty players Stephen O'Shaughnessy and David O'Callaghan take up the roles of Talent Development Managers, who will be the boots on the ground to support and mentor the next generation of coaches and managers who volunteer with our academy panels. Colm Burtchaell will support the panels as Operations manager providing logistical support and the benefit of his years of experience with intercounty and club setups.

I'm confident that these changes, and the additional changes that will inevitably flow from the process of continuous monitoring and evaluation of the academy under the stewardship of Bryan, will ensure that standards of excellence are implemented. This will better serve the

players and ultimately will help future generations of Dublin stars ascend into the senior intercounty ranks and ensure Dublin are able to challenge for intercounty honours.

Bryan and his team will also be responsible for the nurturing the next generation of coaches and I'm sure we will see many more former intercounty players cut their teeth with the academy teams before adding to the new "Blue Wave" of former Dublin senior players that are involved with our intercounty teams from David Curtin (Senior), Johnny McCaffrey, Peter Kelly (U20) and Paul Schutte (Minor) on the hurling side to the newest additions of Ger Brennan, Stephen Cluxton, Denis Bastick, Dean Rock (Senior), Jonny Cooper, Michael Dara MacAuley, Tommy Drumm (U20) on the football side.

County Grounds

We continue to be very reliant on Parnell Park to host the majority of senior club championship games and all of our intercounty activity throughout the year. We are very fortunate to have a good surface that can facilitate so many matches and this is in no small part to the work of the groundskeepers.

Noel Brady retired this year after 40 years of service as Groundsman for Dublin GAA, managing O'Toole Park & Parnell Park. The latter certainly evolved over his time and Noel was central to life in Parnell Park and always had a kind word for everyone and ensured the pitch was in good condition no matter the weather.

These responsibilities have passed to Sean Foran, and I'd like to thank him for his help. A special word of gratitude goes to Paddy Moloney for his commitment and attention to Parnell Park. I also wish to thank Luke Lawlor for his assistance at O'Toole Park.

We continue to invest in the ground and pavilion building here in Parnell Park. This year we installed a new lift in main building and a new scoreboard. We will continue our improvements next year, as we upgrade our audio and communications systems which will further enhance the experience for those attending games here in Parnell Park.

Unfortunately, this year, our pitch sustained serious damage outside the control of our dedicated team which was both disappointing and frustrating. Sean, Noel and the team have my admiration for the great work that was put in to repair the pitch quickly, they went above and beyond.

A significant amount of time is required for the essential preparation and planning for games staged in Parnell Park. This involves liaising with all relevant statutory agencies to ensure the safety of all our patrons. I am indebted to Paul Tobin, Siobhan Lord & Alan Egan and their team of regular stewards for their assistance, their attention to their different duties and their courtesy to our patrons, all of which add greatly to the enjoyment of our games. It is of course essential that all clubs using the facilities co-operate with the stewards and abide by any requests from them.

I want to take this opportunity to appeal to clubs to canvass their members to volunteer to help at Parnell Park on match days.

A special word of thanks to Nora Leonard, Breda Treacy and Bríd Tolster and their colleagues who raise considerable funds for St. Francis Hospice by distributing the team sheets at our championship matches.

Cuimhne na Marbh

Sadly, during the past year, we as a GAA community have lost a number of our friends and clubmates. Each club is more than a collection of teams – it is a community of members, of friends. Our Clubs and the County Board are indebted to so many people who always gave so freely of their time and expertise.

These people will continue to be remembered by our clubs and our members long after they have left us. To all our members who suffered bereavements, I want to convey my sincere sympathy.

This year we lost two of the greats of the 1970's Dublin team, Paddy Cullen (O'Connell Boys) and Sean Doherty (Ballyboden Wanderers), two iconic heroes of the game, part of the magnificent 70's team that reignited GAA within the capital. There will be sorely missed but forever remembered.

I'd also like to remember Con Clarke, a proud O'Toole's man who gave so much to his club and Dublin through his life, winning championship titles with his club or serving club and county with distinction on committees. Con was a former Club and County Chairperson and a true gael.

Buíochas

My thanks to our Chairperson Ken O'Sullivan, who has been of great assistance to me during the year and I look forward to working with him in the coming year. Ken puts in a tremendous amount of work on behalf of Dublin GAA and our clubs, most of which goes unseen to most people.

In addition to her busy role as chair of CCC, Elaine Dolan as Vice Chairperson is active on numerous committees and initiatives and is always only a call away to help me or indeed any of our clubs.

After his great service in the role of Chair of the board, Mick has continued to serve the county as Central Council delegate where he has been a strong voice on matters impacting Dublin and Dublin clubs.

Thanks to Bernie MacLaughlin for chairing the Coaching and Games Oversight Committee and for the committee members endeavour and hard work in overseeing the massive commitment to coaching made by the board and our clubs.

The work of Gerard O'Connor, Director of Coaching and Club Development, and the Coaching and Games Development Staff and the GPOs is greatly appreciated. They do outstanding work in continuing to increase the participation rates at CCC1 and CCC2 level and raising the standards of coaching within the county.

I would like to thank Tom McLoughlin for his work arranging our national league and championship final programs.

I wish to thank our Leinster council delegates, Dick Butler, Mel Farrell who ensure Dublin are effectively represented at Provincial. In addition to serving as Dublin delegates, Dick was chair of the Leinster Hearings committee and Mel served on the Leinster Management committee. A special word of thanks to Mel who has now completed his five year term as Leinster delegate.

I would like to thank the Árd Stiúrthóir, Tom Ryan and all the staff in Croke Park for their support and assistance throughout the year. In addition, Michael Reynolds and his colleagues at Áras Laighean are always on hand to give assistance or advice whenever called upon.

A special word of thanks to the members to the members of Coiste Éisteachta - Chair Derek Keogh, David Faherty, Matt Dunne, Dave Feeney, Ciaran Maguire, Mick Behan, Timmy McCarthy, Sinead O'Brien, Dermot Sheridan and Secretary Tom O'Shea for the huge volume of work undertaken during the year. Thanks also to the members of our various sub-committees for their commitment.

I would like to thank all the staff in Parnell Park for the professionalism and dedication to Dublin GAA. I would like to acknowledge the administrative team in Parnell - Lorraine, Sharon, Shaunna and Fiona who are key to the smooth running of the board.

Our juvenile games programme is the envy of every other county and I wish to compliment the efforts of Declan O'Leary, Damian Murphy, Declan Coulter, Maura Ryan and Anne O'Dea of Coiste na nÓg. Their hard work and leadership is invaluable in delivering a comprehensive juvenile games programme.

I'd also like to thank our Children's Officer Pauline Cullen for being available to assist clubs and the management committee to ensure that we continue to abide by all relevant standards and policies with regard to Child safeguarding, this is vital work.

A special word of thanks also to all the board officers, committee members, board delegates and club officials for their dedication and co-operation with myself and the county board. The value of this support and assistance cannot be overstated.

Lastly, I would like to thank our clubs, club officers and volunteers for their help and assistance throughout the year. Dublin GAA true strength is the strength of our clubs, we are but a reflection of the sterling work that our clubs do each and every year. It takes an army of volunteers to run a GAA club and we are so fortunate to have so many skilled, passionate and dedicated members running our clubs.

Fionnbarra Ó Mathúna

Rúnaí