

CONGRESS 2021

AN CHOMHDHÁIL
BHLIANTÚIL

SATURDAY 6th MARCH 2021



CONGRESS 2021

An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil

National Reports

6th March 2021

Cumann Peil Gael na mBan
Ladies Gaelic Football Association

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CONGRESS AGENDA 2021

Saturday 6th March (via Microsoft Teams)

- 10:00 a.m. Delegates' Information Session
- 10.30 a.m. Official opening of Congress
- 1. Minutes of last year's Congress
- 2. Provincial Council Reports
- 3. International Reports
- 4. HEC Report
- 5. Fixtures Report
- 6. National Development Manager's Report
- 7. Chief Executive's Report
- 8. Treasurer's Report
- 9. Injury Fund Report
- 10. President's address to Congress
- 11. Motions
- 12. Election of Officers
- 13. Inauguration of new President Michael Naughton
- 14. Close of Congress



LGFA & TG4
20 Bliain ag fás
1961 - 2000

LGFA & TG4
20 Bliain ag fás
2011 - 2015

LGFA & TG4
PEIL na mBAN
20 Bliain ag fás

LGFA & TG4
20 Bliain ag fás
2001 - 2005

LGFA & TG4
20 Bliain ag fás
2006 - 2010

20
Smart
telecom



TREASURER'S REPORT



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Association's Report and Financial Statements

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General Information

Board

Management Committee of Central Council

Office

Croke Park,
Dublin 3

Bankers

AIB,
140 Lower Drumcondra Road,
Dublin 9

Auditors

Kearney & Company, Accountants & Auditors,
14 Tralee Road,
Castleisland,
Co. Kerry

Solicitors

Crowley Millar Solicitors
15 Lower Mount Street,
Dublin 2

REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION

Year ended 31st October 2020

The Board submit their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st October 2020

1. Ladies Gaelic Football in Ireland

The object of the Association is to promote and develop Ladies Gaelic Football in Ireland.

2. Board Members' Responsibilities

Company law requires the board members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the members are required to :

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue in business.

The board members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2014. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

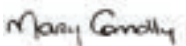
3. Safety, Health and Welfare at work Act 2005

The well being of the associations' employees is safeguarded through the strict adherence to health and and safety standards. The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 imposes certain requirements on employers and the company has taken the necessary action to ensure compliance with the Act, including the adoption of a safety statement.

On Behalf of the Association



Helen O'Rourke



Mary Connolly



Geraldine Carey

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the management committee of Central Council.

We have audited the financial statements on pages 6 to 15 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 11.

Respective responsibilities of Board Members and Accountants

As described on page 7 the association's board members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Association's affairs at the 31 October 2020 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2014.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we considered necessary for the purpose of the audit. In our opinion the information given in the Association's Report on pages 3 to 4 is consistent with the financial statements.

A. Kearney ACCA
Kearney & Co.
Accountants & Auditors
14 Tralee Road
Castleisland
Co.Kerry

22nd February 2021

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Year Ended 31st October 2020

	Note	12 Months 2020	12 Months 2019
Income		€	€
Subscription & Affiliation Fees		1,504,573	1,480,466
Injury Fund Fees		1,169,398	1,206,483
Grants	2	1,902,500	1,035,705
Other Income	3	684,615	1,707,993
Sponsorship	4	362,500	320,000
		5,623,586	5,750,647

Expenditure		€	€
Overheads	5	3,603,271	5,548,325
Depreciation		17,338	17,454
		3,620,609	5,565,779
Surplus for Year		2,002,977	184,868

BALANCE SHEET

Balance Sheet as at 31st October 2020

	Note	31st Oct 2020		31st Oct 2019	
		€	€	€	€
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	6		99,900		110,542
Current Assets					
Debtors & Prepayments	7	1,581,596		151,700	
Cash at bank and at hand	8	4,454,409		3,329,023	
		6,036,005		3,480,723	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due < 1 year	9	615,406		103,846	
		615,406		103,846	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			5,420,599		3,376,877
Net Assets			5,520,499		3,487,419
Represented by:					
Reserves b/fwd			3,487,419		3,202,551
Income/(Loss) for the year			2,002,977		184,868
Prior Year Adjustment	10		30,103		100,000
			5,520,499		3,487,419

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31st October 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES & STATEMENTS

a) Accounting Convention

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards under the historical cost convention and comply with financial reporting standards of the Accounting Standards Board.

b) Grants

All grants received are credited to the Income & Expenditure account. The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media is the sponsoring department for all Sport Ireland grant income.

c) Sponsorships and Other Income

Sponsorships and other income are credited to the income and expenditure account in the year to which they relate.

d) Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets at the following annual rates and basis:-

	Rate	Basis
Computer Equipment	20.00%	Reducing Balance
Office Equipment	20.00%	Reducing Balance
Furniture & Fittings	20.00%	Reducing Balance
Office Refurbishment	10.00%	Straight Line

e) Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme.

f) Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. The association is partly dependent for its working capital on grants received. This should enable it to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future by meeting its liabilities as they fall due.

g) Taxation

The company is full tax compliant and all taxes are paid as they arise.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT'D

for the year ended 31st October 2020

2. GRANTS

	12 Months 2020	12 Months 2019
Income	€	€
Sport Ireland - Core Grant	485,000	450,000
Sport Ireland - Intercounty Player Grant	279,000	288,000
Sport Ireland - Women In Sport Grant	37,000	40,000
Sport Ireland - Dormant Account Income 2017	-	1,600
Sport Ireland - Dormant Account Income 2019	3,500	31,500
Sport Ireland - Dormant Account Income 2020	66,000	-
Sport Ireland - Resilience Funding	1,000,000	-
Injury Fund Admin Grant	25,000	19,605
Department of Justice & Equality	-	5,000
Dublin City Council (Central Area Committee) Discretionary Fund	2,100	-
Foras na Gaeilge	4,900	-
CLG - Development Grant	-	200,000
	1,902,500	1,035,705

3. OTHER INCOME

	12 Months 2020	12 Months 2019
	€	€
Publications	6,634	42,100
Gate Receipts	42,935	754,883
Licence Fees	60,667	79,500
All Ireland Tickets	-	31,729
All Ireland Club Levy	138,450	162,000
GAA Public Liability Levy	237,500	235,250
All Star Trip	2,700	-
Competition Entry Fees	-	23,012
Banquet Tickets	7,660	28,080
Congress Weekend	22,897	22,624
Fines & Appeals	1,000	1,600
Room Hire	3,011	-
Development Fund	114,078	168,076
Coaching Courses	24,837	87,959
Scheme Implementation Group Refund	-	5,841
Fundraiser	-	3,965
Advertisements	1,500	3,500
Flights	958	2,064
Medals/Presentations	330	3,216
Football/Sportsgear	19,458	52,594
	684,615	1,707,993

4. SPONSORSHIP

	12 Months 2020	12 Months 2019
	€	€
Other	362,500	320,000

5. OPERATING EXPENSES

	12 Months 2020	12 Months 2019
	€	€
Strategic & Planning Review (Excluding Salaries)	149,242	342,611
National Development Programmes	106,370	250,983
WIS Development Programmes	22,913	-
Dormant Account Programmes	7,828	-
County & Provinces Resilience Funding	319,500	-
AGM	56,841	79,610
Injury Funds Payouts	805,638	1,010,506
Injury Funds Grant	25,000	25,000
Wages Prsi & Expenses	725,464	930,481
Members Expenses	44,294	107,211
Flights & Travel	34,272	42,871
Meetings/Meals/Accommodation	106,187	272,149
Payroll Services	5,897	5,166
Office Insurance	11,288	14,631
Postage	8,471	26,293
Telephone	5,025	19,737
Courier Services	4,471	8,727
Lease Equipment	40,888	35,130
Croke Park	-	120,000
GAA Public Liability Insurance	251,450	300,000
All Ireland & All Stars Expenses	96,295	277,909
Fundraiser All Star Night	-	3,965
All Stars Trip	12,051	88,240
All Ireland Tickets	-	31,729
All Ireland Sevens	2,700	6,300
Grants	9,000	82,266
Inter County Players Grant	268,534	243,483
Scheme Implementation Group	10,466	62,088
Printing Stationery & Software	63,862	268,560
Media Advertising & Promotions	107,239	262,003
Corporate Videos & Photography	28,322	91,251
IT Design & S/Ware Mtce	18,526	34,066
Medals & Trophies	39,091	56,122
Footballs/Jerseys/Gear	92,915	159,312
Ambulance Services	7,382	36,951
Referees Umpires & Grounds	21,349	89,018
Equipment Hire Transport & Storage	21,439	118,668
Other Expenses Office	3,228	3,554
Audit & Accountancy	3,811	3,750
Consultants & Legal Costs	61,785	28,857
Bank Interest & Charges	4,237	9,127
	3,603,271	5,548,325

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT'D

for the year ended 31st October 2020

6. FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Office Refurb't	Office Equipment	Field Equipment	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€
Cost						
At 1 Nov 2019	67,605	35,840	101,805	34,400	27,819	267,469
Additions	6,696					6,696
Disposals	-7,500	-		-	-	-7,500
At 31 Oct 2020	66,801	35,840	101,805	34,400	27,819	266,665
Depreciation						
At 1 Nov 2019	52,512	32,790	20,360	26,373	24,892	156,927
Disposals	-7,500	-		-	-	-7,500
Charge 2019	4,358	610	10,180	1,605	585	17,338
At 31 Oct 2020	49,370	33,400	30,540	27,978	25,477	166,765
N.B.V.						
At 31 Oct 2020	17,431	2,440	71,265	6,422	2,342	99,900
At 31 Oct 2019	15,093	3,050	81,445	8,027	2,927	110,542

7. DEBTORS

	31 Oct 2020	31 Oct 2019
	€	€
Prepayment - All Star Trip	236,796	-
Sponsorship	80,000	5,000
Sport Ireland - Intercounty Player Grant	195,300	115,200
Sport Ireland - Dormant Accounts Funding 2019	3,500	31,500
Sport Ireland - Dormant Accounts Funding 2020	66,000	-
Sport Ireland - Resilience Funding	1,000,000	-
	1,581,596	151,700

8. CASH AT BANK AND AT HAND

	31 Oct 2020	31 Oct 2019
	€	€
Current A/c - Dev fund	107,966	87,429
Current A/c	1,597,000	838,727
Current A/c - Injury Fund	2,740,782	2,402,022
Sterling A/c	8,661	845
	4,454,409	3,329,023

9. CREDITORS & ACCRUALS

	2020	2019
	€	€
Visa A/c	529	2,888
Paye/Prsi	26,080	21,430
Sundry	20,074	25,838
Public Liability Insurance	-	50,000
County & Provinces Resilience Funding	319,500	-
Sport Ireland County Players Grant	202,412	-
Sport Ireland WIS - (Note 14)	43,000	-
Audit Fees	3,811	3,690
	615,406	103,846

10. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

	2020	2019
	€	€
Understatement of Public Liability Insurance in 2018	-	100,000
Overstatement of Sport Ireland Income in 2019	-40,000	0
Prepaid All Star Strip Expenditure in 2019 treated as expenditure in 2019	70,103	-
	30,103	100,000

11. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

	2020	2019
	€	€
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	2,002,977	184,868
Prior Year Adjustment	30,103	100,000
Opening members funds	3,487,419	3,202,551
	5,520,499	3,487,419

12. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

The total staff was 18 (2018 : 16). The aggregate employee and related costs were as follows

The salaries cost €605,085 is net of Government Covid Supports of €89,609 in 2020

	2020	2019
	€	€
Salaries & Exps	605,085	806,568
Employer PRSI	50,266	80,782
Pension	70,113	43,131
	725,464	930,481

13. TABLE OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	Number of Employees	Salary €
	2	60,000
	2	70,000

14. DEFERRED INCOME

	2020	2019
	€	€
Sport Ireland - Women in Sport	43,000	-

15. FUNDING

A further €700,000 grant was received from Sport Ireland in relation to the 2020 Championship which commenced after the year end. This will be reflected in the 2021 Financial Statements



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Tá áthas orm fáilte a fhearradh romhaibh ar fad dár gComhdháil Bhliantúil. Agus muid ag dul abhaile ó chomhdháil na bliana seo caite i mBaile Loch Riach, is beag a cheap éinne againn go mbeadh an bhliain amach romhainn chomh difriúil is a bhí. Faraor, de bharr na paindéime agus na srianta éagsúla atá i bhfeidhm, is go fíorúil seachas ar aon láthair atáimid ag tionól na Comhdhála i mbliana. Ainneoin na ndúshlán a bhí romhainn agus na ciorruithe ab éigin a dhéanamh ar ár ngníomhaíochtaí, lean muid orainn ar ár ndícheall le fonn agus le fuinneamh. Tugann an Chomhdháil seo deis dúinn athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar imeachtaí. Pheil na mBan le bliain anuas agus súil a chaitheamh chun cinn ar a bhfuil i ndán dúinn amach anseo.

Congress is an opportunity where delegates gather together from all units of our association both at home and abroad to review the year that has gone and plan for the year ahead. As we gather remotely for our 2021 Annual Congress it's hard to believe that since last year's in Galway, we haven't been in a position to gather for the meetings, games and functions. Nobody could have foreseen that the year ahead would be as different as it turned out. Our personal and working lives have had to change and adapt to the situation the world was thrown into with the spread of a new and life-threatening virus, COVID-19, which led to the announcement of a global pandemic. Despite the many challenges we faced, we approached them with a new energy and vision with the realisation of the importance of keeping our members engaged at all levels.

COVID-19 Pandemic

2020 will be a year that none of us will forget, not just from a sporting perspective, but from our own lives. Nobody could have predicted living through a pandemic and the impact it would have on all aspects of society. From an early stage a decision was made that it was imperative for the GAA, the Camogie Association and LGFA to work together to ensure a safe return to play for all members involved.

A specially appointed Gaelic Games Covid Advisory Committee was established which included representatives of all three bodies, the GPA and a number of medical experts. I would like to thank this group for the hours of thought, discussion and action they committed to in order to assist our units. The committee included Shay Bannon (Chairman), Professor Mary Horgan, (U.C.C. and President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland), Dick Clerkin (Chairman of GAA Medical Scientific and Welfare Committee), Dr Pat O'Neill (Dublin), Dr Kevin Moran (Donegal), Dr Jim O'Donovan (Limerick), Dr Sean Moffatt (Chair of Gaelic Athletic Medics Association and Mayo team doctor), Paul Flynn (CEO Gaelic Players Association), Stephen Mc Geehan (Head of Operations, Ulster GAA), Tony Mc Guinness (Events and Safety Manager, Croke Park), John Horan (Uachtarán CLG), Tom Ryan (Ard Stiúrthóir CLG), Feargal Mc Gill (Director of Player, Club and Games Administration

CLG), Sinéad Mc Nulty (CEO, Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael) and myself as CEO of LGFA.

The committee met on a regular basis over the past 12 months, and continue to do so, to recommend a pathway specifically suited to the associations' amateur ethos and culture. A document titled 'Safe Return to Gaelic Games Guidelines' was published on the 5th June applicable for the three organisations. It offered a route back to activity, subject to the Government timelines being achieved in the weeks and months that lay ahead. The guidelines outlined a phased approach to returning to training and playing and it was essential that this was developed in full collaboration with the chief medical experts.

The document was broken down into sections covering medical advice; preparing for a safe return; information for players and team personnel; summary and checklist; and a roadmap for return to activity. The guidance offered mirrored the Government roadmap and outlined the opt-in approach of the wider Gaelic Games Family regarding a possible return to activity and play. This was a challenging project with everchanging restrictions and of course it needed to be informed and guided by both the Government Roadmap and by Government policy from Stormont.

As part of this process the three associations partnered to provide a COVID-19 Club Education Programme to help those involved in clubs return safely to Gaelic Games activities. Members from all three bodies formed an education group to design, devise and deliver this suite of resources. The programme aimed to protect the health and welfare of all those involved in Gaelic Games and minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in local communities. It was especially aimed at covid supervisors, club officers, players and parents/guardians of underage players, team personnel such as managers, coaches and medical personnel. Further training and support were developed for specific groups such as referees, event personnel and staff. The programme ensured consistent messaging was delivered to all units and members as they played an important role in the community effort against the pandemic. The online module was compulsory for everyone involved in our games and the GAA eLearning portal included all supporting documentation and updates to guidelines throughout the return to training and play periods.

The introduction of a team was one of the most important steps for this return period as each team then had a person designated with them to ensure they had completed the education, adhered to guidelines and completed the health questionnaire prior to any session or game. The development of this health questionnaire was a huge body of work for the GAA IT section and I would like to thank them for the inclusion of all three associations as otherwise it would not have been feasible for us to have a non-paper-based system.

Through my involvement on the Covid Advisory Group we, as an association, were provided with regular updates both in relation to return to training and then to play, both at club and county level. I understand how difficult the past year has been for many of our volunteers ensuring these restrictions were adhered to, but I urge our members to continue to abide to the guidelines to ensure that the country as a whole meets its targets in the coming weeks and months allowing us to make progress and facilitate a return to games yet again when it is safe to do so. The health and safety of our members will always remain our priority and difficult decisions may have to be made throughout the year because of this. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all units and members, regardless of their role, not only for cooperating with us for these guidelines but for the many acts of kindness and community service you have undertaken over the past year to help those in need and offer support for each other. These stories have been an immense source of pride for LGFA. We will continue to work as a Gaelic Games Family over the upcoming months to ensure yet another safe return to our playing pitches.

National Fixtures

Fixtures are to the core of what we do as an association and 2020 is a year that we won't forget in hurry, with our fixtures calendar severely curtailed, and many of our competitions cancelled. When you take the year in its totality, it's incredible to think that prior to the completion of our TG4 Championships across the months of October, November and December, we only managed to get one other competition completed. That was at the very start of the year, when Munster won our annual Lidl Post-Primary Schools Interprovincial Tournament competition in Kinnegad, and Leinster taking home the Shield. Once again, this annual blitz was graced by some excellent young players from the provinces, and players who we'll be seeing a lot more of in years to come as they progress through the ranks.

The curtailment of the Lidl National League after five rounds of action was a source of huge disappointment, but in light of the situation the country faced at the time it was the correct decision. Across the four Divisions, we were heading towards an incredible climax to the competitions, with Galway and Cork, who had contested the 2019 final, locked together on top of Division 1 after five rounds of games. Kerry, who were looking good for a return to the topflight, were leading the way in Division 2 on a maximum 15 points, with Meath five points behind on ten points. Meath had won the Division 3 title in 2019 and were adapting very well to life in the second tier. When the dust eventually settled on 2020, the Royals had good reason to celebrate, having been crowned TG4 All-Ireland Intermediate champions. In Division 3, Kildare were going great guns, with five wins from five outings, followed closely by an emerging Down outfit, on 13 points. In Division 4, the reigning TG4 All-Ireland Junior champions from 2019, Louth, had made an impressive start to the league, capturing four wins from four games. Carlow were next in the standings, unbeaten with three wins and a draw, and sitting nicely on ten points. The race for promotion from Divisions 4, 3 and 2 was building up very nicely, while the Division 1 Final would have been contested by two formidable teams. There were also relegation issues at stake in Divisions 1, 2 and 3, with

many teams looking nervously over their shoulders. The outbreak of coronavirus left us with decisions to make, and the cancellation of the remainder of the 2020 Lidl National League was one we did not take lightly. Lidl Ireland have been incredible sponsors since first coming on board in 2016, and their support has helped to elevate our sport to new levels. They are wonderful supporters of our National Leagues, and their presence with various activations at our divisional finals adds significantly to those big days. Pulling the curtain down on our National Leagues before they were completed was an unprecedented move, but a decision taken with the best interests of our members at heart. We stated at the time, and it continues to be the case, that health and wellbeing of all our members is our primary concern.

Our next pressing concern was the commencement of our summer championships. In normal circumstances, our provincial competitions would get underway in May, followed by our TG4 All-Ireland Junior, Intermediate and Senior Championships in July, with activity culminating with our All-Ireland Finals in September. This would not prove to be the case as the country grappled with the COVID-19 crisis. It was heartening, however, to welcome back club activity in July, with strict guidelines and protocols in place. The overriding hope was that we would, at the very least, get county finals completed and, thankfully, that proved to be the case. When another club shutdown was announced in early October, it was unfortunate that it coincided with continuing championship action in our provinces. Shortly after Christmas, we took the decision to cancel the 2020 All-Ireland Club Championship series, which would have spilled over into the new year.

Government and National Health Authorities gave their approval for inter-county activity to resume in October. Our TG4 All-Ireland Championship draws took place on 30th June, at Leinster GAA offices in Portlaoise. The draws were conducted live on Facebook, with our Commercial and Communications Manager, Jackie Cahill, acting as MC for the event, and joined by LGFA President Marie Hickey, and Ard Stiúrthóir TG4, Alan Esslemont. Strict social distancing measures were in place, as the draws revealed two groups of three for our Junior Championship, three groups of three, and one four-team group, in the Intermediate Championship, and four groups of three at Senior level. The draws gave us competitive championship football to look forward to, and a real focus to take us through the dark winter days to Christmas. Dates for our various games were nailed down, with Croke Park secured for an Intermediate/Senior final double-header on Sunday 20th December, five days before Christmas Day. As we finalised our fixtures, the hope was always that we would find ourselves in a situation, as was evidenced at selected club fixtures, where we would have spectators present. Record attendances at our TG4 All-Ireland Finals in recent years have been a source of great pride for us, but it was clear from a long way out that this would not be the case in 2020. This was disappointing on so many levels, as 2020 marked the 20th season of TG4's sponsorship of our All-Ireland Championships, and the 20th year of live TV coverage of the All-Ireland Finals. It was also extremely interesting to note that 2020 marked Lidl's 20th year in Ireland. When you take into account that it was the final year of the successful 20x20 campaign,



there was so much potential in a landmark year, which will be remembered for so many other reasons.

As we continued to battle the virus, we were faced with calls to play schools and underage games, when it was simply not safe and feasible to do so. When club games were given the green light to proceed for a spell, they were localised activities. We could not, and would not, sanction any activity that would see schools and/or counties cross county and provincial borders. Inter-county activities, when they resumed, did so under the strictest of supervision and the tightest of controls.

To celebrate the commencement of the TG4 Championships, and to mark our twenty-year celebrations with TG4, we announced in October that all 42 games in the 2020 TG4 All-Ireland Championships would be available to watch LIVE – and for free. TG4 committed to screening nine games in total, including historic Friday night fixtures, while the other 33 games would be streamed on various online platforms. With games behind closed doors, we deemed it imperative that our loyal supporters in all competing counties, and across the globe, had the opportunity to watch our players in action. Screening each and every one of our championship games live was a new departure and the work involved in pulling it all together was quite significant, with

various streaming partners sourced to ensure that cameras and commentators would be present at all games and venues.

As our original plans to mark TG4's twenty years sponsorship of our championships had to be seriously curtailed due to government restrictions we marked our championship launch with a photo-shoot featuring four players instead of twenty, who featured prominently during the twenty years of TG4 All-Ireland Finals. Christina Heffernan was Mayo's All-Ireland winning captain in 2002, legendary former midfielder Juliet Murphy captained Cork to three successive titles from 2005-2007, Mags McAlinden was Armagh's 2012 Intermediate winning captain, and Sinéad Aherne had lifted the Brendan Martin Cup in 2017, 2018 and 2019 on behalf of Dublin. The idea behind the photo concept was that a player would represent various eras during the twenty years, and it was great to see media catching up with the four players. It was lovely, too, to see Mags looking so well. She returned to the playing fields with her club Clann Eireann last August, following a battle with cancer, and we wish her well. Mags epitomises everything that was so good about that Armagh team that she captained in 2012 – determined, focused, talented and brave.

It was almost time for the games to begin, with 31 teams set to compete for the silverware on offer in the Junior, Intermediate

and Senior grades. With the TG4 Junior Championship getting underway over the weekend of 24th and 25th October, TG4's live coverage of the 2020 Championships commenced with a Friday night fixture between Ulster rivals Armagh and Tyrone at Kingspan Breffni on 30th October. Fans tuned in in their droves, with TG4 reporting big viewing figures for a niche Friday evening slot. TG4 and the LGFA had also issued a call to fans of both counties to show us how they were supporting the #ProperFan campaign, and to feature on the TG4 Fanwall during live coverage of the game. The TG4 Fanwall experiment was hugely successful and would be replicated in each and every one of TG4's live TV games for the remainder of the season.

Armagh laid down an early marker with a comprehensive 6-16 to 3-13 victory over Tyrone, to record another victory over the Red Hands, following success in the Ulster semi-final against the same opposition. Aimee Mackin was in wonderful form for Armagh as was Aoife McCoy, who had a hat-trick of goals. As a spectacle to kick-start the senior championship, we couldn't have asked for much better. Even in defeat, Tyrone scored an encouraging total, but this was a crucial win for Armagh in a group also containing Mayo. With the championships being played on a condensed basis, just the top team in each of the four round-robin groups would progress straight through to the semi-finals. Armagh were off to a flier.

Ultimately, following Mayo's victory over Tyrone in Round 2, it would boil down to a winner-takes-all clash between Armagh and Mayo to see who would progress to the All-Ireland semi-finals. On November 14th, at Parnell Park, the aforementioned Aimee Mackin landed 2-7 to send Armagh past Mayo on a 4-12 to 1-16 score line, and into an All-Ireland semi-final. On the day, we saw one of the scores of the championship from Aimee, an audacious effort off the outside of the boot from tight on the touchline. Having battled back from a serious knee injury, it was great to see Aimee, a popular Gaelic4Girls ambassador, back in full flight and top form.

Armagh, the winners of Group 4, would face the Group 3 winners at the semi-final stage. Group 3 contained Dublin, aiming for a fourth successive TG4 All-Ireland senior title, Donegal and Waterford. Donegal's clash with Dublin was a TV fixture at Kingspan Breffni on Halloween night, Saturday 31st October. It certainly seemed that there was something spooky in the air as Dublin captain Sinéad Aherne scored a goal that will go down in the 'freaky' category – an attempted point effort that bounced down off an upright before finding its way into the net. It was a vital score for Dublin too, as the Sky Blues battled to a 2-13 to 2-10 win. A week later, Dublin ran out 0-17 to 1-10 winners against Waterford in Baltinglass, a result that sent Mick Bohan's team through to the semi-finals against Armagh, rendering the final group fixture between Donegal and Waterford as a 'dead rubber.' Nevertheless, Donegal would finish their campaign with a victory to their name, as Maxi Curran's team won by 2-13 to 0-9 against Waterford. So, one side of the semi-final draw was now confirmed. Armagh would meet Dublin at the semi-final stage, with the Orchard County now preparing for a first All-Ireland semi-final appearance since 2015. In a twist of fate, Dublin were also the opponents on that occasion.



The table-toppers in Groups 1 and 2 would also contest an All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final. Group 1 featured Munster rivals Cork and Kerry, who were joined by Cavan, with 2019 runners-up Galway, Monaghan and Tipperary pitted against each other in Group 2. Group 1 began with victory for Kerry over Cavan on November 1st. Louise Ní Mhuircheartaigh and former Munster Young Player of the Year Síofra O'Shea were very much to the fore, scoring 4-6 between them, as Kerry ran out comprehensive 5-14 to 0-13 winners in Birr. On 7th November, what would turn out to be the pivotal game in the group was a live TV game on TG4, as Cork and Kerry locked horns in Tralee. A coin toss was required to decide the venue for this one, with home advantage favouring Kerry. Saoirse Noonan's early goal for Cork would prove crucial, as the Rebelettes ran out 1-14 to 0-14 winners. This was our first opportunity to see Cork in action in Championship 2020. Ephie Fitzgerald's team were expected to be among the leading contenders for ultimate glory – and this would prove to be the case. A win over Kerry meant that a second success in the group, against Cavan in the final round of fixtures, would see Cork through to the semi-finals. On Sunday, November 15th, Cork made sure of their place in the last four, scoring a 7-9 to 2-6 victory over Cavan in Birr. Áine O'Sullivan was on the mark with a hat-trick of goals for Cork, with Saoirse Noonan adding two more. While Cork's win over Kerry was more workmanlike, they opened up with an impressive scoring display to advance. It would prove to be a last game in charge of Cavan for James Daly, with former Tyrone manager Gerry Moane now taking over the reins in the Breffni County.

Group 2 would prove to be a fiercely contested group, with wonderful games throughout. The opening fixture saw Galway prevail against Tipperary by just a single point at the LIT Gaelic Grounds. Galway built up a big lead before an Aishling Moloney inspired Tipperary came roaring back into contention. Galway held out for the win and they could sit back and watch Monaghan and Tipperary battle it out on November 6th, with live Friday night TV football on the agenda once again. Remarkably, another one-point margin in this one following a thrilling game, with Tipperary on the wrong end of the narrowest of defeats. Ciara McAnespie was in excellent form for Monaghan during a 0-17 to 2-10 win, with Moloney and Roisin Howard hitting excellent goals for Tipperary at Parnell Park.

With Tipperary out of the equation following narrow defeats, it was now down to Monaghan and Galway to battle it out for the semi-final place on offer. On November 15th, we were treated to a quite magnificent game, streamed live on our Facebook page. Galway survived a gallant comeback from Monaghan to win with just a single point to spare – 2-13 to 3-9. Having been reduced to fourteen players late in the first half, Galway's resolve was admirable in the second period as they battled through a player light. Ellen McCarron collected 2-7 for Monaghan on the day but that superb haul wasn't enough as Galway, with 0-10 shared between Olivia Divilly and Tracey Leonard, and a captain's display from Louise Ward, held out.

Our semi-final pairings were now known – Galway would play Cork, with Armagh up against Dublin. The latter game was fixed for Kingspan Breffni on Saturday 28th November, while Galway would face Cork at Parnell Park on Sunday, 6th December. We had originally planned a Semple Stadium double-header on 28th November but, with Cork's senior camogie team also progressing to an All-Ireland semi-final, we moved to avoid a dual clash on that date. Parnell Park was made available to us after we had originally approached Limerick GAA for use of the LIT Gaelic Grounds for the Galway-Cork tie. Despite what was reported in the media and by the Limerick chairman we were not informed at the time of booking the stadium that it would not be available to us if Limerick hurlers won their semi-final. We would never have fixed the LIT Gaelic Grounds for this fixture if this information was forthcoming to us at the time of booking as it is not our style to take a gamble like that on such a big and important fixture. Securing Semple Stadium was also problematic due to potential stewarding issues and the fact that the anti-doping unit would be present on the day which would extend the time the stewards were required on a day their county footballers were playing in an All-Ireland semi-final for the first time since 1920. Finding other venues which met the criteria for the safety of all involved in these surreal times was challenging. We were most thankful to Dublin GAA for making Parnell Park available to us again on 6th December, particularly in light of the fact that the TG4 All-Ireland Junior Final would be played at the same venue on the previous day.

On 28th November in Cavan, Dublin made it through to a seventh straight TG4 All-Ireland semi-final – remaining on course for the four-in-a-row. This was a wonderful game, won by Dublin on a 3-13 to 3-8 score line. Armagh's brand of football lit up the 2020

Championship and once again, they played without fear and with abandon. Aimee Mackin was brilliant again, scoring 2-4, a haul matched by Dublin's Carla Rowe. Carla stepped up to the plate in an attacking sense after Sinéad Aherne was forced off injured, showing leadership and composure that was vital to Dublin's challenge. It was an end-to-end contest, full of sublime football and memorable scores. It was a game also significant for the return of Dublin's Nicole Owens following a serious knee injury that had kept her out of Championship action for fourteen months. Nicole marked her return with an early goal and it was a dream start for Dublin, who had to dip into their vast reserves of experience to get over the line. While not winning games by big margins, Dublin were through to another final, and with good tests under their belts against Donegal, Waterford and Armagh. It was the type of passage to the final that I am sure manager Mick Bohan would have been pleased with.

The question now was who would join Dublin in the final. Would it be Galway, 2019 runners-up, or Cork, who were finalists in 2018? All would be revealed on Sunday 6th December. As it transpired, our second semi-final would be remembered for different reasons. We had naturally hoped media coverage would focus on the action on the field of play between two great rivals, and two counties who had met in the 2019 Lidl National League Division 1 Final.

A morning pitch inspection deemed Parnell Park unplayable due to icy conditions. We were then left with two choices – postpone the semi-final or seek an alternative venue at short notice to give the counties involved a choice. We opted for the latter, and I contacted the GAA President, John Horan to enquire if Croke Park would be available, prior to the men's semi-final between Mayo and Tipperary, if both teams were agreeable. A request for the use of Croke Park was made at 10.20 a.m. and after checking out all the logistical issues involved, I received confirmation at 11 a.m. that the stadium would be available, but the game would have to be at the earlier throw-in time of 1 p.m. As noted in a statement issued on the evening of the game, the Galway team were in Kinnegad when first notified at 10.53 a.m. that there was an issue with Parnell Park and that there was a possibility of an alternative venue if agreeable to both teams. The Galway manager agreed to the change of venue and the 1 p.m. start. Cork, who had based themselves in Dublin overnight, were also contacted through their manager and made aware of the situation and options open to them and he too agreed to going ahead with the fixture. Upon confirmation that Croke Park was secured for the game, both teams were contacted again and advised to proceed to the venue, for a 1 p.m. start. The new time, 1 p.m., was scheduled with the men's game in mind, and also considering that there was the possibility of extra-time and potentially 30m kicks to decide our semi-final. We recognised and acknowledged that a change of venue and time was far from ideal, but we were grateful to the GAA for making Croke Park available to us at such short notice. The Galway manager later contacted me and asked if it was possible to defer the game for an extra ten mins, this request was granted and agreed that the game would throw in at 1.10 p.m. Of huge disappointment to all of us was the unfolding realisation that our second TG4 All-Ireland Senior semi-final would not now be available to view live, despite concerted efforts behind the scenes involving various parties.

The media fallout was severe and completely overshadowed Cork's victory. We accept, as we did at the time, that moving a fixture of that magnitude at such short notice was not an ideal situation for the teams involved. It was unfortunate that both competing counties were inconvenienced in terms of their pre-match preparations, as schedules mapped out before games are down to the very last minute. The Galway manager was particularly aggrieved in his post-match comments and his dealings with the media over the coming days, by not having enough time available to them to warm up. We have since thoroughly reviewed events on the day in question and, of course, we will learn lessons. I would hope that a similar situation does not arise again. When you consider how well our championships were run in an overall context, with no games postponed due to COVID-19 or weather conditions, it's regrettable that many people will remember Championship 2020 for the events of 6th December. I would like to state categorically that, at all times, we endeavour to act in the best interests of players and mentors. Moving the game from Parnell Park was a health and safety decision, while we and the teams involved felt it was the better option to proceed with the game on the day at Croke Park, a wonderful venue, rather than postpone and have Cork or Galway facing a scenario where they would have to play a refixed All-Ireland semi-final a week before lining out in the TG4 All-Ireland Final. It is regrettable that a manager who was so gracious earlier in the day for the efforts that were made to have the game played and who had his requests

for additional time met would then turn and try to destroy the integrity of the association and the people involved after the game. LGFA President Marie Hickey also came in for criticism following comments made on RTÉ Radio 1's Morning Ireland on the morning after the semi-final. Let me make it quite clear that there is nobody who cares more about or is more invested in the health and wellbeing of our players than Marie. Her day job is as a schoolteacher, where she nurtures young people and encourages them to be the very best that they can be. Marie cares deeply about Ladies Football, and about our players. She doesn't just view them as players, she views them as individuals and is hugely cognisant of the holistic approach, in that players have a lot more going on in their lives than just football. It will have saddened Marie that people would have taken offence to her interview, where a couple of comments in a lengthy piece were isolated and used to portray an inaccurate picture.

The scene was now set for another Dublin v Cork TG4 All-Ireland Final – the sixth decider between the counties, and all since 2009. This has become one of the enduring rivalries in Irish sport, with Cork aiming to land a knockout championship blow on Dublin for the first time since the 2016 final, when they won a sixth consecutive senior title. It's remarkable to think that, since 2005, the winners of the All-Ireland Senior title have been either Dublin or Cork. Dublin won in 2010, and three-in-a-row from 2017-2019, with Cork winning eleven titles from 2005-2016.



From the outside looking in, there has been something of a role reversal in the fortunes of Dublin and Cork. For so long, when Cork had the upper hand, they had wonderful leaders and experience to dig them out of some tight spots, most notably in 2014 when they memorably came from ten points down in the second half to win the final against Dublin. But now, it appears that Dublin has the more experienced and battle-hardened campaigners, as Ephie manages a period of adjustment and the bedding in of some new players. In the 2020 Final, on December 20th, Dublin recovered from a three-point deficit to reign supreme once again. Áine O'Sullivan scored a brilliant early goal for Cork, and the Leesiders led by 1-3 to 0-3 at half-time, but Dublin dominated the second half exchanges. Carla Rowe buried a penalty that she had won herself for a crucial goal and when the full-time hooter sounded, Dublin had prevailed on a 1-10 to 1-5 score line. It was left to Sinéad Aherne to lift the Brendan Martin Cup as Dublin celebrated four-in-a-row. In the process, Sinéad became the first player in history to captain a county to four successive All-Ireland titles – a truly remarkable achievement from a player who worked incredibly hard following the semi-final against Armagh to put herself in a position to start. The hamstringing injury sustained in that game would have ruled many players out but Sinéad worked on a daily basis to ensure that she could line out. She came off at half-time but contributed a first half free and her mere presence in the team alone would have done so much to boost Dublin from the start. After lifting the trophy, Dublin's players and backroom staff made their way to the Hill 16 end of Croke Park, to lay a wreath at the Bloody Sunday memorial. It was yet another poignant moment in a poignant year for so many. Sinéad Goldrick was a powerhouse for Dublin in defence again – and the Foxrock-Cabinteely player was named as the TG4 Player of the Match.

Dublin, who will now begin their 'Drive for Five' will start as favourites for the All-Ireland Senior title in 2021 – but they'll face stiff competition from many contenders. Ephie Fitzgerald has confirmed that he's staying on as Cork manager, while Galway have appointed a new manager in Gerry Fahy, with Michael Moyles taking over as Mayo manager. Tipperary have former All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship winning captain Declan Carr as their new manager, Kevin McCrystal is back for a second spell with Tyrone, while Gerry Moane has made the switch from Tyrone to Cavan. Armagh were one of the stories of the 2020 Championship and we can expect another renewed challenge from the Orchard County. The Championship season that lies in store promises so much – and I expect it to deliver from all counties involved.

The 2021 Senior Championship will also be graced by Meath. The Royals were one of the Championship favourites at Intermediate level in 2020 before a ball was kicked – and they didn't disappoint. Meath had lost the 2018 and 2019 finals and were very driven not to make it an unwanted hat-trick of final losses. They were one of four teams still left in the hunt for the All-Ireland Intermediate title following the group stages, along with Clare, Roscommon and Westmeath, who were aiming to bounce back to Senior Championship football at the first attempt, following relegation in 2019.

In their semi-final victory over Clare at MW Hire O'Moore Park in Portlaoise, Meath blasted out an ominous statement of intent. When you consider that Clare gave Tipperary their toughest test of the season at Intermediate level in 2019, a much closer game was anticipated, but Meath stormed to a 4-13 to 0-4 win. Stacey Grimes scored 2-6, including two penalty goals, with Bridgetta Lynch and Niamh O'Sullivan also scoring goals. From All Star goalkeeper Monica McGuirk right through to the full-forward line, this was a polished Meath display. Clare had defeated Sligo by 7-18 to 0-2 on a dramatic final day of group fixtures to defy the odds and reach the semi-finals – but they had no answers against Meath. Clare scored just a single point from play from Niamh O'Dea, with Grainne Nolan converting three frees. On the other side of the draw, Westmeath were many people's favourites to win the All-Ireland Intermediate title but they had to work very hard to see off a determined Roscommon. Ciara Blundell and Karen Hegarty scored the crucial goals for Westmeath, as Jenny Higgins made her 101st competitive appearance for Roscommon, a quite remarkable record.

And so, it would be an All-Leinster All-Ireland Intermediate Final, good news for Leinster as it would mean a second senior team in the province, alongside Dublin, in 2021. On December 20th at Croke Park, Meath and Westmeath played out a cracking TG4 Intermediate Final. Anna Jones scored 1-5 for Westmeath, with Lucy McCartan collecting two goals and Leona Archibold converting a penalty, but Meath had the greater spread of scorers. Emma Duggan, who was one of our Players of the Month in 2019, has continued her wonderful rate of progress with Meath and her 0-7 proved crucial on the day. Another huge highlight was Vikki Wall's wonderful solo goal at the Hill 16 end. Vikki scored one of the goals of the 2019 championship at the semi-final stage against Roscommon and she was at it again here on a big day, thumping home a quite outstanding effort, before later claiming the Player of the Match Award following a 2-17 to 4-5 victory for her side. Meath will be a welcome addition to the senior grade this year, and you would expect that Westmeath will, once again, be among the leading contenders for the intermediate title.

The TG4 Junior Final was played on Saturday December 5th at Parnell Park in Dublin, and what a game that turned out to be. Following the group stages, four teams were left standing in the race for the West County Hotel Cup; Antrim, Fermanagh, Limerick and Wicklow. Wicklow were showing really good form in the Championship and they backed that up by scoring 7-11 against Antrim at the semi-final stage. In their semi-final, 2017 winners Fermanagh enjoyed a 4-10 to 4-3 victory over Limerick, who won this competition in 2018. Wicklow went into the final as favourites but Fermanagh played with huge hunger and motivation, having been defeated in the 2019 final against Louth. It was a hugely entertaining 2020 final, won by Fermanagh on a 2-9 to 0-12 score line. Roisin McDonald's early goal got Fermanagh off to a flier, before Eimear Smyth, the 2019 TG4 Junior Players' Player of the Year, netted 13 minutes from the end. Wicklow battled hard but they could never hit the front in this game, as Jonny Garrity's well-drilled Fermanagh kept them at bay. Aisling Maguire claimed the Player of the Match Award following an industrious display for Fermanagh and, remarkably, we handed out our first adult inter-county silverware of the year in early December.



All-Ireland Club Championships

Regrettably, we did not get to crown All-Ireland Club Champions in 2020. Indeed, it was a struggle to even reach provincial final stages. One of our main targets upon resuming club activity was to get county finals played across the country. That was achieved but handing out provincial silverware proved a bridge too far. Ulster announced a shutdown of their club championship fixtures in late September before all club games were suspended with immediate effect on 5th October. We had planned to play an All-Ireland club series, which would have spilled over into 2021, but the decision was taken early in the year not to proceed any further with 2020 championships. With new sponsors currentaccount.ie on board for the All-Ireland Club Championships, it is very much our intention to crown All-Ireland Junior, Intermediate and Senior Club champions in 2021.

Other Competitions

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, we had no Interprovincial series, and no inter-county activity in the juvenile grades. We also took the decision to cancel our Lidl Post Primary Schools Competitions, which had reached All-Ireland series stage and Féile na nÓg and Féile skills competitions. In July, we reiterated our stance on the 2020 Lidl All-Ireland PPS competitions. We of course understood the disappointment felt by the players and schools involved, with regular correspondence dropping into our inboxes, and petitions online calling for the competitions to be completed. The comparison was made between our stance and a Leinster boys final that was played, ignoring the fact that our provincial competitions had long been completed. We could not, and would not, sanction

any fixture that involved participants from separate provinces, until the inter-county window officially opened in October. On a wider note, we are incredibly proud of our role in helping to limit the spread of COVID-19 and this has been reiterated previously.

HEC

The annual O'Connor Cup Weekend was another victim of the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020. In recent years, and particularly since a title sponsor came on board in the form of Gourmet Food Parlour, the profile of third level football has risen considerably. We have been treated to some wonderful football, with many of the finest inter-county players showcasing their skills for their various colleges. The O'Connor Cup weekend, scheduled for Kerry, was due to get underway on Friday, March 13th. Unfortunately, and on the back of Government advice, the weekend was cancelled on Thursday 12th March. It was initially communicated that just the Giles Cup would be suspended – before all competitions were cancelled. At the time of writing, all third level activity remains suspended, with a further update due from the Ladies Higher Education Committee on Wednesday 2nd June, when they hold their AGM.

Championship Protocols

To facilitate the running of our championships in line with all regulations, it required us to implement further event management protocols and procedures for all our games. Preparation is always key for any of our games, but the organisation for 2020 Championship needed an extra level of attention to detail across all aspects of running a game. All games were played behind closed

doors and access to the venues was strictly limited to the teams and essential match day personnel.

New event management documents were developed in line with COVID-19 regulations and the guidelines from the Gaelic Games Covid Advisory Group. Specific tailored training and information webinars were delivered to our volunteers, referees, officials, county team managers and covid supervisors prior to the start of the championship.

Along with our usual event co-ordinator and gates personnel, we introduced the role of team stewards, who were assigned to a team on arrival to the grounds. Team stewards worked with their assigned team while at the venue, ensuring all COVID-19 guidelines were adhered to and to assist the team should they have any queries, etc. We would like to sincerely acknowledge all our volunteers who assisted us in the running of a very successful championship campaign and who ensured all our players remained safe while at our venues.

Teams of the Championship

Regrettably, we were unable to stage our annual TG4 All Stars night at the Citywest Hotel. However, we were determined, nevertheless, to honour the standout players from the 2020 TG4 Championships. It was agreed with TG4 that we would screen a TV show on February 27th, 2020, to acknowledge teams from all three grades – Junior, Intermediate and Senior. Our All Stars would normally cover a full calendar year but our National Leagues were halted after five rounds, there was no third level activity, no provincial championships and a condensed All-Ireland series in all three grades. It was right to recognise the efforts of teams in all three grades in an unprecedented Championship season.

I would like to congratulate the 45 players who were listed in the three Teams of the Championship; 15 Senior, 15 Intermediate and 15 Junior – but each and every one of our county players who lined out in 2020 went above and beyond the call of duty. Well done to our TG4 Senior Players' Player of the Year, Aimee Mackin from Armagh, the Intermediate winner, Meath's Vikki Wall, and Eimear Smyth from Fermanagh, who claimed the Junior award for a second year in a row. Well done also to the other nominees for the Players' Player of the Year award, as voted for by their peers. Dublin duo Carla Rowe and Sinéad Goldrick were nominated alongside Aimee for the Senior award, with winner Vikki Wall joined by club mate from Dunboyne, Emma Duggan, and Westmeath captain Fiona Claffey in the list of nominees. At Junior level, Joanne Doonan joined Fermanagh team-mate Eimear Smyth in the three-person nomination list, with Meadhbh Deeney from Wicklow also included.

'Peil na mBan – Foinne na Bliana' was an enjoyable show that revealed the Teams of the Championship, the Players' Player of the Year Award Winners, and also the AIG Cúl na Bliana winner. The Goal of the Year, as chosen by TG4's expert panel (Sorcha Furlong, Rena Buckley, Máire Ní Bhraonáin and Michelle Ryan), and following much debate – was Aimee Mackin's brilliant goal for Armagh against Dublin in the TG4 All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final. It was quite the year for Aimee, who returned to full

fitness and brilliant form following a lengthy lay-off with cruciate knee ligament damage. Her performances in the championship were nothing short of sensational, she claimed the Senior Players' Player of the Year award, and she was the winner of the AIG Cúl na Bliana competition! People voted in their thousands to be in with a chance to win a €500 O'Neills Voucher, kindly supplied by AIG for the viewer's prize. A very special word of thanks, also, to AIG, the LGFA's Official Insurance Partner, for their sponsorship and support of 'Peil na mBan – Foinne na Bliana'.

Communication

Due to travel restrictions, online communication has never been as important. We've entered a virtual world of Zoom and Microsoft Teams meetings, with many of our members becoming familiar with technology they might not previously have even heard of. For many of you, I'm sure there was a large degree of trepidation as we entered into this new world but you have adapted superbly and your consistent attendance at our various meetings and webinars is very much appreciated.

We can still do better, however, and with so much important information going out to counties and clubs, we've had instances of 'read receipts' many days and even months later in some instances. I want to stress the importance of all provincial and county officers plus every club using their official email address as that is where we will send all correspondence.

Marketing and Promotion

With little or no activity on the field of play for much of the year, the marketing and promotion of the LGFA also evolved. The enforced shutdowns allowed our members to engage in online quizzes, to submit videos of skills challenges, attend webinars, participate in exercise classes and to enjoy the online content that was created 'in-house', with some memorable interviews conducted by our Commercial and Communications Manager, Jackie Cahill, featuring past and present players and leading LGFA figures. It was imperative that our social media channels remained active, and we have gained many more thousands of followers on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

The feedback from Jackie is that some counties who may not previously have had a very strong social media presence have improved considerably. What is hugely encouraging is the fact that all 32 counties now have Instagram accounts. However, I would urge each and every county and unit to reflect upon their social media activity. Are you doing enough to promote your county? When did you last post on social media? I'm not saying that people should become all-consumed by social media, and monitor it 24/7, but a regular flow of posts and information keeps your followers engaged and helps to attract new ones. There are also scheduling tools that can be used across all three of the main social media, which will enable administrators to plan their days and weeks well in advance, particularly during spells where there is no football. Think about how you can engage your followers, and particularly our younger members who regularly consume social media, and who are looking for inspiration and challenges. Engage your county team players – let's hear from them and tell us more about them.

Tell us about your clubs, celebrate them. Tell us about your officials, the people driving the sport in your county. When there's a vacuum on the field of play, we need to be creative and there are still ample opportunities to promote our sport and, as we've done on the LGFA pages, to shine a light on the past. We've heard from so many of our legendary former players and figures, and it's been wonderful to relive some great memories with them.

Naturally, we keep a close eye on how our social media channels are performing. It was remarkable to note that, taking the period October 24th – December 1st, our Facebook page videos racked up 1.6 million viewed minutes. During this time, live-streaming of our All-Ireland Championships were in full swing, and the feedback from viewers was overwhelmingly positive. Ensuring that our championship games were available to view free, and worldwide, was our duty, and we took great pride in delivering some wonderful coverage.

Sponsorship

Despite the pandemic, we have seen incredible support and loyalty from our sponsors. TG4, Lidl and AIG have worked hard alongside us in a challenging sporting and economic climate. Gourmet Food Parlour unfortunately did not have the opportunity to activate at the O'Connor Cup weekend, but we did have a lovely event to kickstart the year at their Santry restaurant, and a Captain's

Day at Croke Park ahead of the Third-Level Championship Finals, which were later cancelled. As mentioned earlier in this report, currentaccount.ie put pen to paper on a three-year contract to become new sponsors of our All-Ireland Club Championships, All-Ireland Club 7s, and our National Volunteer Awards. It was another blow to us that we could not showcase our monthly winners with The Croke Park (Hotel) Player of the Month awards. The Hotel staff have been incredibly accommodating and helpful to the LGFA in recent years.

Lidl Ireland marked twenty years in this country but unfortunately, we had to pull the curtain down early on the National Leagues. With no football on the field of play, Lidl were pro-active in other ways, bringing the LGFA and Jigsaw, the National Centre for Youth Mental Health, together to help spearhead Youth Mental Health Services amid the coronavirus pandemic. Lidl ambassadors Carla Rowe, Nicola Ward, Emer Gallagher and Caoimhe McGrath were on board to promote Jigsaw's 5-a-day for Youth Mental Health with a series of insightful and impactful videos, focusing on the 'Connect', 'Be Active', 'Take notice', 'Keep Learning' and 'Give' themes.

Lidl and the LGFA would later team up to announce details of #LidlLegends – an initiative to celebrate the voluntary work of LGFA members throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. So many of our members went above and beyond the call of duty, helping out





in their local communities, and we wanted to hear those stories. We had some brilliant entries and choosing a winner from each of the four provinces was an unenviable task. The Connacht winner, from St John's in Sligo, was Olivia Flannery, a schoolteacher who was shopping for many residents in her local area up to ten times a week, doing a daily paper run and cooking dinners for cocooning neighbours, all while catering for her own busy family and working remotely. The Leinster winner, ten-year-old Carla Dalton, sold her toys to buy treats for front-line workers. The Munster winners, Middleton U-14 club players and sisters Lily and Megan Kelly, were busy making masks, with all proceeds being donated to Pieta House and Marymount Hospice. The Ulster winner, Martin Goldrick from the Naomh Brid Pettigo, Donegal, shaved his head to raise money for ChefAid Ballyshannon, who provided hot meals to the elderly and isolated/compromised during the COVID-19 crisis. What wonderful stories and examples of how the human spirit can prevail and shine through even in times of adversity, and when we are challenged in so many ways. I would like to thank Lidl Ireland for their unwavering support. Chief Executive Officer JP Scally oversees a thriving Lidl Ireland and the entire team that we work alongside are tireless and diligent in their approach to the partnership with the LGFA. I also thank Joe Mooney, Senior Partnerships Manager with Lidl Ireland, who has settled in well in his new role and worked very closely with us over the past year. We can look forward to more exciting initiatives in the months ahead.

2020 should have marked yet another TG4 All Star Tour. We were scheduled to visit Austin, Texas, in the United States from March 31st – April 8th, before the pandemic put paid to those plans. Ladies Football was set to feature in TG4's Underdogs – and those plans too were put on the back burner. On reflection, however, completing our 2020 TG4 All-Ireland Championships was a huge achievement,

and to get through without Covid related disruptions. At each and every step along the way, TG4 were by our side and a constant source of encouragement and support. From match-day coverage to social media activity, TG4 helped to make our championships so memorable, despite our matches being played behind closed doors. It was hugely encouraging to learn in the aftermath of the TG4 All-Ireland Intermediate and Senior Finals on December 20th that TG4 was the most popular channel in Ireland during live coverage, with a viewing share twice that of its nearest challenger. The senior final between Cork and Dublin was watched by almost one in four TV viewers in Ireland, averaging 170,000 viewers through and peaking at 230,000 approaching full-time. It was TG4's second most-watched programme in 2020.

The LGFA enjoys a terrific partnership with TG4 and my belief is that the challenges we faced together in 2020 will further strengthen our relationship. TG4's Ard Stiúrthóir Alan Esslemont is a man I have utmost respect for, a terrific operator, while Head of Sport Rónán Ó Coisdealbha runs a very steady ship, with TG4's sporting output coming in for such well-deserved praise. 2021 promises even more of the same – and we couldn't ask for a better partner to showcase our top games.

20x20 Campaign

2020 marked the final year of the 20x20 campaign, which had a significant impact. It was a shame, given the year that it was, that the campaign didn't end with more of a 'bang', and there was such a lovely symmetry that we could have made a lot more of when you consider '20' as the magic number.

It was difficult for Along Came a Spider to measure the success of the campaign due to COVID-19,

so, the analytics were mainly taken from 2019 but below were some of the key findings:

- 80% of the population are more aware of women's sport than before 20x20 launch in 2018
- 61% are more likely to support women's sport than in 2018
- 75% of men say 20x20 changed their mindset positively towards women's sport
- 42% of women say they are participating in more sport and physical activity due to awareness of 20x20 than in 2018
- 50% of the population and 60% of females say they would be more inclined to purchase from brands that support women's sport

I would like to thank everyone involved in the 20x20 campaign for their commitment to female sport and I hope that we can all build further on the foundations laid across society with the cultural shift witnessed owing in some way to the initiative.

Strategic Roadmap

We are entering our second last year of our current roadmap and despite our past year we are still on target with all objectives. The association has made many significant strides during the implementation phase of the Strategic Roadmap, 2017 – 2022. We made ambitious statements for each of the five strategic strands and we have remained committed to achieving them.

Under the 'Passionate Volunteer Organisation' we have introduced overwhelming effective initiatives such as our Female Leadership programme 'Learn2Lead'. During COVID-19 we rolled out one of our most extensive and successful volunteer training programmes to date, full details of which can be read in our National Development Manager's report. Under 'Increasing the Visibility of LGFA' in the past year alone all of our TG4 Championship games

were available on TG4 or streamed through our Facebook page. Within the 'Growing Participation' strand our initiatives such as Gaelic4Girls, Gaelic4Teens and Gaelic4Mothers&Others are growing from strength to strength, evident in our membership numbers reaching the 200,000 mark. Our capacity to retain and attract new sponsorships and partnerships has increased in line with our fourth strand, 'Building Impactful Partnerships.' The final strand, 'Enhanced Support Infrastructure,' focused on our administration and governance which will be further progressed with the implementation of the new membership system, Foireann.

Like all plans it is important to keep objectives relevant to the association and to the ever-changing challenges which we may face. As we head into the final two years of our plan, we will continue to work on the targets and objectives set out, taking into consideration the current climate which we must operate in for the coming year.

Development

'Challenging' has been a word heard often throughout 2020 yet from adversity comes opportunity and innovation. That certainly was the case for development in ladies football this year as we could have easily waited for a return to normality for our education and support services but instead, we flourished and witnessed greater engagement with volunteers than ever before. In-person courses may not have been permitted but from the moment 'lockdown' was mentioned we put the wheels in motion to adapt our support and courses to online delivery. Throughout the past year we have had live webinars focusing on many topics to assist club and county officers, match officials, players and coaches. Many of these sessions were recorded ensuring we have a compilation of educational resources available on the LGFA YouTube channel.



Progressing on this our FUNdamentals and Level 1 coaching, plus our suite of 'Grab Your Whistle' courses, are now available through blended learning incorporating webinars, self-led modules and short face to face sessions. You will see from the National Development Manager's report that these steps have been hugely successful with record numbers engaging across all strands, and one particular positive being the increase in females participating on all courses. Every session has been tailored to meet the needs of the attendees and the evaluations at the end enable us to plan and devise further webinars or workshops thereafter.

I have no doubt that we will return to a certain percentage of in-person education when restrictions allow but I feel there were important lessons learned over the past twelve months that will remain into the future. The accessibility of courses has been cited by many of our members while maintaining our high standards of delivery and engagement. So yes, the year was challenging but it too was a demonstration of our innovation and dynamism. From the initial stages of the pandemic, we were ready to adapt and makes changes to support our members and we will continue to do so in the coming months ahead.

CODA

Having completed a relatively successful first year of our Complaints, Objections, Disciplinary and Appeals (CODA) procedures in 2019, the plan for 2020 was to work with all units to fully embed the new system. Following a review meeting of the CODA rules and procedures, held with CODA Officers and panels, a number of required amendments to the rules were passed at Congress last year.

Amazingly that despite having a reduced playing window for club competitions, the CODA officers and panels at county level experienced a large volume of cases. It is important to note that a worrying trend emerging from the cases was abuse of the referee by players and mentors. At national level there was a total of three red cards, two during the Lidl National League and one during the TG4 Championship. Only one player requested a hearing which resulted in a 4-week suspension.

Our training programme moved online in 2020 but thankfully proved equally successful in being interactive and upskilling of personnel. Three training webinars were rolled out in the early part of the year for current CODA officers and panels at County, Provincial and National level and to train new personnel which they had recruited. A total of 220 participants attended with all counties in Ireland and Britain represented which is excellent to report and credit to all involved.

It is important that we continue to provide the support programme for all CODA officers and panels as we continue to become more comfortable with and accustomed to the new rules and procedures. We remind all units that a key to successful implementation of the new procedures is ensuring you have recruited the right people for the roles, who have the identified skills and abilities to deal with CODA cases.

During the down time, we took the opportunity to start rolling out the CODA Education Programme at club level for all club executives and club disciplinary officers. Over the course of five webinars, 156 people attended which was representative of 114 clubs from 31 counties. This is an excellent starting point with the majority of clubs confirming they were unfamiliar with the CODA rules and had not appointed a Club Disciplinary Officer. Feedback from the clubs attending indicated that they fully supported the new rules mainly due to the clarity and fairness now provided for in the procedures. A lot of work still remains in the area of increasing awareness at club level. However, it is important that all county personnel are fully functioning first and foremost as they can act as a support and resource for the clubs.

From a national perspective many thanks to our Hearings and Appeals Panels who are now entering their third year. We are extremely grateful to them for their time and commitment to ensuring due process is adhered to in line with our rules.

Safeguarding

We continued our work as part of the National Child Safeguarding Committee in conjunction with the GAA and Camogie Association. Like many other areas of work, COVID-19 forced safeguarding training to an online platform. However, unlike other areas, the movement to an online environment required careful consideration to the format of delivery to ensure that participants learning would not be affected. A pilot programme took place initially which proved very successful and the process got underway of training the selected tutors. Over the course of the past number of months, 150 virtual Safeguarding 1 Workshops have been delivered. As the capacity to deliver courses was significantly reduced, a decision was also taken to extend the three-year condition to five years within which a person was permitted to renew their Child Safeguarding Training, by either attending another face-to-face workshop or undertake the online safeguarding refresher. The 3-to-5-year extension is until the end of June 2021 when it will be reviewed.

A mandatory requirement for all units is to have a Designated Liaison Person in place. Where the unit does not appoint a Designated Liaison Person (DLP), the role automatically is assumed by the chairperson of that unit. It is important to keep the role separate from the role of Children's Officer as the Children's Officer is tasked with the implementation of the Code of Behaviour which requires their full attention. Over the past year we have concentrated efforts to raise awareness of the role of a DLP at club and county level. In 2021 the DLP Workshop will become available online and the next task is to ensure all DLPs are trained for the role.

It has been two years since clubs and counties completed their Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement. It has been agreed that the 31st May 2021 would be the agreed date by which all clubs and county boards would have to recomplete their Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with the requirements of Children First. Full support will be provided to all clubs and counties during this process. The Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement process applies to all clubs across the island of Ireland.



Despite the lack of on field activity during 2020, the association processed 5,094 vetting applications over the course of the year. Surprisingly, this is a slight increase compared to 2019 which may be attributable to a few factors. Firstly, while activity was suspended, we sent notifications to all clubs to use this opportunity to ensure all coaches and mentors were compliant with the National Vetting Act. Secondly, despite the shorter year, the numbers may be similar to 2019 as when activity did resume training had to be conducted in smaller numbers which did increase the number of required coaches per session. Credit to all clubs who managed this process and ensured all mentors were vetted and eligible to assist with their underage teams. A new three-year vetting recognition will apply in 2021 for all vetting carried out on our behalf for those who work with children, whether this is via the Garda National Vetting Bureau or AccessNI.

Our vetting process would not be possible if it were not for our volunteer Clerical Users who carry out their role in a professional and efficient manner. A huge thank you to Aileen Boyd (Dublin), Sinead Quinn (Leitrim), Barry Maher (Offaly), Maire Allen (Roscommon) and George Young (Waterford).

Two County Children's Officers webinars were held during the year, 1st July and 29th August, to update Children's Officers on areas of the Code of Behaviour, vetting and safeguarding training. The webinars proved very useful and were appreciated by the Children's Officers. It is intended to run more webinars in 2021 as information sharing sessions and Safeguarding 2 Workshop for Club and County Children's Officers will also become available online.

2021 will also see the launch of the new Code of Behaviour for all Associations. Work has been taking place over the last number of months to review the content and the new edition will reflect feedback received from all units. The new Code of Behaviour will be an online version which will be user friendly and more easily navigated.

Data Protection

The data protection legislation will be in place three years come May and huge credit is due to all units for embracing the new guidelines and ensuring they are working towards full compliance. We continued to roll out our education workshops, delivered by our Data Protection consultant, Darragh Cunningham. All workshops, bar one, were delivered online through the GAA eLearning Platform. This year we commenced the roll out of the 'Essential Guide to GDPR' workshop in Connacht, where we had 30 enthusiastic participants.

Although we were forced to move online for the following five workshops, the enthusiasm and engagement was still evident through the interactions with participants using polls and the chat function to ask questions. The system available to us had a limited capacity of fifty per workshop and in total two hundred people completed the workshops. Each participant receives a certificate of completion which is a first step for any unit in terms of ensuring compliance with the data protection legislation.

The workshops have received excellent feedback due to the simplistic approach to a legislative area and more importantly all participants appreciate the practical guidance being advised which

is easily applied to the running of their club. A key takeaway from the workshop is the importance of all units having a data inventory, which will provide the relevant prompts to ensure data is being dealt with in a safe manner.

Foireann System

As you are aware the company Servasport went into administration and the GAA began working on a new membership system. Progress with the development of the new system was slowed due to COVID-19. Attention was turned to the development of a system to cater for the necessary health questionnaires to allow a return to play for all our units. The Return-to-Play system was developed within a very short space of time and was launched on the 24th June. Despite initial teething issues, the system has proven its capability and currently has 400,000 registered users. On the first day that the system went live 42,485 questionnaires were submitted and to date the system has processed over 10 million questionnaires. At certain times, the system was managing approximately 91,000 questionnaires per day. The membership system is built on the Return-to-Play platform and the Return-to-Play accounts will be maintained with the data on Servasport migrated across.

The new system has many welcomed additions in functionality. Clubs will be able to develop membership packages specific to their club and providing the facility for their members to purchase their membership online. A key feature of the new system will assist clubs from a data protection perspective as members can set up their own profile, update their personal information and select which forms of communication they wish to receive from the club. From an underage perspective, parents will be able to manage their children's membership, sign up to the Code of Behaviour and provide consent for photography, etc. The functionality of the system will also now allow a parent to manage both their son's and daughter's memberships and communications from their clubs within the same user profile. Following feedback from clubs who operate within a 'One Club Model' structure, the system will now facilitate members across all codes and will be visible within one account but can still be registered to the appropriate Association as required.

In terms of the communication functionality, under the 'Teams' tab, it allows clubs to assign the coaches to each of their particular teams. Once the coaches are assigned, the coaches can add the players to team which will allow them to check that players are registered, send details of training sessions, review Health Questionnaires and for underage teams check on photography consent, etc. Post training the coach can record attendance for contact tracing, injury claims, complaints, etc.

All units have received notification regarding the new system and the steps they need to take to get set up. The implementation of the new system is fully supported by an in-house Foireann help desk, a dedicated website with step-by-step guides, video explanations, etc. and a number of training webinars. This is a very much a joint Gaelic Games project and we are extremely grateful to the GAA for the inclusion of the LGFA in the development of this

new system and in particular many thanks to Tomás Meehan, GAA's Chief Information's Officer, and his team for their work in this area.

Inter-County Government Grant Scheme

The Inter-County Government Grant Scheme continued in 2020 and all counties remained eligible for the full grant despite the cancellation of the Lidl National League. The Government support funding for adult inter-county teams is distributed through Sport Ireland and this scheme was initiated to recognise players, from LGFA and Camogie, as high-performance athletes and reward their commitment to the games by assisting counties to create an environment to play the game at the highest level possible. The LGFA work collaboratively with the Camogie Association and the WGPA to administer the grant and have been complimented both by Sport Ireland and the Government for our governance of the scheme. Each organisation is represented by two members joined by an independent chairperson; Teresa Hurley, and the Scheme Administrator; Christine Littlefield, forming the Scheme Implementation Group (SIG). This group ensures an independent evaluation takes place annually and the scheme will undergo a complete audit early in 2021 to determine future processes, incorporating the 2020 amalgamation of the GPA and WGPA. This was the fourth year of the grant and the Player Health Screening Programme was continued in 2020 following our successful application for funding for a further roll out of this to all players after their initial screening the previous year.

As part of this aspect a series of educational videos were commissioned for player education purposes and these have assisted not only county players but also club players and athletes from other sports with their clear messaging and imagery.

It is essential to stress this grant is not in place to fully compensate the expenses involved but to assist county boards to create the best possible environment and support for their adult county teams. The support scheme incorporates three elements for counties; Injury Prevention and Medical Cover, Maximising Player and Team Performance and Access to Training Facilities. Applications must be completed for these areas only and in 2020 we had a new online portal designed and launched to ease the workload on everyone involved. The submission is made via the web portal and as per the previous structure it must be signed off, a tick box feature on the site, by the County Secretary, Manager and WGPA Player Representative before it can be approved by the SIG. A short online course was created to explain the scheme and all of the above representatives must complete the annual training before they can gain access to the system, which now replaces the previous face-to-face workshops. This again was to decrease the time and travel involved. During the year the county could then upload their receipts for expenses, and they could submit for payment at two periods – May and November. Going forward counties will be able to duplicate submissions and use documents already uploaded as evidence for qualifications for example so the workload will be significantly lessened. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions counties were notified that they would be ineligible for any spend from the end of April through to when inter-county activity could restart in September. However, there was €1,000 additional funding made



available to the All-Ireland finalists in both LGFA and Camogie which was welcomed by all counties involved especially with the increased need for floodlit facilities at that time of the year.

The audit being conducted early in 2021 will determine the future of the scheme but it is evident from the evaluations that this grant has been hugely beneficial for all counties regardless of grade. The core philosophy of the scheme is consultation between the county executive, manager and WGPA player representative and all evidence shows that a highly consultative process leads to a greater sense of togetherness within the county. I urge you to continue this open communication which has led to improved innovation in relation to the services being provided and the value you are getting for your funding. In last year's report I requested counties to give greater attention to the grant to ensure we could decrease the underspend and I welcome your hard work and cooperation in relation to this with all 31 eligible counties benefiting and a significant fall in overall funding remaining.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Christine Littlefield, the Scheme Administrator, for the tremendous work she has completed to date in relation to the scheme and unfortunately Christine moved on from this position in late January. She has played an integral part in the success of the grant and communications with all counties.

The WGPA and GPA voted in December to take the necessary steps to allow for the formal coming together of the two associations as one new combined Players' Association. We have already met with

members of the bodies to discuss cooperation and collaboration going forward. Like our own association, players were at the centre of discussion and although we look after club and county players, it was agreed in all instances the overall ambition is to create an environment to allow all players develop to their greatest potential. There was a mutual understanding that we need to be aware of the resources available to our counties but that further discussions would enable us to work together to support these units. We look forward to building on this relationship in the future.

Funding and Grants

The funding support we received late last year from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media was invaluable to the association after a very difficult year and the introduction of employment support measures earlier in the year enabled us to keep our hardworking, dedicated staff in employment. We as an association greatly appreciate this support in these challenging times.

I wish to acknowledge the support we get from Sport Ireland during the year not only through the grant scheme but also the advice, support and training always available to us.

We were successful with our application for Women in Sport funding through Sport Ireland for our Grab Your Whistle Referee Academy. The structure of delivery of the project had to be altered due to the pandemic with the sessions being moved online. Due to these changes the costs decreased, and we sent a request to Sport Ireland to hold some of the funding to roll out the programme

again in 2020 to 2021 and this was successful. The new group of referees started the latest roll out in November.

We applied for three projects through Dormant Account Funding which were approved in late 2019 for delivery in 2020. It is essential for projects in this fund to demonstrate collaboration and we linked with a Local Sports Partnership for each. With Cavan LSP we delivered a Gaelic4Teens Programme for the clubs in Cavan and this was all delivered online through webinars and supported by club visits from county players to deliver a coaching session when restrictions allowed.

We organised a very successful Gaelic4Mothers&Others Project with Leitrim LSP which focused on volunteer education to encourage the participants to become further involved in their local clubs in a volunteer capacity. The final dormant account initiative is a 'Coaching Community of Practice' with Limerick LSP and the focus of this will be to work with female coaches from clubs in the Limerick City area. The initial meetings have taken place, but we have been granted a delayed start date due to restrictions as important for the group to be actively coaching to get the benefits from this initiative.

Following on from the 2019 Dormant Accounts allocation we were delighted to be approved for 2020 Dormant Account Funding and these initiatives will be rolled out in 2021. The successful projects were; Gaelic4Mothers&Others with Dublin City Council under the Community and Disability strand, LGFA Young Leaders under Youth Leadership Strand and LGFA4Life focusing on former players under the Volunteer Supports Strand. Further details on these new initiatives will be published in early 2021. These funding opportunities are hugely important to enable us to identify target areas as an Association and build impactful partnerships.

There are regular funding opportunities for clubs and counties also particularly at local level and I would encourage you to ensure you are included on any mailing lists for Local Sports Partnerships who are excellent at keeping clubs aware of local opportunities. You need to be in the pot to have an opportunity of getting something out of it so never be afraid to apply!

International

Sport across the world came to halt at different periods throughout the year and this was demonstrated with our International Units. There was certainly no 'one size fits all' approach as every country had to adhere to their own guidelines and for many those restrictions even varied in different regions of that country. It was a disappointing year for many as National Championships had to be postponed or cancelled but I have no doubt the excitement will be greater than ever when these recommence. The growth of Ladies Gaelic Football globally has been exceptional, and I have been lucky to witness the hard work and dedication of the volunteers in these units from attending many of their previous events.

I am a member of the World GAA Workgroup and even this year, though difficult for everyone involved, you cannot help but be inspired of the stories and the progression made across

all continents for Gaelic Games. The diversity of membership is an example of our International Units reaching out to their local communities to share their love of our indigenous games and thankfully they are welcoming this with open arms and getting involved. These steps are hugely important for the future development of all clubs overseas and it is highlighted by the increase in juvenile activity helping to build sustainable structures.

In my report I am usually writing about on field activity and the many tournaments and championships that referees have attended on our behalf but in 2020 the focus of our support moved off the pitch. As the pandemic spread across the world, we reached out to all units to offer educational support through webinars and we were delighted with the response and of course the feedback. Recordings of these webinars were then made available to each unit to assist them going forward with development.

In Canada we delivered a series of webinars focused on referee development, coach and player rules refreshers and then volunteer recruitment. These were delivered on a Saturday to ensure we could select a time suitable to all five time zones and allow all interested parties to participate.

It was essential that each unit selected topics that would assist their clubs and the Middle East webinar series focused on Introducing Gaelic4Girls to the region, as well as Coaching the Teenage Player and creating a positive coaching environment. Again, it was important to organise these at times suitable to the time zones involved and we were delighted with the engagement at all the virtual workshops.

New York had hoped to participate in the 2020 TG4 Championship and the U-16 County Tournament to be hosted in Ireland but unfortunately these were not possible however as outlined above our interaction with members in clubs in New York excelled through the delivery of webinars. We delivered a rules refresher for referees and for coaches too with plenty of discussion and communication throughout the sessions.

As many activities ground to a halt across the globe the opposite was happening in Geelong in Australia with the establishment of our first Gaelic4Mothers&Others club. There was excitement and anxious anticipation to see if this could work and it has been a huge success. There are now other areas hoping to replicate this and we have also been liaising with the Australian board for other areas of support such as potential for Gaelic4Girls.

It was busy on the webinar front in Europe too with sessions taking place on coaching within the rules, coaching the tackle and a referee's rules refresher. The series of webinars have been intriguing with many nationalities involved across many languages, but it has been exceptional to have the opportunity to engage so many people around the world in education and learning specifically in relation to our sport.

There were changes in personnel in Asia and we look forward to working closely with the board in the coming year as they have

exciting ideas for the future, and I have no doubt that there are areas we will be able to assist with to support their clubs through these webinars.

When I talk about USGAA and Britain LGFA there is always a huge emphasis on underage activity through the CYC Games and All Britain Games respectively but like everything these fell afoul of the pandemic. I have no doubt that they will return with greater numbers than ever as the games are so often the annual highlight for many young players.

The down time from activity allowed us to roll out a series of referee rules refresher courses and a fixtures webinar in Britain before activity recommenced in the region.

While COVID-19 has caused chaos, we have also learned many positive lessons and the ability to now reach out to all International Units to support them has been probably the most important of these lessons.

To all the volunteers in these units, I thank you. It was a difficult year to be at home so I can only imagine how difficult it would have been away from home missing many family members. Your commitment to our games is treasured and we look forward to the year ahead.

National Volunteer Awards

Our volunteers came to the fore during 2020 more than ever and we were delighted to recognise ten of those amazing people, representative of so many others both at home and abroad. We have a new sponsor through currentaccount.ie and we broke ground further by hosting the awards virtually for the first time on February 12th from a studio in Croke Park. Dáithí Ó Sé was on duty as MC as he connected to all our winners from the comfort of their homes.

Administrators, coaches and media were among those being honoured across ten categories. The Young Volunteer of the Year was Sandra O'Donoghue (Rosscarbery, Cork) while our School Coach of the Year award went to Conor Maguire (Loreto, Cavan) followed by Colin Kenny (Naomh Ciaran, Offaly) who was announced as Club Coach of the Year. Next up was Local Journalist of the Year and Ian Cooney (Roscommon Herald) was on hand to collect his award whilst staying in PR, Cork's Peter O'Leary was recognised for his trojan work as PRO in the county. Dáithí then moved on to focus on off field representatives as Club Committee Officer of the Year was awarded to Helen Clarke (An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg, Tyrone) and Sinead Reel, the Armagh Chairperson, earning the plaudits as County/Provincial Officer of the Year. It was the second year of our International Volunteer of the Year category with a huge number of nominations demonstrating further the hard work taking place across the globe and the winner was Clodagh Harris (RAK Ropairí, UAE).

As always, the Overall Volunteer of the Year was presented with the exceptional Lulu Carroll Award, a beautiful piece of crystal dedicated to the former Laois star, and in 2020 the award fittingly stayed in the O'Moore County as the recipient was Mikey Hyland from the Shanahoe club. That left just one award remaining

which was the Volunteer Hall of Fame. Kathleen Kane from St Nathy's in Sligo is well-known to us all from her current role on LGFA Management but as you would have seen from the video on the night, she certainly was an extremely worthy recipient for her dedication to our sport at club, county, provincial and national level, both as a player, coach and administrator.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our award winners and although the format may have changed with the live event online, it allowed everyone at home to join with all recipients and celebrate their success. These awards go from strength to strength and with Seamus Newcombe, CEO, and his team in currentaccount.ie now involved I have no doubt they will continue to be a fitting tribute to the lifeblood of our Association, our volunteers.

GAA

In 2018 the GAA and Ladies Gaelic Football Association were pleased to announce that draft memorandums of understanding had been agreed. Simultaneously a memorandum of understanding between the GAA and Camogie Association was also agreed. The proposed memorandums sought to establish stronger links between the GAA and both LGFA and Camogie Associations.

In each case, the memorandum reflected the shared vision of the two organisations for a new overall organisational model within which the games, ideals and aspiration of both associations are equally developed and promoted. They recognise areas of common interest and nominated mechanisms for LGFA and Camogie Association representation on GAA committees, and vice versa.

There has been significant progress in relation to the collaboration and cooperation of the GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association over the past three years and continues to progress annually. The three associations work together closely on many key areas whilst there are some areas it remains important to have a GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association specific focus to ensure each association is meeting their member's needs. The increased level of interaction across associations due to representation on committees and workgroups has provided an avenue to share knowledge and expertise. Certain projects can be joint initiatives while others can be mirrored learning from each other. Working jointly on such projects at all levels of the associations broadens understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates innovative idea generation and future growth. During 2020 the enhanced collaboration across the Gaelic Games family was demonstrated to all of our members through the joint COVID-19 responses, shared education initiatives and alignment in the return to training and play.

Our working relationship with the GAA has never been stronger and I want to thank outgoing President John Horan in particular for the leadership and understanding he has shown over the past three years and his commitment to this process. The three associations will continue to grow this relationship and are committed to exploring a framework for further integration into the future. I wish Larry McCarthy every success for his term as Uachtarán and look forward to working with him in building on the success of the past three years.

Staff

2020 has been a difficult year for our dedicated staff who were accustomed to working out of our central office. A week after Congress last year the office closed for what we hoped would be a short time but it soon became apparent to us all the seriousness of the problems that faced the country and the world. They had to adapt to working from their homes and with different family and living circumstances this wasn't easy but equipped with the technology required to do so they all have done a tremendous job adapting to the conditions and embracing new ways to get the job done. All supports and courses were moved online and the live webinars focusing on many topics kept our members at all levels engaged and entertained. To each and every one of the staff I thank you most sincerely for your support and for the innovation and dynamism you showed during the year. We long for the day we can get back to an office environment as a team but important lessons have been learnt in the past year on how we engage and connect with our members which will remain into the future.

Comhbhrón

During the past year we lost many people who were close to us all and we weren't in a position to mark their passing and support their loved ones as we would normally do. I particularly want to mention the late Eamonn Ryan who sadly passed away in January. Eamonn was a man I got to know extremely well over the years, through his remarkable work with Cork and on TG4 All Star Tours. He was a wealth of knowledge and had a great love for Ladies Gaelic Football. He raised the bar in competitiveness with our game through his tremendous achievements with the Cork team

over 11 years. The contribution he made to our game will never be forgotten. I remember also former President of the Association, Tom Kenny of Offaly, who passed away in February. Tom was one of the founding members of our association who was passionate about the game and was so proud in later years of how the association had developed and the profile and esteem it held in all walks of society. I would like to personally thank the association at all levels for the tremendous support shown to me and my family on the passing of my father Michael last June. It was very much appreciated.

I extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to all of those who have lost family members, relatives and friends throughout the course of this pandemic. While football can bring much comfort and solace to our lives, it simply pales into insignificance when a global pandemic takes a grip.

Suaimhneas síoraí dóibh ar fad.

Buíochas

I wish to thank my fellow Officers on the Management Committee for the trojan work they did in a very difficult year. They assumed, under rule, the powers of Central Council during the pandemic and always acted in the best interest of the association with the safety of all our members to the fore in the decisions they made. They met via Microsoft Teams nearly every Thursday night since last April to assess the ongoing crisis and keep afoot of any changes they felt were necessary for the association. A special thanks to our outgoing Vice President, Dominic Leech for his tremendous contribution at



provincial and national level over the past three years. I thank all members of our subcommittees who also embraced the new ways of fulfilling their roles and duties through technology during the year. I commend all our club, county, and provincial boards for all the engagement with online training they took on board and for their compliance in ensuring that our games were organised in a safe environment at all time in line with the Return to Train and Play protocols.

I would like to salute our players, at both club and county level, for their adherence to guidelines but most importantly for the exhibition of skill and athleticism they demonstrated throughout all competitions. We understand the strains players can be under as they strive to reach the highest levels with their counties and this year had its own added worries about family, friends and colleagues. You gave light to so many people when they needed it in the dark days, and they worshipped the opportunities to watch you gracing the football pitches. We were delighted to be able to use government funding to assist with travel expenses and we will continue to work with the GPA and Camogie Association over the coming months and years to seek further funding in this regard. I would also like to thank your families for their understanding and support of you as you donned your county jersey with pride over the past year. We cannot wait to see them back at venues across the country to give this support in person. To all players at every level, and of course our match officials, you have been immense in our battle against COVID-19 and we will work tirelessly to get you all back into activity as soon as possible.

Our President Marie Hickey has presided over our association through a tremendous period of change and growth over the past six years. She has been an exemplary leader ensuring at all times that the views and opinions of all within our association were listened to from grassroots up. She recognised the importance of getting more females involved in leadership positions across all sectors of the association and instigated the Female Leadership Workgroup to put steps in place to achieve this. As a volunteer led association the importance of acknowledging the tremendous work volunteers do was close to her heart and led to the introduction of our National Volunteer Awards four years ago. I have enjoyed the last six years working with Marie and I personally want to thank her for her friendship, her willingness to help, her advice and support both for myself and the staff at all times. I wish you well for the future Marie and I know you will continue to play an important role within our association.

We enter a new chapter in our association history this weekend as Michael Naughton takes over the reigns as National President, the first Ulster President since 1982. He has vast experience at every level of the association from his involvement with club, county board, provincial and national councils and has managed many successful teams. I wish Michael every success in his tenure as president. I look forward to working with you Michael and I guarantee you my full support and that of the staff at all times.

In a normal year we would be looking ahead with eagerness to the exciting challenges and surprises our fixture plan would bring

but as we all know these are no ordinary times and as we stand, we are back to the drawing board with our plans. When the time is right and it is safe to do so we will be ready with a new plan that will ensure our games and activities will return for all. As we sign off on the difficult year that was 2020, we look forward to some brighter times in the months that lie ahead but most importantly I hope that you, your family, friends and members of communities stay safe as we see this pandemic through. We will come out of this stronger as an association and ready for the road ahead. In the words of Helen Keller "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much" so let us stick together to the other side and I look forward to seeing you all back participating in our games.

Guím rath, séan agus sláinte oraibh ar fad don bhliain amach romhainn, ar pháirc na himeartha agus i ngach gné eile den Chumann. Is i bpáirt a d'éirigh linn go dtí seo agus is ar scáth a chéile a bhainimid tuilleadh fós amach i mbliana agus sa toadhchá.

Helen O'Rourke
Chief Executive





INJURY FUND



INJURY FUND REPORT 2020

Reconciliation of Bank Account - Injury Fund		€
Opening balance 1st November 2019		2,499,456.01
Income		1,169,397.99
Expenditure		-€865,345.88
Closing Balance		2,803,508.12

Injury Fund Details Year Ended 31/10/2020

Income		€	Expenditure		€
Opening balance 1st November 2019		2,499,456.01	Claims Paid 2020		756,227.38
Receipts		1,169,397.99	Cheques presented from 2019		84,118.50
			Central Council		25,000.00
Total Income		3,668,854.00	Closing Balance 31/10/2020		2,803,508.12
					3,668,854.00
Uncashed Cheques 2020 Claims		62,725.05			

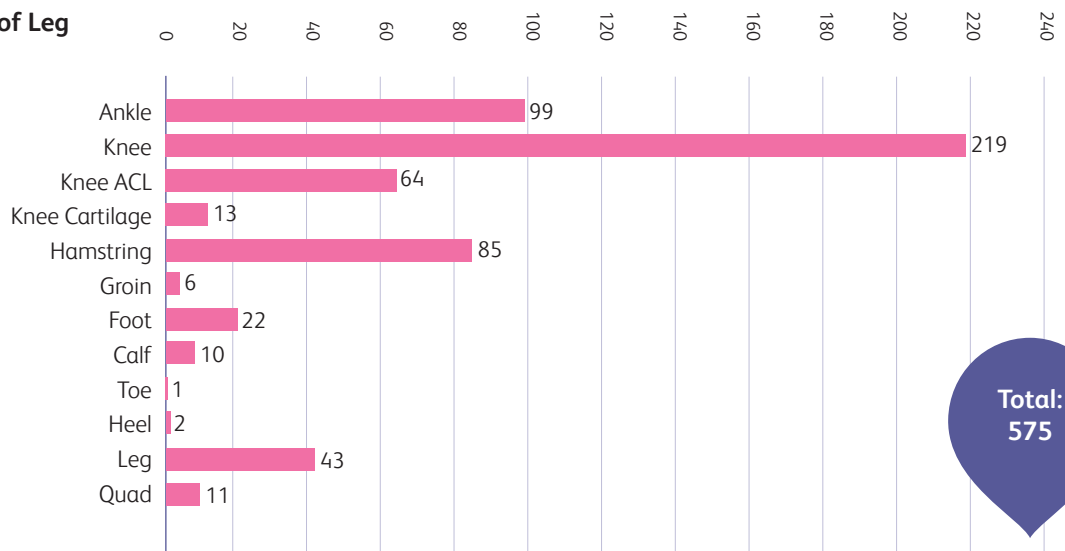
CLAIM ANALYSIS 2020

	Claims	2020	2019	2018
Count of Amount	Adult	584	795	627
	Juvenile	334	463	370
		918	1258	997
		€	€	€
Physio	Adult	68,890.06	87,322.77	66,924.42
	Juvenile	32,912.37	34,012.58	25,733.03
		101,802.43	121,335.35	92,657.45
G.P.	Adult	8,291.00	9,381.50	6,269.75
	Juvenile	3,350.85	4,777.00	3,039.00
		11,641.85	14,158.50	9,308.75
MRI	Adult	26,527.50	26,505.00	23,222.70
	Juvenile	10,970.75	9,909.00	7,012.00
		37,498.25	36,414.00	30,234.70
Surgery	Adult	142,364.08	132,944.85	54,913.14
	Juvenile	26,315.26	28,525.56	41,836.25
		168,679.34	161,470.41	96,749.39
Consultant	Adult	29,422.44	35,161.67	27,076.78
	Juvenile	12,623.77	7,776.22	14,226.88
		42,046.21	42,937.89	41,303.66
Anaesthetic Consultant	Adult	36,843.74	33,681.43	14,172.09
	Juvenile	10,431.38	7,420.93	10,007.52
		47,275.12	41,102.36	24,179.61
A&E	Adult	12,780.80	20,430.00	20,010.00
	Juvenile	13,029.50	21,841.50	15,231.50
		25,810.30	42,271.50	35,241.50
Hospital	Adult	242,243.26	354,142.13	199,845.31
	Juvenile	63,422.23	71,345.11	117,287.40
		305,665.49	425,487.24	317,132.71
Dentist	Adult	6,056.39	19,064.57	5,390.00
	Juvenile	4,915.00	6,795.00	3,975.00
		10,971.39	25,859.57	9,365.00
Loss of Wages	Adult	66,334.05	108,023.90	34,179.27
	Juvenile	1,228.00	0.00	90.00
		67,562.05	108,023.90	34,269.27
Total	Adult	639,753.32	826,657.82	452,003.46
	Juvenile	179,199.11	192,402.90	238,438.58
		818,952.43	1,019,060.72	690,442.04

ANALYSIS OF INJURIES

Type of Injury	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Total Amount	Total Count
Ankle	26,467.37	9,514.52	53	46	35,981.89	99
Arm	6,343.00	836.00	12	9	7,179.00	21
Back	19,250.50	3,653.04	36	14	22,903.54	50
Calf	1,314.00	0.00	10	0	1,314.00	10
Collar Bone	10,678.30	0.00	4	0	10,678.30	4
Dental	3,806.39	2,445.00	4	6	6,251.39	10
Elbow	1,712.00	326.50	2	3	2,038.50	5
Eye	970.00	150.00	2	1	1,120.00	3
Facial	100.00	2,090.00	1	1	2,190.00	2
Finger	3,568.00	4,321.50	25	42	7,889.50	67
Foot	3,131.17	8,032.20	12	10	11,163.37	22
Glute	207.00	40.50	1	1	247.50	2
Groin	229.50	445.50	3	3	675.00	6
Hamstring	11,391.50	3,453.50	63	22	14,845.00	85
Hand	2,701.50	352.50	11	3	3,054.00	14
Head	4,905.50	1,701.25	19	11	6,606.75	30
Heel	132.00	90.00	1	1	222.00	2
Hip	3,883.00	1,294.50	15	7	5,177.50	22
Knee	232,696.45	86,146.01	137	82	318,842.46	219
Knee ACL	226,123.17	36,609.29	53	11	262,732.46	64
Knee Cartilage	28,583.50	0.00	13	0	28,583.50	13
Leg	6,484.85	3,890.45	26	17	10,375.30	43
Mouth	200.00	0.00	1	0	200.00	1
Neck	3,667.00	100.00	6	1	3,767.00	7
Nose	790.00	1,779.00	4	1	2,569.00	5
Quad	1,583.87	0.00	11	0	1,583.87	11
Rib	436.00	200.00	4	2	636.00	6
Shoulder	33,457.25	8,727.10	45	16	42,184.35	61
Thumb	87.50	200.00	1	2	287.50	3
Toe	0.00	75.00	0	1	75.00	1
Wrist	4,853.00	2,725.75	9	21	7,578.75	30
Grand Total	639,753.32	179,199.11	584	334	818,952.43	918

Analysis of Leg



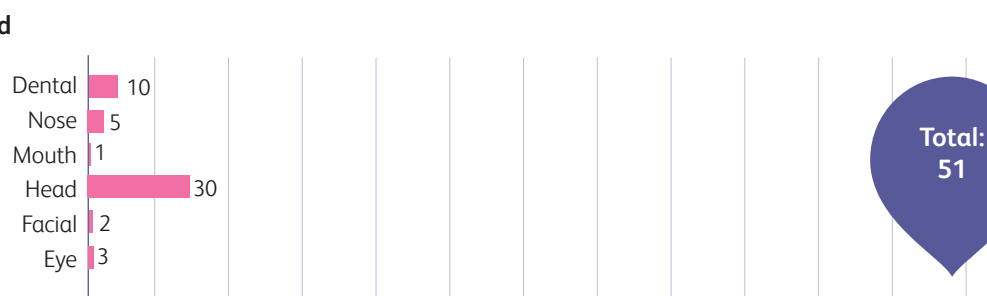
Analysis of Back



Analysis of Arm



Analysis of Head



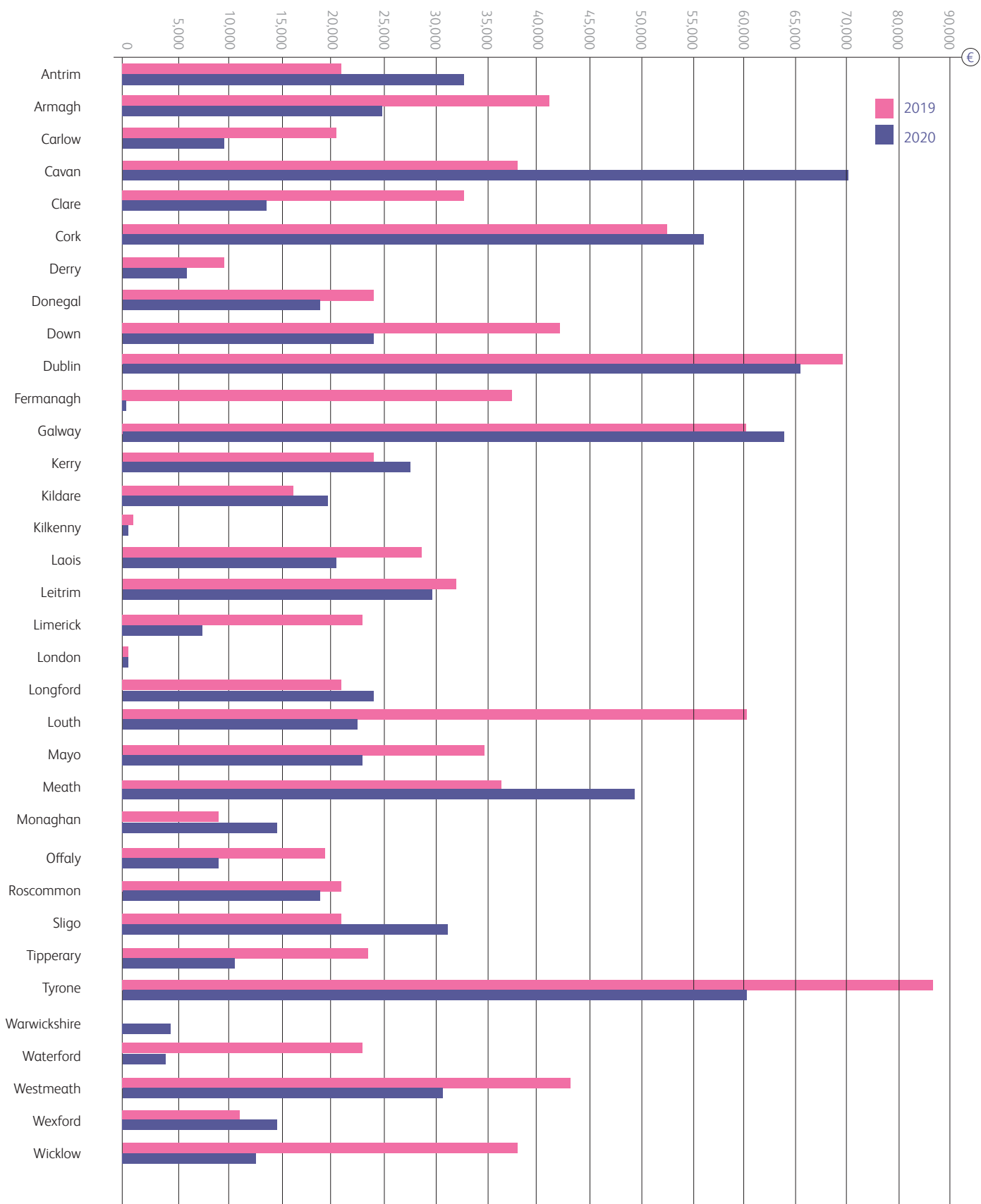
COUNTY BY COUNTY ANALYSIS 2020

County	Playing Status	Amount	Physio	G.P.	MRI	Surgery	Consultant	Anaesthetic Consultant	A&E	Hospital	Dentist	Loss of Wages	Total
Antrim	Adult	8	204.24	0.00	590.00	13,280.88	198.00	542.13	0.00	7,683.99	0.00	400.00	22,899.24
	Juvenile	2	0.00	0.00	295.00	2,445.93	0.00	953.01	0.00	6,660.01	0.00	0.00	10,353.95
Antrim Total		10	204.24	0.00	885.00	15,726.81	198.00	1,495.14	0.00	14,344.00	0.00	400.00	33,253.19
Armagh	Adult	7	439.24	0.00	1,105.00	4,314.01	509.17	1,897.79	0.00	9,143.48	0.00	0.00	17,408.69
	Juvenile	5	511.00	0.00	1,415.00	564.00	615.78	523.26	0.00	3,907.50	0.00	0.00	7,536.54
Armagh Total		12	950.24	0.00	2,520.00	4,878.01	1,124.95	2,421.05	0.00	13,050.98	0.00	0.00	24,945.23
Carlow	Adult	7	657.00	205.00	135.00	5,450.00	800.00	0.00	300.00	205.00	0.00	1,000.00	8,752.00
	Juvenile	4	443.00	60.00	315.00	0.00	220.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,038.00
Carlow Total		11	1,100.00	265.00	450.00	5,450.00	1,020.00	0.00	300.00	205.00	0.00	1,000.00	9,790.00
Cavan	Adult	30	3,717.00	410.00	1,392.50	13,824.61	2,670.00	4,685.47	600.00	32,826.92	0.00	841.91	60,968.41
	Juvenile	18	1,250.50	180.00	995.00	1,700.00	870.00	350.00	980.00	3,780.00	0.00	0.00	10,105.50
Cavan Total		48	4,967.50	590.00	2,387.50	15,524.61	3,540.00	5,035.47	1,580.00	36,606.92	0.00	841.91	71,073.91
Clare	Adult	14	2,786.00	140.00	780.00	1,215.00	1,015.00	0.00	175.00	2,885.00	0.00	1,120.00	10,116.00
	Juvenile	17	504.00	210.85	0.00	125.00	530.00	0.00	575.00	300.00	1,555.00	0.00	3,799.85
Clare Total		31	3,290.00	350.85	780.00	1,340.00	1,545.00	0.00	750.00	3,185.00	1,555.00	1,120.00	13,915.85
Cork	Adult	39	4,739.00	1,000.00	970.00	7,436.00	1,867.50	1,167.00	1,162.50	16,388.00	0.00	3,627.60	38,357.60
	Juvenile	23	1,720.00	295.00	175.00	4,049.00	1,480.00	1,565.00	1,062.50	7,831.50	350.00	0.00	18,528.00
Cork Total		62	6,459.00	1,295.00	1,145.00	11,485.00	3,347.50	2,732.00	2,225.00	24,219.50	350.00	3,627.60	56,885.60
Derry	Adult	2	24.83	0.00	590.00	0.00	181.15	0.00	0.00	4,882.65	0.00	0.00	5,678.63
	Juvenile	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Derry Total		2	24.83	0.00	590.00	0.00	181.15	0.00	0.00	4,882.65	0.00	0.00	5,678.63
Donegal	Adult	11	1,224.00	140.00	585.00	5,346.00	820.00	2,650.00	0.00	3,400.00	0.00	1,800.00	15,965.00
	Juvenile	15	1,237.50	120.00	735.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,392.50
Donegal Total		26	2,461.50	260.00	1,320.00	5,346.00	820.00	2,650.00	300.00	3,400.00	0.00	1,800.00	18,357.50
Down	Adult	6	806.89	0.00	1,180.00	7,278.56	932.59	1,045.54	0.00	5,281.53	0.00	5,924.00	22,449.11
	Juvenile	3	412.97	0.00	590.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,202.97
Down Total		9	1,219.86	0.00	1,770.00	7,278.56	1,132.59	1,045.54	0.00	5,281.53	0.00	5,924.00	23,652.08
Dublin	Adult	48	6,774.00	660.00	1,145.00	15,479.21	5,075.00	3,808.00	1,532.80	27,180.00	0.00	640.00	62,294.01
	Juvenile	18	1,354.50	180.00	215.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	1,190.00	125.00	0.00	0.00	3,364.50
Dublin Total		66	8,128.50	840.00	1,360.00	15,479.21	5,375.00	3,808.00	2,722.80	27,305.00	0.00	640.00	65,658.51
Fermanagh	Adult	1	143.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	143.94
	Juvenile	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fermanagh Total		1	143.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	143.94

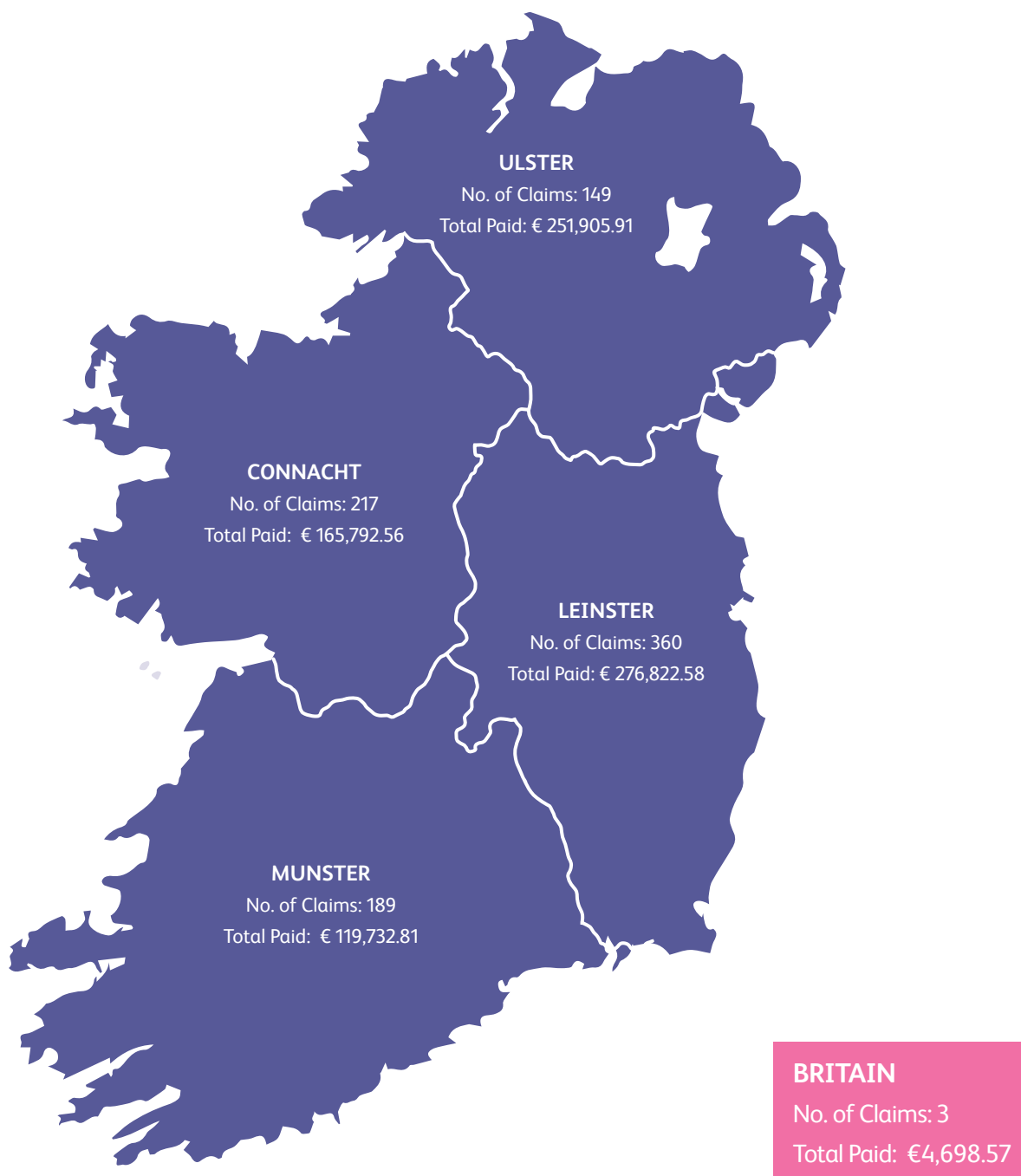
County	Playing Status	Amount	Physio	G.P.	MRI	Surgery	Consultant	Anaesthetic Consultant	A&E	Hospital	Dentist	Loss of Wages	Total
Galway	Adult	58	6,541.65	665.00	2,300.00	13,572.00	2,025.00	3,243.00	1,226.00	15,104.00	0.00	11,840.00	56,516.65
	Juvenile	26	3,330.00	270.00	729.75	240.00	1,060.00	0.00	1,115.00	125.00	0.00	0.00	6,869.75
Galway Total		84	9,871.65	935.00	3,029.75	13,812.00	3,085.00	3,243.00	2,341.00	15,229.00	0.00	11,840.00	63,386.40
Kerry	Adult	14	2,366.50	210.00	705.00	2,830.00	1,470.00	1,330.00	100.00	12,577.00	0.00	2,318.57	23,907.07
	Juvenile	12	1,867.50	185.00	220.00	0.00	790.00	0.00	247.50	205.00	0.00	0.00	3,515.00
Kerry Total		26	4,234.00	395.00	925.00	2,830.00	2,260.00	1,330.00	347.50	12,782.00	0.00	2,318.57	27,422.07
Kildare	Adult	15	1,535.00	160.00	355.00	1,300.00	700.00	650.00	275.00	4,394.93	100.00	2,100.00	11,569.93
	Juvenile	12	1,635.50	115.00	240.00	1,300.00	380.00	460.00	495.00	3,750.00	0.00	0.00	8,375.50
Kildare Total		27	3,170.50	275.00	595.00	2,600.00	1,080.00	1,110.00	770.00	8,144.93	100.00	2,100.00	19,945.43
Kilkenny	Adult	1	0.00	45.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.00
	Juvenile	2	189.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	289.00
Kilkenny Total		3	189.00	45.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	334.00
Laois	Adult	16	1,278.20	320.00	1,445.00	1,997.86	1,020.00	0.00	300.00	7,735.00	0.00	4,000.00	18,096.06
	Juvenile	7	1,007.50	190.00	230.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	2,127.50
Laois Total		23	2,285.70	510.00	1,675.00	1,997.86	1,120.00	0.00	600.00	8,035.00	0.00	4,000.00	20,223.56
Leitrim	Adult	30	2,421.00	270.00	345.00	4,050.00	250.00	1,850.00	375.00	11,900.00	50.00	1,930.00	23,441.00
	Juvenile	6	837.00	60.00	245.00	1,215.00	240.00	622.00	75.00	2,585.00	0.00	0.00	5,879.00
Leitrim Total		36	3,258.00	330.00	590.00	5,265.00	490.00	2,472.00	450.00	14,485.00	50.00	1,930.00	29,320.00
Limerick	Adult	19	913.50	550.00	845.00	0.00	405.00	0.00	325.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	3,278.50
	Juvenile	8	2,119.50	60.00	0.00	0.00	1,130.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,509.50
Limerick Total		27	3,033.00	610.00	845.00	0.00	1,535.00	0.00	525.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	6,788.00
London	Adult	2	298.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	298.57
	Juvenile	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
London Total		2	298.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	298.57
Longford	Adult	11	918.00	260.00	1,015.00	7,015.00	1,030.00	1,185.00	200.00	10,330.00	0.00	600.00	22,553.00
	Juvenile	6	499.50	0.00	460.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,159.50
Longford Total		17	1,417.50	260.00	1,475.00	7,015.00	1,130.00	1,185.00	300.00	10,330.00	0.00	600.00	23,712.50
Louth	Adult	24	1,831.14	260.00	1,280.00	3,531.00	500.00	1,622.00	1,310.00	6,700.00	3,541.39	880.00	21,455.53
	Juvenile	8	540.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	475.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,015.00
Louth Total		32	2,371.14	260.00	1,280.00	3,531.00	500.00	1,622.00	1,785.00	6,700.00	3,541.39	880.00	22,470.53
Mayo	Adult	31	3,784.00	665.00	1,195.00	4,450.00	1,350.00	650.00	1,075.00	2,455.00	0.00	4,040.00	19,664.00
	Juvenile	13	1,307.00	175.00	240.00	0.00	900.00	0.00	500.00	410.00	0.00	0.00	3,532.00
Mayo Total		44	5,091.00	840.00	1,435.00	4,450.00	2,250.00	650.00	1,575.00	2,865.00	0.00	4,040.00	23,196.00
Meath	Adult	38	6,199.00	441.00	1,525.00	4,200.00	920.00	1,914.00	397.50	10,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	28,596.50
	Juvenile	39	4,530.25	225.00	595.00	2,700.00	0.00	1,250.00	1,259.50	7,370.00	2,470.00	0.00	20,399.75
Meath Total		77	10,729.25	666.00	2,120.00	6,900.00	920.00	3,164.00	1,657.00	17,370.00	2,470.00	3,000.00	48,996.25

County	Playing Status	Amount	Physio	G.P.	MRI	Surgery	Consultant	Anaesthetic Consultant	A&E	Hospital	Dentist	Loss of Wages	Total
Monaghan	Adult	10	1,124.18	50.00	830.00	1,500.00	600.00	600.00	362.00	2,109.00	1,850.00	0.00	9,025.18
	Juvenile	8	144.00	0.00	295.00	1,498.00	180.00	336.00	525.00	750.00	0.00	1,228.00	4,956.00
Monaghan Total		18	1,268.18	50.00	1,125.00	2,998.00	780.00	936.00	887.00	2,859.00	1,850.00	1,228.00	13,981.18
Offaly	Adult	9	1,057.50	60.00	0.00	1,400.00	0.00	600.00	100.00	3,580.00	0.00	1,040.00	7,837.50
	Juvenile	9	738.00	120.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,058.00
Offaly Total		18	1,795.50	180.00	0.00	1,400.00	0.00	600.00	300.00	3,580.00	0.00	1,040.00	8,895.50
Roscommon	Adult	10	1,710.00	0.00	0.00	1,415.00	0.00	346.50	100.00	3,500.00	0.00	1,589.96	8,661.46
	Juvenile	10	1,289.00	330.00	636.00	1,150.00	1,350.00	606.00	500.00	3,176.20	0.00	0.00	9,037.20
Roscommon Total		20	2,999.00	330.00	636.00	2,565.00	1,350.00	952.50	600.00	6,676.20	0.00	1,589.96	17,698.66
Sligo	Adult	26	3,888.00	725.00	1,190.00	5,185.00	240.00	2,142.00	1,020.00	11,185.00	0.00	5,964.00	31,539.00
	Juvenile	7	652.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	652.50
Sligo Total		33	4,540.50	725.00	1,190.00	5,185.00	240.00	2,142.00	1,020.00	11,185.00	0.00	5,964.00	32,191.50
Tipperary	Adult	13	1,314.00	90.00	200.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	400.00	80.00	515.00	1,117.29	4,216.29
	Juvenile	13	576.00	50.00	400.00	1,195.00	180.00	605.00	850.00	3,500.00	0.00	0.00	7,356.00
Tipperary Total		26	1,890.00	140.00	600.00	1,195.00	680.00	605.00	1,250.00	3,580.00	515.00	1,117.29	11,572.29
Tyrone	Adult	17	2,362.68	0.00	2,360.00	10,668.95	2,184.03	2,259.31	0.00	17,999.26	0.00	403.92	38,238.15
	Juvenile	6	1,032.65	0.00	885.00	5,218.33	847.99	1,926.11	0.00	12,672.02	0.00	0.00	22,582.10
Tyrone Total		23	3,395.33	0.00	3,245.00	15,887.28	3,032.02	4,185.42	0.00	30,671.28	0.00	403.92	60,820.25
Warwickshire	Adult	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,400.00	4,400.00
	Juvenile	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Warwickshire Total		1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,400.00	4,400.00
Waterford	Adult	12	2,003.00	105.00	0.00	0.00	180.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	280.00	2,618.00
	Juvenile	5	81.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	380.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	531.00
Waterford Total		17	2,084.00	175.00	0.00	0.00	180.00	0.00	430.00	0.00	0.00	280.00	3,149.00
Westmeath	Adult	27	3,123.50	280.00	1,365.00	4,225.00	1,200.00	2,056.00	300.00	8,967.50	0.00	1,600.00	23,117.00
	Juvenile	13	621.00	0.00	0.00	1,415.00	0.00	585.00	600.00	3,500.00	540.00	0.00	7,261.00
Westmeath Total		40	3,744.50	280.00	1,365.00	5,640.00	1,200.00	2,641.00	900.00	12,467.50	540.00	1,600.00	30,378.00
Wexford	Adult	10	720.00	150.00	225.00	1,400.00	460.00	600.00	300.00	3,750.00	0.00	0.00	7,605.00
	Juvenile	9	731.50	210.00	220.00	1,500.00	450.00	650.00	500.00	2,200.00	0.00	0.00	6,461.50
Wexford Total		19	1,451.50	360.00	445.00	2,900.00	910.00	1,250.00	800.00	5,950.00	0.00	0.00	14,066.50
Wicklow	Adult	17	1,984.50	430.00	875.00	0.00	320.00	0.00	795.00	0.00	0.00	3,636.80	8,041.30
	Juvenile	10	1,750.50	245.00	840.00	0.00	700.00	0.00	500.00	275.00	0.00	0.00	4,310.50
Wicklow Total		27	3,735.00	675.00	1,715.00	0.00	1,020.00	0.00	1,295.00	275.00	0.00	3,636.80	12,351.80
Total		918	101,802.43	11,661.85	37,498.25	168,679.34	42,046.21	47,275.12	25,810.30	305,665.49	10,971.39	67,762.05	818,952.43

COUNTY BY COUNTY CLAIM ANALYSIS



PROVINCIAL BREAKDOWN



2019

Province	No. of Claims:	Total Paid:
Britain	4	€658.27
Connacht	287	€168,522.74
Leinster	552	€363,162.27
Munster	253	€179,106.55
Ulster	162	€307,610.89
Total	1258	€1,019,060.72

2020

Province	No. of Claims:	Total Paid:
Britain	3	4,698.57
Connacht	217	165,792.56
Leinster	360	276,822.58
Munster	189	119,732.81
Ulster	149	251,905.91
Total	918	818,952.43



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT 2020

What a difference a year makes.... But was it all bad or was there some good? Certainly 2020 was a difficult year for everyone involved due to the pandemic and it challenged the development of our game with the cessation of on-field activities on so many occasions but with that came opportunities also.

We have never engaged so many volunteers, players, mentors and match officials in education and support services than we have done in the past year. Nearly 2,000 participants took part in the wide range of webinars delivered throughout the first lockdown period alone with a further 50,000+ people engaging with the recorded sessions on our social media channels, Facebook and YouTube. Our LGFA YouTube page has now become an education platform allowing people to watch back on all webinars and this will be hugely beneficial going forward as we continue to add sessions to support all members of our Association.

The LGFA was forced to think rapidly, be innovative and most importantly be brave to try out new things. So yes, it was a tumultuous year, but it was not all bad. There were lessons learned, new skills unearthed and 2020 could be a milestone year for a new approach to aspects of development of our sport.

It will be imperative to continuously evolve with the ever-changing needs of our members, but we will strive to remain progressive and ensure support is in place for our volunteers, officials and players regardless if they are sitting at home on their devices, face to face or simply reading our resources. 2021 promises to be an exciting year to build on these initial learnings and we look forward to the challenge.

Development Staff

In the words of Angela Merkel "The willingness to learn new skills is very high" are extremely applicable to not only our members but also the development staff throughout 2020. The easy option would have been to sit back and wait for the end of the pandemic, whenever it will be, or to grab the year by the scruff of the neck and confront it head on. The staff chose the latter.

As soon as activity came to a halt off the pitch it was obvious that we were in this for the long haul and we started the process of reviewing all our current and potential education offerings. Details of development activities for the year will be outlined throughout this report but to enable this to happen our staff had to challenge themselves and learn new skills and I cannot thank them enough for the hard work and devotion they demonstrated in their roles.

A quote we used in many of our webinars was "the expert in everything was once a beginner" and the same applied to ourselves and although we are far from being experts, it continues to be an educational process for us also. Each of the National Development Officers; Volunteer Development (Niall Mulrine), Coach Education (William Harmon), Referee and Player Development (Clare Dowdall) and Growth and Participation (Vinny Whelan) have led their strands and ensured there was minimal negative impact inflicted on the development of our game through COVID-19. I would like to thank them for their willingness to embrace these new skills and for taking the time to restructure the provision of our support under the restrictions.

At the start of the year our Development Support Administrator Shauna McNutt left the island of Ireland to go travelling and I want to thank her for the hard work she exhibited in this role and



the new ideas she brought to the team. Clare Conlon has come on board to fill this position and we are extremely grateful for her input, support and the ease of transition which is testament to how she seamlessly has slotted into the group. We welcomed a new Leinster Development Officer in 2020 as Stephen Maxwell took over from Suzi Doyle and I would like to thank Suzi most sincerely for her commitment to development in the province. National and Provincial Development Officers have been united in planning, devising and delivering education and supports during the pandemic and this has strengthened our unit even further. We are very fortunate to have five dynamic Provincial Development Officers in Gearóid Balfry (Munster), Claire Towey Burke (Connacht), Stephen Maxwell (Leinster), Ciaran Murtagh and Aidan McLaughlin (Ulster).

Previous to the lockdown the full development staff met monthly but we increased this to every fortnight to ensure we could plan for the ever-changing environment. These meetings ensure all members can share knowledge, expertise and get involved in healthy debate for the betterment of our game.

National Development Committee

The introduction of our National Development Committee has certainly ensured that we are looking at the development of our sport through a wider lens. The discussions are a breath of fresh air with the members bringing a different perspective to the table. The committee consists of a number of subject experts who can provide guidance and knowledge in areas such as player, referee, volunteer and coach development. There are four provincial representatives with subject area knowledge, and they are Aisling Hubbard (Leinster), Jennifer Higgins (Connacht), Keith Delahunty (Munster) and Eliza Downey (Ulster). Joining them in this group are Wesley O'Brien from University College Cork, Antoinette Campbell who is a former PE teacher and Special Olympics volunteer and Fiona Coughlan, former Ireland rugby captain and All-Ireland Intermediate club winner with Clontarf. This committee meets quarterly chaired by the National Development Officer on Management and includes Paula Prunty as Operations and Planning Manager and myself as National Development Manager, ensuring that all discussions are in line with targets in the LGFA National Strategic Roadmap.

It is always good to see things from differing viewpoints and this committee enables us to do that. Just because we do things a certain way does not always make it the right way or the most progressive avenue. We want to stay ahead of the curve and their enthusiasm and expertise enables us to endeavour to do this.

Provincial Development

2020 started as we meant to go on in the provinces as we held planning meetings to review the year previous and set out ambitious goals and targets for the upcoming period. These interactive meetings were attended by the full executive in that province and focused on developing all aspects from games through to promotions. The discussions assisted to devise the annual work programme for the provincial development officer but also the full committee ensuring each aspect was assigned to an individual for completion. Obviously these targets had to change as

the months passed but the majority of these plans were completed by the end of the year, with structures of some aspects changing to ensure delivery.

We were due to hold mid-year meetings in each province but as we increased our contact with the provincial development officers these were omitted and instead we reconvened at the end of 2020 to conduct a full review, set new targets and get ready to attack the new year. These gatherings have demonstrated the importance of including all members of the executive as their input and views not only help grow the province but ensure their experience is a key element of the planning process. The areas covered included coaching and games, referee development, club and county structures, communications and promotions.

I would like to thank the Provincial Presidents and Executives for their support and understanding for the development staff, both national and provincial, and we look forward to their progressive plans for 2021.

Work Groups

To remain ambitious and driven it is important to constantly review your current status and identify areas to improve on. Bringing people together with a passion for a topic can enhance this process and create ideas to drive that ambition to continuously improve. Our workgroups ensure this can happen and they enable us to focus on specific areas and identify gaps or opportunities. I would like to thank all the work groups for their time and sharing of knowledge during the year. They facilitate different thinking and ensure our programmes and supports remain relevant.

Female Leadership

This was the third year the Female Leadership Workgroup has been together and although meetings had to revert online, they were still filled with enthusiastic and honest discussion. Some of the main reasons this group was initiated was to examine current participation levels of females in our sport, outside of being a player, investigate any perceived barriers for involvement and put initiatives into action to overcome these. The key focus areas were; Administration, Coaching, Officiating and PR/Media.

This workgroup was involved in the establishment and shaping of the hugely successful female leadership programme 'Learn to Lead' and they tracked the journey of the participants offering guidance at all stages. They were also drivers of other initiatives such as female liaison officer seminars, the assimilated coaching course, the referee academy and the Laoch Programme with county players. The group analyse statistics relating to females in LGFA including % of females in various roles and instigate programmes to address any gaps. One of the key discussions in 2020 came from focus groups conducted with former players and the information gathered will help share new support avenues for players over the coming year. The new LGFA Leadership Podcast was established in November 2020 and Katie Liston featured as the first guest. This podcast will focus on personalities from the sport who are now in leadership positions and they will share their experiences both on and off the pitch.

The members of the workgroup are Marie Hickey (Chairperson), Gráinne McElwain (TG4), Róisín Duffy (RTE and Women on Air), John O'Mahony (Former Senator), Michael O'Keeffe (CEO Teneo PSG), Tracey Kennedy (Former Cork GAA Chairperson), Katie Liston (University of Ulster), Su Carty (World Rugby Council), Mary O'Connor (CEO Federation of Irish Sport) who are joined by Paula Prunty, Niall Mulrine and myself from LGFA. These leading experts bring invaluable experience to our Association and ensure that there is a focus on female leadership for the future development of the organisation.

Coach and Referee Education Support Workgroups

The review of our coach and referee education programmes are continuously ongoing and this is essential to ensure all information provided is relevant, verified and up to date. The coach support workgroup provides guidance to our coach developers who are tasked with the delivery of our coach education programme. They work closely with William Harmon to align our resources to meet the needs of this group of coach developers enabling them to carry out their role to the best of their potential.

The referee education support workgroup provides aligned encouragement for referee tutors and as rules change, they make sure our education courses are updated. Working with Clare Dowdall, this group have identified gaps in our previous referee pathways and devised educational programmes to address these. These workgroups play an integral role in supporting not only the participants attending our courses but also those delivering them.

Coach Education

"Let go, let fly, you've listened long enough" was one of the many messages delivered through our coach education webinar series in

2020. Liam Moggan, known as the coaches' coach, was highlighting the importance of coaches knowing when to step back and allow their players to thrive. There was nobody who demonstrated this better than 'The Master' Eamonn Ryan and during his sad passing the quote "a good coach can change a game. A great coach can change a life" was emblazoned across the media and his community. He lived by this ethos putting the player at the centre of everything he was involved in and that has become the core message we are delivering through our coach education programmes.

Although our ability to deliver face to face courses was ceased in early March you will see from the Table 1 on page 69 that coach education had been a priority for counties with 25 FUNDamentals and 11 Level 1 courses already completed. The FREDA principle has been embedded in these offerings aiming for all activities to be Fun, Relevant, aim for Excellence, have Direction and ensure everyone is Active. It is essential that these underpin why and how coaches need to go about their business as coaches in the sport. The first 'blended' Fundamentals and Level 1 courses are due to be rolled out early in 2021 where participants will attend webinars and self-led modules on the GAA eLearning portal followed up with shorter face to face sessions when restrictions allow to sign off on their qualifications. This is an immensely progressive step for our education programmes and has been welcomed by potential participants. Clubs still must ensure that every coach has their relevant coaching qualifications, safeguarding and garda vetting/police checks completed. Therefore, it is imperative that counties organise regular courses and include as a core element of their annual planning.

Our regular suite of courses was replaced with a coach education webinar series including topics such as coach the tackle,





coaching the teenage player, creating a positive coaching environment, first to final kick, and team building amongst others. We designed all webinars to be informative, engaging, interactive and timely lasting no more than 75 minutes. We also organised a specific webinar focused on when activity was permitted to return so it was essential that each subject gave you exactly what it said on the tin. A full evaluation of all webinars was conducted and a comment from a participant commended the LGFA, “the LGFA put time and effort into engaging with its members and keep us informed and prepared to get back to coaching with our clubs.” It would have been easy to wait for a return to the pitch, but it would have been an opportunity lost to engage further with our coaches. One key finding from the webinars was the increased percentage of female attendees (42%) compared to face-to-face courses and various reasons were provided for this, but it was evident from responses that the ability to stay at home certainly added to this, “The fact that it was in my own home, no time wasted travelling or arranging childcare”. The success of the initial series of webinars has led to the roll out of a winter coach education series from November 2020 to March 2021.

It was planned to run two Level 2 courses during the year but unfortunately we had to postpone these due to the onsite hours required for certification. There was a tremendous interest in applicants, and should restrictions allow we will go ahead with these as soon as possible in the new year. This course is designed to really challenge the thinking of a coach and has been touted as one of the best available in sport. The Inter-County Player Level

1 Assimilation aimed at current or past county players also fell afoul of the restrictions and we have postponed it until 2021. The course enables county players to be fast tracked to Level 1 due to their playing experience at club, school and county level.

We have excellent workshops available namely Key2Coaching, Coach the Keeper, Club Mentor Rules, Ready Steady Coach and Coach the Teenage Player. We had delivered six of these at venues prior to the lockdown and then converted the latter three to webinars as part of our education series. Mentors were also able to test their knowledge of the rules by completing an online rules assessment devised on the GAA eLearning platform. This workshop is extremely important to educate club mentors on the official rules of the game and it is an area we need to continue to focus on. Supplementary videos developed such as one focusing on the charge are all in place to increase knowledge of the playing rules and improve consistency both with coaching and officiating. It is the coach's responsibility to educate their players on the rules and show respect to referees.

The Coach the Teenage Player workshop appealed to a significant cohort of our coaches when it was launched, and the face-to-face sessions were booked out within hours. We felt it was essential to use this opportunity of increased engagement to move this to an online session, still delivered by our exceptional Gaelic4Teens ambassadors, and this was extremely effective. The participants are not provided with the full detail from being involved in Gaelic4Teens but there are core messages homed in on to support coaches in their campaigns to recruit or retain teenage girls. This

was an extremely popular topic and the recording was viewed on our social media channels by large numbers.

There was an interest in the coaching webinars internationally too and we were delighted to link with units across the globe to deliver these sessions and this is certainly an area we can build on in the future. You will see further details in relation to these in the international section of the CEO report.

Yearly we have organised a county mentor seminar in each province and it can be difficult to bring this group together as they are out so many evenings with training and other activities. We decided to arrange a webinar focused on the rules solely for adult county mentors when activity was ceased and this was an informative session with plenty of discussion on the rules and coaching within them. Due to the success of this structure we will deliver a new county mentor series of webinars throughout 2021 for mentors of county teams from Under 14 through to adult focusing on coach education.

This year we were due to launch the new 'Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games' course with the GAA and Camogie Association but this was delayed until the new year. The course has been devised and piloted with extremely positive feedback. This course will replace the current LGFA FUNdamentals and the GAA Foundation Level so it will be used as the first step on the coaching pathway for all associations. A huge amount of work has been completed to develop the course but personnel at grassroots level will really reap the rewards for their involvement in this as courses will be more localised and they will not have to complete separate courses for each code. Level 1 and Level 2 courses will remain sport specific as there are differences in coaching male and female athletes as

they develop up the grades and it is essential this education is catered for. We will be working closely with the GAA however as we launch a new Gaelic Games Player Pathway in 2021 and align the journey for all our players and coaches alike through a mirrored coach education pathway. This will open further opportunities for collaboration on common coaching modules which is a positive step for everyone involved. This joint course will also make it far more accessible for coaches in International units to gain their qualifications as they will not need to travel long distances for multiple dates but rather can attend one single course.

It is of course a prerequisite for coaches to have gained their official qualifications and they enjoy attending the sessions and learning new skills but feedback from some coaches was that they would also like to get observed in their own training as a follow up. We know this is not possible for all participants but in 2019 we piloted the introduction of coach observers to offer advice and support to coaches at their actual session in the club or county. The volunteers involved in the pilot really benefited from the experience and it helped them tailor their coaching to meet the changing needs of players. This coach observer training was then opened to counties so they could upskill two people for their county who could offer guidance to development coaches for example or club coaches who had just completed a course. In 2021 we will extend this further with our newly structured Gaelic4Teens initiative and the clubs involved will be given the opportunity to upskill coach observers for their own clubs, this is a very progressive step for coach development within all these clubs. It is imperative that as an Association we prioritise the importance of coach education and ensure that the content being delivered meets the needs of our members.



The LGFA are fortuitous with the coach developers that we have in place and it is their delivery of this education that makes participants hungry for more contact and further knowledge. They strive to drive standards of coaching to new levels and have taken on the new challenge of facilitating these courses online. We replaced our annual in-service in November with additional shorter evening sessions allowing us to provide guidance on delivering online but as always it was an opportunity to gain essential feedback from the attendees for the betterment of our education programme. I would like to thank the coach developers for their commitment, time and dedication to the role under the guidance of William Harmon, whose remit includes coach education, and we look forward to both online and the return of face-to-face sessions. None of the courses could happen without Clare Conlon either and I am very grateful for her organisation of all logistics for these events and liaising with both coach developers and the hosts. In the words of Ben Franklin 'an investment in knowledge pays the best interest' and for the coaches who attend our education sessions we hope they are reaping the rewards of that interest as the courses, webinars, workshops and social media outlets allow us to disseminate the findings of research conducted with our own players on why they play our sport and what will keep them involved. All we must do now is listen to them and act on their thoughts and views. The power is in our hands to move with the times and ensure the structures and environments we create are player centred and nurtured to encourage lifelong participation.

So, as we move into 2021, we will see vast opportunities for engagement with coaches with online and in person events while we will also introduce our new Athletic Development and Inclusion workshops. We will launch a new Player Pathway and a new Coaching Pathway so there are intriguing months ahead. There are some excellent coaches involved in our game and many others who are striving to reach their potential. To revert to the Master from Cork, remember the impact you can make as a coach on so many lives.

Match Officials Education

The one person a game cannot go ahead without is a referee. Match officials are vital for the organisation of our games and it is essential that all counties place a strong emphasis on the development and support of referees. Just like players enjoy playing and coaches enjoy coaching for many officials they pick up the whistle because of their passion for the role, one which can be extremely thankless at times. We produced a video last year focusing on respecting referees and appealed to all units to practice what we were preaching and show this respect. For many they acted diligently and worked tirelessly to provide support for referees within their county or province but on the other hand we were reading repugnant comments on social media directed at our referees. They are human beings, and it is imperative that we protect our match officials. It is not ok for referees to get derogatory comments directed at them or as happened this year an anonymous letter delivered to their home. Do referees make mistakes? Of course they do, and will be the first to admit that but on the field of play there is not a player or a coach who can say they do not make mistakes during a game also. We endeavour

to increase standards and consistency of refereeing alongside recruiting new referees and retaining those already in place. If we can all work together on these areas, there can be huge strides made in a very short space of time.

One way for counties to show support for their referees is by ensuring they organise the annual referee refresher course for existing referees at the start of every year. At Congress last year a motion was passed stating that 'All club adult games within counties must be officiated by a referee who has completed an LGFA referee education course and they must attend the annual referee refresher course to maintain qualifications' so this is now in rule and must be adhered to by counties. There was a lengthy debate surrounding this rule and why it did not include all games regardless of age, demonstrating the importance of educating our referees, but it was agreed to take this one stage at a time. This short course ensures referees are kept up to date with rule changes and provides an opportunity to highlight any inconsistencies that are being witnessed across our games. The main area of discussion usually surrounds the differences between LGFA and GAA playing rules as many referees officiate both. In 2020 we had already rolled out 19 in person refresher courses prior to lockdown and to assist counties ensure their referees could abide by rule we organised an additional 8 online webinars for officials to attend. They then had access to an online rules assessment, complete it and details were forwarded to each county. These online opportunities also helped counties who do not have a large cohort of referees and may have struggled in the past to get enough attendees for a course but there were no excuses with the accessibility of these courses which took place during the day, in the evenings and at weekends to ensure suitability for all. As part of the winter webinar series at the end of 2020 and start of 2021 there are further annual referee courses included and counties still have the option to schedule courses of their own to be delivered online. This workshop remains interactive and engaging and it is imperative that counties do not assign referees to adult games prior to evidence of completion of this course annually.

Our Grab Your Whistle Referee Pathway was updated last year following feedback from participants to ensure the course was matching the requirements of the role they were being asked to fulfil. The terminology of levels for different courses was replaced with Go Games Referee followed by Youth Club Referee, leading on to Adult Club Referee and then for those more ambitious they can progress to Provincial and National Levels.



This pathway gives greater clarity to referees on how they can progress from one step to the next plus it is very clear what grade each course qualifies you to officiate at. The number of girls participating in Go Games is rapidly increasing every year, which is a great sign for the sport, but with that comes increased demand for referees. There were 16 Go Games courses completed at the start of the year with many more due to take place prior to restrictions. We have now restructured this course and counties will be able to still have in person courses when they recommence, but the option is available to complete through a live online webinar either. A self-led version of this course is under construction over the coming year which will allow participants to complete the course at their own time on the GAA eLearning platform.

The new Grab Your Whistle Youth Club course took place in six counties prior to lockdown and this course trains new referees to officiate at competitive club games from under 12 to under 14 level. As with Go Games we have now devised an online version of this course so participants can log in from their own homes and participate in the interactive sessions with our referee tutors, one of which has already been completed. The Adult Club course seen us utilise the eLearning platform for the first time with referee education and enabled us to change a two-day face to face course to now one day in person and five self-led modules to be completed online together with a rules assessment. These changes have made our referee education more accessible than ever whilst maintaining the balance of contact still required for new referees.

To supplement the courses on our official pathway we facilitated several webinars throughout the initial lockdown. There was a captive audience and it is obvious from the numbers who attended that the interest in becoming a match official is there if counties can tap into this potential. I would like to thank some of our national referees who participated in these webinars and gave invaluable guidance and shared their experiences with the ambitious referees tuned in. The success of those initial sessions led us to roll out a winter series of webinars for match officials from November through to March of the coming year featuring topics such as pitch positioning and pre-season preparation.

The County Aftercare Programme was introduced this year and counties must sign up to this prior to organising courses for new referees. There were attendees from sessions never actually becoming active as officials and feedback from many was that they were not contacted by the county anymore or did not get assigned any games. The first few weeks after completing a course is critical for the future of that referee. A positive experience can engrain an air of ambition while a negative experience could lose them forever to the role. We should see young referees gracing our pitches for Go Games matches rather than experienced referees who find it difficult to keep up with the assignments they receive outside of that. Allow that environment for these young officials to flourish, and most important support them. In my report last year there was details included in relation to a pilot we conducted with a group of young referees aged 12-14 years. They were exceptional, the players and the officials all felt part of the game and enjoyed their experiences. There was less interference from side-lines as adults

would not be tolerated for giving out to a young referee. There was no giving out on the pitch, as there was nobody to mimic on the side-lines, it was just a game. This aftercare programme could make an immense difference on retention rates of referees and we urge counties to buy into this and appoint a referee support co-ordinator. We organised training webinars for this role during the year and received very positive reactions. As the number of players and teams continue to grow in our sport so too will the requirement for referees so counties need to act now to ensure they have structures in place for the future to sustain the level of activity.

At Provincial level we continue to organise annual seminars at the start of the year for referees at that level and they include fitness and rules assessments. These sessions ensure the same key messages are being delivered across the provinces and standards are maintained and increased annually. On the return to activity we held further provincial webinars with all referees enabling us to refresh the rules and focus on return to play guidelines for match officials. We once again demonstrated our innovation by devising a structure to enable referees to complete the fitness assessment at home, or their preferred venue, and send us video evidence of this being completed. The safety of all officials was our priority, and this prevented travelling distances and bringing people together from multiple counties. For referees wanting to progress to the next level the provincial accelerate courses continued but again had to be adapted to online modules for completion. If referees are successful on all aspects of this programme they will then progress to their provincial panel, which is the next step on the ladder. All four provinces completed accelerate programmes in 2020.

At national level our panel of referees attended their usual pre-league seminar but similar to the provinces our education then had to revert to online webinars. A positive of this was that we had more regular engagement with our referees adding further sessions with a different focus on each one constantly aiming for consistency in the application of the rules through productive discussions. All referees still had to pass the levels required to remain on the national panel and these are gradually increasing annually. The fitness assessments were conducted by the Health and Human Performance Department of DCU pre-league, but we used a similar structure pre-championship as we did for the provinces with all referees submitting footage of their fitness assessments. We had planned to organise winter hubs again in 2020 but with restrictions we cancelled these and replaced with further virtual meetings on topics of interest to the referees. Much the same as coaching it may have been a difficult year with the pandemic but there were many positive lessons learned to assist us going forward to offer greater support to all officials. I would like to thank all referees for engaging with these sessions and of course for their unwavering commitment to our game, despite all the additional guidelines they had to adhere to.

Four new referees progressed through the national accelerate programme to take their positions on the national panel and they had to complete a number of modules, converted to online, gain their practical experience when matches returned and ensure they had completed their self-reflection as they embarked on a new



journey in their officiating career. We have eight further referees registered on the next national accelerate programme with most of the course due to have been completed in 2020 followed by the final modules and their practical experience when national games recommence in 2021. We did not have the opportunity to organise another GAA Referee Assimilation this year but it is certainly something we will be looking at in the coming year. This initiative was open to current provincial or national level GAA referees, or if active on panels within the last three years, and we had a bridging course focusing mainly on the rule differences as they had the experience and they would then join the pre-league testing panels. This is area we can work further on with the GAA to ensure we provide the opportunity for any official wanting to be tested at the highest level.

We continued to use the Hudl platform for video analysis with our referees and with all games live in the TG4 Championship they received an unprecedented amount of support and feedback. For some of the games we have cameras not only focused on your regular game play but additional lens following only the referee. The officials are given guidance on positive areas of their performance and aspects they need to improve on. It is hoped to build on this in the coming year with behavioural analysis included to give complete feedback to each referee. The Hudl system allowed us to upload certain incidents for example throughout lockdown and all referees were able to comment and discuss with the objective to agree outcomes of the incidents to enhance consistency. We continued written assessments and although the assessors were unable to attend the games live they completed their appraisals watching the games. The follow up conversation between the assessor and the match official is key to ensuring progression from the support provided.

Provinces, and now some counties, are using the written assessment process and it is really assisting the development of their referees and the match officials are feeling supported through this process. We will continue to make this training available to any county wanting to upskill assessors over the coming year. We have a national assessor group and they review our current practices and the forms utilised but also work on ensuring consistency amongst our national assessors. The provincial representatives on this group for the year were Martin Gavin (Connacht), Finbarr O'Driscoll (Leinster), Eamonn O'Connor (Munster) and Paul Swift (Ulster). In total there were 29 assessments completed on national referees and we are extremely grateful to our national assessors who ensured great attention to detail was put into every form for the betterment of our national referees.

When we speak about match officials it is not just referees but the essential team that surrounds them. Umpires and lines people play a very important role in supporting a referee. It was decided to design two webinars; one for umpire training and the other for lines person training, and these had 27 and 48 attendees respectively. There are further seminars taking place as part of the winter series of webinars early in 2021. All attendees maintain their certification for two years and although the umpires will be put into action straight away by the referee they are working with, it is imperative that counties utilise the participants from the lines persons course as they have already taken that first step and shown an interest in being part of the team. Counties are asked to provide lines people for all home Lidl National League games in the guidelines and we would ask them to think about assigning some of the attendees to give them experience and it can be the ideal learning environment to work alongside a national referee. The same applies for other aspiring referees in your county, particularly females, and provides

them with an opportunity to work at the highest level of our game. These officials, together with fourth officials and score assistants for live games, work together to try and ensure the right calls are made and most importantly they support each other.

In 2019 we were delighted to be awarded Women in Sport funding through Sport Ireland for our innovative Grab Your Whistle Referee Academy. The academy was devised to develop aspiring referees aged 18 – 35 years within Ladies Gaelic Football and was delivered over 12 months by experts in the field including some of our own referees. Every county had the chance to avail of two places on this new initiative for referees, with at least one being a female. The course was originally structured to consist of 6 contact days, first day and final day in Croke Park, with remaining dates taking place in each province from 2019 to 2020 focusing on technical, physical, mental and tactical development whilst also providing practical referee experience on top of ongoing support and advice. We had to alter this when COVID-19 struck and like most of our education it moved to online modules, but our independent evaluation results have shown a positive impact since that move. The main difficulty we had was ensuring to give enough practical experience with so few games taking place but when activity resumed this group were extremely active and were invaluable to the Association in the championship regularly seen running the lines, an experience they really valued as they worked with a national team of officials. The conditions were that participants could not be on a provincial or national referee panel but must be currently refereeing in their county. Twenty-two referees completed our very first academy and although it was disappointing to see counties not avail of this opportunity we cannot speak highly enough of the graduates and look forward to following their journey. The participants had their final session at the start of November and virtually received their certificates from LGFA President Marie Hickey. We were delighted to have the Women in Sport lead with Sport Ireland, Nora Stapleton, attending on the night and are extremely grateful of their support ensuring this programme can be rolled out yet again.

It was essential to complete a full independent evaluation and this was conducted by Dr. Wesley O'Brien (UCC) and Irene Hogan (CIT) with a glowing report and tips for a few changes for the next phase. There was 100% satisfaction with the content delivered (95% extremely satisfied, 5% satisfied) and 100% of participants said they would recommend the initiative to other referees. One of the standout findings was in relation to the appointment of a mentor for each participant and they all seen that element as essential going forward. It provided support for them all individually and the mentors gave graciously of their time. Interestingly only 32% would recommend reverting to face to face for the programme but preferred the blended option of learning. When asked about support from county boards only 52% rated this as good or very good so it certainly is an area we need our counties to buy into more and provide that engagement with the officials. The final section of the evaluation highlighted how beneficial this initiative was with 16% saying the course met their expectations and 84% saying it surpassed them. The programme certainly inspired them and this quote demonstrates the ambition if we nurture them "I plan to work my way up to national and I know it will be a good while, but I will

recognise each game as a step to it." The next Grab Your Whistle Academy has commenced in November bringing with it all the lessons we have learned. Again the response was quite disappointing from counties and it is hard to imagine there is not even one ambitious person in each county that given the tap on the shoulder and encouragement to get involved would not benefit greatly from this experience. We do have 16 very enthusiastic participants and they will complete the programme in the latter stages of 2021.

At international level the engagement with our webinars was exceptional during the pandemic and we held referee or rules refresher webinars with Britain, Canada and New York. These were organised at times to suit their own time zone. The webinars were really interactive and it is an area that the units are hoping to build on further in 2021. For many of the international units they have several time zones involved and huge distances between clubs so these opportunities opened doors for everyone.

The emphasis on referee development through all our education is on increasing the consistency of the application of the rules. There is only one rule book so the game should look the same no matter where it is played. Clare Dowdall has been working extremely hard and ensures a greater emphasis is placed on referee development. The Grab Your Whistle bi-monthly newsletter guarantees regular communication with match officials and gives a profile to the many referees involved. It is an opportunity to put an emphasis on certain rules or areas of development for officials. The referee handbook is an exceptional resource providing guidelines and information on every aspect of being a match official. The digital version was published this year and it allows referees to have this on their phone to refer to at any stage. As this version is digital, we could incorporate video clips and footage for explanations and demonstrations of the offences being committed highlighting the action required to be taken by the referee. This is a game changer and is proving to be a significant learning tool for referees and coaches.

The attraction of becoming a referee still has a way to come but we are getting there. One of the most significant calls we received this year was from a tutor who was due to deliver a course for new referees in DCU but when he looked at the registration list all the referees who had signed up were female. Twenty females reaching out to get involved and put their hand up to become a match official. We were delighted to deliver this education to them but as with all I have mentioned previous it is essential that they are given opportunities in their county to get active. The moral of that was there are people who want to officiate if we can nurture them. Referees are essential and need to be respected and part of that is giving them the time and opportunities they deserve so we urge counties to make this one of their priority areas and work with us to build solid foundations for the years to come. And to end where I started to those mentors on the sideline giving out to referees let me quote the legendary Jock Stein 'if you're good enough the referee doesn't matter'. Get on with the game and show the respect you would hope to receive in return.



Development Initiatives

In 2020 we selected 30 clubs from 21 counties to be involved in the Gaelic4Girls Programme, see table 4 on page 69.



Unfortunately this year's participants had to succumb to the pandemic but the decision was made to postpone rather than cancel ensuring places for all clubs selected to take part in the new year. This programme remains to be of paramount importance as a recruitment tool across the country. The structures are reviewed annually and the completion of Dr. Orlagh Farmer's PHD on the initiative has enabled us to tweak this further. The importance of LGFA having a programme like Gaelic4Girls is very clear from even the first line of her introduction 'It is widely reported that girls are less physically active than boys throughout childhood, and the age-related decline in physical activity (PA) participation, particularly from early adolescence onwards, is steeper for girls when compared to boys. Pre-adolescence (11–12 years of age) is a critical period of change in the PA participation levels of girls and finding ways to help girls to become more physically active at this age is important for short and long-term health.' The time spent in our clubs contributes considerably to the physical activity levels of thousands of girls and the more we can inspire additional members to get involved the better for our communities. Gaelic4Girls allows girls to try out the sport in a fun, non-competitive environment with no pressure of having to participate in matches before they have even learned to kick a ball. Feedback from participants has been that this safe introduction has been the key to their participation as they were not asked to go straight

into a training session with more experienced players but eased into these teams.

Previously we allocated two places to every county for clubs to take part but when we reviewed the programme it was decided that quality over quantity was more important so location is now still considered but there is a greater emphasis placed on the suitability of the clubs and the assistance they require.

Orlagh's research praised the current initiative but highlighted the difference just a few changes could make. The results of the study indicate that the 10-week Gaelic4Girls research-informed multi-component community sports-based intervention led to improvements in (i) self-reported physical activity levels, (ii) overall functional movement skills proficiency, and (iii) several psychological correlates of physical activity, including enjoyment and attitudes toward physical activity and perceived peer and parental support amongst other, when compared to the traditionally delivered G4G program and a control group. One of the additions focused on parental involvement and within the research informed G4G intervention group, parents undertook the following (i) co-participated in the skills with their daughter using skills cards. (ii) attended a parent's evening educational workshop on week 4 and (iii) were provided with a communicative support structure platform, messaging groups, for the duration of the 10-weeks. This buy in from parent's is crucial for the long-term participation of many girls so it is an area that we will be focusing on further in the new year.

The experience received by both the girls and their parents in clubs can lead to attraction of further members and in turn a more sustainable future. We need to continue to enhance our club coaching philosophies to match the needs of our young players. Vinny Whelan has this as the main focus of education being provided to successful clubs and is dedicating much time to ensuring it is not just new players attracted for clubs but that following their participation the structures in the club have also improved to increase retention rates into the future. As the clubs selected had already attended their initial information session, but unfortunately did not get to start the programme with their girls, the remaining sessions will be delivered online with the coaches involved for 2021. Orlagh Farmer will be involved in a mid-point session so we have no doubt she will motivate the clubs and act as a fountain of knowledge to help them going forward.

Armagh's Aimee Mackin has been an ambassador for this programme for the past two years and participants of Gaelic4Girls, and many other clubs, have ensured her skills videos have gone viral for the 10 weeks of the initiative. In 2020 we were delighted to add Jenny Higgins from Roscommon as a second ambassador and they are two excellent role models. We have a new series of videos ready to be launched for the next roll out and both players will keep the young girls engaged and inspired as part of their Gaelic4Girls journey.

Gaelic4Girls did not take place in Britain for the past number of years but we are delighted to welcome the clubs there back into the structure for the coming year. One of the highlights of the development calendar annually has been the All-Britain Championships (ABC) Games for youths across Britain and this was sadly missed during the summer with the cancellation of the event. As with all activities we look forward to its return.

One cohort of members who certainly missed activity throughout the lockdown were our Gaelic4Mothers&Others groups. As soon as

any restrictions were eased at club level they were the first in contact to ensure they too could come back and meet each other. G4M&O is far more than a training session, it is a social outlet for women to get together and have some fun, whilst getting exercise at the same time. It is that fun ethos that is essential for this programme and any clubs found operating outside of that ethos no longer participate. There can be no competitions, or scores kept in games and this must be strictly adhered to. There are nearly 300 clubs involved in our Gaelic4Mothers&Others initiative and this number grows exponentially every year. The highlight for many players is the National Blitz Day which was also cancelled. We would usually have over 120 teams involved with many more on the waiting list on a day to remember for everyone. We look forward to the return of provincial and national blitzes whenever restrictions allow.



Our north inner city Dublin version 'Gaelic4Ma's' was due to be a six-week programme for women in the Ballybough and Sheriff Street areas yet nearly two years later they are still together. This group epitomised everything that is great about G4M&O especially in their appearances on television and radio with Marty Morrissey, Bernard O'Shea and Brenda Donohue. It is not an area that people know a huge amount about apart from some of the negative media attraction, but we were introduced to life changing women doing so much good for their own community and beyond. For some of these participants they did not really know each other prior to Gaelic4Ma's but they found common ground to have some fun, make friends and have a social outlet on their doorsteps. During that hour long show many viewers went from convulsions of laughter to streams of tears highlighting that role models can come in many forms, and these women certainly were fitting the category as inspirational women in their area. Such was the success of the programme in this area that we were inundated to expand it across further areas in the Dublin City region where perhaps gaelic games is not seen as a stronghold,



and certainly not for women many of whom have never even touched a ball. We were delighted to be awarded dormant account funding for 2021 to enable this to happen in partnership with Dublin City Council and we look forward to meeting many more of these amazing women and hearing their stories.

Gaelic4Ma's proved that the initiative does not only work where there is already a strong club, but equally if there is a new club, look at the benefits there could be for that club getting women with that determination and drive involved. Clubs across the country have been reaping the rewards with many of the participants now volunteering and this is something that we feel can be harnessed further. In 2020 we received dormant account funding for a Gaelic4Mothers&Others inclusion project in partnership with Leitrim Sports Partnership and this was a little different to others previously where the focus was usually on setting up sites, this was about volunteer education. The purpose of the initiative was to enhance the G4M&O experience allowing women to increase their physical activity levels but also see doors opening for lifelong participation in their local clubs and other community groups. A barrier for many of these women to volunteer can be a lack of confidence especially if they have no previous experience playing the sport so the inclusion project was put in place to help the participants build their self-esteem and skill set. The final independent evaluation of the initiative is due early in the new year but analytics to date have been extremely positive with the women involved now seeing a greater reach into their communities. Some of the volunteer training delivered amongst others was Ready Steady Coach, safeguarding, CARA inclusion training, basic first aid and Jigsaw's One Good Adult. Every course was fully subscribed to and in fact we had to organise a second for some of the topics. Due to restrictions many of the sessions were moved online but while restrictions allowed items such as first aid could take place in smaller pods. We look forward to the full feedback from the evaluation, but we certainly feel adding this volunteer education element could be crucial for assisting clubs to increase their volunteer base going forward.

We teamed up with Athletics Ireland as part of a Women in Sport funded initiative this year called 'Fit4Mothers&Others'. The reason behind this partnership was many women getting involved in G4M&O have never played sport or may not have played in a long time so could be susceptible to a few minor injuries. We often hear the term 'don't run before you learn to walk' and by teaming with Athletics Ireland the women involved in the pilot site in Starlights were getting the best of two hugely successful initiatives in their own right, Fit4Life and Gaelic4Mothers&Others, in this unique 8-week project. The sessions weighed heavier on athletics elements at the start to teach the women how to run properly, jump and land etc. which are all movements extremely important for our sport. As the weeks progressed then the sessions became more focused on gaelic football culminating in a mini blitz for all participants. The feedback from the pilot was that this was very effective, the women improved their functional movement and their sports specific skills. The programme will be rolled out in one site per province during the coming year.

Gaelic4Mothers&Others is about engaging people and ensuring we have a very strong social avenue for women to get involved in our games and encourage that lifelong participation. We did not want to lose that connection with sites during COVID-19 so we organised webinars specific for the programme and will have further through our winter series into the new year. We launched a new injury prevention programme specific to G4M&O participants and thank you to Paul Ginty and the teams from Enniscrone Kilglass and Castleconnor for their role in creating this series. It will be so beneficial to all players going forward and getting involved. As you can see this is a busy area for Vinny Whelan with many strands but one he dedicates much time to and I have no doubt clubs across the country will reap the rewards from these new aspects. The number of sites involved will continue to grow hopefully with many more stories relating to how Gaelic4Mothers&Others is helping and supporting women. We need to protect the ethos of this programme and remember the impact it has not only on the physical health of the participants but also their mental health.

We had 30 clubs from 18 counties selected for this year's Gaelic4Teens initiative, see table 5 on page 70, and they were eager to get started following our initial information session. Like all activity in gaelic

games this was then halted, and we made an early decision to postpone until 2021 to ensure the clubs could make the most of their involvement. William Harmon remained in contact with the clubs to support them through the down time and our ambassadors Clíodhna O'Connor (Dublin), Sharon Courtney (Monaghan), Orlagh Farmer (Cork), Jackie Kinch (Wicklow), Sinead Delahunty (Tipperary), Bronagh McGrane (Louth), Fiona McHale (Mayo), Máire O'Shaughnessy (Meath), Laura Fleming (Roscommon), Emily Martin (Down) and Cassandra Buckley (Kerry) produced a series of mini motivational videos they could share with their teenage players. These ambassadors play a key role in the design and delivery of the programme and feature heavily as the most important element in the independent evaluations conducted. The research that prompted the development of the Gaelic4Teens programme revealed that players play for enjoyment, to improve and get better, to keep fit and healthy, to relieve stress and because their friends play. The reasons highlighted for giving up the sport are that they do not get enough playing time, there is no fun at training, that it is too competitive and that they are treated differently. As our ambassadors have all faced both the positives and negatives of the situations listed, they can share their experiences from when they were teenage girls themselves ready to face the rocky roads of their own careers. The players share expertise from their professional background and we thank them for the time they afford to our teenage players through Gaelic4Teens.

The programme is a coach education programme and was designed by feedback from teenagers on the environment required in a club to enrich their experiences and in turn increase retention levels. The Coach the Teenage Player workshop was developed to give coaches a flavour of the full Gaelic4Teens initiative really focusing on the key messages in relation to the culture cultivated



in the club. We facilitated this as a webinar during the year with a huge interest showing that this remains an area of worry for clubs. Teenage recruitment and retention will remain a high priority for the Association and we will continue to deliver these messages at any opportunity that presents itself for the betterment of our players. We were pleased to link with national referee Maggie Farrelly in her role with Donegal Local Sports Partnership to deliver this workshop to participants in the county also.

Every year we collaborate further with local sports partnerships and they are doing exceptional work for sport in general at local levels. As part of further dormant account funding in 2020, through the Sport Ireland Sports Inclusion Fund, we partnered with our former staff member Aisling Doonan for a Cavan Gaelic4Teens programme. There were 10 clubs signed up and the funding enabled us to appoint a local co-ordinator, Karen Galligan, who was phenomenal in her role. She was a constant link and presence for the clubs ensuring they were always up to date and in attendance. This was the first time we delivered a hybrid version of Gaelic4Teens, online and part face to face due to the restrictions, but we learned so many lessons to enhance the programme going forward. All educational sessions were delivered as webinars supported with a visit to each club by a county player to conduct a sample coaching session joined by an LGFA coach developer. This allowed participants to see the lessons they had learned happen on the pitch to gain a deeper understanding.

Dr Wesley O'Brien and Irene Hogan conducted an independent evaluation and the theme of having fun through developmentally appropriate coaching sessions emerged consistently. Coaches became aware that to increase retention rates of teenage girls they may only receive delayed gratification, but it would be worth it. They may not win anything now but the environment that they created would hold the girls and make them feel part of something they did not want to leave and ensuring they would have a huge part to play in the club in future years. Undeniably at post-test follow up upon completion of the Gaelic4Teens programme, the coaches coaching style had made a significant shift towards athlete-centred environments. When listening to the voice of players, coaches highlighted that they are more aware of effective communication with players and noted the following: 'feedback from the girls, talk to them, it is amazing what they understand.' Again, at post-test follow up upon completion of the Gaelic4Teens programme, the coaches realised the importance of having contextually rich and varied training sessions. By seeking to improve players' confidence, challenging players at training with extra coaches allows more time for skill development, which has a positive cyclical effect on higher levels of players enjoyment. Furthermore, the coaches felt that the Gaelic4Teens programme helped them as a club to focus on their respective philosophies and structures. Upon completion of the Gaelic4Teens programme, it was evident that the coaches involved thought that the online mode of delivery with webinars and using the GAA eLearning portal as a practical tool enhanced their coaching knowledge enabling them access to further resources. The time efficiency of not having to travel to central venues was cited and hence the 2021 programme will be rolled out with a new structure. From a coach education perspective,

the player ambassadors modelled the principles of positive youth development in coaching through their 'time keeping, questioning of the players, technical supporting skills advice and their communication.' While these were notable features of quality from the player ambassadors when coaching, their communication and planning to maximise players engagement on the field was also very evident in their practice i.e. 'coaches thinking on their feet, and the session was go, go, go...'. This is yet another element we will bring into the restructured programme with a coaching session to be delivered in each club by an ambassador or selected county player supported by an LGFA coach developer. There was a notable change in mindsets from pre to post in terms of the coaches' perceptions of the important factors to consider when planning a training session, which moved from focusing on the practicalities of equipment to the inclusion of fun elements in all sessions and allowing the players a chance to talk during the session. This transfer in mindset illustrates that the coaches are now athlete-centred in their approach, as well as being cognisant of what the teenage player wants. This evaluation was invaluable to us ensuring the programme is making a difference and if it can have this same impact on all coaches and clubs involved there will be an efficacious impact on our teenage players.

While many initiatives focus on increasing participation numbers on the pitch the Club2Gether programme aims to strengthen club structures off the field to ensure



they can sustain the growing numbers. Club2Gether focuses on developing areas such as volunteer recruitment and retention, governance & officer training, games development and sponsorship and fundraising, while also planning for the future to ensure more tenable and long-term structures are in place. 15 clubs were selected from the four provinces and representing 14 counties, including eight from Leinster, three from Ulster, and two each from Connacht and Munster and they are listed in table 6 on page 70.

This programme was delivered using a hybrid model as we had to move the final seminars online for webinar delivery but from evaluations although the clubs enjoyed sharing ideas face to face, they welcomed less travel and the addition of some very worthwhile topics. Niall Mulrine maintained the focus of the clubs throughout and the downtime actually allowed them the time to look at their structures and see where improvements were required, something clubs do not often get the chance to do. We had some external facilitators involved too and they shared their knowledge and experience with the clubs to provoke them to think differently and look to their future and not just the present. We had club planners available to assist any clubs wanting support to develop this area further and establish plans to set goals and targets for the future.

As has been the case with all initiatives this year, we have learned from our adaptations and will bring the fruits of this learning to the next roll out which commenced in October with 18 new enthusiastic clubs. Additional resources will be available on the GAA eLearning portal accessed only by the successful clubs and it contains a forum to allow them to share thoughts and ideas throughout. On day one

participants are asked to describe their club as it is now in three words followed up by a task to get them to envision their club starting again and if they could grow the ideal club what words would be associated with it. Club2Gether is about giving clubs the tools to grow that ideal club but it is in their hands to use those utensils to make it happen. The first step to all of this is improving communication and getting buy in from members so as we embark on another year of the initiative, we hope that lessons learned from the clubs involved so far can be brought forward to assist subsequent clubs. In the words of David Allan Coe “It is not the beauty of a building you should look at; it’s the construction of the foundation that will stand the test of time” so just because things look good for a club at any one time does not mean the foundations are strong enough to bring them to the next level and future proof them. This is why Club2Gether is important for clubs and keeps the focus not just on the pitch, but on what is required off it to ensure progression.

Our first Learn to Lead programme reached its conclusion in February with 20 amazing graduates, five participants for each strand of coaching, officiating, administration and PR/media. They are listed in Table 8, page 70. To say that the programme surpassed all our expectations would be an understatement. The LGFA launched the Strategic Roadmap 2017-2022 and there was a key area identified to ‘define a model to promote Female Leadership across the Association.’ This was the main reason for starting the female leadership programme but for the participants involved Learn to Lead has not just encouraged them to progress in relation to leadership positions in our sport but across all aspects of their lives. Such was their response both on public forums and through their own word of mouth that when we advertised for the next phase, which will commence in 2021, we were inundated with applications.



The twenty participants attended four core days together in Croke Park and six evening sessions specific to their selected strand. In addition, they were assigned a mentor to support them on their journey and as a bonus life coaching sessions were provided by coaches from the AIB network. In last year’s report I outlined the content of each session which occurred during 2019 and this culminated in the concluding session on Saturday, February 15, 2020. Niamh McElwain, who designs and teaches transformational learning programmes at Google, and Pedro Angulo, Head of Leadership with AIB, not only facilitated sessions for us throughout but assisted with the design and were an unbelievable support for LGFA in what was an uncharted field for everyone involved. It was only fitting that they would return to facilitate the final thought-provoking day with the group who had bonded during their adventure of personal discovery. Although they were tinged with sadness to be completing the programme, they were also excited for what lay ahead. As we gathered in The Croke Park Hotel that evening for the graduation ceremony, surrounded by a selection of mentors and facilitators, you could sense there was something special about the possibilities that could come from Learn to Lead. Our keynote speaker for the evening was Joan Kehoe, Global Head of Alternative Investment Services at JP Morgan, and what a tremendous guest she was. She shared her story, the ups and the downs, the peaks and the troughs, but always inspiring the attendees in the room.

From day one the participants were willing to expose their vulnerabilities and hence they could grow and develop. As our President Marie Hickey said, “they engaged passionately and whole heartedly with the programme.” We would like to thank each of the successful candidates for their engagement and hope that it is not the end of the journey but rather the beginning. I would also like to thank our amazing facilitators Niamh McElwain, Pedro Angulo,



Alan Lyons and Karina Féirtear for the time and effort they put into the initiative. We were blessed to have keynote speakers of the calibre we did from former Uachtarán na hÉireann, Mary McAleese, in conversation with Gráinne McElwain, to Gillian Harford, from the 30% Club, sharing her life experiences and barriers she had to come, and of course finishing with Joan Kehoe. There was substantial time dedicated to our leaders from their mentors and coaches to help them plan their own paths to success and we look forward to following their pathways over the coming years.

So as one door closed another opened and applications flooded in for the next Learn to Lead Programme. We had around 100 applicants vying for places and we now look forward to embarking on a new expedition with the 24 successful candidates. Let the journey begin.

Player Development Programme

The new Player Development Programme was due to commence in 2020 but was deferred to 2021. This inclusive programme will replace the previous development squads or academies structure and provide an opportunity for players to develop individually, with different players, learn new skills, and develop the fundamental skills in a positive and safe environment within their counties. There can only be competitive county teams at Under 14, 16 and 18 with the Player Development Programme involved at the alternate ages. The new structure will not only enhance the environment for the players involved but also the coaches through a series of education sessions throughout the duration of the initiative. Counties will be encouraged to get as many coaches involved from across multiple clubs as this will in turn improve coach education at club level. To avoid confusion – titles 'LGFA Development Academy' or 'LGFA Academy Programme' are now defunct and should not be utilised

by counties but we will organise a full suite of information and education sessions early in the new year to support counties.

Club School Link Programme

The LGFA Club School Link programme is a combined approach at local level ensuring sporting opportunities for young people. It was developed to enable clubs and schools to formalise the excellent work they are already doing and supporting them to develop further opportunities. Each club-school link will be different so as a result each individual link will provide the schools, clubs and young people with numerous benefits specific to their community. As part of this new programme launched in January 2020 clubs can submit evidence of their links to be awarded bronze, silver or gold certification. At each level, the school and club are required to adhere to the minimum standards and there is an easy-to-follow guide to assist them on their journey. It was agreed to hold off on a full launch of this initiative until the new year given the restrictions both in clubs and schools but there is certainly huge potential for both parties and most importantly it ensures young people are kept at the centre of all discussions.

Transition Year/ AS Level Programme

The LGFA TY/AS Level programme remains very popular in schools and it is delivered by the provincial development officers. The key focus is to ensure students gain lifelong skills that are transferable to many aspects of academic and social situations both inside and outside the school. On day 1 the participants will complete an introduction to coaching module, Go Games referee module and the final session on event management. The students will utilise their skills developed to host an event in the school on day 2. Working in groups they will organise the event in all areas such as promotion, coaching and refereeing. The event day can



be organised in conjunction with the local primary schools in their catchment areas or 1st year female students in the school. Restrictions in schools made it impossible to organise the full TY programme in 2020 but we did modify the content of the coaching and refereeing modules to enable schools to book either, or both, for their students and the provincial development officer facilitated the sessions remotely. This was welcomed by teachers and ensured we had continued engagement and communication with schools.

LGFA Research Pod

The LGFA Research Pod was established in November 2020 and it lives as part of the LGFA YouTube page. This is a new section commencing as a playlist devoted to research that has been completed or is ongoing relating to ladies gaelic football or female sport, which in turn impacts on our sport. This was a hugely exciting project and we are so grateful of the immense research being completed across the country and wanted to use this to say thank you to all people involved by giving them a platform to showcase their findings, in turn providing a greater profile to them whilst also ensuring our members get access to these crucial findings.

Throughout the year more and more topics were presented to us and being honest in many cases we would not have even been aware the research was happening, but the results have been of huge interest to us and will continue to do so. We felt there would be a massive appetite to watch these short 10-minute presentations that would be recorded and uploaded weekly from the researchers themselves. The aim was to upload a new topic every Tuesday at lunch time as findings had shown that many people were now having to eat lunch alone either through social distancing or working from home so what a perfect way to spend 10 minutes of that time.

We contacted all colleges and universities through existing contacts and we were overwhelmed with the feedback and the number of applications to get involved. The subjects, and more importantly the findings, are critical for the future development of our sport and we would urge all our members to watch these as they cover a broad range of topics. I would like to thank all researchers for their submissions to date and we look forward to continuing this initiative.

Volunteer Development

In reality all aspects of development are volunteer development as coaches, officials and the many roles to administer and grow our games are undertaken by volunteers. However, it is important that we dedicate time to our administrative volunteers who are usually the lesser known but of equal if not greater importance for all units of our Association. Our strategic roadmap featured a key strand focused on volunteer development and ever since we conducted the volunteer impact survey in 2019 with Volunteer Ireland, we have been striving to provide the required support requested by our volunteers. We could be proud at that time of the fact that 91% of respondents said they would recommend volunteering with LGFA but how could we ensure that figure would increase. Since then, we have established an annual calendar of volunteer training to assist members at club, province and national level. This education was designed as in person sessions and we had completed a number of offerings prior to the pandemic but

then reviewed these for online delivery when it was required, again receiving extremely positive feedback.

Provincial and County Officer Days

The role of a county or provincial officer is not an easy one and varies depending on positions. In 2020 we reverted to one National County/Provincial Officers Day in the Tullamore Court Hotel as feedback from the year previous was that the participants enjoyed coming together to share experiences and ideas. We decided to ensure that the topics covered were very specific to the needs of our officers and these were competition guidelines, getting your finances in order, designating your CCA's and dealing with transfers while the day finished with a session on sponsorship and PR. This was informative day and provided the attendees with tools to help them carry out their roles more efficiently and effectively. We were due to hold a separate day for county development officers but the weather prevented it taking place however we replaced that day with a series of interactive webinars which proved more effective and something we will continue with in 2021. It is imperative that every county has a development officer in place, who can be supported by a development workgroup, but there are too many counties leaving this position vacant or just being filled by name. This is an essential role in every county and ensures you have someone focused on the development of the county. It was removed as an elected position to enable counties to select the right person for the role, making sure they were the right fit. It is an exciting time for our game but if you are not willing to identify the right person for this role then counties will have nobody to blame but themselves for being left behind. We cannot stress enough that the person taking on this position should be there for the betterment of the whole county and not just for their own club or as an avenue to get involved with a county team, they need to see the bigger picture and have the ambition and drive to get there and bring people with them.

The world of webinars was an unknown territory for LGFA volunteer education but one in which we flourished. As we seen the first signals that activity may resume on our pitches again, we were able to facilitate provincial fixtures webinars for all four province and Britain, and most counties were in attendance, something I doubt would have happened had we been sitting in a meeting room. We had more applicable topics and it was becoming evident from feedback that we could reach and support more members at this level through these forums. In light of this we launched a county leadership series at the end of 2020 to run into 2021 for all county and provincial officers. The topics provided have been selected from evaluations from participants and we know they will support the officers with their roles.

We will continue to endeavour for the provision of support for all volunteers, but it is imperative that volunteers engage with this. There have been many discussions about the volunteer role and how busy it is, which certainly is true, but now these education offerings can be availed off from a volunteer's home, so it is much more accessible. We appreciate our volunteers and welcome feedback on topics to assist them further at this level.

Club Officer Workshops

The club officer programme is an integral part of our volunteer education suite. There have been LGFA specific club officer seminars to assist chairpersons, secretaries, treasurers, registrars and PRO's and 2020 seen the launch of the joint club officer education with the GAA and Camogie Association taking place under the new Club Leadership Development Programme. This collaborative initiative was revamped to ensure it was tailored to members of all three bodies providing learning opportunities to new and existing club officers. The programme focuses on the practical aspects of the primary roles on a club executive, i.e. chairperson, secretary, treasurer, PRO, and registrar. During 2020 the LGFA had delivered 7 stand-alone seminars whilst 6 were delivered jointly. Niall Mulrine, as part of his role supporting volunteers, is a member of the GAA National Officer Development Committee (NODC) and they are continuously reviewing opportunities to work together particularly for members at grass roots level in our clubs.

Club officer education was another area that benefited from our online delivery and we held several webinars during lockdown which has now led to the scheduling of a new club leadership series of webinars for the winter. There is no doubt we are engaging with a far greater number of volunteers through this online education and as each session is evaluated immediately it enables us to continuously alter the content to demands of our participants.

Volunteer Support Programme

At the end of 2019, the LGFA National Development staff launched a new 'Volunteer Support Programme' to provide a more in-depth targeted support and contact with county boards and clubs over a 3-year cycle. The counties involved would have a designated staff member assigned to assess the needs of that specific county and their clubs and then help to put a plan in place to support these. There would be 11 counties in each cycle listed in table 7 on page 70 and this greater level of engagement and investment of time would support volunteers at all levels within that county. The initial counties term would span from the end of 2019 to the latter stages of 2020 and it was unfortunate that the pandemic caused issues for some counties ability to engage fully while others flourished from the down time. Prior to any lock downs we had completed much of the training that would be provided in these counties such as the club officer programme and we had conducted many of the club forums to assist with the planning process. There were some excellent people involved on the steering groups for these plans collating the feedback and producing documents to create a vision for the future. It was always stressed that there is no point having a plan on paper sitting on a shelf without being willing to now activate it and allowing clubs to see the progress being made from their suggestions.

As we move on to year two there are of course questions to be pondered on with the initial counties. For the counties who really bought into the process and ensured ongoing communication they are really seeing the benefits and will continue to do so over the coming three years with their plans but for the counties that did not we really hope this was not an opportunity wasted. As members of the development staff spent endless hours with county executives and steering groups, selected by the executives, it has been a

frustrating year for some of them with the lack of contact since the completion of the plans with some unable to get any response at all from the executive members. I would urge these counties to revisit their correspondence and contact their designated support person as your clubs put in time and effort to assist you look towards the future, as is always requested to get more involved. Please do not waste your opportunity.

We have now engaged with our year 2 counties at the end of 2020 and already there has been extensive progress in many of these, so we are looking forward to supporting you further over the coming 12 months.

Player Education

We completed a club player survey in 2018 and this is an area we have focused more on since then, both education for the players themselves but also for administrators and coaches following their feedback. Our fixture planning seminars over the past two years allowed us to disseminate the key themes from this survey particularly in relation to the organisation of fixtures and importance of having clear plans with strong guidelines for fixtures to take place as scheduled. Many counties have now adopted versions of our sample competition guidelines to assist this process and ensure clarity for all clubs prior to a ball been thrown in.

The second element related to education for the players themselves and during COVID-19 we delivered webinars specific to players and will continue this with a winter series which commenced at the latter stage of 2020. We will be linking with some of our partners such as FitrWoman for 'myths of the menstrual cycle' and Nutramino for 'fuelling the body'. The topics selected are unique to players wants and the information being provided is backed with verified research from expert bodies.

We are currently working with several universities on specific LGFA research and the findings of these will not alone assist our player education but in turn help shape our coach education. One of these studies focuses on concussion with DCU and on completion we will have a greater knowledge of the prevalence of concussion in our sport but the aim includes the development of a targeted tool for diagnosis alongside a targeted concussion education programme. Research has commenced too with a student from the Technological University in Dublin and another from IT Carlow on a similar topic but across different grades of our game. They will investigate the physical demands of our game and this will be essential education for players as they prepare to participate in ladies gaelic football but also for coaches to prepare these players. There are further ongoing studies with several other third level institutions including Athlone IT and all these findings specific to our sport will be crucial for player development.

The 20x20 campaign had targeted their final year with numerous campaigns and it was unfortunate that COVID-19 emerged at the same time. In preparation for increased media coverage and awareness of women's sport we developed a new Laoch programme originally designed for county captains. This was due to be a one-day PR and Media masterclass followed by an evening in each province focused on leadership as a captain, but again great



plans can get shelved to meet the problems in front of you. We were delighted to team up with Róisín Duffy, Pat Coyle and Eileen Dunne from the team in Women on Air to deliver the masterclass in January attended by over 30 players. Gráinne McElwain added to the day sharing her expertise particularly in relation to match day side-line interviews. Due to the restrictions then coming into place we changed the structure of the programme and replaced the provincial evenings with four interactive webinars on leadership with Waterford's Michelle Ryan, team bonding with Donegal's Nadine Doherty and a third session delivered by FitrWoman on unlocking the female potential. The final webinar was facilitated by Fionnuala McAtamney centred around the mental preparation especially given the challenges all players were facing. The Laoch programme encouraged engagement with county captain's and their teammates and it has been agreed to restructure this given the lessons learned but to deliver further webinars in 2021.

The lockdown was a difficult time for everyone, and it was the unknown of when or if activity would recommence that was the worst element. To assist counties, we offered to conduct a fun quiz evening with their adult county team which would be focused on the rules but the structure would have them in teams and guaranteeing a laugh while educating them at the same time. Four counties availed of this opportunity and we have no doubt may have been quoting some of the rules on the pitches as championships restarted. This was just another example of how we had to think on our feet during this strange year and try and support all our members. We linked with Orlagh Farmer to create her series of daily exercises including Tai-Chi Thursday and our

many players, past and present, for skills challenges and exercise videos all with the aim to engage with members of all ages and distract from the struggles of the restrictions.

The LGFA Show has been one of those elements providing a much-needed distraction and two of the shows for 2020 were focused on player education at which we were delighted to be joined by special guests to discuss various topics. This is an idea that we will be progressed further in the new year.

Partnerships

Lidl and Youth Sport Trust UK

The Lidl #SeriousSupport Schools Programme was piloted in late 2018, with Lidl and Youth Sport Trust UK, and the athlete mentors were due to visit more schools than ever during the 2019-20 school year. There were 33 schools selected and each school was assigned one of Lidl's ten athlete mentors, who are current or former elite-level ladies gaelic football players. There were six schools in Northern Ireland selected for the mirrored LGFA Support Programme. The mentors involved are Carla Rowe, Dublin; Lyndsey Davey, Dublin; Caroline O'Hanlon, Armagh; Donna Berry, Kildare; Eilish Ward, Donegal; Katy Herron, Donegal; Louise Galvin, Kerry; Lucy Hannon, Galway; Sinead Burke, Galway; and Cora Staunton, Mayo. All schools were scheduled to receive inspirational assembly talks, #SeriousSupport workshops from their mentors and then undertake a ladies gaelic football project of their own throughout the year, applying the concepts outlined throughout the talks. The athlete mentors have inspiring stories to share and were selected through an interview process with Youth Sport Trust UK. They have



played sport at the highest level yet have had to overcome many challenges and they use this to inspire and transform the lives of the young people in front of them in the classrooms.

This initiative aims to reduce the drop-off rate in sport participation amongst girls aged 11-14 years and stems from research conducted by Lidl into how sport impacted the lives of women both on and off the pitch. The memorable campaign shocked people with statistics such as by the age of 13, 1 in 2 girls drop out of sport or the fact that girls are 3 times more likely to give up sport than boys. This is why the athlete mentors were introduced into schools and unfortunately they did not get to complete their 2020 visits but the plan is to finalise the remaining sessions when restrictions allow in schools.

Lidl and Jigsaw Ireland

Has there ever been a better time to discuss positive mental health? Everyone has struggled at some point during the last 12 months and that includes our young members. Jigsaw Ireland, the National Centre for Youth Mental Health, have been front and centre during this pandemic offering guidance to parents, teachers, amongst many and of course the young people themselves. The My World Survey 2, Ireland's largest and most comprehensive study of young people's mental health developed by UCD School of Psychology and Jigsaw, was published in 2019 with statistics such as '40% of adolescents aged 12-19 reported experiencing levels of depression outside the normal range' so we can only imagine what the results would be now if this were repeated. The results of this study played an important role in the decision of Lidl to partner with Jigsaw and when LGFA were linked to that partnership the One Good Club™ initiative was born. There

was a hugely successful pilot in 2019 with the first official roll out due to take place in 2020. Lamentably it was decided to postpone the 2020 programme with the selected 26 clubs, but they have all been offered their place for 2021.

One Good Club™ is a five-step youth mental health awareness programme for local clubs and it aims to increase awareness and knowledge of youth mental health across the LGFA community. The clubs were due to attend a training day in Croke Park which will now be replaced by more frequent webinars, a step which will be most beneficial to the clubs. They will have access to an online web portal specially designed for the successful clubs and this will contain all resources they require plus they will upload the evidence of their completion at each step. The five-step programme was developed using the '5 a Day for your Mental Health', an evidence-informed framework, made up of simple actions aimed at boosting your mental health and wellbeing. The steps include 'Connect', 'Be Active', 'Take Notice', 'Give' and 'Keep Learning'. Clubs will organise activities with each theme designated a two-week block for activation.

There are four One Good Club™ Ambassadors – Dublin's Carla Rowe, Galway's Nicola Ward, Waterford's Caoimhe McGrath and Donegal's Emer Gallagher and as part of their role they devised a selection of videos focusing on the 5 steps above to encourage positive mental health during what we called 'Be Positive Week' during the pandemic and raise awareness in communities at a time when state examinations were due to take place. We look forward to commencing the full initiative in March 2021.

Northern Ireland Youth Forum

The LGFA TALK Project is a six-week club-based initiative in partnership with the Northern Ireland Youth Forum. It is aimed at increasing the awareness of positive mental health in young members aged 13-18 years, and removing the stigma associated with the subject area. The project was designed to mirror One Good Club™ and was to be rolled out for clubs in the six counties in Northern Ireland during 2020. It was agreed that this would be postponed until 2021 but working with the same pilot clubs; Tír na nÓg (Armagh), Creggan Kickhams (Antrim), Lisnaskea (Fermanagh) and Ballinascreen (Derry).

The aims of the project are to transform the club into a hub for positive youth mental health in the community and remove the stigma attached to discussing mental health amongst young members and their peers, mentors and parents. This would lead to an increased awareness of the impact of positive mental health on young members. Clubs will be awarded with the status of a 'Positive Talk Club' once they have attended all education days, completed the six-week project and can showcase the activities and events they have undertaken during that time.

Local Sports Partnerships

LSP's play an important role increasing physical activity levels in their counties and offer immense support to sports clubs across the country. They deliver education courses, provide guidance and offer small grants when available. We have been encouraging clubs and counties to liaise with their local sports partnership and there can be opportunities to collaborate on projects also. We have been delighted to work with several LSP's over the past few years and 2020 was no different as you can read in earlier sections of this report. This year alone we had the Gaelic4Teens project in Cavan, Gaelic4Mothers&Others inclusion initiative in Leitrim, the Coaching Community of Practice in Limerick and Gaelic4Ma's with Dublin City Council. It is always a positive experience partnering with LSP's and we will hope to build on these in the coming year.

Technological University Dublin and Dublin City Council

Our Gaelic4Girls module in TUD fell afoul of COVID-19 this year but at the same time it allowed time to review and discuss how best to get the impact we want from it in the future. Students can gain five credits for the completion of the module and while they learn the theory of coaching and officiating, it is the practical experience delivering the Gaelic4Girls programme that will stand by them in the future when they qualify. Third level education has been impacted greatly so we look forward to the return of students to campus and continuing this module when the new academic year begins.

FitrWoman

When we announced our partnership with Irish company Orreco, through FitrWoman, in 2018 there was little known of the platform which had just been launched. We were excited with the potential impact this could have for our players as the FitrWoman application was like nothing ever developed before. The ambassadors for the app were Noelle Healy (Dublin), Tracey Leonard (Galway), Noelle Gormley (Sligo), Bernie Breen (Wexford), Sinead Delahunty (Tipperary) and Marian McGuinness (Armagh). So as Orreco

embarked on spreading the news of this platform across the world our players were featuring front and center. Only two years later FitrWoman has become one of the most important components for female athletes across the world and is regularly mentioned as a game changer for successful teams including the USA at the FIFA Women's World Cup, USA Swimming and WNBA champions.

In 2020, representatives from FitrWoman delivered a webinar as part of the Laoch programme for county players and then later in the year a webinar opened to all players which yet again attracted huge numbers. As research has outlined, one in two women stop exercising due to their menstrual cycle so we must generate discussion around this taboo subject and encourage our players to talk to their coaches and each other. We look forward to continuing to build on this partnership and providing additional education for females on the topic of the menstrual cycle.

Development with the GAA and Camogie Association

We continue to collaborate on multiple projects and initiatives with the GAA and Camogie Association and we have LGFA representatives on development workgroups. One of the most significant steps was the development of the 'Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games' course even though the launch has been delayed until 2021. At the start of the lockdown we worked together on a coach education webinar series covering a broad range of topics, one of which was focused on the female athlete. Coach development is certainly an area we will develop further collaboratively yet still ensuring our own programme is meeting the needs of our female athletes.

Many sports struggled when the pandemic struck as they did not have access to eLearning platforms, but we were very fortunate to have full use of the GAA eLearning platform and we had been using this previously, to a lesser extent. Because of this we were able to deliver a full suite of education and continue to engage with our members. I would like to thank David Sweeney, the GAA eLearning manager for his support, assistance and certainly patience with us in relation to this unique platform which has been an exceptional support for access to continued education.

The Kellogg's Cúl Camps continue to be a recruitment tool for boys and girls and this year's camp were probably the most talked about, albeit not necessarily always for the right reasons. There was much doubt as to whether the camps would go ahead but everyone involved must be congratulated for the safe and successful coordination of one of the largest initiatives in gaelic games. Dublin's Sinéad Goldrick acted as an ambassador for the programme with many more females employed as coaches across the country. It has been brought to our attention that GAA games managers struggle for female coaches annually so we would encourage counties to contact them as there will be an opportunity to advertise for positions and get more female players and coaches involved. The Cúl Camps are opened to boys and girls with the percentage of girls taking part increasing year on year. As the camps are well attended by girls there is little need to organise separate events but if a county is running a summer camp of their own for girls it is essential to organise a Cúl Camp first as per

guidelines laid out in relation to camps and ensure to liaise with a member of development staff prior to advertising any camps to make sure the appropriate insurance and qualified personnel are in place.

The GAA Coaching Conference was held on 10th and 11th January 2020 in conjunction with LGFA and the Camogie Association. The LGFA session was very highly attended with over 120 coaches hanging on to every word from Willie Power and Dublin's Éabha Rutledge on the topic of 'The Coaching Eye: Creating a Culture of Continuous Improvement'. We felt it was important to address the area of performance analysis which has become a key service for many mentors, but the question was 'do all coaches know what they are looking to analyse?' The understanding of how to use the information is more important than getting the data and statistics. The concept of this parallel session was simple and brought things back to basic pen and paper and getting that complete clarity before a coach would need to think about progressing things any further. Orlagh Farmer also presented the findings of her PHD on Gaelic4Girls on the Friday night and yet again there was a record overall attendance at the conference. It is envisaged that next year's conference will take place virtually but we will still hope to collaborate on the content to be delivered.

The GAA Youth Conference was cancelled in 2020 but it certainly has become a very important date on the calendar and young members will look forward to its return in the coming year. Findings from focus groups during this day have been presented to our Annual Congress for the past two years by the GAA Youth Committee and there have been some stark statistics. It is important that all three associations continue to listen to our young members and provide them with an avenue for their voices to be heard.

As previously outlined, we have been collaborating on volunteer education and the Club Leadership Development Programme was the first step on this. It is now hoped to look at areas of the county leadership programme to see what common modules can be delivered for officers of all codes. COVID-19 brought many challenges but also demonstrated the impact of working together on education programmes for grass roots as all members, regardless of their gender or game they are involved in had to complete the same return to play education modules and adhere to the same protocols. We will continue to meet the specific needs of our volunteers but where things can be done together it is certainly worth exploring.

There were many reviews completed in 2020 as GAA staff across the country looked at the current programmes on offer and assessed the future roll outs. We were involved in finalising these new structures and although several of the initiatives could not be rolled out in 2020, we look forward to linking up to fresh approaches in 2021. The programmes included the Future Leaders Transition Year Programme, GAA 5 Star Centre and Go Games. Some schools did continue with Future Leaders and the students cover topics such as event management, coaching, refereeing, sports journalism, performance analysis, nutrition and wellbeing.

It is encouraged for our clubs and counties to communicate with schools involved as there are some excellent young volunteers participating, already motivated and wanting to use their new skills. Go Games will be re-launched in 2021 and there has been an immense amount of work completed to evaluate this initiative. It is essential to re-emphasise these games by launching them again as there are clear rules in our official guide which are simply not being adhered to by some counties. Games in Under 11 and younger must be organised on the Go Games model, non-competitive with results not recorded, and where all participants get to play during the game. At Under 12 level, competitions may be organised on a league format, with no championships, on the basis that participating teams should be a maximum of 13-A-Side. These rules cannot be any clearer and are in place to develop all our young players equally. There will be a full suite of resources and education available when released in the new year.

The education workgroup is progressing resources for teachers surrounding Leaving Certificate Physical Education and Junior Cycle Well Being. Having these in place will assist teachers and encourage them to select gaelic games as their sport of choice. The group contains several teaching staff which is important to ensure the materials developed meet their requirements.

You can see the level of collaboration between the three associations and we will continue to evolve our relationships across a multitude of areas. There are interesting times ahead with big projects to be finalised including the new Gaelic Games Player Pathway but these are exciting times.

In Conclusion

I started this report by asking the question 'was the year all bad?' and I hope you can see from the detail provided that it certainly was not. It has been difficult, and we have all had to cope with change but there have also been many positive lessons learned. For many years we have got used to doing the same things in the same ways, but this was simply not possible in 2020. It was our priority to ensure we were supporting all our members, regardless of their role, through this challenging situation and I feel we have achieved that. The downtime was used to engage more than we ever have with all volunteers and players and we felt it was crucial for us to continue to develop as an Association even during a pandemic.

Of course we will be delighted to get back on pitches without restrictions and we all look forward to participating in blitzes and events. However during the year we were inspired by members going above and beyond their role to keep players involved for their physical and mental health and this encouraged us to ensure there was always fresh content available to support these volunteers. There have been many hours spent on the road for participants, facilitators and staff to attend education and training events and it is certain that this landscape will change following the success of our online suite of education. There will always be a need for certain in person courses but I think it is essential that we progress with further online education which can be more frequent and time efficient. Our winter series of webinars is a prime example of this with over 60 topics being delivered across 5 strands. It is bringing

support for our members to a new level and with many of these sessions recorded we will continue to build a library of resources to assist them.

When we left the LGFA office in March for three weeks little did we realise what was ahead of us. I never thought we could continue the extent of the work from our homes but I can honestly say we have never been busier and hopefully you can see that from the vastness of our work highlighted in this report. The restrictions encouraged innovation and thought-provoking conversations and this was essential as we knew we owed it to our members to keep them active and to prepare them for a return to activity. We want to thank members for embracing our ideas and alterations and welcome continued feedback on ways to provide further support. We are aware of the challenges we will continue to face but ask you to continue the high levels of engagement which is something we have been trying to achieve for many years. Please make development your priority, get the right people in the right roles and we will provide the right support.

I would like to thank all the facilitators, speakers and contributors to all our education and initiatives as they recognised the importance of doing something a little different and played an invaluable role in this bustling year. We are fortuitous to have relationships with top quality people and experts across many fields.

In a regular year I would express my gratitude to the many volunteers and referees for assisting us at events and although it was disappointing to have to cancel these, we do look forward to getting together again in the not too distant future but we continue to value your time and contribution to our sport.

Finally, I could not be more grateful for the dedicated development staff we have in LGFA, especially this year. As outlined we usually meet monthly as a full team but our fortnightly calls, and at times weekly, became part of the schedule and although they were highly productive, they also offered support for me and no doubt each other during these strange times. They work tirelessly for the betterment of the game and rapidly adapted to new structures of providing development in 2020. I could never doubt their dedication and commitment. We are also extremely grateful to all the LGFA staff as we worked together to overcome challenges and together we should be proud of how we have continued to develop as an Association. To wrap up, 2020 will never be forgotten and we all went through challenging periods but I have cherished the support of all staff, my fellow managers Paula Prunty and Jackie Cahill and of course our CEO Helen O'Rourke. We have been a formidable team and long may it continue. In the words of Walt Disney 'it seems to me that we have a lot of story yet to tell.'

Lyn Savage
National Development Manager

Table 1

Coach Education Program	2019	2020
Club Mentor Rules Workshop	1	3
Coach the Keeper Workshop	2	1
Coach the Teenage Player	1	2
FUNdamentals Course	69	25
Key2Coaching Workshop	0	1
Level 1 Course	18	11
Level 2 Course	1	0
Primary Teacher In-Services	8	0
Ready Steady Coach Workshop	3	2
TEACH Workshop	1	0
Third Level College Courses	1	0

Table 2

Referee Education Programme		
GYW Go Games Course	26	16
GYW Youth Course	11	6
GYW Adult Course		1
GYW Annual Refresher	37	27
Lines person Training – Online		3
Umpire Training – Online		1
Umpire and Lines person -Face to Face		4
National Accelerate Programme	1	1
Provincial Accelerate Programme	4	4
TY GYW Go Games		6
Umpire Online		1

Table 3

Participation Initiatives		
Gaelic4Girls	34 clubs/21 counties	30 clubs/21 counties
Gaelic4Teens	17 clubs	30 clubs/18 counties
Gaelic4Mothers&Others	266 clubs	283 clubs
Blitz Day	120 teams/29 counties	Postponed

Table 4

Gaelic4Girls Clubs 2020
Connacht: Loughrea (Galway), Kilmeena, Mayo Gaels, Claremorris, Ballyhaunis (all Mayo), St Mary's (Sligo).
Leinster: St Anne's (Carlow), St Nicholas (Louth), Wolfe Tones (Meath), Athlone (Westmeath), Clonard (Wexford), Clann Na Gael, St Nicholas, Newtown (all Wicklow)
Munster: Clarecastle (Clare), Whitescross (Cork), Finuge St Senans (Kerry), Croom, Askeaton-Ballysteen (both Limerick), Clashmore-Kinsalebeg, St Oliver's (both Waterford)
Ulster: Naomh Seamus (Antrim), Poyntzpass, St Michael's (both Armagh), Naomh Ultan, Naomh Mhuire (both Donegal), Aghaderg (Down), Belcoo (Fermanagh), Ballybay (Monaghan), Castlederg (Tyrone)

Table 5

Gaelic4Teens Clubs 2020

Munster: Daingean Uí Chúis (Kerry), Inbhear Scéine Gaels (Kerry), Kerins O Rahilly's (Kerry), Ballyporeen (Tipperary).

Leinster: Cooley Kickhams (Louth), Duleek/Bellewstown (Meath), Garrycastle (Westmeath), Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin), St. Kevin's/Killians (Dublin), Shankill (Dublin), Na Fianna (Kildare), Kilcoole (Wicklow), Sallins (Kildare), Summerhill (Meath), Kildavin/Clonegal (Carlow), Ballycomoye (Westmeath), Glen Emmets (Louth), St. Margarets (Dublin)

Ulster: Naomh Naille (Donegal), Monaghan Harps (Monaghan), Corduff (Monaghan), Sean McDermotts (Monaghan), Fintona (Tyrone), Aodh Ruadh (Tyrone)

Connacht: MacHale Rovers (Mayo), Barna (Galway), St. James (Galway), Neale (Mayo), Kiltimagh (Mayo), Strokestown (Roscommon)

Table 6

2019/2020 Club2Gether

Aughawillian	Leitrim
Ballinrobe	Mayo
Caulry	Westmeath
Crossmaglen	Armagh
Kinsale	Cork
Leitrim Gaels	Leitrim
Na Fianna	Kildare
Naomh Muire, Íochtar na Rosann	Donegal
Oola	Limerick
Slaughtermanus	Derry
St Manchan's	Offaly
St Ultans	Meath
Thomas Davis	Dublin
Timahoe	Laois
Tullagher-Rosbercon	Kilkenny

Table 7

Volunteer Support Programme

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Fermanagh	Antrim	Tyrone
Derry	Down	Cavan
Monaghan	Armagh	Donegal
Longford	Carlow	Dublin
Kilkenny	Wicklow	Kildare
Leitrim	Westmeath	Meath
Laois	Offaly	Wexford
Limerick	Cork	Kerry
Clare	Tipperary	Waterford
Mayo	Sligo	Britain
Louth	Galway	Roscommon

Table 8

Learn to Lead Graduates 2020

Name	Club	County	Strand
Sinéad Reel	Silverbridge Harps	Armagh	Administration
Eileen Jones	Aodh Ruadh	Tyrone	Administration
Trina Murray	Moate	Westmeath	Administration
Liz Ahern	Carrigtwohill	Cork	Administration
Eimear O'Connor	Mountrath	Laois	Administration
Diane O'Hora	Clanna Gael Fontenoy	Dublin/Mayo	Coaching
Jennifer Higgins	Western Gaels	Roscommon	Coaching
Ailbhe Quinn	Latton Ladies GFC	Monaghan	Coaching
Olivia Butler	St Pat's	Waterford	Coaching
Donna Hagan	Kildress Wolfe Tones	Tyrone	Coaching
Kelley Cunningham	Tullamore	Offaly	Officiating
Gráinne Sands	Glenn John Martins	Down	Officiating
Aisling Carey	Shandonagh Mullingar	Westmeath	Officiating
Mairead Dullea	Bantry Blues	Cork	Officiating
Sinéad McHugh	Kilmacud Crokes	Donegal	Officiating
Nadine Doherty	Na Fianna	Dublin/Donegal	PR/Media
Michelle Ryan	Ballymacarbry	Waterford	PR/Media
Niamh Dunne	Park Ratheniksa	Laois	PR/Media
Denise Masterson	Ballymun Kickhams	Dublin	PR/Media
Bríd Stack	Rockchapel	Cork	PR/Media





FIXTURES



NATIONAL FIXTURES REPORT

2020, where do I start? It was a year that is tattooed in everyone's mind, and not for good reasons for many of us. It was a tough year for so many people and a year full of change off the field. Unfortunately for so many of our LGFA families' loss of work and sadly loss of loved ones. On the field it was also a year for long spells of loss of the game that we love.

On the evening of Wednesday, March 11th, the first Irish death from coronavirus was announced. We thought that this strange virus would be with us for a few days, or weeks in the worst-case scenario, but we are still living with COVID-19, and it looks like we will be for some time to come.

2020 saw the completion of just a handful of competitions – the Lidl All-Ireland Post-Primary Schools Interprovincial Tournament and the TG4 All-Ireland Championships. The Lidl All-Ireland Post-Primary Schools competitions and the Lidl National Leagues commenced but were not completed due to COVID-19.

The Lidl All Ireland PPS Interprovincial took place in January, with all four provinces competing to be crowned champions. The Interprovincial tournament is a time for our students who are in the last year of secondary school to showcase their talents. In the past, we have had representatives from prominent Third Level colleges attend the games to scout the emerging talent and 2020 was no different. Munster retained the Lidl PPS Interprovincial Title in Kinnegad, with Leinster retaining the Shield once again.

In the Lidl All-Ireland PPS Senior competitions, we had completed five of the six semi-finals. However, only one Junior semi-final was played before all competitions were put on hold, and then ultimately cancelled. In the Lidl National Leagues, five rounds of fixtures were played before the competition was cancelled across the four divisions.

As the year progressed, hopes began to rise that we would run off our TG4 All-Ireland Championships, with strict protocols in place. However, we would have to wait until the weekend of 25th October before a ball was kicked, with the Junior Championship getting us underway to commence the 2020 competition. This was going to be a season like no other, with so many new elements to contend with.

It was the first ever TG4 Winter Championship and played behind closed doors. TG4 had a selection of games available to view on linear TV and worldwide on the TG4 Player, with the remaining games across the grades, available to view live and free on various online platforms.

Our opening Senior Championship game was a clash between Armagh and Tyrone, played at Kingspan Breffni in Cavan. This was an historic game, played under lights and live on TV on a Friday

night. Viewing numbers were high and great credit was due to Armagh and Tyrone for providing such an entertaining game.

From there, the Championships continued but with strict guidelines to be adhered to for players, match officials and volunteers.

We progressed through the various stages of the competitions to Finals, with December 5th seeing Fermanagh taking on Wicklow in the TG4 All-Ireland Junior Final at Parnell Park, Dublin. Fermanagh held out and were crowned Junior Champions for the first time since 2017, on a 2-09 to 0-12 score line. The Player of the Match award went to Fermanagh forward Aisling Maguire, who must have covered every blade of grass!

Our TG4 Intermediate and Senior Finals took place at Croke Park on Sunday December 20th.

In the Intermediate Final, it was an All-Leinster encounter between Meath and Westmeath. The teams registered 6-22 between them on the day and while Westmeath fought valiantly under manager Sean Finnegan, it was Eamonn Murray's Meath who came out on top, winning by 2-17 to 4-05. Vikki Wall was a deserving recipient of the Player of the Match award.

The Senior Final ended in a fourth successive title win for Dublin with a score line of 1-10 to 2-05. Sinéad Aherne lifted the Brendan Martin Cup five days before Christmas, becoming the first player in history to captain a team to four successive titles. The Player of the Match award went to Dublin's Sinéad Goldrick.

Many thanks to all of you who have assisted throughout the year – without your commitment, help and dedication, it would not have been possible to fulfil any of the games that did get the green light to proceed. A special word of thanks as always to the National Fixtures Committee. To anybody who has lost a loved one during these strange and unprecedented times, I extend my condolences and deepest sympathies.

Karen Togher
National Fixtures Administrator

LGFA ROLL OF HONOUR 2020

Lidl PPS Interprovincial Tournament	Winner	Runner Up
Cup	Munster	Connacht
Shield	Leinster	Ulster

TG4 All Ireland Championship	Winner	Runner Up
Senior	Dublin	Cork
Intermediate	Meath	Westmeath
Junior	Fermanagh	Wicklow



FIXTURES

Lidl All Ireland Post Primary School Interprovincial Tournament 2020

Date: Saturday 25 th January 2020 Venue: Coralstown/Kinnegad, Westmeath			
Tournament Referees: Paul Burke, Louth Kieran McKeever, Armagh Mel Kenny, Mayo Austin O'Connell, Galway			
Team A	Score	Team B	Score
Round 1			
Connacht	3-06	Leinster	0-06
Ulster	2-05	Munster	6-06
Round 2			
Leinster	0-05	Munster	3-04
Connacht	4-05	Ulster	2-04
Round 3			
Leinster	3-05	Ulster	1-07
Connacht	1-04	Munster	1-09
Cup Final			
Connacht	3-01	Munster	3-09
Shield Final			
Leinster	0-06	Ulster	0-03

Lidl All Ireland Post Primary Schools Senior Championship 2020

Lidl All Ireland Post Primary Schools Senior 'A' Championship 2020					
Moate C.S., Westmeath	Loreto, Cavan	Coláiste Bhaile Chláir, Galway	Loreto, Clonmel, Tipperary		
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Senior 'A' PPS Semi Finals - 11th March 2020					
St. Lomans, Mullingar, Westmeath	Moate C.S.	4-08	Loreto, Cavan	1-07	Kevin Corcoran, Mayo
Senior 'A' PPS Semi Final - 12th March 2020					
Staker Wallace, Limerick	Coláiste Bhaile Chláir	2-03	Loreto, Clonmel	3-10	Eamonn Moran, Kerry
Senior 'A' PPS Final - 29th March 2020					
Not played due to COVID-19					

Lidl All Ireland Post Primary Schools Senior 'B' Championship 2020					
Mercy S.S., Ballymahon, Longford	Coláiste Oiriall, Monaghan	St. Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen, Roscommon	Coláiste Na Sceilge, Cahersiveen, Kerry		
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Senior 'B' PPS Semi Finals - 12th March 2020					
Mick Neville Park, Rathkeale, Limerick	St. Nathy's College	1-11	Coláiste Na Sceilge	4-13	John Devlin, Galway
Senior 'B' PPS Semi Finals - 13th March 2020					
Mullahoran, Cavan	Mercy S.S., Ballymahon		Colaiste Oiriall	Not played due to COVID-19	
Senior 'B' PPS Final - 29th March 2020					
Not played due to COVID-19					

Lidl All Ireland Post Primary Schools Senior 'C' Championship 2020					
St. Clare's C.S, Manorhamilton, Leitrim		St. Joseph's Mercy S.S, Navan, Meath		Kinsale C.S, Cork	Dean Maguirc, Tyrone
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Senior 'C' PPS Semi Finals - 5th March 2020					
Duggan Park, Ballinasloe, Galway	St. Clare's	13-09	Kinsale	4-12	John Devlin, Galway
Senior 'C' PPS Semi Finals - 6th March 2020					
Kingspan Breffni, Cavan	St. Joseph's Mercy	3-05	Dean Maguirc	0-09	Mel Kenny, Mayo
Senior 'C' PPS Final - 29th March 2020					
Not played due to COVID-19					

Lidl All Ireland Post Primary Schools Junior Championship 2020

Lidl All Ireland Post Primary Schools Junior 'A' Championship 2020					
Coláiste Bhaile Chláir, Claregalway, Galway		St. Mary's H.S, Midleton, Cork		St. Michael's, Loreto, Navan, Meath	
Loreto, Cavan					
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Junior 'A' PPS Semi Final - 18th March 2020					
Staker Wallace, Limerick	Coláiste Bhaile Chláir		St. Mary's	Not played due to COVID-19	
Junior 'A' PPS Semi Final - 19th March 2020					
St. Lomans, Mullingar, Westmeath	St. Michael's		Loreto, Cavan	Not played due to COVID-19	
Junior 'A' PPS Final - 5th April					
Not played due to COVID-19					

Lidl All Ireland Post Primary Schools Junior 'B' Championship 2020					
Cross & Passion College, Kilcullen, Kildare		St. Mary's, Magherafelt, Derry		Convent of Mercy, Roscommon	Cashel C.S, Tipperary
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Junior 'B' PPS Semi Final - 19th March 2020					
St. Rynaghs, Banagher, Offaly	Convent of Mercy		Cashel	Not played due to COVID-19	
Junior 'B' PPS Semi Final - 20th March 2020					
Lannleire, Dunleer, Louth	Cross & Passion College		St. Mary's	Not played due to COVID-19	
Junior 'B' PPS Final - 5th April					
Not played due to COVID-19					

Lidl All Ireland Post Primary Schools Junior 'C' Championship 2020					
Presentation College, Loughboy, Kilkenny		Virginia College, Cavan		Coláiste Iognáid, Galway	
Our Lady's S.S, Templemore, Tipperary					
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Junior 'C' PPS Semi Final - 12th March 2020					
Mick Neville Park, Rathkeale, Limerick	Coláiste Iognáid	4-05	Our Lady's	1-12	Ciaran Groome, Offaly
Junior 'C' PPS Semi Final - 22nd March 2020					
Clane, Kildare	Presentation College		Virginia College	Not played due to COVID-19	
Junior 'C' PPS Final - 5th April					
Not played due to COVID-19					

Lidl Ladies National Football League 2020

Lidl Ladies National Football League - Division 1					
Cork Mayo	Donegal Tipperary		Dublin Waterford		Galway Westmeath
Round 1 - 25th January 2020					
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork	Cork	1-09	Westmeath	0-06	Seamus Mulvihill, Kerry
Round 1 - 26th January 2020					
Ballyboden St. Endas, Dublin	Dublin	0-10	Tipperary	1-07	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow
Corofin, Galway	Galway	1-15	Waterford	5-04	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo
Swinford Amenity Park, Mayo	Mayo	4-07	Donegal	2-09	Shane Curley, Galway
Round 2 - 1st February 2020					
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Elvrys MacHale Park, Mayo	Mayo	0-07	Dublin	0-12	Gus Chapman, Sligo
Fraher Field, Dungarvan, Waterford	Waterford	1-11	Donegal	2-10	Kevin Phelan, Laois
Round 2 - 2nd February 2020					
Ardfinnan, Tipperary	Tipperary	1-06	Cork	2-11	Niall McCormack, Laois
St. Lomans, Mullingar, Westmeath	Westmeath	0-07	Galway	5-11	Mel Kenny, Mayo



Round 3 - 8th February 2020					
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Croke Park, Dublin	Dublin	1-04	Cork	0-08	Niall McCormack, Laois

Round 3 - 9th February 2020					
O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny, Donegal	Donegal	4-05	Galway	3-12	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo

Round 3 - 16th February 2020					
Swinford Amenity Park, Mayo	Mayo	0-06	Waterford	0-02	Siobhán Coyle, Donegal
Bansha, Tipperary	Tipperary	0-11	Westmeath	1-06	Kevin Phelan, Laois

Round 4 - 23rd February 2020					
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
DCU St. Clares, Dublin	Dublin	2-06	Galway	4-06	Maggie Farrelly, Cavan
Fraher Field, Dungarvan, Waterford	Waterford	0-10	Tipperary	1-07	Niall McCormack, Laois
St. Lomans, Mullingar, Westmeath	Westmeath	1-11	Donegal	1-07	Mel Kenny, Mayo

Round 4 - 1st March 2020					
Mallow, Cork	Cork	1-12	Mayo	1-04	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow

Round 5 - 8th March 2020					
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Fr Tierney Park, Donegal	Donegal	2-06	Cork	0-08	Gus Chapman, Sligo
Tuam Stadium, Galway	Galway	1-12	Tipperary	0-04	Mel Kenny, Mayo
Swinford Amenity Park, Mayo	Mayo	0-10	Westmeath	2-00	Shane Curley, Galway
Fraher Field, Dungarvan, Waterford	Waterford	0-13	Dublin	4-05	Barry Redmond, Wexford

Round 6 - 22nd March 2020 - Not Played Due to COVID-19					
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Round 7 - 29th March 2020 - Not Played Due to COVID-19					
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Lidl Ladies National Football League: Division 2

Armagh Cavan Clare Kerry Meath Monaghan Tyrone Wexford

Round 1 - 26th January 2020

Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
St. Mathews Park, Denn, Cavan	Cavan	3-10	Kerry	4-08	Siobhán Coyle, Donegal
Shannon McNamara Park, Doonbeg, Clare	Clare	1-08	Armagh	5-08	Kevin Phelan, Laois
Dunganny, Meath	Meath	2-14	Tyrone	2-06	Declan Carolan, Down
St. Patrick's Park, Enniscorthy, Wexford	Wexford	2-06	Monaghan	6-23	Niall McCormack, Laois

Round 2 - 1st February 2020

Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
St. Tiernach's, Clones, Monaghan	Monaghan	2-15	Clare	1-10	Declan Carolan, Down

Round 2 - 2nd February 2020

Silverbridge, Armagh	Armagh	1-12	Tyrone	1-14	Brendan Rice, Down
St. Mathews Park, Denn, Cavan	Cavan	3-10	Meath	2-05	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo
St. Patrick's Park, Enniscorthy, Wexford	Wexford	0-04	Kerry	5-15	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow

Round 3 - 8th February 2020

Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Garvaghey, Tyrone	Tyrone	3-07	Clare	1-07	Gus Chapman, Sligo

Round 3 - 9th February 2020

Austin Stacks Park, Kerry	Kerry	2-12	Armagh	2-10	Niall McCormack, Laois
Dunganny, Meath	Meath	1-13	Monaghan	0-09	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow

Round 3 - 15th February 2020

Kingspan Breffni, Cavan	Cavan	6-19	Wexford	1-05	Brendan Rice, Down
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Round 4 - 23rd February 2020

Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Shannon McNamara Park, Doonbeg, Clare	Clare	3-12	Meath	3-12	Shane Curley, Galway
Fitzgerald Stadium, Kerry	Kerry	3-14	Tyrone	1-08	Kevin Phelan, Laois
Kingspan Breffni, Cavan	Monaghan	1-11	Cavan	1-07	Brendan Rice, Down
St. Patrick's Park, Enniscorthy, Wexford	Wexford	1-01	Armagh	4-18	John Devlin, Galway

Round 5 - 8th March 2020

Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Athletic Grounds, Armagh	Armagh	3-05	Meath	1-21	Maggie Farrelly, Cavan
Shannon McNamara Park, Doonbeg, Clare	Clare	1-09	Cavan	1-13	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo
Fitzgerald Stadium, Kerry	Kerry	3-10	Monaghan	2-09	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow
Augher, Tyrone	Tyrone	4-17	Wexford	0-03	Siobhán Coyle, Donegal

Round 6 - 22nd March 2020 - Not Played Due to COVID-19

Round 7 - 29th March 2020 - Not Played Due to COVID-19

Lidl Ladies National Football League - Division 3							
Down	Fermanagh	Kildare	Laois	Longford	Roscommon	Sligo	Wicklow
Round 1 - 26th January 2020							
Venue		Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee	
Kinawley, Fermanagh		Fermanagh	0-12	Kildare	3-11	Gus Chapman, Sligo	
COE, Portlaoise, Laois		Laois	2-16	Wicklow	3-13	John Devlin, Galway	
Glennon Brothers Pearse Park, Longford		Longford	1-07	Down	3-08	Mel Kenny, Mayo	
Abbey Park, Boyle, Roscommon		Roscommon	3-12	Sligo	2-08	Kevin Corcoran, Mayo	

Round 2 - 2nd February 2020							
Venue	Team A		Score	Team B		Score	Referee
Teconnaught, Down	Down		3-10	Fermanagh		1-08	Kieran McKeever, Armagh
St. Conleth's Park, Newbridge, Kildare	Kildare		2-13	Sligo		1-08	Barry Redmond, Wexford
St. Brigid's, Kiltoom, Roscommon	Roscommon		3-15	Laois		2-09	John Devlin, Galway
Blessington, Wicklow	Wicklow		0-08	Longford		0-08	Paul Burke, Louth

Round 3 - 16th February 2020							
Venue	Team A		Score	Team B		Score	Referee
COE, Hawkfield, Kildare	Kildare		2-11	Wicklow		1-07	Austin O'Connell, Galway
Heywood, Laois	Laois		3-06	Longford		2-06	Kevin Corcoran, Mayo
IT Sligo Grounds, Sligo	Sligo		3-07	Down		3-15	John Devlin, Galway

Round 3 - 1st March 2020							
Peace Links, Clones, Monaghan	Fermanagh		2-05	Roscommon		3-14	Declan Carolan, Down

Refixed; Roscommon travelled to Fermanagh but game called off due to waterlogged pitch. Both agreed to a halfway venue for the re-fixture.

Round 4 - 23rd February 2020							
Venue	Team A		Score	Team B		Score	Referee
St. Mary's, Burren, Down	Down		3-13	Roscommon		0-07	Paul Burke, Louth
Newtown Cashel, Longford	Longford		0-08	Fermanagh		2-06	Declan Carolan, Down
COE, Hawkfield, Kildare	Kildare		3-14	Laois		4-06	Eamonn Moran, Kerry
Aughrim, Wicklow	Wicklow		5-18	Sligo		0-08	Kieran McKeever, Armagh

Round 5 - 8th March 2020							
Venue	Team A		Score	Team B		Score	Referee
Teconnaught, Down	Down		0-11	Wicklow		0-11	Kieran McKeever, Armagh
McGann Park, Laois	Laois		0-15	Fermanagh		2-07	Eamonn Moran, Kerry
Dr. Hyde Park, Roscommon	Roscommon		0-08	Kildare		0-13	Kevin Corcoran, Mayo
O'Connell Park, Collooney, Sligo	Sligo		0-10	Longford		0-12	Austin O'Connell, Galway

Round 6 - 22nd March 2020 - Not Played Due to COVID-19

Round 7 - 29th March 2020 - Not Played Due to COVID-19

Lidl Ladies National Football League 2020 - Division 4						
Antrim	Carlow	Derry	Leitrim	Limerick	Louth	Offaly
Round 1 - 26th January 2020						
Venue		Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
The Dub, Antrim		Antrim	2-10	Offaly	3-11	Kieran McKeever, Armagh
Carlow IT, Carlow		Carlow	2-09	Limerick	1-11	Barry Redmond, Wexford
Owenbeg, Derry		Derry	0-03	Leitrim	5-17	Gavin Finnegan, Down
		Louth – Bye				
Round 2 - 2nd February 2020						
Venue		Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
The Dub, Antrim		Antrim	0-06	Louth	3-11	Gavin Finnegan, Down
Staker Wallace, Limerick		Limerick	5-13	Derry	0-03	Eamonn Moran, Kerry
Bord Na Mona O'Connor Park, Tullamore, Offaly		Offaly	3-08	Carlow	1-14	Austin O'Connell, Galway
		Leitrim – Bye				
Round 3 - 9th February 2020						
Venue		Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Owenbeg, Derry		Derry	0-08	Offaly	3-08	Paul Burke, Louth
Sean O'Heslins, Ballinamore, Leitrim		Leitrim	7-10	Antrim	0-02	Paul Clifford, Donegal
Fr McEvoy Park, Cooley Kickhams, Louth		Louth	2-10	Limerick	1-09	Ciaran Groome, Offaly
		Carlow – Bye				
Round 4 - 23rd February 2020						
Venue		Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Carlow IT, Carlow		Carlow	5-11	Derry	0-06	Ciaran Groome, Offaly
Athea, Limerick		Limerick	2-09	Offaly	1-12	Austin O'Connell, Galway
Fr McEvoy Park, Cooley Kickhams, Louth		Louth	1-14	Leitrim	2-10	Gavin Finnegan, Down
		Antrim – Bye				
Round 5 - 8th March 2020						
Venue		Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Carlow IT, Carlow		Carlow	5-09	Antrim	1-08	Ciaran Groome, Offaly
Owenbeg, Derry		Derry	0-03	Louth	1-18	Gavin Finnegan, Down
Páirc Sean Mac Diarmada, Leitrim		Leitrim	4-13	Limerick	1-06	John Devlin, Galway
		Offaly – Bye				
Round 6 - 22nd March 2020 - Not Played Due to COVID-19						
Round 7 - 29th March 2020 - Not Played Due to COVID-19						

TG4 All Ireland Ladies Senior Football Championship 2020

TG4 All Ireland Senior Championship 2020					
Group 1	Cork	Cavan	Kerry		
Group 2	Galway	Tipperary	Monaghan		
Group 3	Dublin	Waterford	Donegal		
Group 4	Mayo	Armagh	Tyrone		
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Round 1 - 30th October 2020					
Kingspan Breffni, Cavan	Armagh	6-16	Tyrone	3-13	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo
Round 1 - 31st October 2020					
LIT Gaelic Grounds, Limerick	Galway	1-15	Tipperary	1-14	Eamonn Moran, Kerry
Kingspan Breffni, Cavan	Dublin	2-13	Donegal	2-10	Brendan Rice, Down
Round 1 - 1st November 2020					
St. Brendan's Park, Birr, Offaly	Cavan	0-13	Kerry	5-14	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow
Round 2 - 6th November 2020					
Parnell Park, Dublin	Monaghan	0-17	Tipperary	2-10	Kevin Phelan, Laois
Round 2 - 7th November 2020					
Austin Stack Park, Kerry	Cork	1-14	Kerry	0-14	John Devlin, Galway
Baltinglass, Wicklow	Dublin	0-17	Waterford	1-10	Barry Redmond, Wexford
Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada, Leitrim	Mayo	4-17	Tyrone	0-04	Shane Curley, Galway
Round 3 - 14th November 2020					
TEG Cusack Park, Westmeath	Donegal	2-13	Waterford	0-09	Declan Carolan, Down
Parnell Park, Dublin	Armagh	4-12	Mayo	1-16	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow
Round 3 - 15th November 2020					
Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada, Leitrim	Galway	2-13	Monaghan	3-09	Mel Kenny, Mayo
St. Brendan's Park, Birr, Offaly	Cavan	2-06	Cork	7-09	Seamus Mulvihill, Kerry
Semi Finals - 28th November 2020					
Kingspan Breffni, Cavan	Armagh	3-08	Dublin	3-13	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo
Semi Finals - 6th December 2020					
Croke Park, Dublin	Cork	2-17	Galway	0-13	Seamus Mulvihill, Kerry
TG4 All Ireland Senior Final - 20th December 2020					
Croke Park, Dublin	Cork	1-05	Dublin	1-10	Jonathan Murphy, Carlow
TG4 All Ireland Ladies Senior Final 2020, Player of the Match - Sinéad Goldrick, Dublin					

TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship 2020

Group 1	Roscommon	Offaly	Wexford	
Group 2	Westmeath	Longford	Louth	
Group 3	Meath	Leitrim	Down	
Group 4	Sligo	Clare	Kildare	Laois

Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
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Round 1 - 31st October 2020

Clane, Kildare	Offaly	1-08	Wexford	3-10	Kevin Phelan, Laois
Mullahoran, Cavan	Longford	2-06	Westmeath	9-09	Declan Carolan, Down

Round 1 - 1st November 2020

Lannleire, Louth	Down	1-06	Meath	0-11	Shane Curley, Galway
St. Brigid's, Kiltoom, Roscommon	Laois	5-08	Sligo	1-05	Mel Kenny, Mayo
St. Rynagh's, Banagher, Offaly	Clare	1-12	Kildare	2-11	Seamus Mulvihill, Kerry

Round 2 - 8th November 2020

Clane, Kildare	Roscommon	1-15	Wexford	2-09	Declan Carolan, Down
St Tiernach's Park, Clones, Monaghan	Longford	2-07	Louth	4-10	Brendan Rice, Down
Mullahoran, Cavan	Leitrim	0-10	Meath	5-18	Mel Kenny, Mayo
Kinnegad/Coralstown, Westmeath	Kildare	5-13	Sligo	0-04	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo
Clonmel Commercials, Tipperary	Clare	5-07	Laois	1-11	Eamonn Moran, Kerry

Round 3 - 15th November 2020

Kinnegad/Corlastown, Westmeath	Offaly	4-04	Roscommon	5-10	Shane Curley, Galway
Donaghmore/Ashbourne, Meath	Louth	1-05	Westmeath	3-11	Barry Redmond, Wexford
Inniskeen, Monaghan	Down	3-12	Leitrim	1-10	Garryowen McMahon, Mayo
Tuam Stadium, Galway	Clare	7-18	Sligo	0-02	John Devlin, Galway
Netwatch Cullen Park, Carlow	Kildare	3-08	Laois	2-13	Eamonn Moran, Kerry

TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Semi Final - 28th November 2020

MW Hire O'Moore Park, Laois	Clare	0-04	Meath	4-13	Shane Curley, Galway
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TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Semi Final - 29th November 2020

Glennon Brothers Pearse Park, Longford	Roscommon	0-13	Westmeath	2-09	John Devlin, Galway
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TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Final - 20th December 2020

Croke Park, Dublin	Meath	2-17	Westmeath	4-05	Seamus Mulvihill, Kerry
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TG4 All Ireland Ladies Intermediate Final 2020, Player of the Match - Vikki Wall, Meath

TG4 All Ireland Ladies Junior Championship 2020					
Group A	Fermanagh	Carlow	Wicklow		
Group B	Derry	Limerick	Antrim		
Round 1 - 25th October 2020					
Venue	Team A	Score	Team B	Score	Referee
Baltinglass, Wicklow	Wicklow	3-15	Carlow	2-05	Lorraine O'Sullivan, Dublin
<i>*As Counties neighbour each other, agreement to toss for home advantage, Wicklow won the toss.</i>					
Lannleire, Louth	Derry	0-07	Limerick	4-10	Ciaran Groome, Offaly
Round 2 - 31st October 2020					
Lannleire, Louth	Fermanagh	1-02	Wicklow	0-09	Gavin Finnegan, Down
Round 2 - 1st November 2020					
Clane, Kildare	Antrim	1-05	Limerick	2-08	Austin O'Connell, Galway
Round 3 - 8th November 2020					
Lannleire, Louth	Carlow	2-10	Fermanagh	3-09	Kieran McKeever, Armagh
Augher St. Macartans, Tyrone	Antrim	2-11	Derry	1-07	Siobhán Coyle, Donegal
Semi Finals - 22nd November 2020					
Donaghmore/Ashbourne, Meath	Antrim	3-10	Wicklow	7-11	Lorraine O'Sullivan, Dublin
Kinnegad/Coralstown, Westmeath	Fermanagh	4-10	Limerick	4-03	Kevin Corcoran, Mayo
TG4 All Ireland Junior Final - 5th December 2020					
Parnell Park, Dublin	Fermanagh	2-09	Wicklow	0-12	Siobhán Coyle, Donegal
TG4 All Ireland Ladies Junior Final 2020, Player of the Match - Aisling Maguire, Fermanagh					





MOTIONS & NOMINATIONS



MOTIONS FOR CONGRESS 2021

Definitions

Management

Speaker: Mary Connolly

Add to definitions, a definition of Female Liaison Officer:

A female liaison officer (FLO) is the female official required to be part of every management team. The FLO will act as a liaison between the players and the management team and with the club or county board. The FLO should not be part of the selection process of teams so remain neutral.

Management

Speaker: Hugh Devenney

Add to definitions, a definition of 45:

A 45 is awarded where the ball is played over the end-line and outside the goalposts, by one of the defending side. The opposing team shall be awarded a 45 metre kick opposite to where the ball crossed the end-line in games played on a full size regulation pitch.

Where games played on a reduced size pitch the terminology of awarding a 45 shall be used even though the kick may be of a lesser distance than 45m from the opposing goal. The distance shall be as defined by the organising committee or the referee.

General

Management

Speaker: Kathleen Kane

Amend Rule 22 to read:

Clubs and Counties must appoint a Children's Officer who should be a member of the Executive Committee and shall have voting rights. Children's Officers should be player-centred in focus. They should have as their primary aim the establishment of a player-centred ethos within the Club and County. The Children's Officer is the link between young players and adults in the Club or County. The Children's Officer is responsible for ensuring that the Code of Behaviour (Underage) policies are implemented within Club or County.

The Association shall have a designated Children's Officer at National level.

A Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is a mandatory requirement for Clubs and Counties. The DLP is not an elected position but one that is selected by the Executive. Where a person is not identified to the role, the chairperson automatically becomes the DLP for that unit. The Association shall also have a DLP at National level.

Teams

Management

Speaker: Geraldine Carey

Amend Rule 325 to read:

A team shall consist of 15 players and a panel of 30 players. Teams are allowed a maximum of 10 officials, one of whom must be a female liaison officer. Only the manager, maor foirne and medic are permitted on the side-line. The female County liaison officer shall not be involved in coaching or team selection. Team officials must be 18 years or older for County Teams.

Ball in Play

Management

Speaker: Pat Quill

Amend Rule 383 2nd paragraph to read as follows:

Should a player taking the 45metre kick foul the ball, she shall retake the kick. If the player fouls the ball twice a throw in shall be awarded.

Should an opposing player foul the 45m kick, the 45m kick shall be brought forward 13 metres in a more advantageous position. A point scored off the ground in these circumstances, shall count as 2 points where it goes directly over the bar or is deflected over the bar by a member of the defending team.

To signal a two point score, the umpire shall wave the white flag and at the same time raise his/her other hand to point directly upwards.

Where a member of the team awarded the 45m kick plays the ball again in any manner and the ball goes over the bar one point shall be allowed.

Scores

Management

Speaker: Con Moynihan

Amend 411 (b) to read:

Two points shall be awarded when a 45m kick, taken off the ground, goes directly over the bar or is deflected over the bar by a member of the defending team. Should a goal be scored, the goal is allowed.

To signal a two point score, the umpire shall wave the white flag and at the same time raise his/her other hand to point directly upwards.

Where a member of the team awarded the 45m kick plays the ball again in any manner and the ball goes over the bar one point shall be allowed.

Fouls

Management

Speaker: Jerome Casey

Amend Rule 416(n) by inserting "or side-line" and deleting "quick" to read:

Deliberately not moving back to allow a side-line or free kick to be taken

Free Kicks

Management

Speaker: Patricia Morrison

Amend Rule 419 by inserting “playing” before “rules” to read:

The penalty for most breaches of the playing rules shall be a free kick

Management

Speaker: Eileen Jones

Amend Rule 426 to read:

Should an opposing player stand nearer than 13 metres from the ball when a free kick or sideline kick is being taken, or illegally charge a free kick or side-line kick, the opposing team shall be awarded a free kick, 13 metres nearer their opponents goal.

CODA Rules

Management

Speaker: Dominic Leech

Add to ‘Hearings Committee’ under 1.2 Structure (Page 105) to read:

The executive committee of each unit, other than club, shall appoint a Hearings Panel from which a Hearings Committee shall be selected to hear a complaint, objection or disciplinary matter at that level for a period of 3 years. The members of the Hearings Panel cannot be a member of the executive committee of that unit and this is a non voting panel.

Management

Speaker: Peter Rice

Add to ‘Appeals Committee’ under 1.2 Structure (Page 105) to read:

The executive committee of each County Board, Provincial Council or Central Council shall appoint an Appeals Panel from which an Appeals Committee shall be selected to hear appeals against decisions of the lower unit or of the Hearings Committee of complaints, objections or disciplinary action from the lower unit for a period of 3 years. The members of the Appeals Panel cannot be a member of the executive committee of that unit and this is a non voting panel.

Management

Speaker: Peter Rice

CODA Officer

Delete (f) in 2.1.3. (Page 115)

Management

Speaker: Geraldine Giles

Amend Rule 5.13 (f) under Complaints Procedure (122) to read:

The costs and expenses of the Mediation shall be 50% underwritten by the LGFA and 50% paid by the two parties involved. Such costs and expenses do not include either party’s professional advisors, who are specifically excluded from participating in the mediation.

Management

Speaker: Geraldine Giles

Disciplinary Action Procedure (Page 123)

Delete Rule 6.2

Management

Speaker: Michael Naughton

Move Rule 6.6 to 6.2 and amend to read:

In the event that a Referee’s Report confirms a straight red card, the player is automatically subject to a minimum 4 weeks suspension as per Rule 418. If the incident merits a greater suspension, the CODA shall refer the Disciplinary Action to the Hearings Committee.

Management

Speaker: Michael Naughton

Move Rule 6.7 to 6.3 and move all rules down accordingly. Amend Rule 6.7 to read:

In the event that the player refuses to accept the minimum 4 weeks suspension, she may request a hearing by submitting the ‘Request for Hearing’ form to the relevant CODA Officer within 72 hours of the game.

Management

Speaker: Mary Connolly

Amend Rule 8.3 under Appeals Procedure (Page 128) to read:

Any appeal to the Appeals Committee to the next Highest Unit shall be a fresh appeal.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS 2021

Assistant Secretary:

Kathleen Kane, Sligo (Nominated by Cavan, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Monaghan, Roscommon)

Treasurers:

Geraldine Carey, Roscommon (Nominated by Cavan, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Roscommon)

Mary Connolly, Tyrone (Nominated by Cavan, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Monaghan, Tyrone)

Culture & Language Officer:

Hugh Devenney, Donegal (Nominated by Cavan, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Monaghan)

LGFA ANTI-DOPING

Education/Awareness

Wallet Cards are distributed to all County Boards at LGFA Congress in March for distribution to all county teams.

Inter-County Anti-Doping Educational Workshops in line with Government Grant Funding were run for Senior Teams in 31 Counties.
1092 players and team management completed training.

County Secretaries and Team Management are emailed Anti-Doping updates on a regular basis.

Further information and education available on Sport Ireland website & to report instances of doping;
<https://www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping/athlete-zone/athlete-zone> and
LGFA Website
<https://ladiesgaelic.ie/resources/anti-doping-guidelines/>

Sport Ireland Analysis of LGFA Players Tested in 2020

Total LGFA Players subjected to In-Competition Tests = 6
All 6 Players were confirmed as negative for the presence of a prohibited substance or the use of a prohibited method.

TEAM PHOTOS



DUBLIN

TG4 All Ireland
Senior
Championship
Winner 2020



MEATH

TG4 All Ireland
Intermediate
Championship
Winner 2020



FERMANAGH

TG4 All Ireland
Junior
Championship
Winner 2020

MUNSTER

Lidl PPS
Interprovincial Cup
Winner 2020



LEINSTER

Lidl PPS
Interprovincial Shield
Winner 2020



GAA President's Award 2020
Maggie Skelton, Tyrone



TG4 Senior Players' Player of the Year
Aimee Mackin (Armagh)



TG4 Intermediate Players' Player of the Year
Vikki Wall (Meath)



TG4 Junior Players' Player of the Year
Eimear Smyth (Fermanagh)



2020 SENIOR TEAM OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

AIG



Goalkeeper
MARTINA O'BRIEN
Cork



Right Corner Back
MARTHA BYRNE
Dublin



Full Back
CLODAGH McCAMBRIDGE
Armagh



Left Corner Back
EIMEAR MEANEY
Cork



Right Half Back
MELISSA DUGGAN
Cork



Centre Half Back
BLAITHIN MACKIN
Armagh



Left Half Back
SINÉAD GOLDRICK
Dublin



Midfield
JENNIFER DUNNE
Dublin



Midfield
LOUISE WARD
Galway



Right Half Forward
CARLA ROWE
Dublin



Centre Half Forward
LYNDSEY DAVEY
Dublin



Left Half Forward
AIMEE MACKIN
Armagh



Right Corner Forward
AINE O'SULLIVAN
Cork



Full Forward
AISHLING MOLONEY
Tipperary



Left Corner Forward
NOELLE HEALY
Dublin



2020 INTERMEDIATE TEAM
OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP



2020 JUNIOR TEAM OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

AIG



Goalkeeper

SHAUNA MURPHY

Fermanagh



Right Corner Back
EMILY MULHALL
Wicklow



Full Back
SARAH JANE WINDERS
Wicklow



Left Corner Back
REBEKAH DALY
Limerick



Right Half Back
ALANNA CONROY
Wicklow



Centre Half Back
SAOIRSE TENNYSON
Antrim



Left Half Back
SARAH MCCARVILLE
Fermanagh



Midfield
AOIFE GORMAN
Wicklow



Midfield
ROISIN O'REILLY
Fermanagh



Right Half Forward
ÁINE CUNNINGHAM
Limerick



Centre Half Forward
LAURA HOGAN
Wicklow



Left Half Forward
 AISLING MAGUIRE
Fermanagh



Right Corner Forward
EIMEAR SMYTH
Fermanagh



Full Forward
MEADHBH DEENEY
Wicklow



Left Corner Forward
MARIE KEALY
Wicklow

2020 NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS RECIPIENTS









ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Central Council of Cumann Peil Gael na mBan wishes to place on record its appreciation of the help in the promotion of our games received from the following:



sport ireland



THE CROKE PARK
DUBLIN

GOURMET
FOOD PARLOUR

FITR WOMAN



NUTRAMINO[®]

OFFICIAL LICENSEES

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association have Official Licensees and only these companies have permission to use our logo on merchandise. It is important that you are aware of this when sourcing playing or leisure gear for your club or county.

Current Licensees are as follows;



Adrenaline Sportswear



Azzurri Sport



Balon Sportswear



Bodibro



D Armor



Defy Sports Apparel



DS Sports



Gaelic Armour



Intosport



KC Sports



Masita



McKeever Sports



MFC



O'Neills Sportswear



O'Reilly's



PLAYR-FIT

