

## **P.R.O. Report 2020**

It is hard to know where to begin with this report. 2020 has been a year we will never forget. Fixtures cancelled, from lockdown, to isolation, to quarantining, back to playing, and back to lockdown again. Who could have ever imagined a time when it wouldn't be safe to stand on the side of a pitch or that we would watch our club players playing through a livestream on our computer screens or that our players would have to train on a non-contact basis for large periods of the year. But that is what 2020 gave us.

I have had the honour of being the PRO of Naas GAA for 6 years over the last decade and I can honestly say that 2020 has been the year where I have been proudest to be a member of this great club.

While action on the pitch was limited for many months, it was the actions of our club members off the pitch that showed the true goodness of the people in Naas

Within days of the news breaking of our lockdown in March 2020, we had over 80 members signed up to a community support group. This group helped with various roles such as grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions and household jobs for vulnerable people around the town. We linked up with McAuley Place and provided a shopping collection service for them through SuperValu. A huge Thank You to this group of people for giving their time so willingly. Thanks also to Cormac Kirwan for all his work in supporting the community through Kildare GAA.

On Saturday 9th May the players from our 4 adult sections (hurling, camogie, football and ladies football) came together to raise funds for the Roar for Ruairi fundraiser. We had 162 Naas players out on the roads around the town and they completed an incredible 1,369km. They were also supported by our U8 boys' team who put together some fantastic videos "Roaring" their way to raising over €1,000. Total funds raised by Naas GAA for Ruairi stand at over €7,500. Many thanks to Mick and Briona Hoban for coordinating the fundraiser.

Our Juvenile teams were also in on the community spirit with our juvenile hurling section holding a great competition encouraging everyone to fly their flags and make posters to support our Frontline workers. Well done to all the boys and girls who took part.

Well done also to our U10 and U11 footballers who had their 12-hour Solo-Athlon on Sunday 26th April. They had over 100 participants - between players, coaches and parents and raised over €3,500 for Naas Hospital. Our U13 hurlers took on a campaign to raise money for Barretstown and through a variety of activities throughout the year raised over €4,300. Well done to all the boys and mentors involved

### Highlights on the Pitch

It was fantastic to see all our teams return to the pitch in June 2020. Some highlights include the fantastic success of the Kildare Hurlers in winning the Christy Ring Cup with a team that included 12 Naas players, an immensely proud day for all in Naas. Other standout moments include that thrilling win by our Senior camogie team over Johnstownbridge to secure a semi final spot in the championship and the outstanding performances of our Senior hurlers throughout 2020. Well done to all our teams for their great achievements in 2020, we have several teams in all codes who have yet to complete their 2020 campaigns and we wish them the best of luck. It is great to think that we have two Senior teams still in contention for Senior Championships in camogie and hurling as the year comes to a close. Hopefully, these teams will get their big day out in 2021.

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### GOAL Mile

Our GOAL mile cannot take place in its usual format this year. Instead all participants are being asked to complete their own mile wherever they can, safely, over the Christmas period. There is a link to a fundraising page sent in a club email and on our Facebook page.

### Conclusion

I will be stepping down as Club PRO this year. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of the section PRO's, Liam McManus (Senior Football), John Burke (Senior Hurling), Lorraine O Connor (Juvenile Football), James O Dwyer (Juvenile Hurling), and Stephanie Bergin (Ladies football). They each do a great job promoting their sections and are a huge support to me in my role. Liam McManus has also been providing us with some fantastic photos from the archives on our 'Name the Faces' post on Facebook. There has been some great reaction to these photos, make sure to check them out!

Finally, I want to take the time to thank my fellow Club officers John McMahan, Richie Hogan, Clive Leacy and Damian McGrath who I have worked with over the last few years. Thanks to them for their time and effort that is put into running a club of this size which was very difficult at times during the uncertainty of 2020. I was very proud that the safety and well being of all members was always at the forefront of every decision we made this year.

Wishing all club members all the best for 2021

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir

Sinead Ni Eochaidh

Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí