

Ar son coiste iománíochta faoi aois Nás Na Ríogh, cuirim céad míle fáilte romhaibh go léir go dtí an cruinniú cinn bhliana 2020 anocht tar éis bliana an-difriocht gan dabht.

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, you are all very welcome to our 2020 Annual General meeting here tonight as we review an unprecedented year both on and off the field.

When we met this time last year, we were looking forward to 2020, to getting back training and playing games, to hosting our U10 and Hanley Holmes tournaments with the added excitement of Feile 2020 being co-hosted by Kildare.

What transpired was a completely different year but in many ways it showed the GAA at it's very best as club, mentors and parents and players combined to ensure that when GAA activities did resume, they did so with the safety of everyone as our main priority.

I want to especially thank all of our mentors for the proactive way they embraced the new normal. Also, to the many parents who volunteered as COVID-19 Supervisors ensuring all health declarations were completed on time, player attendance was recorded, and sanitization protocols were followed, we couldn't have continued without you. I hope that when we meet to discuss 2021 that all of this is behind us but for the moment, we must continue to comply with all GAA guidelines putting player and family health first and foremost in our minds.

On the field of play many of our local Kildare leagues and the Dublin league in particular were halted as the pandemic took hold. At this stage it is unlikely that these will be completed. Where competitions did complete in the U14 to U16 age groups we were successful in both Division 1 competitions. Our U15's lost the Division 2 Cup Final to a physically stronger Broadford team not helped by a backlog of fixtures in the lead up to the final. Our U13's competing in the U14 league were successful in winning the shield final also.

At the younger age groups, 2020 has seen a significant increase in our Nursery and younger age groups which augurs well for the coming years. However, we need to continue to work hard to maintain the standards that have been set over many years to ensure a plentiful supply of underage hurlers make the transition to compete at adult level in the club. All of this transpired this year with John Holmes having to take a small backward step in his role with the nursery but backward steps are not in John's repertoire and we look forward to him resuming normal duties in 2021..

The success of the Naas Juvenile Hurling section is due to an enormous effort from a very dedicated group of people. Tonight, a number of these people step down after making a huge contribution over the last number of years. Tim Mulvihill took on one of the most difficult jobs in any section, that of Treasurer two years ago and has ensured that our finances are in a healthy state. I wish to thank Tim for all of his hard work and attention to detail in carrying out the role.

Our Secretary Jan O'Donoghue is also stepping down tonight after 4 years in the role. I think we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Jan for the level of professionalism and attention she gave to the role. I can say from a personal point of view that her commitment and passion for the role was unprecedented and I'm delighted that Jan has agreed to stay involved in the Juvenile Hurling section as Assistant Secretary.

In addition, I would like to say a huge thank you to.

- Our PRO James O'Dwyer for his promotion of Naas Juvenile Hurling on all social media platforms and for the humour and enthusiasm he displays on all of his posts. It was a difficult year for his own U10 group with the cancellation of our annual tournament, but it didn't stop James from keeping us all updated and entertained on the Naas Juvenile Hurling Facebook pages. Thank you, James.
- Our North Board and Bord na nÓg delegates. Bernard Delany and Paddy Dowling
- Brian Murnane for all of his hard work as Coaching and Development Officer and Frank Carolan similarly for everything he has done as Child Welfare Officer ensuring all mentors are compliant in being fully vetted.
- Pitch Coordinator Owen L'Estrange for his help and assistance throughout the year.
- Linda Woulfe for ensuring we always had a room to meet in and facilitating our indoor hurling slots in the hall and other functions.
- Paul Murphy and his Bar staff for ensuring the facilities were available to us when needed,
- Club Secretary Richie Hogan for ensuring all challenge and tournament games were covered by insurance and to the Club Chairman John McMahon for his help and advice.
- Andy Doyle and the teams on the Grounds Committee who spend endless hours ensuring the pitches and surrounds are always in prime condition.
- Derek Lynch and Julanne Flanagan from Juvenile Football for their co-operation in terms of player welfare in a difficult year.

During the last few years, we have developed a strong working relationship with our Adult Hurling colleagues. In particular, Senior Hurling Chairman Austin Bergin has been a constant source of support in addition to Eoin Moore as Secretary. Thanks also to John Burke, Senior Hurling PRO who promotes our games, our results and our activities and to former Juvenile Chairman Liam Greene who continues to attend our monthly meetings offering every help and advice.

This year, we embarked on a joint fundraising venture with Adult Hurling when we launched 'The Joker' in late September. This initiative was created to stabilize the financial positions of both sections and while the initial response was positive, we will need to renew our efforts across all age groups to ensure it delivers on its initial promise in 2021.

Finally, as I step down as Chairman of Naas Juvenile Hurling this evening, I want to acknowledge the privilege it was to work with so many people so dedicated to the game of hurling in Naas. I want to mention all of our mentors in particular who were always courteous and co-operative as well as my fellow officers. It was a great honour and I wish the incoming officers as much luck and success as Jan, Tim and I enjoyed during our time at the 'top table'.

Míle Búiochas

Liam Ó hAonghusa

Liam Hennessy

Chairman

Naas Juvenile Hurling.

A Chairde,

It's difficult knowing where to start with this year's report as it seems like a lifetime ago since we had a committee meeting. A year with so much promise and plenty of planning, Kildare, Dublin and Kilkenny leagues, U10 tournament and Hanley/Holmes, Feile na nGael being hosted in our County and Club, Our street leagues and hurling on the Green, so much to look forward to. Unfortunately, none of it was meant to be and we had a very different year to what we expected. While I will outline what we did achieve I think we need to look forward to 2021 and plan for the best and deal with whatever comes our way.

My report starts back in December 2019, Friday 13th to be precise when Juvenile Hurling welcomed Seamie Callanan and the Liam McCarthy cup to our annual awards night. The night was mc'd by Damian Lawlor and as always, the hall was packed to the rafters with excited players and excited Tipperary people as well. It turned out to be a fantastic night with players being presented medals by Seamie Callanan and some of our own club men Rian Boran, Conor Dowling, Jack Sheridan and James Burke, fresh from the success of bringing a Senior Hurling title back to Naas. A huge thank you to the people who made the night such a success by volunteering to help and organise the event.

While we started 2020 with our usual monthly meetings and all groups started back training, we were looking forward to the starting of various competitions. In mid-March, the country went into a lockdown and all training and competitions were suspended, these restrictions remained in place until July. During this time mentors and players engaged over zoom, a platform we never expected to see ourselves on for staying in touch and keeping kids active through challenges etc. These sessions were hugely beneficial to all as it kept the players in contact with each other and was a focus for them during these times.

We returned to training as soon as we were given the go ahead by Croke Park. It was training with a difference, we had to fill out health questionnaires and hand sanitiser became more important than water. We had a new team of volunteers, the Covid Supervisors and this group took on their roles with enthusiasm and determination to ensure that we had everything in place that was recommended by the HSE so that our lads could train and play Hurling. A huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered and continue to do a great job. It was a great relief to many kids and parents that we were able to host the Cul camps which these were well attended, and lads were delighted to get back to fun. While we only got a few weeks before we had to stop again due to a second lock down, we were able to keep training during this time.

Competitions

Between the various lifting of restrictions and lockdowns the only competitions that we got to the finals stage were the U14 and U16 Hurling Championships. In the U14 Hurling we had entered our U13 team and they won the Div 2 Shield. Our U14's won the Div 1 Cup in style in St. Conleth's Park.

Our u15 played in the u16 Div 2 cup final and were unlucky on the day. Our u16 team won the Div 1 cup in a great game in Hawkfield. Congratulations to all the players and the managers on what they have achieved with their teams in what has been a tough year.

Our North Board competitions for u12s never reached the finals stage which is a pity as the team was on track to make the Final of the Denis Hanley Cup.

We could focus on all that has been cancelled this year, leagues, championships, Feile both Kildare and Nationally, hurling on the green, street leagues etc but I think we should be proud of what we have achieved. Club members volunteered to help out in various roles in the community during Covid 19. Mentors have been there for the boys in the form of Zoom coaching sessions and fun activities. When training resumed players were encouraged back to training and were made feel welcome and safe. The ice cream van at Saturday training proved a big success with young and not so young alike. I think every group of mentors and Covid supervisors should be proud of what they have achieved during incredibly stressful and unprecedented times. Standing pitch side on any of the Saturday morning training sessions, it was not the presence of hand sanitiser and masks that stood, it was the smile on the kids faces that said it all.

On behalf of Juvenile Hurling I would like to thank all the mentors who turn up week after week in all weather to coach our kids and ensure they do so in a safe and fun environment. I would like to thank Brian Murnane for all his work in Coaching and Development and engagement with all the groups, all the training videos and courses he highlights and organised. To Frank Carolan the Child welfare officer in the section, thank you for organising the various courses around child protections. I would like to thank the Club GPO Leon Gordan, while due to restrictions Leon hasn't had too much opportunity to engage with groups he has engaged with the Coaching and development in the section and we look forward to seeing more of him when the restrictions are lifted. The new group of volunteers, the Covid supervisors, thank you. To all the parents who bring the kids to training and matches thank you for your support and we hope that you will continue to support our mentors into 2021 and beyond.

I would like to thank Club Chairman John McMahon and the Club Secretary Richie Hogan for all their help and guidance thought the year. To all the members of the Club executive thank you. To Andy Doyle and all the pitch committee a big thank you for always having the pitches in the best of condition despite whatever the weather throws at you. To Owen L'Estrange the pitch coordinator thank you for all your help with regards to pitch and ball wall availability throughout the year. To Paul Muprhy and all the bar staff for making the meeting rooms and bar facilities available. To Linda Woulfe thank you for all your help in relation to booking the indoor facilities and meeting rooms. I also want to thank Derrick Lynch and Julanne Flannagan in Juvenile football its been a pleasure working with you both during the year and look forward to working together again in 2021. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Senior Hurling section, Chairman Austin Bergin, and PRO John Burke, secretary Eoin Moore and Liam Green, for attending our meetings and being interested in all we do at juvenile level. To the players in the senior section who give their time to attend juvenile training sessions and engage with the players a big thank you, it is hugely appreciated and you've become role models for the next generation of Naas senior hurlers. Best of luck to all senior teams who still have finals to play, we will have the Juvenile lads out in force again, James O'Dwyre has had them in singing lessons over the lockdowns.

On a personal note I am stepping down as Juvenile hurling secretary after 4 years. I have enjoyed the experience and I have made many friends during this time. I would like to thank all the mentors throughout those 4 years, you have been a pleasure to work with. The spirt of cooperation and help was gratefully appreciated and made my job easier. I want to wish the players moving from Juvenile hurling to the senior section of the club the best of luck for the future and hope they will always come back to Juvenile hurling to visit training and hopefully with plenty of silverware.

I want to thank Tim Mulvihill, who has been a treasure for the last 2 years, for all he has done. I also want to thank John Holmes, assistant treasurer who was always available with his advice on many issues. I want to thank James the PRO for brightening up the meetings with his witty reports and for his continued promoting of Juvenile hurling and all its activities, he's raised the profile of what we do in Naas Juvenile hurling to another level.

I want to especially thank Liam Hennessey the Chairman, it has been a pleasure working with Liam and I could always rely on him for advice and support. He has been a huge advocate for all things Juvenile hurling and has always acted in the best interest of the section and the promotion of hurling in Naas and ensuring that players get the best experience and enjoyment.

I would like to say I consider all at Juvenile hurling friends at this stage and I want to wish the committee for 2021 the very best of luck and they have my continued support.

Is mise

Jan O Donghue

Ruaini Naas Juvenile Hurling