



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

Turascáil an Runaí

(Secretary's Report to Club AGM on Tuesday 27th October 2020)

Introduction

2020 has been an unprecedented year in all of our lives as we live through a Covid -19 Pandemic. The pandemic has had a significant impact on our community and the impact on the GAA club cannot be underestimated.

In celebrating 125 years of the GAA in Warrenpoint we buried a time capsule on 1 January 2013 inside the gates of Pairc Liam Uí Ír. The contents of the capsule reflected where we were at that time in club development, games provision etc.- contents which you would expect from any club with an ambitious and progressive future. I wonder if we were to bury a 2020 time capsule what our descendants would make of the Covid -19 pandemic we are experiencing. Probably akin to our reaction on reading the history of the Spanish Flu pandemic and its impact on the GAA in 1918. They more than likely would ponder and wonder how we as a society managed and yet we have gone about our business, GAA activities, in a somewhat restricted manner, with resilience, acceptance, care and compassion for others.

Reading the end of year reports from each section, it is very evident that the Covid- 19 pandemic impacted on every aspect of club life, from games to administration, to club events, social club, cultural activities and Healthy Club Project. Yet it is remarkable how each of the challenges we faced, were overcome with diligence, hard work, meticulous planning and each challenge was managed with good humour, strong leadership across the club and adherence to the Covid -19 guidelines issued by the Northern Ireland Executive and the GAA Covid -19 guidelines.

Little did we consider that, when we turned the lights out in Pairc Liam Uí Ír on Wednesday 11 March after a Senior Football challenge game against Saul, that we would not hear the sound of the big leather ball or the clash of the ash until the 29 June when GAA clubs could resume activities. At the outset we express a deep sense of gratitude to our club members, players, coaches, mentors, administrators, parents of underage children and supporters for their co-operation and patience during these challenging times. We pay tribute to club members who gave so generously of their time to assist with the club Covid 19 Response Plan. We also show our appreciation for club members who worked on the front line, in the NHS, the emergency services, our local community shops and pharmacies which continued to function and to service our needs during the lockdown.

We are grateful that the ethos of the GAA fosters a strong sense of community spirit as evidenced in recent times and unites us in good times and bad times. In this context we thank Club Chaplain Canon John Kearney for his ongoing support and we extend our warmest wishes to Canon Kearney on his retirement after 22 years of dedicated and outstanding service to our community.

This evening, on this unusual virtual AGM, we will remember and mark with a minute's silence the death of all club members, relatives and friends since the AGM last year including:

- Eithne Malone, who attended and supported many club events for over 30 years.
- Paul McEvoy, a great servant to the Warrenpoint community in covering GAA affairs for a long time.

We also sympathise with club members who mourn the loss of family members and good friends. May they all Rest in Peace.



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

This year, on 22nd August, we marked the tenth anniversary of the sudden and untimely death of underage footballer Patrick Dinsmore in a Minor game against Rostrevor.

On reading the club activities annual reports to the AGM, it is clear that Cumann Pheadair Naofa is a vibrant club with many volunteers contributing to the daily club life and the community where we live. Year on year membership is continuing to rise. The 2020 season recorded 870 members of which 412 of these are youth members. Many thanks to Club Registrar Hugh Carr who steps down from this role after many years of dedicated service and also to Assistant Registrar Colm Rice.

Coping with the Covid -19 Pandemic

In this surreal year, the context of all club activity should be set against how we managed and coped during lockdown and the much awaited and welcome Return to Activity on 29 June. Within days of lockdown, the club established a Covid 19 Response Team comprising of Colette Lock, Aisling McGivern, Daniel Bird, Gerry O'Neill, Paul McKibben, Hugh Carr and Brendan Rice. The Covid 19 Response Team co-ordinated messages, prescription collections, dog walking, co-ordination and delivery of hampers provided by club members to Women's Aid, Daisy Hill Hospital and to St. Vincent de Paul. In addition, the Committee delivered food parcels every Friday during lockdown and continue to do so.

The Covid-19 Response Team actions were consistent with the club's philosophy to operate at the heart of the local community, for the whole of family for the whole of life. Indeed, our Covid 19 Response Team played a significant role, along with many other volunteer organisations in our community, bringing assistance and support to people who were unable to leave their home or who were self-isolating.

The club assistance was much appreciated as evidenced by these few words: *"Hi Daniel, just a note to express my sincere gratitude for shopping over the last 4 months. It was much appreciated. Good luck with the football"*.

Throughout the four months, Colette Lock continued to drive the project making a successful application to County Down Rural Community Network(CDRCN) for a volunteer grant to assist with food hampers and utility vouchers. We also acknowledge the work of Assistant Treasurer Shane Lavery who coordinated Covid-19 grant applications.

The commitment and work of the Covid 19 Response Team has continued beyond lockdown and more recently the club has become involved in the Irish News delivery scheme to deliver Irish News' to people in our community who are unable to get to the shops.

The lockdown period was not easy for our younger, youthful energetic gaels who loved no more than anything to be at their training. However, in the midst of this most unusual time when the clubrooms fell silent and the only sound in Moygannon was the birdsong and the grass cutting organised by Gerry Gray, club mentors and coaches prepared videos for our younger gaels to practice their skills and to give them challenges.

Coaching and Games Development Officer Liam Howlett ably assisted by Mike Barnett, Conor Keenan and Sean O'Hare devised a fitness regime for all codes, respecting all Covid 19 regulations and social distancing. The hurling and camogie sections enthusiastically encouraged the young hurlers and camogs to enjoy hurling and camogie in the safety of their own gardens in the company of their families. Senior Football Captain, Ryan Boyle co-ordinated and led a skills programme delivered by our Senior Footballers Ross McGarry, Ryan McAleenan, Donagh McAleenan, Cormac McCartan, Ruairi McCormack and Ryan himself. Club Senior Captains Ryan Boyle (Football), Conor Keenan (Hurling) and Ciara Downey (Ladies Football) provided messages of support for all our younger gaels. Towards the end of lockdown in anticipation of returning to games the Coaching and Games Development Committee developed a video on injury prevention.



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

For the not so young, Primal Fitness, co-ordinated by Ross McGarry, Alan Davidson and Conrad Madden very kindly offered free membership of Primal Fitness during Covid -19 lockdown to club members. This generous gesture was very much appreciated and helped to keep members fit and engaged in exercise post Operation Transformation in February.

The long-awaited news of the GAA Return to Activity was greeted with much anticipation, hope and excitement. The GAA at County, Provincial and National level are to be congratulated on the way they organised the Return to Activity with very clear guidelines for a safe return to play issued to all clubs. Cumann Pheadair Naofa established a return to play working group comprising of Chairman, Larry Byrne, Club Vice Chairman Paul McKibben, Club Secretary Anne McCormack, Club PRO Aisling McGivern, Hurling/Camogie Representative Gerry O'Neill, LGFA Representative Mike Barnett and Football Representative Johnny Rooney. Appreciation is expressed to this Committee for the meticulous work and pre planning for a safe return to activity.

There was buy in from all sections to ensure that our players and mentors could feel confident attending training and games in the club, safe in the knowledge that all Covid- 19 guidelines were adhered to by the club. In this regard we express appreciation to the diligence of our mentors in ensuring that the return to play questionnaire and the health checks were completed for every training session.



The saying goes "a picture is worth a thousand words" and the photograph of the week on the 7th August in the Gaelic Life Newspaper of U-9 footballer Daniel McKibben preparing for the Down Senior Football League game between Cumann Pheadair Naofa and Rostrevor demonstrates attention to detail in match preparation with Daniel donning his mask and ensuring that the sanitisers and all safety equipment were in place. Well done Daniel.

Thanks to Paul McKibben for co-ordinating the Club's Covid -19 compliance and to all the coaches and mentors who undertook the role of Covid-19 supervisor with each team.

And so, with all the housekeeping in order and a safe environment for all our players, coaches, mentors and supporters the anticipation of our games was imminent.

Football

Cumann Pheadair Naofa had plenty of drama in the Down Senior Football Championship of 2020. A convincing win against our near neighbours Burren for the first time in Down SFC for 44 years., followed by a one-point victory over Kilcoo and a dramatic game against Clonduff when both teams could only be separated by a kick of the ball in penalties.(the first time a Down SFC game was decided by penalties). In the midst of a pandemic these games were true excitement and enjoyment for our members and supporters. We had good days on our championship journey and the semi-final game against Kilcoo proved that it was not to be our day, acknowledging that on that day in Pairc Esler Kilcoo had brought their A game to the semi-final.



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

While success was not there in silverware, the achievement of wins over three teams with high pedigree and a tradition of good competitive championship teams cannot be underestimated. This Senior Football team led by inspirational Captain Ryan Boyle will have taken much from this Championship and put it to good use in the preparation for the 2021 season.

Niall McAleenan and the Management Team have stepped down after four years managing the senior football team. We pay tribute to Niall for his leadership and commitment. Thank you, Niall, for your efforts and commitment to ensure that Senior Football in Cumann Pheadair Naofa is centre stage in Down Club Football. Niall has been ably assisted by Oliver Sloan, Eamonn McEvoy, Gary Boyle, Keith Waters and Ruairi McCartney, Thanks for all the endless hours, energy and effort and time invested in Cumann Pheadair Naofa Senior Football Team. We wish Niall and the management team every success in the years ahead. Steven Robertson and Sean O' Hare provided excellent logistical preparation for Senior Football training and games. Thanks to physios, Triona McNicholas and Michael Walsh for their attentive care to the players.

Our Senior Football team have also been fortunate and privileged to benefit from the astute wisdom and football knowledge of Barney McAleenan who is held in the highest of esteem in this area and beyond.

There is continued optimism about the future of Senior Football in Warrenpoint and this is due in no small measure to the Reserve Footballers winning the Premier Reserve League having defeated Castlewella in the Felix Derby Cup Final. Congratulations to the team, captained by the hardworking and committed captain Paul Trainor, and to the management of Michael Morgan, Conor McGarry and Daniel Bird. who have given much time and commitment to Senior Reserve Football in Cumann Pheadair Naofa.

Thanks to the Football Focus Group for their strategic administrative role regarding the Senior Football team.

It is heartening to see that underage football is prospering with healthy numbers particularly at the young age group. This year saw the introduction of a Skills Development Plan which has been rolled out with U-9's and U-11's and this is a welcome development in terms of coaching and development within the club. The statistics and indeed the anecdotal stories inform us that there is a correlation between co-ordinated skills pathways moving throughout the underage players to senior level resulting in years of invested hard work bringing success to fruition.

While most of the underage competitive football games had been completed when the GAA issued a statement on Monday 5 October that no further games were to be played for the foreseeable future, the only remaining competition was our U-15's who could not complete their championship. For this team this was unfortunate as they had shown good progress throughout the season. The U-19 team were also unfortunate that the U-19 Championship had yet to commence.

Well done to Liam Howlett, Coaching Games and Development Officer for leading the pre-season Athletic Development Programme. The 6-week Athletic Development Programme had excellent attendance across all codes, Football, Hurling, Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie. This was an excellent opportunity to engage with our young members pre-season in preparation for outdoor activities and an example of best practice in the one club model.

I commend the very diligent work of underage coaches and mentors at all levels across all codes, countless hours of training, planning and organisation goes into the work of managing an underage team and these efforts do not go unnoticed in the club and in particular this year when our mentors had to deal with the added responsibilities of ensuring compliance with Covid-19 guidelines.



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

Thanks to Shane Carr Football Committee Chairman, Paul McKibben Football Committee Secretary and the members of the Football Committee for their hard work and strategic direction in developing underage football in Cumann Pheadair Naofa.

This year we continue to have representation at County level with Ryan McAleenan, Patrick Murdock and Cormac McCartan on the Down Senior Football panel. We had representation on the Down U-20 panel with Ruairi McCormack having the honour of being captain whilst Eoghan Byrne and Jamie Lynch were also members of the U-20 panel. Jack Howlett is a member of the Down U-17 panel. Congratulations and well done to all.

Congratulations to Sean O'Hare who captained the St. Colman's College MacRory Cup team and to club members Cian McLoughlin and Jack Howlett who were part of the panel and to coach Ronan McMahon. This will be remembered as an historic MacRory Cup final since the finalists St. Colman's College and St. Patrick's Maghera shared the honours with the MacRory Cup final having been cancelled due to the pandemic. Well done Sean, Cian, Jack. And Ronan.

Hurling

The 2020 season saw our Senior Hurlers compete in Division 1 Hurling in Down. The Senior Hurlers put up a very gallant performance throughout the season. It was unfortunate that following the statement issued from the GAA on 5 October in relation to cessation of games, that the Senior Hurlers did not have an opportunity to participate in the Junior Championship. This was disappointing as in this particular year the Hurling team was a close knit, strong team with the potential to take honours this season. Should there be a change for the better in the Covid-19 restrictions, perhaps the Junior Hurling Championship may be played under a revised knock out format

Throughout the season, the Senior and Reserve Hurlers trained together with good numbers attending.

Special thanks to the management team of Tom Daly and Sean Mallon Joint managers, Liam Boyle, Lead Coach, Gerry O' Neill Selector, Aileen McAteer, Amy Freer and PRO Dermot Donnelly.

Well done to the Reserve Hurling team, under the management of Martin Houlihan, who reached the semi final of the Betsy Gray Shield

The Senior Hurling team, Reserve team and management have built a good team spirit among the panel and hopefully can look forward with optimism to 2021.

A significant event in the story of the 2020 Hurling season was the launch of an impressive Pathways to Success programme launched in November 2019 by Martin Fogarty National Hurling Development Officer which augers well for the future development of the ancient game in Warrenpoint.

Cumann Pheadair Naofa continue to play a central role in Hurling in the South Down area and it is of particular note that amalgamations are part and parcel of life on the Hurling scene. Due to low numbers at U-13, CCC granted sanctions for four players to play hurling with Clonduff and this was rewarding for the young hurlers as the Clonduff team finished top of their league.

Credit must go to Hurling Chairperson Colette Lock, Hurling Secretary Declan Doyle and Senior Committee Representative Gerry O'Neill for their strategic management of Hurling within the club along with the Hurling Committee.

The Hurling section has given a significant importance to the development of coaching and games and it is no coincidence that Martin Fogarty the National Hurling Development Officer would be very familiar with Cumann Pheadair Naofa GAA club. On his visit to the club in November 2019 to launch the Pathways to Success he complimented the strides that had been made in the development of Hurling



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

in the club and the one club model approach in Cumann Pheadair Naofa. Going forward we need to take cognisance of the fact that we have dual players and continue to encourage accessibility for dual players and continue to lobby when necessary for a coordinated fixtures calendar and club internal training arrangements which facilitates the dual player.

At County level, Tiernan Murphy and Oisín Kelly are members of the Down U-20 Hurling panel and Oisín Magone is on the Down Minor panel.

Ladies Gaelic Football

Ladies Gaelic Football is now firmly embedded in the fabric of St. Peter's GAA Club since its introduction to the club in 2012. The membership now stands at 145. There is particular optimism for the future of Ladies Gaelic Football with large numbers registered at U-10 and U-12 level. This has followed through with a sustainable, committed and steady cohort of players at U-14 and U-16. Due to small numbers at Minor level the club did not field a Minor team this year and to ensure that the girls who qualified for Minor level were given the opportunity to play Ladies Gaelic Football the club gave approval for 3 players to participate in the LGFA permission to play scheme. This allows a player to play for a neighbouring club if numbers are not high enough to field a team in their own club but with the understanding that they return to their club when the numbers are adequate.

Senior Ladies Football is developing well with a significant number of new players this season and the team reached the semi-final of the Junior Championship. Thanks to Manager Ronan Magee assisted by Martin Carr and Aileen McAteer.

2021 season sees the club in a position to have a Minor team, thus having participation at all age groups in Ladies Gaelic Football.

We continue to have representation at LGFA County level with the following selected; U-14 Panel, Clíodhna Martin and Sydney Barnett. U-15: Cara Bradley and U-16 Anna Craven, Enya Quinn and Caoimhe Quinn while Soifra McAteer was on the Minor panel. Mike Barnett was a member of the Down U-14 LGFA Management team.

Well done to Katie Howlett who was captain of St. Mark's U-16 Ladies Football team.

One of the occasions that stand out in this past short season was the visit of the newly formed East Belfast Ladies Gaelic Football team playing their league game against Warrenpoint in Pairc Liam Uí ír. This was a lovely occasion on a fine summer's evening in early August, when following the league game, and a novice game for the new East Belfast players to enjoy against Cumann Pheadair Naofa, the club presented the newly formed club with a voucher for O'Neills and a cake to celebrate their first visit to Warrenpoint.

Thank you to all the coaches who have given so generously of their time to the Ladies Gaelic Football section this season, it is greatly appreciated and a pleasure to see the enthusiasm of the young Ladies Gaelic Footballers at their training sessions. Special thanks and appreciation must go to Mike Barnett who has completed his first year in the role of Ladies Gaelic Football Administrator.

Camogie

Camogie continues to make steady progress and similar to the Ladies Gaelic Football there is great enthusiasm for Camogie at underage level. Numbers have been very strong, and this is a very welcome development with 84 camogs registered in the 2020 season.

The challenge for Cumann Pheadair Naofa is to harness the enthusiasm of these young players and devise strategies to ensure that we bring these players through from underage to Senior level. In recent



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

times numerous reports and research have noted that the drop off in sport for girls takes place around the age of 16 and 17. It is hoped that we as a club will plan to retain and keep girls interested in Camogie and also in Ladies Gaelic Football.

This was the first time in recent years that we have fielded an U-14 team. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Helen Carvill Chairperson and Kathy Naughton Secretary who have worked hard to continue to ensure that Camogie is well represented in Cumann Pheadair Naofa. Moreover, it should be noted that the commitment to good governance displayed by the Camogie section is very commendable. Appreciation is expressed to Yvonne McFerran who has stepped aside from coaching. Thank Yvonne for the role you have played in developing Camogie in Warrenpoint.

We congratulate club members Silin Murphy, Amy Freer, Caoimhe Byrne and former Warrenpoint Camogie players Hannah Duffy and Bronach Cassidy who were part of the Ballyholland Senior Camogie team who won the Down Intermediate Camogie Championship Final. Unfortunately, Meabh O'Hare had returned to University in Liverpool and missed out on the final, having made a significant contribution all season.

Handball

Declan Doyle continues to promote handball to our younger members. In January/February, Declan worked together with the underage hurlers and camogs in joint sessions to develop the young gael skills and interest in Handball. Unfortunately, due to the constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic, they were unable to continue with indoor training and they look forward to the day when handball coaching can begin again. On the County scene, the club continues to contribute to the administrative function with Declan Doyle Current Chairman of Down GAA Handball. Our Club Handball County Board Representative, Peter Mc Creesh, who is also Chairman of Queen' University GAA Handball Club, was awarded QUB Student's Union Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations and well-done Peter!

Referees

We appreciate the work of Brendan Rice, Mícheál Moore, Declan Ryan, Caolan McAteer and Kieran Rice. It is particularly good to see young people taking an interest in refereeing and well done to Ben Lock who attended a referee's course earlier in the year. Liam Howlett completed LGFA referee training and it is commendable that we have referees represented across all codes.

Congratulations to Mícheál Moore on refereeing his first Down Senior Football Championship match this season. Congratulations to Brendan Rice who was awarded Referee of the Year at the Down GAA Awards on 11 January. Brendan was also acknowledged by the LGFA for refereeing the All Ireland Ladies Senior Football Final in 2019. Brendan attended a presentation in Croke Park along with his team of umpires Daniel Bird, Martin Slevin, Shane Lavery, Lar Devlin and Mícheál Moore.

Congratulations to Kieran Rice who was awarded Down Camogie referee of the Year for the 2019 season. We are very grateful for the work of our referees. Thanks also to Donal McCormack in his capacity as Chairman of the Referees Appointments Committee.

Beyond the Games

Cumann Pheadair Naofa operates at the heart of its local community, for the whole of family for the whole of life. The new year 2020 heralded the start of the highly successful Club Operation Transformation Project, an 8-week long programme for participants from age 18 to 70+ to engage in team-based activities with an aim to move more and eat better by taking part in organised exercise classes, community walks and wellbeing seminars. There was an abundance of activities on offer from Couch to 5k, yoga, Primal Fitness Exercise Classes, Irish Dancing, swimming and community walks for all the family.



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

This year 94 participants registered to participate in Operation Transformation culminating in the annual Operation RTE Transformation 5k / run walk in the Phoenix Park, Dublin on 22 February. First time participant in Operation Transformation Gerry Carey was awarded the most inspirational person of the club programme because of his outstanding resilience and determination to complete the 5k in the Phoenix Park, a few years after his serious accident. Congratulations and well done Gerry! This reflects the strong ethos and essence of what Operation Transformation means to the club encouraging club members and supporters to become involved in a life and health changing Operation Transformation Programme.

Well done to Healthy Club Co-ordinator Katrina Kernan and Club PRO Aisling McGivern who co-ordinated the programme.

Appreciation is also expressed to Walsh's Pharmacy for their assistance with Operation Transformation and to all who contributed to the programme. The proactive integration of the health and wellbeing fitness programme was in keeping with the club mantra to operate for the whole of family for the whole of life.

Lockdown brought its challenges regarding community integration and community activities. The club became involved in the Irish Life Walking Challenge and this provided an outlet for members during this challenging period. Not only did many members complete the walking programme but the club was placed in the awards following the Irish Life Walking Challenge and secured a £500 O'Neill's voucher for the club. Well done to Katrina for organising this project.

In February Club Chairman Larry Byrne and Assistant Secretary Daniel Bird were guests of Lugdunum GAA Club in Lyon. They were welcomed by Chairman Eoin Campbell and we look forward to strengthening our twinning partnership with Lugdunum GAA Club.

Cultural Activities

Cumann Pheadair Naofa has a long and successful association with Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsear. This year the entries to Scór na nÓg were very strong with many of our young people participating in Scór. Meanwhile at Scór Sinsear the club secured three County titles in Sets, Ceilí Dancing and Instrumental music.

Cultural Officer Carmel McGrath ably assisted by the Cultural Committee and Senior Committee member Méabh McArdle made a significant contribution to the promotion of Scór this season and it was very heartening to see so many entries at both Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsear.

During lockdown the club hosted a virtual Scór and participated in the Down GAA Virtual Song. Thirteen club members across all ages took part in this project.

Band

Before lockdown the Band continued to play an active role in the local community participating in St. Peter's Christmas Carol service and for the first time in recent years the band participated in the Warrenpoint Feis.

Schools

The Club continued to provide afterschool coaching in Hurling, Football and Camogie until lockdown commenced in March.

Thanks to Mrs Una Farrell, Principal of St. Dallan's Primary School for her co-operation, Brendan Rice GAA Co-ordinator, St. Dallan's PS and to Brigid Carr the Club/School Liaison Officer for their efforts to continue to develop GAA activities in St. Dallan's. It would be our hope that the young people who



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

have participated in GAA activities in school would transfer their new-found skills to Cumann Pheadair Naofa.

Working in partnership with St. Dallan's can only enhance the development of interest in sport and GAA activities. To this end we look forward to continuing our club / school partnership with St. Dallan's Primary School. Many thanks to Carrick Primary School for their support for Hurling in Cumann Pheadair Naofa.

Club Events

Naturally this has been a very challenging year for the club in terms of organising events. Prior to lockdown the Social Committee under the leadership of Brendan Rice had made many efforts to encourage members to avail of the facility of the social club. Over the winter months music was organised in the clubrooms and this proved to be very popular. The annual Christmas Jumper Night was very well supported on 22nd of December and the final event to take place in the clubrooms pre-lockdown was the finale of Operation Transformation at the beginning of March. Credit much be given to the Social Committee who fully respected, upheld and complied with the GAA guidelines in relation to clubroom activity.

Much preparation was put into the reopening of the Social Club in late September only to close 2 weeks later.

Thanks to Brendan Rice, Social Club Co-ordinator assisted by a hardworking team for the work they completed in the clubrooms. Special thanks to the residents of Mary Street for their courtesy towards Club members.

Finance and Fundraising

Club Treasurer Donal McCormack ably assisted by Assistant Treasurer Shane Lavery have done an excellent job in ensuring that all financial matters within the club have been managed correctly and efficiently.

A club of this size requires a significant amount of finance to meet the requirements of fielding 27 teams across all codes and the associated costs. To this end the club lotto scheme has proved to be an excellent success this year. Steven Robertson has been meticulous in his co-ordination of the club Lotto. We are fortunate to have a very committed team of Lotto sellers who have delivered a record performance over the past twelve months. Thanks to Davy Duffy who assists with the weekly Lotto Draw.

The installation of club lotto boxes in VivoXtra and the FreshFood Centre in Warrenpoint has been a welcome addition. Thanks to VivoXtra and Fresh Food Centre Warrenpoint for facilitating the lotto boxes. We also appreciate the cooperation and assistance we receive from Linda's Newsagent and The Tuck Shop. In addition, Klubfunder has been an excellent source for lotto purchases.

Thanks to James Heaney for his co-ordination of the Down Clubs Draw. As a fundraising exercise the Down Clubs Draw continues to be one of the most attractive and best options for us to raise funds. The Down Clubs Draw allows us to generate income without any risk to the club. £96 out of the £120 ticket goes back to the club once the prize fund has been allocated. We remain positive that our club members and supporters will actively engage with the club in this fundraising campaign for our operational costs.

Appreciation to Paul McKibben for his work in promoting the advertising boards in Moygannon.

A major fundraiser planned for this year was to be the Golf Day at Warrenpoint Golf Club on 8 May and unfortunately this fundraising event had to be cancelled.



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

It would be remiss of me not to mention that Club Treasurer Donal McCormack steps down from his role after 5 years as Club Treasurer. Thank you, Donal! Donal would be the first to acknowledge the excellent support he received from Assistant Treasurer Shane Lavery who coordinates the preparation of the Club Management Accounts.

Our Vision Project

After much effort, a local community survey and two public meetings, the club submitted its full planning application to Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Planning Department on 20th March 2020 for the proposed extension to its club grounds located at Moygannon. The proposed development comprises a new pitch, ball stops & dugouts, walking track, amenity areas, improvements to existing car park, boundary fencing, two storey pavilion incorporating changing rooms, toilets and meeting rooms, improvements to existing entrance and visibility splays from Rostrevor Road and alterations and refurbishment of existing changing rooms.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the NM&DDC Planning Department did not validate the Planning Application until 22nd April 2020. With the help of its professional advisors team, on Friday 25th September 2020, the club submitted detailed responses to queries raised by the Planning Officers and also the various statutory consultees. This submission can be read from registering on the Planning Portal for Newry, Mourne & Down District Council.

The club is very hopeful that full planning permission for the proposed exciting Our Vision Project development will be secured before Christmas and building works will commence in 2021.

We would like to express sincere thanks to club Our Vision Project Co-ordinator Feargal McCormack and the other two members of the Our Vision Project Planning Sub-Group Gerry Gray and Hugh Carr. We also express our appreciation to the Our Vision Project professional advisors, led by architect Bernard Dinsmore.

We express special thanks to the Our Vision patrons for their continued strong financial support in very challenging economic times, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Facilities

With our growing numbers space continues to be a premium. Club Assistant Secretary Daniel Bird could pay testament to this. The monthly preparation of the allocation of pitches is a challenging task. Daniel has managed to allocate pitches for all of our 27 teams fielded by the club. In this regard we are fortunate to have a Strategic Alliance with St. Mark's High School and to continue to use Milltown Playing Fields. We would like to express our appreciation to Mrs Una McNulty, Principal St. Mark's High School and to Mr Aidan McGivern, Vice Principal St. Mark's High School for their ongoing co-operation and assistance. In addition, we also would like to thank Newry, Mourne & Down District Council for their co-operation in the maintenance of Milltown Playing Fields.

Our club ground Pairc Liam Úi Ír is very well maintained thanks to Gerry Gray for his overseeing of the pitch maintenance. Thanks Gerry.

Paul McKibben along with Martin McGreevy have kept a watchful eye to the maintenance of Moygannon during lockdown and some considerable work was carried out there notably the improvements in the 125 Pavilion, the painting of the 125 Pavilion etc. During lockdown Steven Robertson and Sean O'Hare deep cleaned the changing rooms.

Maintenance carried out at the clubrooms in Mary Street included painting, a massive spring clean and preparation of the clubrooms to facilitate social distancing, sanitising etc. in preparation for the eventual return to activity in the clubrooms. Thanks to Paul McKibben for his excellent work in co-ordinating the



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

spring clean and the general maintenance of the clubrooms during lockdown. Thanks also to Club Lettings Coordinator, Christy Carr.

Merchandise

It is a great source of club and community pride to see so many of our young people wear O'Neills Cumann Pheadair Naofa gear as they go about their daily lives. Paul McKibben has operated the Club Shop in a very efficient manner. Thanks Paul.

Contribution to the GAA beyond our Club

Cumann Pheadair Naofa has been enriched by the involvement of our Club members beyond volunteering in our local Club in Warrenpoint and we acknowledge and appreciate the involvement of Club members including the following:

Donal McCormack	-	Chairman Down Referees Appointments Committee
Daniel Bird	-	County Board Representative
Mike Barnett	-	Ladies Gaelic Football Representative -LGFA County Board. Down LGFA U-14 Mentor.
Declan Doyle	-	Chairman Down GAA Handball Committee
Peter McCreesh	-	Chairman Queen's University Belfast GAA Handball Committee
Rónán McMahon	-	Down U-17 Team Mentor & Chairman of Campa Chormaic
Brendan Rice	-	South Down Secretary and Down, Ulster and National Referees Advisor
Aisling McGivern	-	Down County GAA Communications Committee
Feargal McCormack	-	Chairman of National GAA Audit and Risk Committee Casement Park Board Member Chairman, Down GAA Audit & Risk Committee Chairman of Down GAA Ballykinler Development Project
Belle O'Loughlin	-	Honorary President, Down Camogie Association
Kieran Rice	-	Down Hurling Referees Assessor
Dermot Donnelly	-	Down GAA Communications Committee Providing stats analysis assistance to Down GAA
Ruairi McCormack	-	Down U-20 Captain (2020)
Sean O'Hare	-	Captain St. Colman's MacRory Team
Katie Howlett	-	Captain St. Mark's U-16 Ladies Football Team



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

Club Governance

Club Governance is essential to ensure that the club functions properly and efficiently incorporating all club procedures. Simply put Club Governance means doing things the right way. In this regard Cumann Pheadair Naofa have a long-established reputation for good governance and the year 2020 was no different.

To this end, on 2nd January 2020 the Senior Committee ratified the club policies and procedures for the incoming year. January traditionally is a very busy month for club governance and during this time club members attended the Club Officer Training organised by Ulster GAA Council on 23rd January. The club was represented at various workshops. Club Development Officer Feargal McCormack delivered the Workshop in Good Governance at the Ulster GAA Club Development Officer Training. Down County Board hosted an Officer training evening and again club officials were represented at this training. Liam Howlett represented the club at the GAA Games and Development Conference in Croke Park on 11 January.

Earlier this year, we completed a very comprehensive Ulster GAA Audit Questionnaire and also a Sport NI Club Survey.

The strategic direction of the club continues to be informed by the Club Five Year Development Plan and it is encouraging to report that we are broadly on target and in some instances ahead of target with our action plans. Thanks to Club Development Officer Feargal McCormack who steps down from this role after 5 years of dedicated service and significant input to the strategic development of the club.

The Annual First Aid course took place on 18 January with an excellent attendance. In early February 47 club volunteers attended the Child Protection Course and in addition 8 coaches undertook the online Child Protection Course which was delivered by Ulster GAA Council virtually during lockdown.

57 Access NI's were approved this season, a combination of new volunteers and renewals.

Thanks to the Safeguarding Committee, comprising of Noreen Kelly, Anne McCormack, Hugh Carr and Eoin Magennis for their oversight strategic management of the club's safeguarding procedures ensuring that the Child Safeguarding Statement is fit for purpose and prominently displayed in the clubrooms.

Going forward the challenge for the club is to continue to maintain excellent governance across all sections and all codes. Cumann Pheadair Naofa are fully committed to the implementation of the Code of Behaviour Underage and in this regard have actively encouraged all club mentors and coaches to be familiar with this document. It is an excellent source of information.

Cumann Pheadair Naofa are very appreciative of the guidance and assistance received from Down County Board, Ulster GAA Council and GAA headquarters in the running of Club activities. Thanks to County Chairman Jack Devaney, County Secretary Sean Óg McAteer, County Treasurer Diarmuid Cahill, Assistant Secretary Michael O' Rourke and the County Board officers for their advice and assistance. A special word of thanks to Down County Board for their very efficient administration of club competitive games in these very challenging times.

Thanks to Club County Board Representative Daniel Bird for liaising with the County Board on behalf of the club.



Cumann Pheadair Naofa



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint

Communications and ICT

In this unusual year communication with club members was key and our main source for disseminating information and communication during this period was through our social media channels and appreciation is expressed to Club PRO Aisling McGivern for the well-co-ordinated, timely, concise and informative posts. Thanks Aisling! Thanks to County Secretary Sean Óg McAteer who issued Extra Time weekly – a very informative source of history and GAA news. Many thanks to the club PROs in the various club sections and to our club photographer Conrad Madden. We greatly appreciate the many photographs and video footage prepared by Conrad Madden and Sean O' Hare.

Appreciation

This is my last Secretary's report after five years as Runaí of Cumann Pheadair Naofa. It has been both a privilege and an honour to have held this office in the club. I am deeply appreciative of the support and guidance of the Senior Committee and Club Officers from all the club sections. Thanks to Club Chairman Larry Byrne for his leadership and sterling work in ensuring that Cumann Pheadair Naofa continued to deliver positive outcomes for our members and supporters in this unprecedented and challenging year. Thanks to Assistant Secretary Daniel Bird for his assistance and support to me and to Treasurer Donal McCormack.

Thanks to our club sponsors and to the many volunteers who give so generously of their time and expertise throughout the year.

As we live through this pandemic, we are fortunate to be part of a GAA Club and community which binds us together for the greater good of our community. We hope that we will all stay safe and healthy, continue to reach out to others and look forward to a time when we return to enjoying our games and activities as we once knew them.

Is mise le meas

Aine Mhic Cormaic
Runaí

20 October 2020.