



Cumann Pheadair Naofa C.L.G.



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint
warrenpointgaa.com

Turascáil an Runaí

(Secretary's Report to Club AGM on Tuesday 9th November 2021)

Post AGM 2020 the newly elected Senior Committee met for the first time on the 10th November 2020. I can't speak highly enough about this group of people, volunteers, who on top of an already busy life agenda, take on huge responsibilities and decision making on behalf of the club. I never fully understood the complexity of the work of an Executive Officer until I took on this role and I am humbled to have been part of such a great team, who, over the past year have taught me so much.

2021 has been a year like no other in many ways, unprecedented times, training pods, zoom training sessions and health questionnaires became the norm for all. It was a challenging year given the circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on our community and the impact on the GAA club cannot be underestimated and in that regard I must commend the COVID-19 Response Team comprising of Colette Lock, Aisling McGivern, Gerry O'Neill, Paul McKibben, Anne McCormack, Hugh Carr and Brendan Rice. The Covid 19 Response Team co-ordinated messages, prescription collections, newspaper deliveries, dog walking and delivery of hampers and played a significant role bringing assistance and support to people who were unable to leave their home or who were self-isolating. Following on from this, Cumann Pheadair Naofa launched our Christmas Appeal in 2020 in memory of Teddy Boyle aimed at ensuring that no one went without, during a very hard and different festive season. A year on the committee is still very much active helping those in the community and this wouldn't have been possible without the generosity, kindness and support from our local businesses, members and community.

As we reflect on the past year we express sympathy to the families of our members and supporters who have died. We especially remember our Social Initiative Co-ordinator and former player Michael Carr. May they rest in peace.

In respect of Covid-19, I thank Paul McKibben who made sure that all best practice policies as recommended by the Northern Ireland Executive and the GAA, had been fully implemented by the Club. Paul McKibben organised the COVID protection at our fields i.e., signage, sanitizers.

Even during the second lockdown Cumann Pheadair Naofa was a constant in our members lives-

The culture and band section kept our members entertained with a successful virtual Christmas concert, this was linked with the ballad groups (junior & adult) from Scor, the senior instrumental group and the band section. Thanks to Carmel McGrath, Conrad Madden, Hugh Carr and Meabh McArdle for organising the event. In addition the Club Scor section participated in a St Patricks day event run by Harbourside radio and showcased our dancers on a global stage.

In January the Healthy Club section were busy organising the 'Ulster GAA- Every Step Counts' challenge, a very successful event with over 70 people registering and kept our members active during a difficult part of the year. The proactive integration of the health and wellbeing fitness

Daniel Bird, Runaí

2 Ganna Way, Warrenpoint, Co. Down, BT34 3LT

Mobile: 07742091925



Cumann Pheadair Naofa C.L.G.



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint
warrenpointgaa.com

programme was in keeping with the club mantra to operate for the whole of family for the whole of life.

Even though our games were at a standstill, our games and coaching committee were hard at work making sure that once our games would begin that our coaches were fully up to speed. Liam Howlett attended the Ulster GAA Coaching Development programme and Sean O'Hare completed an Ulster GAA stats Award. The committee also created Athletic Development and Injury Prevention videos which were posted on the club's social media and helped our players and coaches prepare for the season ahead. Over 50 of our coaches / aspiring coaches (across all codes) enrolled on the Dual Foundation coaching course, this was a tremendous success, thanks to Liam and his Games and Development team for hard work and future proofing our teams for years to come.

Monday 12th April 2021 became a synonymous day in the lives of our members- with 'Return to Play', a day that everyone in the club was looking forward to. It was fantastic to see from the first weekend of Return to Play our fields and facilities were filled with players and coaches enjoying the sport they love.

In underage football it is encouraging to see significant increases in playing numbers, particularly in the youngest age groups and the growing girl's section. In terms of competition, it was a strange year with the lack of tournaments and the tighter schedules, but we had some success from the U11 boys winning a league and the minor girls who have an upcoming championship final. Thanks to Brendan Rice who organized another successful Cul Camp, this year being particularly hard with COVID-19 measures and the organization of club coaches. We thank Brendan for all of his hard work, it's great to see big numbers returning each year.

The Premier Reserve football team had a good year reaching the Premier Reserve Championship final for the first time since 2012, this was a significant achievement considering the number of senior games across a short period of time and carefully juggling players across our senior, seconds, and thirds teams. Our senior footballers performed well in the Corn An Duin, they reached the final and were beaten by a strong Kilcoo team. A standout moment for the year was the winning of our first ever Down All County League Division one title in the Clubs history, a fantastic achievement and it's still hard to believe this is our first title. Hopefully this year's league success will bring momentum and inspiration to our squad for the 2022 season as we look to win the Senior Championship for the first time since 1953.

This year marked the 10th anniversary since the introduction of Ladies Football in the club. There is no doubt that the sport is going from strength to strength in Warrenpoint and with the numbers we are seeing coming through, we can be confident that ladies' Gaelic football will continue to grow in Warrenpoint. This is due to the hard work of so many who have contributed as coaches, mentors, and administrators across all these years.

The senior ladies had a strong year reaching the league final which they were narrowly beaten by Castlewellan. In the Championship the senior ladies had great victories over East Belfast and St Michaels but failed to reach the later stages of the 'A' Championship. They did however contest the 'B' Championship final and ran out with a comfortable victory.

Daniel Bird, Runaí
2 Ganna Way, Warrenpoint, Co. Down, BT34 3LT
Mobile: 07742091925



Cumann Pheadair Naofa C.L.G.



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint
warrenpointgaa.com

Thanks to Shane Carr, Paul McKibben, Mike Barnett and the rest of the football committee for their support this year.

The Camogie section have gone from strength to strength and it's really encouraging to see strong numbers in this section not only in player numbers but also in coaches and mentors. This year we had 120 players and 24 coaches and it must be noted that 13 of these coaches completed the Camogie Caman Get A Grip Foundation Course, this was the first time that this course was held in Cumann Pheadair Naofa. Thanks to Helen and the committee for their hard work in pushing Camogie in the club, we really have seen the positives this has had across the year, well done!

The Hurling section have also made massive strides at underage. The Summer Hurling week boasted over 130 players each day making it one of the biggest Hurling weeks the club has had. The senior Hurlers have had a brilliant season so far. Due to COVID-19 the 2020 Junior Hurling Championship was postponed to July 2021. They managed to get to the final but were narrowly beat by Balella however it wasn't long until the seniors had another crack at the Championship. In October they have won their first two games and now progress to the semi-finals next week- good luck to the senior hurling management. The Hurling committee recently set up a Halloween Poc Fada event which was held in Moygannon, thanks to Conor Keenan for organising. I'd like to commend the efforts of Paddy and Ben Lock for taking on after school hurling training in St Dallans, its efforts like these that we see helps generate new hurling players into our club. Thanks to Colette Lock, Declan Doyle, Gerry O'Neill and the rest of the Hurling Committee for their help this year.

This year Cumann Pheadair Naofa established an exciting and new initiative called 'GAA for All'. Whilst GAA Clubs provide participation opportunities for all children, irrespective of ability, Warrenpoint's 'GAA for ALL' is a specially tailored, bespoke programme designed for children with additional needs who may not be in a position to take part in a typical team game. The focus of the programme is to assist participants with ball skills (across all GAA codes), exercise and most importantly, fun and inclusion in a safe, child-centred, and friendly environment. Since our launch date at the beginning of July 2021, numbers participating continue to grow each week drawing children and their families not just from Warrenpoint, but from the surrounding areas too. We are very proud to be the first club in Down to start this initiative and there is no doubt that in 2022 that this will grow even more. Thanks to Declan and Helen Carvill for spear heading this idea. Undoubtedly, the success of this bespoke programme is down to the wonderful commitment and dedication from our own volunteer club coaches and Minor ladies' players who help plan, coordinate and deliver the weekly sessions.

With regards to Handball Declan Doyle is Chair of the County Handball Committee. The pandemic has placed constraints on handball over the past year and we look forward to a new handball season with the promise of greater handball participation in the club.

We are very lucky with the personnel in our local Primary Schools for promoting and coaching our national games – 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 Mrs Noreen Kelly and to Brigid Carr the Club/School Liaison Officer who all back up the great work that is being done at juvenile level in the club in all our field sports.

Daniel Bird, Runaí
2 Ganna Way, Warrenpoint, Co. Down, BT34 3LT
Mobile: 07742091925



Cumann Pheadair Naofa C.L.G.



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint
warrenpointgaa.com

Cumann Pheadair Naofa referees continue to fly the flag and are one of a few clubs who supply referees in all codes. Congratulations to Brendan Rice who refereed his third All Ireland Ladies Senior Football Championship Final at Croke Park. In addition, Brendan officiated this years Down Senior Championship. Well done to Michael Moore who refereed an Ulster Minor Championship earlier in the year. Ben Lock and Oisin Ruane, U17 hurlers, have started a hurling referee's course and hopefully will be completed in 2022. It's great to see that we are building referees for the future and I would like to thank all our referees in the club, without them we will have no games.

I must also note that Ben Lock, one of 37 young Gaels across Ulster to complete the prestigious Ulster GAA Young Leaders Programme 2021 – well done Ben.

2021 was another very busy year in the pitches and facilities. Throughout the season many maintenance issues arise, and we are fortunate to have people on call. Thanks to Paul McKibben, Martin McGreevy and Pat Healy for their help at various times. Particular thanks to all team mentors who tidy up after their games and training sessions. A massive 'thank you' to Gerry Gray for the work he does day and daily to keep Pairc Liam Ui Ir in such excellent condition.

Thanks to Brendan Rice, Social Club Co-ordinator assisted by a hardworking team for the co-ordination of the club bar and the numerous social events that took place in the back yard. With the restrictions easing our social bar flourished. Most Saturday nights the back yard was used for lotto, birthday parties and various events, was great to see our back yard being utilised and our members enjoying themselves again.

In respect of Finance and Fundraising Club Treasurer Shane Lavery ably assisted by Assistant Treasurer Micheal Moore 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 over 30 teams across all codes and the associated costs.

The club lotto grows from strength to strength. Thanks to Brendan Rice for 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 the great Davy Duffy who assists with the weekly Lotto Draw. Thanks also 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. Many thanks also to Donal McCormack who meticulously looks after the player injury scheme, his knowledge and expertise in this area is indispensable.

Cumann Pheadair Naofa Communications and ICT was massively important during the lockdown. Our social media platforms were key and our main source for disseminating information and communication during this period and appreciation is expressed to Club PRO Aisling McGivern for the well-co-ordinated, timely, concise and informative posts. Thanks Aisling and Assistant PRO Conor Darcy.

Appreciation is also expressed to our club Registrar Colm Rice and assistant Registrar Hugh Carr who successfully implemented the new Foireann registration system. Foireann will become the new norm in 2022 and hopefully the teething problems will be fixed that registration will be a much easier process for our members.

Daniel Bird, Runaí
2 Ganna Way, Warrenpoint, Co. Down, BT34 3LT
Mobile: 07742091925



Cumann Pheadair Naofa C.L.G.



St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint
warrenpointgaa.com

Thanks to Anne McCormack who has excelled in her first year as the Club Development Officer. Anne represented the club in various online webinars over the past year including- 'Club Inclusion by the GAA', 'Engaging volunteers and recruiting' and 'Young Volunteers in Sport'. A lot of work has been done behind the scenes in the review of the current Club Maith process, for example ensuring that the Child Safeguarding Statement is fit for purpose, the club organisational chart and Roll of Honour have been updated, and many more. Anne oversaw the review of over 120 Safeguarding and Child Protection certificates this year ensuring that all our coaches were compliant. This is an important role in our Club and I thank Anne on behalf of our members for her hard work this year. Cumann Pheadair Naofa continue to maintain excellent governance across all sections and all codes.

It can be fair to say that 2021 has finished with a massive high with the news we were all waiting for being announced on the 20th October; full planning permission approved for the Our Vision Project. The proposed development comprises a new practice pitch with goals, ball stops and dugouts, on the former Pony Field, a walking track, amenity areas, internal road, improvements to the existing car park, boundary fencing, a two-storey pavilion incorporating changing rooms, toilets with meeting rooms and improvements to existing entrance to the Rostrevor Road. This project would not have happened if it wasn't for the strong leadership of Feargal McCormack. Feargal has led the way from the start, his commitment and drive has been unbelievable, and we can't thank him enough. Thanks to the Our Vision Focus group members Gerry Gray and Hugh Carr. I'd like to also thank the Our Vision Project Patrons with their exceptional ongoing support, commitment, and generosity. 2022 will be an exciting year as we now look to proceed with the ground works stage of the project.

Finally, I would sincerely like to thank all the members on the Senior Committee over the past year for their constant support and guidance. It has been a huge honour and a privilege to be part of this team. Unfortunately, I am unable to commit to continue in this post as Secretary for 2022, but I have enjoyed the past year and I wish my successor all the best. May we continue to build on the work of 2021 and make 2022 an even better year for the 'Blues'!

Is mise le meas,

Daniel Bird
Runai

9th November 2021

Daniel Bird, Runai
2 Ganna Way, Warrenpoint, Co. Down, BT34 3LT
Mobile: 07742091925