



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 10th December 2024)

Another year goes by in the blink of an eye and yet so much happens on a daily/weekly basis. It was year of mixed fortunes and emotions for the club, from the sadness at the death of our esteemed senior committee member Aisling McGivern to the satisfaction and pride of our senior ladies winning the Down Junior Championship and reaching the Ulster Final for the first time in our history.

Only a month ago we laid to rest our Senior Committee member and close friend to many, Aisling McGivern.

Aisling played a central leadership role in every aspect of club life. Her input and commitment was enormous, invaluable, and sincerely appreciated by all.

Aisling was very active in Scor from an early age and throughout her life, indeed just two weeks before she passed away, she attended an Irish dancing event in Letterkenny.

Aisling was also known by many across the club and county as a driving force with regards to organising fundraising and social events. She was also to the fore within the club when new initiatives were rolled out within the GAA, for example, Operation Transformation, and other Health & Wellbeing projects. Perhaps her main forte was in the field of communication both on a personal one-one level and with the advent of social media she was a trailblazer both at club and county level.

Aisling's contribution to our club and the wider community, as well as the esteem within which her family is held, was evident by the enormity of her wake and funeral.

Since I joined senior committee a long time ago Aisling was always there for me when I needed help, she was always there to give me advice and there to keep me and everyone else in line, as and when required (and sometimes when not required).

But most importantly she was a great friend and will be sorely missed.

Prior to this, in September, we lost another ex-committee member, Tommy Daly, who also contributed massively to our Club and County.

Tommy came to Warrenpoint almost 15 years ago, and from the start energised Hurling within our club. As a player, he was pivotal in the winning of the Junior Championship in 2022. As a coach, he was always on hand to spread knowledge and enthusiasm for the game he loved. His passion for GAA, Hurling, playing and most importantly for teaching, inspiring and leading our young gaels will inspire us in the years to come. He will be sorely missed by all and no words will ever do justice to the long lasting legacy Tommy leaves behind in Warrenpoint.

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He spearheaded a number of crucial initiatives; a County Hurling strategy, our own Hurling Pathway document, and we were all delighted in the revival of Mourne Hurling, a cause he threw everything into over the past number of years.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the wider Daly and Fitzpatrick family circles on the sudden and tragic passing of our great friend, teammate and mentor Tommy Daly.

To all other members who have lost loved ones during the year, I extended my deepest sympathy to all.

Its clear that last year was filled with high hopes and aspirations for our senior teams. Our senior ladies made it to an Ulster final for the first time in our history, this is a significant achievement and it evident that there was a lot of hard work and dedication.

Experiencing heartbreak in sports can be tough, but it's also a part of a journey. There was a great sense of pride and support from the community, that kind of support is a driving force for the players and a source of motivation to keep driving forward. It's a testament to the competitiveness and the level of talent we have in our senior team and I'm sure it won't be long until we will be in another final again, well done to players and management.

Our senior footballers and senior hurlers retained division one status which was a great achievement but unfortunately both came up short in their respective Championships.

Our Camogs are going from strength to strength with over 100 girls now playing for our club, it won't be too much longer until we will out watching a senior Camogie team in Pairc Liam Ui Ir.

The ongoing vibrancy of our juvenile section for both girls and boys is a great source of encouragement and our efforts to operate proudly under the 'One Club Model'.

Off the field the club continues to be equally busy. I'm sure everyone is aware of the work that has commenced on the new field at Pairc Liam Ui Ir, these are exciting times and we expect the new pitch to be available for club teams from April 2026. Thanks to Feargal and the 'Our Vision' project team working tirelessly to get this off the ground. More still needs to be done so we need our members to be patient and supportive as this project enters its next phase.

The growth of our club year after year is truly remarkable, and I'm continually amazed by the dedication and time that so many of you selflessly give to our teams and committees.

Without your commitment as volunteers, our club would not be able to operate. Given the detail of our subsection reports, I don't intend to dive into every aspect of the club operation but below are some observations from the past year which merit consideration.

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Notable highlights

- Participation at County level for all codes.
- Successfully hosting several tournaments in St Marks- All County U10 hurling, U8 football tournament and the Camogie County Blitz.
- Senior hurlers retaining Div 1 status.
- Nominated Down All Star Joey Beggs
- Healthy Clubs programme growing year on year- Dementia Awareness workshop, Community Safety and Crime Protection seminars to name a few.
- GAA For All Inclusive Cul Camp- this was the first for the County.
- GAA For All playing at half time during the Down vs Armagh match in Clones.
- Camogie section growing from strength to strength- over 100 girls playing.
- U12 Camogs playing at half time at the All Ireland Camogie final.
- Senior footballers retaining Division one status.
- Successful underage Summer and Easter camps.
- Ongoing coaching in St Dallans across all codes.
- We renewed our Strategic Alliance with St Marks for a further three years.
- Increase on Coach the coaches sessions led by Ryan Boyle.
- Family fun day in Moygannon to mark the LGFA Anniversary.
- The Big Breakfasts in the Whistledown were a great success (April & December).
- Attending the Pan European Games in Lyon.
- The Ballad and Instrumental group were crowned County Champions
- Our senior ladies winning the Down Junior Championship and reaching the Ulster Final.
- U14 Ladies footballers League and Championship double winners
- Commencement of field and associated works at Pairc Liam Ui Ir.

There has never been a year in our club- or any other for that matter- when everything is plain sailing and I think it would be remiss of us to focus only on the positives in a given calendar year.

Challenges ahead

- Balancing the operational demands with the strategic delivery of Our Vision.
- Recruitment and retention/upskilling of volunteers, as there are too many people doing more than one job.
- Underage teams playing at B competition level - as a club our size we need to strive to make A competitions in the future.

It is extremely important to continue to stress our sincere thanks to all those within the club who give up their time to carry out their roles, including coaches, members of the Executive Committee, groundskeepers, lotto sellers, those who help on match days- the list could go

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on and on, it it really does take an army! All these roles are voluntary in nature and command a significant amount of work, all of which is for the benefit of our Club. To all our sponsors, again, a massive thank you for your continued support. Without your support our club would not be able to function as effectively as it does, so our sincere gratitude for your ongoing and continued support.

I wish to thank all members of the Management Committee for their work during the year and in particular I thank our Cathaoirleach Paul for this leadership and support throughout the year.

I also wish to thank Hugh Carr who accepted the position of Leas Runai and was a great support to me. To all those who acted in any capacity I would like to express my thanks and I wish the incoming committee success in the next twelve months.

Is mise le meas,
Daniel

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