



*Cumann Pheadair Naofa C.L.G.*

**St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint**



## **2020 Football Committee Report – Shane Carr**

A Chara,

Like everything in 2020 the football section has had a very disrupted year, with all plans changed and adapted to comply with the ever changing Covid Guidelines.

All teams fulfilled their fixtures, and the regular training was always provided when the guidelines permitted. We realise that mentors, parents and kids all had to operate in very difficult times and thank all involved in helping the football section to operate this year. We hope that being able to play and train with their buddies helped provide some sort of normality during very strange times.

We had 12 teams providing football for the boys and girls in our club from U6 to minor level. At the start of the year we were delighted to have some experienced coaches return to underage management as well as a number of former senior players working with underage players.

In addition to the new coaches we had a large percentage of our existing coaches who needed to refresh their Access NI and Child Protection certification. We recognise the work of Anne McCormack in arranging the courses and validating the documentation to ensure all coaches within the club are compliant with the GAA regulations and our own clubs governance policies.

We also noted significant increases in playing numbers, particularly in the youngest age groups within the club and the growing girl's section from U10 onwards. We hope this can continue and acknowledge the good work by Kieran Grant and Ciaran Rice – along with their management teams - in creating a positive environment to introduce these kids into the club. Hopefully, this can lay the foundations for many years to come.

The Club Athletic Development Plan ran at the start of the year and again proved very successful for the U11 to minor players. This indoor training is becoming the start of our year's training for each team and as the coaches and kids are becoming more familiar with the techniques the training can be further developed and tailored to each year group. Special thanks to Liam Howlett, Mike Barnett and their committee for developing this and hopefully it will continue to grow in the future.

In February we launched a skills development plan for the underage players. It is aimed as providing underage coaches with some guidance in relation to the skills kids at each age group should be concentrating on and how there can be a greater consistency of development through the different age groups within the club. The implementation of this plan was delayed due to Covid, but a trail run was carried out with the U9 and U11 boys. It is hoped that this will be valuable next year as we hope to develop this further and we thank Steve Robinson for his efforts in developing and implementing this plan to date and hope it will further develop on the coming years.

The requirements to space out training, the restrictions in St Marks and the provisions required for hand sanitizers etc. made Daniel's job of coordinating training across all the pitches we use an even more difficult one this year. There are ongoing pressures on this role but accommodating the



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weekly training schedules is one of the key day-to-day roles within the club and we thank Daniel for his ongoing efforts.

I would like to thank all members of the football committee for their efforts throughout the year and hope that some semblance of normality can return to the operation of the football section in the not too distant future.

**Football Committee**

Cathaoirleach (Chairman) – Shane Carr

Leas Cathaoirleach (Vice-chairman) – Daniel Bird

Rúnaí (Secretary) - Paul McKibben

Coiste (Additional members) – Steve Robinson, Liam Howlett, John Daly, Colm Rice, Brendan Rice, Mike Barnett, Gerard Leddy and Larry Byrne.