



Cumann Pheadair Naofa

St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint



Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting Tuesday 29th October 2019

ATTENDANCE

Larry Byrne (Chairman), Anne McCormack, Donal McCormack, Gerry Gray, Hubert Shannon, Sinead Murtagh, Hugh Carr, Colette Lock, Gerry O'Neill, Dermot Donnelly, Paul McKibben, John Daly, Colm Carty, Eoin Magennis, Liam Howlett, Sean Mallon, Steven Robertson, Daniel Bird, Conor D'Arcy, James Heaney, Mícheál Moore, Darren Rice, Colm Rice, Peadar Ryan, Shane Carr, Christy Carr, Brendan Rice, Dermot Mathers, Conrad Madden, Carmel McGrath, Tommy Ruane, Stephen Robinson, Paula Howlett, Méabh McArdle, Feargal McCormack, Noreen Kelly, Shane Lavery, Sorcha Carty

APOLOGIES

Louise Carr, Aisling McGivern (on holiday), John Campbell, Mary Walsh, Michael Walsh, Yvonne McFerran

A minutes silence was observed for all Club members, relatives and friends who died since the last AGM. May they rest in peace.

The minutes of the AGM 2018 were proposed by Eoin Magennis and seconded by Shane Carr. Standing orders were proposed for adoption by Brendan Rice and seconded by Hubert Shannon. The Club Constitution 2B was adopted and proposed by Brendan Rice and seconded by Colm Rice.

TURASCÁIL AN RUNAÍ SECRETARY'S REPORT

Copies of the Secretary's Report and the copies from the Sub Sections reports were circulated at the beginning of the meeting and attendees at the meeting commented on the reports. Cathaoirleach Larry Byrne went through the Secretary's Report page by page.

At the outset, the Secretary highlighted that two significant events marked the past year 2018/19 in the Club. They were the purchase of the Pony Field at Moygannon on 20 December 2018 and Cumann Pheadair Naofa playing in their first Down Senior Football Championship Final since 1978 on 13 October 2019. The fusion of these outstanding Club efforts in 2019 will strengthen our resolve to deliver the Club's second 5 Year Development Plan, now currently in its third year.

Gerry Gray congratulated the Senior Footballers and the management for their exceptional efforts and commitment in bringing the team to the Championship Final. This created a massive buzz in Warrenpoint and the surrounding area and certainly has added to the enthusiasm and support which the Club has enjoyed this year. Going forward, for next year, it is hoped that the team will continue to make excellent progress, to continue to challenge for the Down Division One League title and Championship.

With regards to Under Age Football, Chairman Shane Carr and Secretary Paul McKibben along with Fixtures Secretary Daniel Bird were congratulated for the work which the Football Committee had undertaken this year. On reading the reports from the mentors across all age groups, it was notable the professionalism, commitment, expertise and hard work invested in our young people by our mentors. It was noted that on occasions, attendances at training dipped during the summer time



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due to holidays and various activities. It was agreed that we should continue to encourage parents to support our young Gaels and ensure they do attend training and contribute to the Club. The exceptional success of the Cúl Camp was also noted with 182 young Gaels attending and that going forward, we need to capitalise on these attendances and encourage these young people, some of whom may not be very familiar with the GAA, to join St. Peter's GAA Club.

With regards to Coaching and Games Development, Clubs are now required to meet the minimum governance standards which are Access NI, completion of a Child Safeguarding Course and a Foundation Level Coaching course must be attained by all Coaches. Cumann Pheadair Naofa have been at the forefront of this development. However, it was agreed that we should not be complacent and push ahead to ensure that our coaches have the best level of qualifications available to them, while at the same time, respecting the massive time commitment coaches give to our young people throughout the season.

HURLING

The Hurling Section were congratulated on the Senior Hurlers moving into Division One Hurling for the 2020 season. It was noted that this was not an accident but more by the strategic development that has gone on in the hurling section over the past few years. Appreciation was expressed to former Chairman Damien McConville, current Chairperson Colette Lock, Declan Doyle, Secretary and Senior Committee representative Gerry O'Neill. Congratulations was expressed to the Senior Hurling Team and to their management team.

It was also noted that the Hurling section have attended a significant number of coaching and training opportunities, provided with top class administrators/coaches such as Martin Fogarty. The Club School Link with hurling has been particularly strong and the increase in young people wishing to play hurling in Cumann Pheadair Naofa can be attributed to the work of our Club coaches in St. Dallan's, Carrick Primary School, Kilbroney Integrated School and Seaview.

Hurling Chairperson Colette Lock stated that going forward, we should continue to encourage dual players and to make the playing of hurling and football accessible for dual players. In this context, hurling and football coaches are to co-ordinate training sessions for the 2020 season, to allow dual players to attend their training sessions.

LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

The numbers for Ladies Gaelic Football continues to thrive with a total membership of 153 this season. The growth of Ladies Gaelic Football has been a welcome development as has the growth of camogie, increasing its membership to 70 this year. However, these increasing numbers bring additional positive challenges in that, the Club needs to encourage more volunteers to commit perhaps one hour a week or for those who can afford more significant time to both Ladies Gaelic Football and camogie. It was noted that volunteerism is a key aspect of the Club's 5 Year Development Plan and it will be addressed during the pre season 2020. It has been highlighted at National level that the challenge still remains to have our LGFA players play consistently through to adulthood and this is a challenge which we are currently experiencing in Cumann Pheadair Naofa. The challenge is for us to capitalise on the membership of 153 and to encourage these players to play consistently through to adulthood.

CAMOGIE

Camogie section was acknowledged for hosting the All County Underage Blitz.



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HANDBALL

It was noted that handball membership had decreased over the last year and that we need to make an effort to increase membership. It was noted by Brendan Rice that without a Club facility, it is difficult to have the commitment of Club members to participate in handball competitions. Going forward, after the development is completed at the Pony Field, perhaps in future years there may be an opportunity to look at handball facilities.

Appreciation was expressed to our Referees.

BEYOND THE GAMES

Members attending the AGM commented on the breadth of activities beyond the games, notably the success of the Health and Well Being Programme (incorporating Operation Transformation), significant increase in cultural activities, the engagement of the Band with the local community, participating in cross community events and attracting younger people to the Band. It was noted that the Cultural Section had made a conscious effort to have new and younger volunteers in their section. This has paid dividends with a very active, vibrant and engaging cultural section participating actively and widely in Scór Na nÓg.

SCHOOLS

Club Secretary acknowledged the importance of schools to the development of Gaelic Games in Warrenpoint. Appreciation was expressed to Brigid Carr for her work in the role of Club School Liaison Officer. It was noted that there was significant coaching in the hurling and camogie sections. Appreciation was expressed to Helena Johnson for her promotion of Ladies Gaelic Football. Brendan Rice stated that all four codes are covered in the school. Currently Ulster GAA Council Coaches Mark Poland and Eamon Blaney are coaching football and hurling respectively, football P4 to P7, hurling P7. It was also noted that the Championship Final created a buzz in the school with the hosting of a Blue & White day. However, the challenge still remains to encourage those children who have participated in Club coaching sessions in the Primary schools to transfer to St. Peter's GAA Club.

FACILITIES/OUR VISION

In terms of facilities, the most significant event in 40 years was notably the purchase of the pony field on 18 December 2018. We could not have envisaged the success of the Our Vision Project with £323k already committed to the project (as of 29 October 2019). Our Vision Co-ordinator Feargal McCormack, stated that they would like to close the figure off at £340k. The purchase of the Pony Field has been a significant achievement for the Club. Feargal McCormack explained that the Our Vision Project, to provide for current future GAA needs in Warrenpoint, can be viewed as a three phase capital development project notably:

- Phase 1: The funding and acquisition of the pony field. This has been completed through the exceptional patrons campaign.
- Phase 2: Conversion of the pony field into a GAA pitch, with no plans to provide flood lights.
- Phase 3: Provision of modern dressing rooms and facilities within the original grounds of Pairc Liam Uí Ír.



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Appreciation was expressed to the Our Vision Project Steering Group, Chaired by Club Development Officer Feargal McCormack and assisted by 50 warriors.

Regarding Club Governance, it was noted that the new Code of Best Practice/Code of Behaviour Underage was adopted by the Club and circulated to all Club Administrators and Coaches.

It was noted that as a Club, we need to be mindful of our duty and responsibility across all codes to adhere to good discipline at our games and this is a positive reputation which has been earned over the years. However, we cannot become complacent and over the off season, we can renew our commitment to revise/read the Code of Conduct for players, mentors, administrators, supporters and parents with a fresh perspective to ensure that we have a successful 2020 season.

Appreciation was expressed to Club PRO Aisling McGivern for her excellent work in ensuring that the Club message is widely circulated. Appreciation was also expressed to Conrad Madden for his exceptional efforts in producing Club DVD's and photographs.

The Secretary's Report was proposed by Gerry Gray and seconded by Daniel Bird. Sub sections reports were proposed by Feargal McCormack and seconded by Dermot Donnelly.

TUARASCAIL AN CHISTEOIRA (TREASURER'S REPORT)

Treasurer Donal McCormack handed out accounts and took the meeting through the accounts and his related commentary in some detail. In reviewing the income and expenditure account, it is noted that the total income was £203,008 (inclusive bar sales) and that excess income over expenditure was £13,848. The main point to highlight during the year was the procurement of the pony field. This has been capitalised in the accounts at over £306, with loans to cover this from UCIT and Croke Park at £200k and £100k respectively. The additional £6k is legal fees spent to acquire the field.

With regards to the commentary, the following points were noted;

There will be no further advertising at the field until 2021. Appreciation was expressed to Paul McKibben for his work in collating advertising for the field for a two year period.

Appreciation was expressed to Shane Lavery and PKF-FPM for the £13,500 from Gift Aid.

We did not have a fundraiser because of Our Vision this year and that a major fundraiser will be required in 2020.

The key incomes for the year were membership, Down Draw and Lotto. Lotto is doing significantly well and this can be attributed to the dynamic and hard working Lotto team coupled with the fact that the prize money is over £10k (as of 28 October 2019)

Transportation is well down following the decision last year to travel by bus only beyond a 15 mile radius of Warrenpoint. The positive spinoff was that more parents attended underage games. However, with the move to all county next year for underage games, we may have to look at travel in more detail. It was suggested that our travel bill should not exceed £20k for the 2020 season.

It was observed that it takes about £200k to run a Club of our size taking into account the amount of in-kind support contributions in terms of voluntary service and professional expertise to the Club which is greatly appreciated.



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With regards to the injury scheme, we need to ensure that we encourage the relevant teams to organise a fundraiser to collect the shortfall of approximately £1,800-£1,900 from any serious operations required by any of our players. It was agreed that we should follow this up more carefully and encourage the team to raise at least half of the excess money. It was also agreed we should set a time limit for the fundraiser.

Appreciation was expressed to Donal McCormack and Shane Lavery for their prudent management of the Club financial affairs. Appreciation was expressed to Shane for his preparation of the accounts.

Gerry Gray highlighted that we have a significant level of expertise in accounts and that we are very fortunate to manage our Club finances in such an efficient and effective manner. The finance report was proposed by Brendan Rice and seconded by John Daly.

ORAIÐ AN CATHAOIRLEACH (CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS)

Club Chairman, Larry Byrne addressed the members outlining his pride in Cumann Pheadair Naofa for the achievements of the 2019/20 season notably the purchase of the Pony Field and the Club reaching the Down Senior Football Championship Final. He noted that we are three years into our 5 Year Development Plan and with our membership totalling 842, the largest to date in the Club, the potential for this Club to achieve in the future is limitless.

He encouraged all members to continue the excellent work that they have been doing throughout this past year. Larry paid tribute to the hurling section being promoted to Division 1 for the 2020 season. With regards to Ladies Gaelic Football, he noted the significant increase in members, a rise of approximately 20% on 2018. However, he noted that there are challenges ahead in terms of servicing the growing number of teams. He paid particular tribute to Noreen Kelly, LGFA administrator who stood down at the AGM. He expressed appreciation to Noreen for her commitment, efficiency, assistance and the support she has provided to the Ladies Gaelic Football team.

He praised the camogie section for their ability to continue to grow their numbers, having young girls playing from U-6 through to U-12. However, going forward the challenge will also be for the camogie section to attract new volunteers.

He congratulated Club Referee Brendan Rice on referring the LGFA Senior Ladies Football Championship and to Míchéal Moore for referring of the Scottish Finals.

Beyond the games, he noted that part of our long term vision is to bring St. Peter's GAA Club into the fabric of the Warrenpoint community, a place which was already established. We want to be more than a Sports Club and we want to continue to be one of the pillars of this community contributing as we do, to Healthy Club, cultural activities, cross community through our Band, our local schools etc. Larry expressed appreciation to all those who become Our Vision Patrons and in particular, the excellent work of the Our Vision Project led by Development Officer, Feargal McCormack.

In conclusion, 2019 has been one of the most successful years in living memory and he encouraged all Club members to continue the excellent work which we are carrying on from those who have gone before us.



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TOGHAI DH NA nOIFIGÁ (ELECTION OF OFFICERS)

The following were elected:

Cathaoirleach (Chairman)	Larry Byrne
Leas Cathaoirleach (Deputy Chairman)	Paul McKibben
Runaí (Secretary)	Anne McCormack
Leas Runaí (Assistant Secretary)	Daniel Bird
Cisteoir (Treasurer)	Donal McCormack
Leas Cisteoir (Assistant Treasurer)	Shane Lavery
Claraítheoir (Registrar)	Hugh Carr
Leas Claraítheoir (Assistant Registrar)	Colm Rice
Oifigeach Chaidreamh Poibli (PRO)	Aisling McGivern
Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Chultuir (Cultural Officer)	Carmel McGrath
Oifigeach Forbartha (Development Officer)	Feargal McCormack
Baill na n-Imreoirí (Players Representative)	James Heaney

Baill Eile (Additional Members):

Hubert Shannon
John Daly
Gerry Gray
Gerry O'Neill
Christy Carr
Steven Robertson
Mícheál Moore
Brendan Rice
Meabh McArdle
Conor D'Arcy
Colette Lock

Meabh McArdle and Conor D'Arcy were welcomed to the Senior Committee.

TAILLE BÁILL (MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2020)

The annual registration fees for 2020 are as follows:

- Family Membership £140
- Adult Players £75
- Adult Non Player £50
- Associated Adult £50
- Senior Citizens £30
- U-18 Players Increase from £50 to £60
- U-18 Non-Player £30

It was also agreed to offer an incentive for more families to take family membership and it is as follows. Families will be offered an opportunity take a family membership at £140 plus a Down Draw ticket at £120, a total cost of £260. This will be offered to families at a reduced rate of £250 including the family membership, the Down Draw ticket and one lotto commencing on 1 March 2020 and running until 28 February 2021. The onus would be placed on the member to email their lotto numbers to the Club lotto e mail. This offer is only available until 31 January 2020 which is the last chance to secure a Down Club's Draw ticket.



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Family Membership constitutes parents and children under 18 years of age.

All memberships to be paid before 31 March 2020. This was proposed by Steven Robertson and seconded by Colm Rice.

RUIN (MOTIONS FOR CONGRESS)

There were two motions as follows:

1. Amend Rule 7.6 T.O. 2019 Part 1 as follows

Disqualification of Teams, Forfeiture of Games and Deduction of Points

Add Section (e)

Where a Team has points deducted from them in a League Competition, they shall play all games in that competition but shall have the appropriate number of points deducted at the conclusion of the competition.

Also Amend 7.2 (e)

Team/Unit – Where suspension is deemed appropriate – a minimum of 8 weeks. A Fine, Disqualification, Deduction of Points and Expulsion from the Association may also be considered. **Motion carried**

Donal McCormack

2. Amend Rule 3,4 – TIME T.O 2019 Part 2 as follows

In the case of games not involving the crediting of league points, in **ALL** Competitions and at **ALL** Levels, if a game ends in a draw after Normal Time Extra-Time shall be played.

Extra-Time shall consist of two periods of ten minutes each way. There shall be an interval not exceeding ten minutes between the conclusion of Normal Time and the start of Extra-Time. A half-time interval in Extra-Time shall not exceed five minutes, and teams shall not leave the field for such intervals.

Central Council shall approve a system to determine the result of games which finish level after Extra-Time has been played.

Delete Rules 3,5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 **Motion not carried**

Daniel Bird

BUANNA EILE (OTHER BUSINESS)

There was no other business and the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.



Cathaoirleach

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Runaí