

# Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Coiste Contae Lú



## Chomhdáil Bhliantúil 2020

14ú Nollaig 2020



WHERE WE ALL BELONG



# **Standing Orders for Annual Convention**

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- A. The Proposer of a Resolution or of an Amendment thereto may speak for 5 minutes, but no more than 5 minutes.
- B. A delegate speaking to a Resolution or of an Amendment must not exceed 3 minutes.
- C. The Proposer of a Resolution or an Amendment may speak a second time for 3 minutes before a vote is taken, but no other delegate may speak a second time to the same Resolution or Amendment.
- D. The Chairman may at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed call on the proposer for a reply, and when that has been given a vote must be taken.
- E. A delegate may, with the consent of the Chairman, move “that the question be now put”, after which when the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
- F. Where the meeting considers it appropriate, a vote may be by secret ballot.
- G. A speaker to a Report or to any other general discussion shall not exceed 3 minutes to any one topic.
- H. Any motion seeking additions or amendments to Rules, Regulations etc must have a majority equal to that as outlined in the Official Guide of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
- I. Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter on the Agenda except by the consent of a majority equal to two thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
- J. The Chairman may change the order of items on the agenda with the support of a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting.



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## AN CLÁR

**A Chara,**

**The Annual Convention of Cumann Luthchleas Gael Chontae Lú will take place online via Microsoft Teams on the 14th December 2020.**

**Registration will take place at 7.00pm and convention to commence at 7.30pm. If your club competed in the County Championships of 2020 you are entitled to have your County Committee Representative to attend convention.**

**Standing orders apply.**

## AN CLÁR

**7.00pm Registration.**

**7.30pm Opening of Convention, adoption of standing orders.**

**Minutes of Convention 2019.**

**Accounts.**

**Secretary's Report.**

**Sub Committee Reports.**

**Presentations.**

**Cathaoirleach's Address.**

**Election of Officers.**

**Motions.**

**Close of Convention.**



# MINUTES OF CONVENTION, 16-12-19

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**D.Ó hAilpín (Cathaoirleach)** presided at the Annual Convention of Coiste Chontae Lú held on the 16ú Nollaig 2019 in the Louth GAA Centre of Excellence.

**Also in attendance were:**

Cathaoirleach	<i>D. Ó hAilpín</i>	Leas Cathaoirleach.	<i>P. Mac Mathúna</i>
Runai	<i>P. Ó Ciaráin</i>	Leas Runai	<i>S.Ó Cearúill</i>
Cisteoir	<i>A. Ó Berrill</i>	Leas Cisteoir	<i>A.Ó hAilpín</i>
Oifigeach Gaeilge	<i>C. Ní Ghiolla Eain</i>	O.C.P	<i>F. Ó hAilpín,</i>
Oifigeach Oilúna	<i>P. O Aisboid</i>	Teachta Ard Chomhairle	<i>P.Ó Tomhnair</i>
Comhairle Laighean	<i>D.Ó Broin</i>	Comhairle Laighean	<i>P.Ó Conchúir</i>
Oifigeach na nOg	<i>D.Ó Cleirigh</i>	Oifigeach Forbartha.	
Uachtarain Oin		Uachtarain Oin	
Bord Peil Mionuir	<i>C.Mac Mhuirneacháin</i>	Cumann na mBunscol	
Coiste Iomana		Cholaistí Lú	

Bholf Toín	<i>P.O'Fainín B..Ó Runaig P.Mac Rainaigh</i>
Ciceim Cuailgne	<i>A.O Coinn, B. O'Raifeartaigh N.O Brádaigh</i>
Clan na Gaeil	<i>M.Mac Enrí C. O'Nuanain, N. O'Mhaoldúin</i>
Cnoc Dubhdaill	<i>S.Mac Giolla Cearr, P.Ó.Hodha S.Ó Caolán</i>
Dreadnotts Ceann Clochair	<i>A.Ó Murchú, P.Califf, D.Ó Duinn</i>
Droichead an Chnoic	<i>S. O Broin, P. Ó Cearnaigh S.Ó Dorchaide.</i>
Eire Og Dun Dealgan	<i>G.Ó hAnrachaigh C. Mag Uidhir.</i>
Emmiti Cill Choirle	<i>P. Ó Cleirigh, A.MacAmlaigh C.Mac Sagairt.</i>
Emmiti an Ghleanna	<i>S. Ó Cearullain, S. P O'Huallachain S.Ó Donnchadha</i>
Emmiti de Roiste	<i>D. Mac Coirc, A. Ó Conaill G. Stiobhárd</i>
Gaeil Cuchulainn	<i>R.Mac Uaid P.Ó Cairain B.Mac Chaillín</i>
Gormaithe Baile Nua	<i>P. Fulham, G.Ó hAirt A.Luachráin</i>
Lannleire	<i>M.Ní Eochaid A.Ó Cionga</i>
Na Gearaltaigh	<i>P. Mac Domhnaill, B.Ó Ceafarcaig, P.Nic An Lámh</i>
Na Gaeil Dun Dealgan	<i>S.Ó Cearúill M.Ó Lambeart</i>
Na hIartharaigh	<i>F. de Scribhin, T. Ó Braonáin, E.Ó Dufaigh.</i>
Na Píarsaigh	<i>G. O'hír, S.ó Murchú, P.Ó Beaglaoidh</i>
Naomh Caoimhin	<i>D. Mac Ruairi, B.O Braonain, R.Ó Duchonna</i>
Naomh Brid	<i>P. Ó Fearghail, A.Ó hEochaidh J.Mac Cionnaoith</i>
Naomh Feichin	<i>M.O Haolcraobh, A. Mac Leoid, P.Áiseabóid</i>
Naomh Fionnbarra	<i>T. Mac Cuillinn, C.O Marcaigh</i>





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Naomh Mairtin	<i>A O'Baíollain M.Ó Broin N.Ó hEalaigh</i>
Naomh Malachi	<i>P.Ó Runaig, R.Ó Loinsigh, A. Fiaich</i>
Naomh Mhuire A. Fhirdia	<i>G.Mac Cionnaith, M. Ruanaidh, D.Mac Gioola Easpaig.</i>
Naomh Mochta	<i>P. O'Muircheartaigh, S.Mac Eachain, S.Ó Ciarain.</i>
Naomh Moninne	<i>M. Ó Murchú, P. O'Heeney</i>
Naomh Nicolas	<i>B.O Loinsigh.</i>
Naomh Padraig	<i>T.MacCanna, P.O Braoin S.Ó Graugain</i>
Naomh Seosamh	<i>S.O hEochaidh, D O Fionnagáin, T.Ó Dochartaigh</i>
O'Raghallaighs	<i>R.Mac Cionnaith, , P. Morda A.Ó Gríofa</i>
Oilibhear Pluincead	<i>T. O'hEochaidh, A.O'hEochaidh, M.Mac Maitiú</i>
Parnells Tigh Beannain	<i>A. Brioscú, B.Mac Raghnaill P.O Duinn</i>
Pearse Og	<i>D. Ó Cathlain, P.Mac An Bháird P.Ó Cathlain</i>
Ragairi Annachminnon	<i>S. O Fionnagáin, G. Piobart D.Lauchráin</i>
Ragairi Baile Fiach	<i>N. Ó Carra, A.Ó Laighin S.Mac Ghiolla Eain</i>
Raonairi Gluide	<i>P.O Riada, T.O Broin,</i>
Raonaithe Máiteoige	<i>E de Roiste, S O'Mhaoil Riada T. Ó Donnagáin</i>
Sean Misteal	<i>G.O Mhaithú, A.O'Maille, P. Ó Catháin</i>
Sean Mac Diarmada	<i>K O'Carruil, M. B.Ó Dufaigh M.Ó Searcaigh</i>
Sean O Mathuna	<i>P. Ó Brien, P. Sabhaois, E Ó Dubhghaill</i>
Ui Chonaill	<i>A. O Gnímh, A. Muircheataigh D.Ó Broin</i>

**Registration to Close at 8pm.**

**Adopted on a proposal of A.Ó hEochaidh seconded P. Ó Ciarain**

**OPENING OF CONVENTION**-Cathaoirleach welcomed all delegates & guests to Convention 2019

**ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS**-Standing Orders adopted on the proposal of T. Mac Cuillinn seconded by P. Ó Cearnaigh



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## **MINUTES OF CONVENTION 11th DECEMBER 2018-Minutes of Convention 11-12-18 adopted on the proposal of A.Ó Maille seconded D. O Cleirigh**

### **ACCOUNTS**

Tony Mc Bride (Frank Lynch & Co; Auditors) attended for this part of the meeting. An Cisteoir presented his Report to Convention. He gave an update on the various parts of the accounts.

He spoke regarding the improvements that have taken place in the Centre of Excellence.

Also the new stadium site and that major fund raising would be needed for this project and for the general running of Louth GAA.

He thanked his wife and family and his Club. He thanked Peter Bannon and the gate teams also all the Clubs. An Cisteoir thanked Fra Kieran on his work as County Secretary and securing the sponsorship of Statsports.

P. Ó Broin spoke regarding fundraising he pointed the finger at the top table and said they should not be there just for getting tickets for Croke Park etc. P. Mac Mathúna queried An Cisteoir regarding ten thousand euro fund raising and why this was not in the balance sheet. An Cisteoir replied that was in the 2018 Balance sheet. Accounts adopted on proposal of M O'Baíollain seconded C.Ó Cearúill.

### **SECRETARYS REPORT**

Secretary's Report was discussed under the various headings. Adopted on proposal of M. Mac Coire seconded T. Mac Cuillinn



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## SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sub Committee Reports as per Convention Booklet were presented to clubs and discussed. Adopted on proposal of B. O’Raifeartaigh seconded by P. Ó Tomhnair

## CATHAOIRLEACHS ADDRESS

An Cathaoirleach spoke about his final year that it was a privilege to be involved with Louth GAA. He covered a wide range of topics including: Inter County Teams Football and Hurling Senior Junior and Minor and thanked everyone involved. Finance and Sponsors he thanked P. Mac Mathúna for his help in securing the Dundalk Credit Union sponsorship.

Coaching and Games Awards night he thanked P. Ó Maolain, S. Ó Lionáin P. O Aisboid for all their work with coaching and games.

He thanked S.O Broin for his work in the Center of Excellence. County Grounds was an exciting project and was for all GAA people in Louth.

G.P.A

Youth Forum

Drug awareness also verbal abuse.

Age grades and motions for Congress would be put to the County board on the 13th of January 2020 Childrens Officer He thanked D.O Cleirigh for his work in this role in Child Welfare.

An Cathaoirleach thanked the County and Management Committee Members, Clubs, Coach’s Referees, Media, Schools, and wished them best wishes going forward. He sympathised with all the families who lost loved ones in the past year.



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He also thanked his Club Seán Mistéal his wife and children. He spoke about how his family had been involved with the Club since it was founded in 1957. His grandfather was one of the founding members of the Club. He said he was still enthused and very happy about the future .

A.O'Maille congratulated An Cathaoirleach for all his services to Club and County over many years. He is very intelligent and hard working. He wished him and his family best wishes going forward.

### CHIEF TELLER

Paddy Donnelly was selected as chief teller on proposal by P.Ó Ciarain and seconded by D Ó Broin.

### PRESENTATION

Aine O'heochaidh Healthy Club Officer introduced Graham Russell who is responsible for the management and co-ordination of the Louth Local Sports Partnership .Graham Russell gave a presentation on Sports partnership developing a wide range of opportunities for people of all abilities and backgrounds to participate in sports etc. Graham outlined how walks were organised in co-operation with the GAA. These walks are very important for people's physical health and mental health. GAA Clubs are at the heart of the community. The first walk took place in 2010 this walk got National coverage. Maps of walks are situated near a lot of GAA Clubs.

More information can be got at the Louth Local Sport's Partnership  
Tom Bellew Avenue Dundalk



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Newly elected Chairperson Peadar Mac Giolla Padraigh addressed the meeting. He admired both D.O'Broin and P.O'Ciarain for putting their names forward for election.

He thanked and congratulated the outgoing Chairperson as he comes to an end of his term and wished him the best of luck. He spoke about being honoured on becoming of Chairperson of Louth GAA.

Some of the topics he covered were Sponsorship, Louth county teams, the new County grounds, Fund raising.

He also said; 'We are going to be a team; no primadonnas everyone working together' He promised honesty and transparency also to bring back pride to Louth GAA and to restore and encourage debate at County Board meetings.

Louth teams need to compete he stated, he would not be found wanting in getting Louth back to where they should be. He wished everyone the very best going forward.

### CORRECTIONS

A wrong date was entered in error on last year's booklet in relation to the minutes the date entered read "11th December 2018" but this should read "12th December 2017". On the Healthy Club Officer's report at the end of the report the name entered was T. O'hEochaidh and should have been A O'hEochaidh.





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## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

No. of Voting Delegates in attendance - 130

Chief Teller: Paddy Donnelly

The following Officers were elected for 2019-2020

<b><u>Cathaoirleach</u></b> <i>Chairperson</i>	<b>Peadar Mac Giolla Padraigh- Clan Na Gael</b>
<b><u>Leas Cathaoirleach</u></b> <i>Vice Chairperson</i>	<b>Sean Mac Giolla Eain-Ragairi Baile Fia ch</b>
<b><u>Rúnaí</u></b> <i>Secretary</i>	<b>Roibeard Ó Duchonna- Naomh Caoimhin</b>
<b><u>Leas Rúnaí</u></b> <i>Asst. Secretary</i>	<b>Prionsias Ó Ciaráin- Clan na Gael</b>
<b><u>Cisteoir</u></b> <i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Aodhán Ó Berrill- Naomh Mairtín</b>
<b><u>Leas Cisteoir</u></b> <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>	<b>Aodhán hAilpin-Raonaithe Maiteoige</b>
<b><u>Oifigeach Gaeilge/Cultúr</u></b> <i>Irish Language/Cultural Officer</i>	<b>Clodagh Ní Ghiolla-Ragairi Baile Fia ch</b>
<b><u>OCP</u></b> <i>PRO</i>	<b>Marc Ó Broin- Naomh Mairtín</b>
<b><u>Oifigeach Oiliúna</u></b> <i>Coaching Officer</i>	<b>Pól Aiseaboid - Dreadnots Ceann Clochair</b>
<b><u>Oifigeach Forbartha</u></b> <i>Development Officer</i>	<b>TBC</b>
<b><u>Teachta Ard Chomhairle</u></b> <i>Central Council Delegate</i>	<b>Padraig O Tomhnair - Cnoc Dubhdaill</b>
<b><u>Teachta Comhairle Laighean (2)</u></b> <i>Leinster Council Delegate</i>	<b>Déaglan Ó Broin – Uí Chonaill</b> <b>Pádraig Ó Conchuir – Naomh Pádraig</b>
<b><u>Delegate to Congress 2020</u></b>	<b>Aodhán Ó Berrill – Naomh Mairtín</b> <b>D Mac Ruairi – Naomh Caoimhin</b>
<b><u>Delegates to Leinster Convention</u></b>	<b>Prionsias Ó Ciaráin – Clan na Gael</b> <b>Aodhán Ó Berrill – Naomh Mairtín</b> <b>Sean Ó Cearúill – Naomh Mhuire</b> <b>Pádraig Ó Conchúir- Naomh Padraig</b>
<b><u>Oifigeach na nÓg (Appointed)</u></b> <i>Childrens Officer</i>	<b>Diarmuid O’Cleirigh – Sean Mac Diarmada</b>





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## NA RÚIN

The following motions would be dealt with at the first county board meeting.

Prayers were recited.

Convention was closed

Cathaoirleach- D. O hAilpín, 16ú Nollaig 2019





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# STATSports™

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STATSports®

THE ARGUS

DUNDALK CREDIT UNION

o'neills

Drogheda Independent

Anchor & Tours



Anglo Printers

Oxygen



cti Business Solutions

DUNDALK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
DHÚN DEALGAN



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## Secretarys Report

Tuarascáil Bhliaintúil  
An Runaí Chontae 2020

### COUNTY SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

When I sit down to write the Annual Report, I reflect on a year's activities for Louth GAA. It is a year that we will never forget. As we sat down in December to plan for the year ahead, little did we know what was ahead of us come March. A worldwide virus that stopped not only the GAA world but the world as a whole. I wish to offer my sincere condolences to all families and friends who have lost a loved one from Covid-19. This virus will be with us for a time to come and we all continue to work hard to live with Covid-19 and stay safe. On the field of play in 2020 will be one we will want to forget for our Senior Football Team, Relegation to Division 4 in the National Football league and going out in the Leinster Senior Football Championship at the first hurdle. Our League campaign albeit split in two with a 6 month break due to Covid-19 and then a return to play firstly with Club Competitions was not what we expected. Following on from a good campaign in 2019 we were quietly confident of maybe a return to Division 2. That was not to be and with relegation almost confirmed before the unexpected break with defeats to Longford, Leitrim, Tipperary, Offaly & Derry. When we returned on October 17th a defeat to Cork sealed our relegation to Division four. We completed our league campaign a week later with a moral boosting win over Down. Next up a week later was our round 1 game v Longford in Mullingar in the Leinster Senior Football Championship. A two-point defeat in a game where we had most of the play was disappointing and brought down the curtain for our senior footballers for 2020.

Our Senior hurlers league campaign had room for improvement but was used sufficiently to prepare the squad for the Lory Meagher cup. With a defeat at home to Fermanagh in round one of the Lory Meagher in a game we should have won in Darver it left us knowing that an away win in Cavan two weeks later would send us to Croke Park for the final. In a tight and tough contest in Breffni Park and down to 14 the boys put in a determined display and a two-point win ensured our place in the final v Fermanagh. Croke Park on November 28th a day Louth Hurling will not forget, an outstanding display from the team ensured our second Lory Meagher title. Paul McCormack has now assembled a fine squad and is continuing to build for the future.

Going forward as a County we must now plan for the future. A future that will take a lot of hard work to get Louth back where we belong. Let's be honest Louth are not a Division 4 County.



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We rewind to 2010 when Louth competed in a Leinster Senior Football Final and only for poor officialdom, we would have become Leinster Champions for the first time since 1957, and who knows where that would have taken us as a County. Since 2010 we have more or less been on a downward spiral and it must stop. We are producing quality players and we have a superb training centre and are now in the process of finally building a new home in Dundalk. But on the field is where we must not ignore what is happening, I believe our senior football team should be plying our trade in at least division 2 and competing within the top 16 counties on the island and with the appointment of the great Mickey Harte as our new senior football manager and he will be assisted by the highly regarded Gavin Devlin and with a new under 20 management team of Christy Grimes, Derek Walsh, John O'Brien and Jim Farrell we hope this is the start of a new era in Louth Football. Aaron Hoey and his Management team at minor level continue to develop our young players and an excellent win in the first round of the Leinster Championship over Wexford was then halted by the Covid lockdown. A quarter final place with Kildare now awaits them. With Paul McCormack staying in charge, Our Senior hurlers have now assembled a panel that we hope will be challenging for promotion in the league in 2021.

We as a County Committee must continue to do the job we were appointed to do and that is work hard for Louth GAA. It will take a lot on time, hard work and most of all, finance to ensure our County teams develop. We must leave no stone unturned during our tenure to put the plan in place for the future of Louth GAA. I believe we have the right man in place at the top in our chairperson Peter Fitzpatrick, Peter is one of the greats of Louth GAA and all he wants is Louth to be at the top again. Peter's enthusiasm is spread through the County and I have no doubt given the time we will be at the top again under Peter's leadership. The appointment of Colin Kelly as Development squad coordinator is a major asset and already moving in the right direction with excellent appointments to the management teams of our Under 14 and Under 15 development squads. Colin's knowledge and coaching expertise will only be a plus for the future of Louth GAA.

A committee is currently in place looking into our club football structures and it is very important all clubs take time in discussing the committee's findings and ensure the right decisions are made for their future. More work must go into Club Hurling in Louth, with only three clubs competing in our Senior Hurling Championship in 2020, we need to work hard to increase club participation. Clubs need help in promoting hurling in our schools and clubs. We are committed to ensuring this happens and with the success of our senior hurlers this should encourage more children to play the game. We need to have a specific night for underage club hurling in Louth to make sure the club games are played and a proper fixture list adhered to.



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A lot of hard work is been done in Coiste Iomana trying to get their fixtures played and a specific night should help get the games played during summer months.

We have an excellent team in our Coaching and Games department led by another one of Louth's finest in Shane Lennon. Shane and his team spend many hours coaching in our schools and clubs, and are improving the standards of Gaelic games at juvenile level. This coaching will have a huge benefit to all schools and clubs when the work is put in. I ask all clubs to please support our coaching and games team with the work they are doing in the schools. They must be commended for the work they done when ensuring the Cul camps went ahead this year during very difficult circumstances. The work that is going on in our clubs is excellent. When you look around the County, all our club facilities are second to none and this is down to the volunteers who give all their spare time to their clubs. Without the volunteer there is no club and without the club there is no Louth GAA. We must continue to support our clubs in every way we can. I would like to thank our outgoing Senior Football and Under 20 Football Management teams led by Wayne Kierans and Aidan Shevlin for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Management Teams and Players the very best for the year ahead. At Club level I would like to Thank all Club Secretaries and Club Officers for their help and co-operation throughout the year. In a difficult year, you have worked very hard for your club.

To my fellow Officers at County Board level, thank you and here is to a great 2021. A special word of thanks to Declan Byrne who we lose from the county board this year due to the 5-year rule CCC: I want to congratulate the CCC on an early completion of their programme of fixtures for 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 restrictions all their good work was quickly undone but they persevered and continued to bring us an updated fixture schedule in line with the latest government and GAA regulations. We completed a full championship programme but were unable to complete our leagues. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions we were also unable to schedule our Junior Championship or U20 competitions. Sponsorship: Louth GAA are extremely grateful to our sponsors for their financial support of the county teams and all competitions. I would like to thank them all for their sponsorship and friendship. · Statsports · Anchor Tours · CTI Business Solutions · Anglo Printers · LMFM · Drogheda Independent / The Argus · Cullen Auto Parts · DKiT · Dundalk Credit Union · O'Neills · Oxigen.





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Darver is a beacon of Louth GAA and is recognized as one of the premier sports facilities in the country. We hosted the majority of the club championship here this year with fantastic success. The pitches were in top condition. The staging and organizing of the games and events by the Darver committee were completed to the highest standard. They came under exceptional scrutiny this year due to the additional precautions of the Government and GAA COVID-19 restrictions but the games all were played without interruption or a problem which is a credit to the staff and volunteers who ensure Darver is maintained to a high standard for all county and club teams.

I offer congratulations to Naomh Mairtin, the senior championship, St Brides the Intermediate championship, Naomh Fionnbarra the Junior Championship and Knockbridge HC on winning the Senior Hurling Championship. I think you will all agree, that although we were restricted to the small number of spectators which were allow to attend the games this year, we still had a very entertaining, competitive and successful competition which was brought to all our supporters through the brilliant work by LuTV

This year we ran our first ever Scor on line and had great participation from numerous clubs. Congratulations to the Scor Senior County winners, Stuart and Ann Carolan representing the Glen Emmetts.

Thank you to all our Club Referees who Officiated throughout the year. Without you our games would not go ahead and I appeal to all Clubs to ensure our Referees are respected as these are the people that make our games happen. A special word of thanks to our Referees administrators Denis McArdle and David Fedigan for all your hard work throughout 2020. Thank you to our local media, Colm Corrigan, (LMFM), John Savage (The Argus/Drogheda Independent), Caoimhin Reilly (Dundalk Democrat), Dan Bannon (Louth & Proud and Lú TV) who give great coverage of all sections of Louth GAA.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the clubs within Louth GAA and the GAA organization nationally. During this pandemic and while the Government imposed necessary restrictions on our movements, the GAA clubs throughout the county and country once again moved to the fore of the community to help and assist in whatever way we could. Clubs offered their property for the use of the HSE free of charge and without hesitation. Members visited our elderly and vulnerable neighbours to help in whichever way we could night and day. Messages, groceries and prescriptions were collected and delivered to the people in our communities when needed.



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Again, we have shown that we are much more than a sports club, we are truly one of the largest community groups in the country. Ní neart go cur le chéile (loosely translated as "strength in unity," but a more literal rendition would be "There is no strength without coming together.")

Condolences to the families and clubs who have lost members this year and we will take a minute to pray for the recovery of those who are ill.

### Intercounty Teams

(Thank you to Caoimhín Reilly, John Savage & Dan Bannon for their match reports)

### O'Byrne Cup

#### Meath 0-10 Louth 1-9

Best put, Sunday's victory in Navan wasn't bad for starters. Inexperienced and untried at inter-county level, half of Louth's 20 players used were on debut at Páirc Tailteann and, so, a victory was both surprising and pleasant. A quarter of the men Wayne Kierans put faith in have come through the minor teams he managed, while only eight have tasted senior championship football for the county in the past. So, it will come as little surprise that those who spearheaded this triumph were regulars, Tommy Durnin delivering a commanding midfield performance as Sam Mulroy led the attack, accounting for the majority of Louth's total. Still, though, it makes one smile at the negativity pinned on Kierans' second season in charge when you consider how accomplished a number of the newcomers were in contrast to their fledgling colleagues on the Meath selection. Dundalk Gaels' Oisín Murray looked physically at home in The Reds' backline, showing shrewdness in possession while never being found displaced defensively. On one particular occasion during the second half he cut out a ball which was destined to fall into a Meath attacker's hands a matter of metres from goal. Likewise, Liam Jackson (Ardee St. Mary's), a young player of whom much is expected, was diligent and scored a fine point in one of his regular raids forward. Glen Emmets' Andrew Mooney was hugely effective as Louth repeatedly exploited the Meath backline with overlapping moves, while Cathal Bellew figured solidly at the heart of Louth's defence. The latter's ability in that vital position, and with Dermot Campbell a viable option there too, may even free up captain Bevan Duffy to move into a more advanced station when he comes back into the equation, Kierans admits. Duffy, of course, was missing on Sunday, his partner having given birth in recent days. For a man who forever delivers on the pitch, last weekend saw him fittingly perform off it. But, in his place, Durnin played a leader's role. "He got through an unbelievable amount of work all over the pitch,"



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Kierans said of the Westerns powerhouse. "Tommy was the captain today, he's one of the leaders in our team, so you'd always expect it from him, but fair play to him, he pretty much always delivers in a red shirt."

#### DUAL STAR

The forward unit was effective, with Mulroy, as his contribution would suggest, the pick of the starting bunch. But, in after eight minutes to replace the injured Conor Grimes, Paul Matthews' role cannot be underestimated. A hurler with The Wee County, too, the rangy St. Fechin's man added a touch of class and creativity to Louth's second half play into the hospital end. He chipped in with a point to finish the game's most outstanding team move, after 52 minutes, a register which pushed the visitors four points in front. Given the sparsity of scores, it was a gap that never looked like being reeled in. If he remains committed and injury refrains itself from striking, provided an arrangement can be accommodated between the hurlers and footballers, Matthews could play a big part for Kierans and co moving forward. He certainly has the talent, while anybody familiar with Matthews - whose father, Paddy, previously toggled out for The Reds - will know he doesn't lack in the temperament stakes either.

#### JOB DONE

Kierans' pre-match brief demanded a "workmanlike" display, and he certainly wasn't disappointed, despite his team's tentative opening. Trailing thrice over the course of the first 20 minutes, Louth didn't take control until Mulroy converted shortly before the half-hour. A powerful flurry had Louth retiring with a two-point advantage - 0-6 to four - only for Meath to capitalise on another Wee County slumber to take the lead again amid a third quarter revival. But, after tying matters, a Durnin burst was cynically upended, yielding the penalty which Mulroy ruthlessly dispatched beneath Dominic Yorke. And when Matthews pointed to make it 1-8 to 0-7, the outcome was known, if not the result. "A collective performance is really what we were after; that was the objective. We were looking for a workmanlike, intense performance. That was the basis and we got that, and the win was a bonus. "I thought our composure during the second half, where Meath were always going to come on strongly, was quite good. There is lots we have to work on in terms of trying to finish the game stronger and get more attacks in against the wind, but I'm really happy with the performance of the boys. "For a lot of lads to get 70 minutes under their belt is a massive bonus." The new rules were also making their bow, three of Meath's points having been as a consequence of attacking marks. Another of the directives, the sin bin, was also put into use following a late shemozzle, Matthews seeing a black card for his part. But for Jason Scully, who had earlier been cautioned, it meant an early bath; a warm one, one would suggest, given the freezing conditions.

(Westmeath)



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**Meath:** Dominic Yorke; Robin Clarke, Brían Conlon, David Toner; Gavin McCoy, Eoin Lynch, Seán Reilly; Bryan Menton (0-1), Donal Keogan; Jack O'Connor (0-1, free), Darragh Campion (0-1, mark), Jason Scully (0-1); Jordan Morris (0-1, free), Thomas O'Reilly (0-2), Matthew Costello (0-2, one mark) Subs: Oisín O'Brien (0-1, mark) for Morris (48), Harry Hogan for Yorke (54), Ben Brennan for Reilly (56), Shane Walsh for Conlon (61), Donal Lenihan for Costello (70)

**Louth:** Fergal Sheekey; Niall Sharkey, Daniel Corcoran, Andrew Mooney (0-1); Liam Jackson (0-1), Cathal Bellew (0-1), Oisín Murray; Tommy Durnin (0-1), Conor Early; Matthew Corcoran, Declan Byrne, Conall McKeever; Sam Mulroy (1-4, 1-0 pen, three frees @ 45), Conor Grimes, John Gallagher Subs: Paul Matthews (0-1) for Grimes (8), Gerry Garland for Gallagher (HT), Craig Lynch for Sheekey (HT), Dermot Campbell for Bellew (44), Jack Murphy for M Corcoran (61)

**Referee:** Gary Hurley

### O'Byrne Cup

#### Louth 1-10 Offaly 1-16

Drogheda has become an increasingly barren hunting ground for Louth and another defeat was added to the list at the weekend as Offaly departed The Gaelic Grounds with the spoils comfortably tucked away. Saturday's six-point loss was The Wee County's ninth defeat from 11 fixtures at the North Road venue, a period covering four seasons and three managers. The only victory during the spell in question came in the 2019 National League against Sligo, while a subsequent draw with Westmeath wasn't enough to propel The Reds to promotion last April. The latter are the next visitors to Louth in the new year, where a place in the semi-finals of the O'Byrne Cup will potentially be up for grabs, ahead of a tricky looking league campaign that includes four home outings. It's clear that if the dour Drogheda pattern continues Wayne Kierans will have his work cut out to keep his side from hovering above the drop door. Offaly are one of the sides set to visit the O'Raghallaigh's amid the upcoming programme. Indeed, The Faithful are an opponent who Louth will be targeting for the points required to consolidate, before thoughts of a top-two spot can come into focus. But while Saturday's reverse was disappointing, especially on the back of the victory in Navan six days previously, it's not worth reading into the result too much. Offaly have clearly enjoyed a productive winter of conditioning and always looked the part in brutally cold conditions. Louth, on the other hand, were poor, but they will undoubtedly improve, with experienced men like Bevan Duffy, James Califf, Conor Grimes and Ryan Burns among those set to return.





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The newcomers will continue to grow in stature, too, Seán Murray having become the 10th debutant in consecutive outings on Saturday, while the strong displays of Liam Jackson and Andrew Mooney, for the second matches running, bodes well.

## PLAYING CATCH-UP

Ultimately, grumbling about the Louth performance would be futile, particularly when only pre-season silverware is at stake, but it certainly was multiple levels down on the Meath exercise. There was a crispness lacking and the play was too often of a lateral flavour as Offaly's defence repelled several attacks quite easily. John Maughan's charges, meanwhile, penetrated far more effectively and had it not been for some wayward shooting into the breeze during the opening half, would have departed with a deserved half-time advantage. As it transpired, in spite of having just two first half scorers, with four of Declan Byrne's five points coming from frees, Louth retired level at 0-6 each. Ciarán Downey offered an evident bit of quality when introduced for the injured Tommy Durnin and the Newtown Blues man kicked the fifth of The Reds' points. Buoyed by their late rally, a Downey register had Louth in front for the first and only time within a minute of the second half getting underway. But the dawn was false and by the time the home outfit next got on target, when Sam Mulroy's persistence resulted in a goal, The Wee County were well adrift, the winners having shot 1-5 to no-reply, Anton Sullivan's rasping drive bolting past Craig Lynch not long into the second half. Now five in arrears, one floated with the idea of a tight finish. Yet Offaly surged clear with the impressive Cian Farrell scoring 0-3 after coming in off the line. 'Newbridge or Nowhere,' we heard. More like 'Anywhere but Drogheda'.

Louth: Craig Lynch; Niall Sharkey, Daniel Corcoran, Andrew Mooney; Liam Jackson, Dermot Campbell, Oisín Murray; Tommy Durnin, Conor Early; Matthew Corcoran, Paul Matthews, Conall McKeever; Declan Byrne (0-5, four frees), Sam Mulroy (1-2, 0-2 frees), John Gallagher  
Subs: Ciarán Downey (0-3) for Durnin (16), Gerry Garland for McKeever (HT), John Clutterbuck for Matthews (48), Luke Haggans for Lynch (48), Jack Murphy for Gallagher (53), Seán Murray for Byrne (53), Fergal Donohoe for Mooney (63)

Offaly: Paddy Dunican (0-1, free); Declan Hogan, Eoin Rigney, Brian Darby; Eoin Carroll (0-3), David Dempsey, Niall Darby; Cathal Mangan, Conor McNamee; Jordan Hayes (0-1), Anton Sullivan (1-1), Jason Dempsey (0-1); Cian Johnson (0-2, one free), Dan Molloy, Ruairí McNamee (0-3, one free)  
Subs: Michael Brazil (0-1) for Molloy (HT), Shane Horan for Dempsey (HT), Cian Farrell (0-3) for C McNamee (48), Aaron Leavy for Hayes (51), Colm Doyle for B Darby (62), Shane Nally for Rigney (63), Mark Abbott for R McNamee (68), PJ Daly for Carroll (70), Ian Duffy for Dunican (70), Bobby Mitchell for N Darby (70)  
Referee: Keith O'Brien (Westmeath)



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## O'Byrne Cup

Louth 0-11 Westmeath 1-13 The last time Ciarán Byrne played for Louth: Dublin hadn't got hold of Sam Maguire, Manchester United were champions of England and Ireland were yet to defeat the All Blacks.

Six-and-a-half years on, quite a bit has changed, if not the heft of the Drogheda surface, the 25-year-old joked after the match. He had just made his 10th appearance for The Reds and first since starring in a losing cause, against Kildare in 2013.

On that occasion, he famously caught hold of a stray dog that had broken curfew in roaming freely towards the bottom end of St. Conleth's Park, giving it a cuddle before raising it to the crowd's amusement and offering it to a steward. He was a handful himself that night, scoring five points from play, as the Kildare defenders contained neither him nor the mutt.

And so, his return to the fray during Saturday afternoon's O'Byrne Cup clash with Westmeath was a sight for sore eyes. In the 17 months since his homecoming, the raging talent has played just seven competitive matches. Ultimately, losing the weekend's fixture was lodged in the irrelevant category given Byrne's return.

Though, having been cursed by various injuries, the most recent of which was hamstring related, there were question marks over his sense of attire. Sporting a pair of white boots, in typical winter conditions, and a sock choice of old, he was certainly distinctive during his stint in play.

"It's a bit questionable," the St. Mochta's man said of his colour of footwear. "They're probably a summer boot, but ever since I've gone to Australia, I've had white boots so I kind of continued the trend here. I might as well stick with it," he quipped.

His introduction came at the cost of clubmate Gerry Garland and saw him stationed alongside brother Declan in the full-forward line, as the siblings featured together for the first time in a Louth jersey, adding further weight to a seminal occasion.

"As soon as I went on, I was standing beside him, so that's a proud moment," 'Casey' added. "Playing with your brother with your club is a massive thing, but playing with your brother with the county is even bigger. Hopefully, there's plenty more of those games to come."





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## SPRING TARGET

Louth play London next weekend in a challenge match that will likely see the Mochta's man get further minutes under his belt, which is ultimately what he's bidding for ahead of the opening National League fixture at the end of the month. But he's not exclusive to that club, with Gerard McSorley, Ryan Burns, Conor Grimes, James Craven and Andrew Mooney all set to use the upcoming weeks to improve their states in time for the trip to Longford on January 26. "I only played 20 minutes there, I need a lot more game-time to get myself back up to the swing of things," said Byrne. Simple things like getting used to the ball - I was a bit fumbley - that will take its time and hopefully I'll get a couple of challenge matches before the first game and be flying.

"It's so frustrating when you see Grimsey, Burnsey and those other boys still injured. If we can get them all back on track over the next couple of weeks there's no reason why we can't push on and compete in Division Three."

**HIGHLIGHT**Louth's other highlight of a pretty disappointing display was the performance of Declan Byrne, the elder of the pair kicking five points, including three advanced marks having shown and held possession inside. Arguably no other forward at Wayne Kierans' disposal has his ball-winning and scoring abilities in tandem and so his availability over the months to come may prove vital. His opener, a mark, drew the teams level at 0-3 apiece, after which Louth took control, moving six points to four in front over a spell in which Westmeath were held at bay for 12 minutes. But as carelessness crept into their game, Louth began to offer the away team cheaply-earned possession and were punished ruthlessly in the 28th minute when a move stemming from a giveaway saw Conor McCormack transfer to John Heslin who laid off for Ronan Wallace to find the net. It sparked a revival from Jack Cooney's charges, who took a commanding lead to the interval, 1-7 to 0-6. So crucial was the goal in a game of fine margins that it split the sides on five separate second half occasions, with Louth failing to get any closer than two points. Victory would have set-up a semi-final encounter with Offaly in Tullamore. Instead, though, The Reds will have to make do with hosting The Exiles, which is the chief disappointment on the day the boy wonder stepped back into the fold.



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**Louth:** Craig Lynch; Daniel Corcoran, Dermot Campbell, Niall Sharkey; Eoghan Callaghan, Emmet Carolan (0-1), John Clutterbuck; Tommy Durnin (0-1), Paul Mathews; Gerry Garland (0-1), Ciarán Downey (0-1, free), Matthew Corcoran; Conall McKeever, Declan Byrne (0-5, three marks & two frees), John Gallagher  
**Subs:** Liam Jackson for Clutterbuck (HT), Bevan Duffy for Durnin (HT), Oisín Murray for M Corcoran (HT), Eoghan Duffy (0-1) for Gallagher (HT), Ciarán Byrne for Garland (51), Jack Murphy for Sharkey (55), James Califf (0-1) for Mathews (60), Seán Murray for McKeever (62), Cathal Bellew for Campbell (64)

**Westmeath:** Eoin Carberry; Kevin Maguire, Boidu Sayeh, Conor Slevin; Anthony McGivney (0-1), Ronan Wallace (1-0), Killian Daly; Dennis Coroon, Noel Mulligan (0-2); David Lynch (0-1), Conor McCormack, Noel O'Reilly (0-1); Darren Giles (0-1), John Heslin (0-4, three frees & mark), Kieran Martin (0-1)  
**Subs:** Callum McCormack (0-2) for Conor McCormack (46), Alan Stone for Lynch (60), Adam Neary for O'Reilly (65), Lorcan Dolan for Giles (70)  
**Referee:** Seamus Farrelly (Dublin)

**Allianz NFL Division Three –**

**Round 1**

**Longford 0-16 Louth 1-10**

Division Three isn't conducive to slow starting teams and with Louth yet to escape their block, Wayne Kierans' team are already lagging behind in a league where they're one of just two sides still to get off the mark. Sunday's defeat by Longford was miserable, as The Reds failed to raise any sort of challenge. The hosts were by no means impressive, but had far too much guile and craft for disappointing Louth. The sides' entire outlook was in contrast. Longford's play was far more effective and direct in the sense that Dessie Reynolds and Rian Brady were omnipresent outlets, and a lion's share of the winners' scores involved the lively pair. Louth, on the other hand, laboured over and back the field, employing a style which must have had Ryan Burns and Declan Byrne, in the inside line, gritting their teeth in frustration. Even when chasing the affair, amid the closing 10 minutes, substitute Conor Grimes raced towards the corner flag to gather possession, passing out to Oisín Murray, who in turn kicked to a static team-mate in the centre of the field. In two passes, The Reds had retreated 60 metres or more.

It's a lethargic way of playing that simply will not breach defences often enough to lift Louth away from trouble in a viciously competitive league, one much stronger than the tier the visitors went close to securing promotion from 12 months ago.



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Kierans accepted his outfit were pedestrian in phases of play, although he made the point that supply channels to the danger zone aren't always available.

Byrne was a hugely effective option in the recent O'Byrne Cup defeat by Westmeath, showing from the square and calling - before scoring from - marks aplenty. This ploy was starkly non-existent in the midlands, though.

"Those little passing channels aren't there," Kierans told The Democrat, in response.

"There were a couple of guys in front of him and the movement has to be very sweet; a different type of movement than just direct little pop balls.

"There's other areas of the game I was disappointed with. Every free-kick we had, where we'd a couple of seconds to make a decision, every single one went in a negative angle, which is something we'll look at. That can be improved without moving it through the lines.

"It was our set-plays I was disappointed with. We should be trying to penetrate and go that bit longer. There is a balance with patience, but we scored a goal in the first half with patience football. We coughed up a lot of attacks when we weren't patient.

"It's not to everybody's liking, but in the possession-based game it's very important to get it right. At this level you can't be coughing up the ball."

## ROOKIES RAMPAGED

For Louth to have been in a competitive position entering the dying embers was a minor miracle, given the run-around the team's youthful backline got during the first half. Twice Craig Lynch had to pull off acrobatic stops at a time where The Wee County were in a spin field-over. Burns began the game sprightly and knocked over a nice point, having converted from a narrow-angled free shortly beforehand, but he was feeding off scraps as Longford, with Darren Gallagher and Kevin Diffley dominating the midfield exchanges, couriered the ball into a crew of dangerous attackers. The gap was six, 0-8 to two, and ought to have been more when a slick Louth passing sequence split the home rear-guard for the first and only meaningful time. Byrne slipped in Conall McKeever, who retired injured not long after, and the Clan na Gael man squared for league debutant Gerry Garland to palm into a gaping goal. It was a kick less major, however, as Louth continued to waltz through the motions, allowing Reynolds however much space he required to land a Longford reply within 30 seconds. Whatever you can do I can do better being the theme.



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Despite trailing by just three at the interval, 0-9 to 1-3, there was no way back, even though there was a second half improvement.

“I didn’t think we really got going,” Kierans surmised. “We got a really good goal in the first half and didn’t really kick on from that; I thought they got a lot of scores really cheaply.

“We did better in the second half - it was seven points all in the second half - but we just couldn’t get any way closer than three points. We needed a goal that never really looked like coming.”

True, another major, the one required, was never going to come, even when the playing number was reduced to 14 apiece, after second yellows for Eoghan Callaghan (Louth) and Michael Quinn (Longford).

Captain Bevan Duffy and brother Eoghan were at the heart of Louth’s late surge, while another reserve, Paul Mathews, kicked a point. But the exercise always held a forlorn look. Longford were just playing out time, Louth too.

Longford: Paddy Collum; Patrick Fox, Andrew Farrell, Barry O’Farrell; Iarla O’Sullivan (0-1), Gary Rogers, Colm P Smyth (0-1); Darren Gallagher (0-5, three frees @ 45s), Kevin Diffley; Dessie Reynolds (0-1), Daniel Mimmagh, Michael Quinn (0-1); Rian Brady (0-4, two frees), Joseph Hagan, Oran Kenny

Subs: Darragh Doherty (0-2) for O’Farrell (HT), Liam Connerton for Kenny (62), Peter Lynn (0-1) for O’Sullivan (68)

Louth: Craig Lynch; Daniel Corcoran, Dermot Campbell, Andrew Mooney; Liam Jackson, Emmet Carolan, Eoghan Callaghan; James Califf, Tommy Durnin (0-2, one free); Gerry Garland (1-0), Ciarán Downey, Conall McKeever; Sam Mulroy, Declan Byrne (0-1, mark), Ryan Burns (0-5, four frees) Subs: Oisín Murray (0-1) for McKeever (40), Eoghan Duffy for Garland (44), Bevan Duffy for Califf (55), Conor Grimes for Mulroy (55), Paul Mathews (0-1) for Byrne (62)

Referee: Martin McNally (Monaghan)



*Convention 2020*

## Allianz NFL Division Three – Round 2

### Louth 1-7 Tipperary 0-11

It was the type of crushing defeat that suggests Louth possess a one-way ticket to Division Four. A second successive reverse, relegation was the outcome of the last league campaign that began as such, in 2018.

Lady luck seemed to be favouring Wayne Kierans' men on Sunday, Tommy Durnin's looping goal three minutes into the second half bridging the advantage to six points. In spite of facing a stiff breeze blowing towards the hospital end, Louth, it appeared, had too much for sluggish Tipperary.

But a return of just two points over the remainder of the contest, both Sam Mulroy frees, left the door ajar for the Munster men to launch a momentum-supported push amid the closing quarter, Brian Fox's injury-time winner icing a run of five consecutive points from the 56th minute onwards.

It was a knockout blow to an already wounded Louth side that continues to bleed players. Ryan Burns and Declan Byrne were both ruled out of the Gaelic Grounds clash through injury, bringing the tally of outfielders currently unavailable due to hamstringing trouble to six - Conall McKeever, Ciarán Byrne, James Craven and Niall Sharkey being the outstanding quartet.

Yet it would be naive to blame absenteeism for Sunday's "heartbreak", as Kierans referred to it. There really can be no excuses as Tipp were there for the taking and Louth, in fact, had 'taken them', only to allow David Power's charges to roam from captivity.

The game-costing slump coincided with the premature substitutions of Liam Jackson and Paul Mathews, while those introduced by Tipperary had an influential impact on proceedings, Alan Moloney especially. Tipp's No22 kicked two outside-of-the-left points fit to grace Croke Park, registers which had a rousing effect on the winners.

Louth, meanwhile, coughed up possession on a repeated scale and while the gust grew, Jackson and Mathews were making light of the conditions with powerful, surging runs before their calling ashore. Thereafter, the purpose went out of The Reds' play and Tipp, with Fox and Jack Kennedy outstanding, rammed a dagger through Louth's faltering challenge.





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## DISASTER

The consequences of the weekend's result are colossal, too, given this year's altered format. Not only, via the Tipp defeat, have Louth's promotion hopes dispersed, with a demotion scrap veering into clear sight, there is now an inevitability that the county will be condemned to the first running of the meaningless B Championship, with the Leinster final place required, should league promotion not materialise, looking far beyond reach.

While round one losses aren't catastrophic, back-to-back failures are virtually impossible to recover from in a telling sense, with the standings beginning to take shape from the current juncture. Midway through the second half on Sunday, Louth were primed to bound towards mid-table, Tipperary, Leitrim, Offaly and Derry each pivoted beneath. But, in the aftermath of a collapse, The Reds are now the only pointless competitor of Division Three's eight.

Kierans touched upon his team's first half wides' tally of seven after the game and while he was content with holding a three-point lead at the interval, it ought to have been more on account of the conditions. And then there was Tipp's incredible draught, entailing all of 32 minutes from when Conor Sweeney established their early two-point lead.

When the tide subsequently turned, Mulroy (3), Emmet Carolan and Durnin efforts were successful, but a killer goal chance was never burgeoned until the latter's wobbling shot pipped the grasp of Evan Comerford, shortly after half-time.

At that stage, had this been a boxing contest, the referee would have been tempted to call a halt with one performer - Tipp, in this case - being hauled around like a ragdoll. But Louth relented in their physical pummelling, allowing opponents other than Fox, the man of the match, to punch in reply.

A side-line conversion from Sweeney was the standout finish among four consecutive points which reduced the deficit to two, 1-5 to six. Though Louth kept a lid on Tipp's head of steam via Mulroy's brace, only for the pressure to mount to uncontainable levels, with the hosts' most established stars failing in their bid to halt the demise.

Moloney's wonderful couple accompanied Sweeney and Kevin Fahey strikes before Fox cut inside in stoppage time to cap a highly unlikely revival, leaving Louth mystified as to the reason for their implosion.

"We couldn't get the couple of scores in the last quarter of the game to keep us right," Kierans added

"They finished very strongly and every time we did break away, we just couldn't connect with the forwards. We were giving it back cheaply to them and they were kicking nice points."

Louth's season is in a perilous state. Defeat to Offaly is imponderable.





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**Louth:** Craig Lynch; Daniel Corcoran, Dermot Campbell, Fergal Donohoe; Eoghan Callaghan, Emmet Carolan (0-1), John Clutterbuck; Tommy Durnin (1-1, 0-1 mark), James Califf; Liam Jackson, Bevan Duffy, Paul Mathews; Ciarán Downey, Conor Grimes, Sam Mulroy (0-5, two frees & mark)

**Subs:** Gerry Garland for Jackson (48), Eoghan Duffy for Grimes (58), Conor Early for Mathews (62), Oisín Murray for Corcoran (67), Andrew Mooney for Donohoe (69)

**Tipperary:** Evan Comerford; Alan Campbell, John Meagher, Colm O'Shaughnessy; Emmet Moloney, Kevin Fahey (0-1), Dáire Brennan; Steven O'Brien, Conal Kennedy; Bill Maher, Jack Kennedy (0-1, free), Jason Loneragan; Liam Boland (0-1), Conor Sweeney (0-3, sideline & two frees), Brian Fox (0-2)

**Subs:** Kevin O'Halloran (0-1) for Loneragan (HT), Rian Quigley for Bill Maher (HT) Alan Moloney (0-2) for C Kennedy (54), Colman Kennedy for Boland (61)

**Referee:** John Hickey (Carlow)

### Allianz NFL Division Three – Round 3

#### Louth 2-10 Offaly 2-13

Offaly's players are well-used to bogs and so they put their greater nous of the conditions into practice by winning Sunday's relegation four-pointer in mucky Drogheda. Albeit a whirlwind surge during the second half saw Louth reduce their deficit from 12 points to the minimum, The Faithful were worthy winners of a game which only truly became a contest upon Declan Byrne's introduction. The St. Mochta's clubman kicked two points in quick succession shortly after entering the fray, letting go a rallying cry following his latter effort. And his team-mates responded with a wonderful sequence of interchanges between Sam Mulroy and the excellent Paul Mathews resulting in the former rocketing a shot to the back of the net. A subsequent run of seven points to only a solitary reply had the gust in the hosts' sail amid the closing stages, when a rained delivery found Byrne, whose nimble feet, incredible vision and slick execution set-up the intruding Conor Grimes to bundle the ball across the line. All of a sudden there was belief in the air, a sense of Déjà vu in The Reds' favour two weeks after the late implosion against Tipperary. But Offaly remained the cleverer and through their ability to retain possession much more competently, bought themselves territory from which they posted a closing pair of points, deflating Louth's buoyancy like a needle-head popping a balloon.



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Winless and pointless after three matches, two of which they hosted, is a depressing record and points only in the direction of the dreaded drop. And what's more, self-harm is fast becoming an unwanted trait of this Louth team, with every mistake, it appears, being punished ruthlessly.

"If any team gives the ball away in any division at this level you're asking for trouble," manager Wayne Kierans admitted. "You might get away with it at club level.

"It's an issue and we've spoken about the stats and how many possessions we lost against Tipperary. Today, there were a couple that we gave away as well and you're just handing the opposition easy scores."

Two goals, in fact, with John Clutterbuck and Bevan Duffy, who was hauled off after 23 minutes, the guilty concedes of balls which, via Anton Sullivan and Ruairi McNamee, found their way past Craig Lynch.

"When we did come out in the second half, we missed three chances and they would have given us the momentum much earlier in the half," Kierans added.

"We kept saying at half-time that we've 40 minutes to turn this around and we got back to a point, with some good, considered play and well-worked goals, but we made bad decisions; it's that 'composure' word again."

OVER BEFORE IT STARTED Eighteen minutes it took for The Wee County to get off the mark, by which time lethal Offaly had struck 2-4 as the home defenders failed to catch even a glimpse of their men's shadows.

Liam Jackson and Duffy points at least gave Louth a launchpad, but three of the opening period's final four registers went the way of John Maughan's Midlander's. Ultimately, attempting to overturn a 2-7 to 0-3 interval deficit, in spite of the favouring gale blowing towards the hospital end after half-time, was comparable to asking a 10-tonne Tessie to run a marathon.... In record time after the visitors grew the gap to 12 shortly after play got back underway. The game was gone in the eyes of many. Yet Kierans didn't think so, and he was almost correct. "It wasn't in those conditions, because I saw it last year when we were down against Offaly and turned it around, I think we were eight down at half-time then. "Twelve down is not the position you want to be in, but all it needed was the goals and we got two, and were very unlucky not to get another one, their 'keeper made some brilliant saves. "It's always able to be turned around and the work to get it back to a point was excellent. We were disappointed about the goals we conceded in the first half. Whatever about them clipping over the points, the goals we conceded are something that we'd look back on; they were poor.



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“Credit to the boys in the second half, I honestly thought when we had them down to a point that we could get something out of the game, but, unfortunately, then we made a few bad decisions. Overall, we just didn’t do enough.”

BYRNE BLITZ Nine was the difference when Byrne took Louth by the collar and began to hurdle whatever Offaly could hurl their way. He was making aimless hoofs in his direction look like ideal deliveries and with the gap shaved to six, Mulroy and Eoghan Callaghan tapped over before Byrne added his fourth point in less than 20 minutes.

But his moment of magic was still to arrive and after he supplied a stumbling Grimes with the chance to rekindle a faltering survival bid, the odds collapsed on a famous Louth victory.

“Deckie has the scoring power, so it was always the plan to get him on in the second half with the wind.”

It wasn’t to be, though. A statement which is becoming more recurrent with every passing week. The Reds are wedged in a sling hanging on the edge.

Louth: Craig Lynch; Daniel Corcoran, Niall Sharkey, Dermot Campbell; Eoghan Callaghan (0-1), Emmet Carolan, John Clutterbuck; James Califf, Tommy Durnin; Liam Jackson (0-1), Bevan Duffy (0-1), Paul Mathews; Conor Grimes (1-1), Sam Mulroy (1-1, 0-1 free), Ciarán Downey

Subs: Conall McKeever for Duffy (23), Conor Early (0-1) for Califf (35), Declan Byrne (0-4) for Sharkey (43), Eoghan Duffy for Jackson (55)

Offaly: Paddy Dunican; Colm Doyle, Eoin Rigney, Declan Hogan; Eoin Carroll (0-3), David Dempsey, Niall Darby (0-1); Conor McNamee (0-1), Michael Brazil; Cathal Mangan, Ciarán Donnelly, Shane Horan (0-1); Anton Sullivan (1-0), Bernard Allen (0-3), Ruairí McNamee (1-4, 0-1 free)

Subs: Cian Donohue for Donnelly (HT), Jordan Hayes for C McNamee (59), Aaron Leavy for Sullivan (68), Cian Johnson for Allen (70)

Referee: Paul Falloon (Down)



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## Allianz NFL Division Three – Round 4

### Derry 2-10 Louth 1-9

The defeat which all but resigns Louth to Division Four, it's hard to put any other twist on Sunday's loss at Celtic Park.

A game The Reds could, and perhaps should, have won slipped their grasp, leaving each and every travelling stakeholder to digest stomach-churning regret on the way home. The round one no-show against Longford, implosion at home to Tipperary and disastrous first half versus Offaly have all cost Wayne Kierans' men precious points, but there was something stinging about this Foyleside foray.

A scoreless half-hour run in the second half was incredible given Louth's territorial dominance and possession monopoly, with Derry accustomed to sitting back and inviting wave after wave of attack.

Though penetration was, again, lacking for The Wee County, as they continually whizzed the ball around the fringes of the scoring zone, over and back until boredom set-in and an adventurous play, which would damagingly end in a turnover, was attempted.

Furthermore, confidence is clearly suffering with several players struggling at times to perform the basics, thus handing away the initiative. How else could the men in red feel, this being their sixth consecutive loss and at just four points, highest league defeat of the season?

The campaign has hallmarks of the pointless run of 2018, in which demotion from Division Two was a formality. Louth have three games in which to avoid a repeat of the miserable record set by Pete McGrath's side of two seasons back, a 100 percent losing sequence, and, somewhat encouragingly, the panel appears content to stick together. "I can't really say there's a flatness," Kierans told The Democrat. "It's a good dressing room with no toxic element.

"We keep saying - and the players keep saying - we're going to stick together. It's a difficult period and an experience that will test us all, but the dressing room is fine.

"If there was no work-rate or an aptitude to work hard in training or games we'd be worried. But our numbers are going up in terms of our stats, fitness work, running work and intensity.

"We're getting what was an 'unhealthy' squad fit - even though we lost a few last week, Paul Mathews, sick; Emmet Carolan, injury; Sam Mulroy, suspension; Liam Jackson, concussion protocol. We haven't had much luck."



*Convention 2020*

**SLACK START** Although fortune actually favoured brave Louth during a fairly entertaining opening half, which Derry edged 1-6 to 1-5.

Rather, it was poor play on the visitors' part that gifted Rory Gallagher's charges a perfect start, the Ulster men rattling in 1-4 over the first eight minutes, to which only Declan Byrne responded.

The St. Mochta's long-server, who was fabulous when introduced against Offaly, was sharp with the breeze blowing in his favour and the No14 landed two frees from beyond the 50m line as Louth steadied following the costly wobble.

Ryan Burns, Byrne's sharp inside companion, struck twice in between, leaving just Shane McGuigan's goal in the difference when dogged chasing returned an energy-boosting major. Byrne had the simple task of sliding into the empty net as Derry rued their lax defensive display.

But after a bright beginning, the second quarter was miserable, showing just three points, two of which, via McGuigan, handed The Oak Leafers their interval lead.

"The fact that we gave them the 1-3 or 1-4 start made it really difficult," Kierans said.

"After the initial period where we conceded, we did well and showed patience in our play. We got lucky with a goal and created some good chances in difficult situations. Going in a point down at half-time was okay." In fact, it appeared to be a fairly decent postage when Louth emerged for the restart firing, a Burns brace earning the lead for the first time on 40 minutes. But thereafter an all-too-familiar tale unfolded, skirting around the edges without having the capacity to plough through the layers of Derry defence. This, to accompany a litany of individual errors, wasn't conducive to a surprise triumph. With every breakdown, the visibility of Louth perplexion became increasingly acute. And Derry secured the spoils through Niall Loughlin's goal in the 70th minute. "I thought we'd given ourselves a platform to get something out of it, but it's very difficult to break them down and when they got a point ahead, we were chasing, and conceded a poor goal at the end which killed it.

"We had some good moves, getting through them; we're nearly getting it right and as I've said to the boys, we're so near, but yet so far away." They would have been seen as the most difficult to break through, against that sort of team, but we're simply not creating enough goal chances, although it was very difficult to do that today and you can't underestimate that when they've got so many physically imposing guys back there. "I think we only scored four points in the second half, we just weren't up to breaking them down as we'd hoped, but you saw how cynical they were, body-checking people, getting lads slowed down."





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**DAMAGE LIMITATION** With Louth's fate now evermore sealed, perhaps the outlook ought to be on damage limitation ahead of the championship. It would be a hammer blow if the campaign were to end with The Reds rooted to the foot of the table.

It is evident that the players are trying, but belief has ebbed to a pulp in cases, while others are simply not good enough to reach the standard required: the blunt reality.

The crowd was dreadful at the Bogside venue, especially the travelling contingency which will have numbered no more than 50. These are concerning times for Louth GAA, but it's wickedly unfair to lump the blame for a dreadful run of results exclusively at the feet of Kierans or his management.

It was a long trek home from North Ulster. No doubt there was deep contemplation over what had gone before, on the team bus, in the heads of County Board officials and certainly among the committed few who pointed their cars in Derry's direction on Sunday morning.

As Kierans said, this is "an experience that will test us all".

**Derry:** Odhrán Lynch; Conor McCluskey, Brendan Rogers, Carlus McWilliams; Shea Downey (0-1), Pádraig McGrogan, Niall Keenan; Chrissy McKaigue, Ciarán McFaul; Emmet Bradley, Pádraig Cassidy, Danny Tallon; Benny Heron (0-2), Shane McGuigan (1-7, 0-4 frees), Niall Toner

**Subs:** Niall Loughlin (1-0) for E Bradley (44), Patrick Kearney for Tallon (54), Declan Cassidy for P Cassidy (61), Conor Doherty for Toner (70), Conor McAtamney for McFaul (70)

**Louth:** Craig Lynch; Fergal Donohoe, Dermot Campbell, James Craven; Eoghan Callaghan, Bevan Duffy (0-1), John Clutterbuck; Conor Early, Tommy Durnin; Gerry Garland, Ciarán Downey, Conall McKeever; Ryan Burns (0-6, five frees), Declan Byrne (1-2, 0-2 frees), Conor Grimes

**Subs:** Oisín Murray for Garland (HT), Eoghan Duffy for Downey (54), Daniel Corcoran for Donohoe (57), Gerard McSorley for Grimes (60), Ronan Holcroft for Durnin (67)

**Referee:** Barry Judge (Sligo)



*Convention 2020*

## Allianz NFL Division Three – Round 5

### Louth 1-12 Leitrim 3-14

Wayne Kierans called it precisely when saying Louth's performance "wasn't good enough" in Sunday's defeat by Leitrim. That's a mild, quite favourable description actually.

The present situation can't be easy for anybody involved, yet up until now there has at least been a graft and honesty about the effort, as the slim margins - three, one, three and four points - of the opening four defeats would suggest.

But the attitude was concerningly careless at Dowdallshill and so followed a litany of basic errors, from dropping balls in the tackle, to mishandling, to kicking possession away aimlessly, to downright unforgivable passages of play. Louth were simply never going to win this game as they hadn't the mindset to.

And, quite frankly, they'll suffer nothing but defeat until leaders step forward and a bit of organisation supplements their dedication. For far too long Louth teams have been prone to rolling over.

They aren't the first county to be in disarray. Meath was hardly a bed of roses under Seamus McEnaney in 2012, the season in which Louth relegated them from Division Two. However, the team's resolve remained strong enough to reach that summer's Leinster final. It's just no longer unfair to claim that many of the current players look away when stern questions are posed. A club team wouldn't give up as easily as Louth. Kierans conceded his charges are currently "nowhere near" the level which will be required to make a fist of the Longford assignment in the championship. And approaching that fixture with nothing but L-inscribed red boxes under their form column is hardly conducive to a positive May display. What's more, The Reds face the promotion favourites, Cork and Down, in succession, meaning a pointless league campaign for the second season in three is staring them square in the face. Confidence is shattered on both sides of the white line, but there appears to be an element of the decline which is structural. Looking at the set-up from afar, it's been striking that after every game the opposition's uncalled-upon reserves have been out running on the pitch. Leitrim's goalkeeper, Diarmuid McKiernan, spent almost 20 post-match minutes ducking and diving as members of the management pounded footballs his way. Yet after all five matches so far, Louth, as a collective, have walked straight into the dressing room, substitutes going home without breaking so much as a sweat. It must then be remembered that six different players have suffered from hamstring trouble during the National League programme



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**LED JUST ONCE** The hosts led just once over the course of the affair, when Ryan Burns and Declan Byrne pointed in response to Donal Wrynn's opener, despite playing with a gale-force breeze to their backs during their first half spent attacking the clubhouse side of St. Brigid's Park.

The tide ultimately turned on a slack defensive spell which allowed the outstanding Ryan O'Rourke to rifle past Fergal Sheekey. The Reds were simply all over the place, turning over possession and leaving full-back Dermot Campbell isolated - the Dreadnots man may as well have been fighting off the Irish Sea with a grape all afternoon.

Louth were amid a 13-minute scoreless period as O'Rourke and Keith Beirne grew the gap to four, prior to Ciarán Downey's sole register of the outing from along the right wing, which at least gave the locals something to shout about. But the concession rate remained high given the conditions, Leitrim getting to 1-5 as Louth sat on four points shortly before half-time, at which stage Burns and Tommy Durnin frees had Kierans' crew to within a pair. "We're certainly not scoring enough," the Louth manager said in relation to his side's finishing. "Defensively, we weren't at the races at all. Our one-vs-ones, the whole defensive system was poor which allowed them a lot of chances and luckily enough they didn't take them. Going forward, I think we kicked eight wides in the first half, which is not good either. "Despite it being relatively average-to-poor in the first half, I still thought we could up it in the second half against the wind. We did create a couple of goal chances, but going the other way Leitrim didn't really have to work for their chances at all, which is of real concern." A perfect summation. Burns' third point whittled the deficit back to the minimum on the restart and moments later a hopeful lob saw the Hunterstown Rover beat McKiernan to a punch, only for Fergal McTague to claw the ball off the line, seemingly deflating Louth's challenge.

The next time The Wee County scored, some 18 minutes later, Leitrim had bagged 3-8, Beirne's penalty arriving in advance of O'Rourke's second major of the match. And worse was to come in spite of Burns' spot-kick conversion before the hour-mark. "It reminds me a little bit of Antrim (qualifier) last year, which is the first time I could say that we didn't finish the game with any fight at all," Kierans added. "Against Derry last week we finished reasonably strongly, so today is worrying and something we definitely have to talk about during the week. Our kick-outs went and our defensive play was poor in the last 10 minutes." Liam Jackson and Ciarán Byrne livened Louth's offence, but Leitrim, in Darragh Rooney, Beirne and O'Rourke, had clinical marksmen who helped the Connacht county fire five of the match's final eight points. "It was nowhere near good enough." Relegation confirmed.



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**Louth:** Fergal Sheekey; Daniel Corcoran, Dermot Campbell, James Craven; Eoghan Callaghan, Emmet Carolan, John Clutterbuck; Tommy Durnin (0-1, free), Conor Early, Ciarán Downey (0-1), Bevan Duffy (0-1), Conall McKeever; Sam Mulroy (0-2), Declan Byrne (0-1), Ryan Burns (1-4, 1-0 penalty & 0-2 frees)

**Subs:** Liam Jackson (0-1) for Early (43), Gerard McSorley (0-1) for McKeever (51), Oisín Murray for Clutterbuck (57), Conor Grimes for Byrne (57), Ciarán Byrne for Burns (63)

**Leitrim:** Diarmuid McKiernan; Conor Reynolds, Paddy Maguire, Fergal McTague; Cillian McGloin (0-1), Mark Plunkett (0-1), Jack Gilheany; Donal Wrynn (0-2), Keith Keegan; Domhnaill Flynn, Ryan O'Rourke (2-3), Aidan Flynn; Darragh Rooney (0-3, one mark), Keith Beirne (1-4, 1-0 penalty & 0-4 frees), Shane Moran

**Subs:** Oisín McCaffrey for Keegan (68), Pierce Dolan for Wrynn (70), Riordan O'Rourke for Flynn (70), Evan Sweeney for Rooney (70)

**Referee:** Liam Devenney (Mayo)

**Allianz NFL Division Three –  
Round 6  
Cork 5-19 Louth 0-16**

The unfortunate reality was that Louth were visiting Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday evening as a cohort of condemned men. The outcome was inevitable: a heavy defeat which confirmed a sixth successive National League defeat and relegation to Division Four. This was also the team's 10th reverse in the last 11 competitive games, stretching back to last year's championship pummelling by Dublin, and with promotion-chasing Down and in-better-fettle Longford to come before the festive season, an entire calendar span minus a victory is now a distinct possibility.

Louth's prior encounter had resulted in a double-digit loss to Leitrim last spring, a shambles which was undoubtedly the lowest point of manager Wayne Kierans' two-campaign reign. Therefore, it must be asked if, given the lengthy, Covid-enforced lay-off, the O'Connell's man would have been better to step aside considering all the signs suggest his term will not be extended beyond the conclusion of the championship?



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In both Carlow and Wexford, team bosses, Turlough O'Brien and Paul Galvin, stood down over the summer on the basis that their tenures would likely have been up at that juncture under normal circumstances. Hence, their moves gave their respective successors an opportunity to evaluate what they had ahead of schedule. Whether this will stand to the south-eastern counties into the new year remains to be seen.

But it could hardly damage whatever prospects they have of a positive 2021. So, accordingly, what has been or could possibly be gained from leaving the arrangement as per the opening five rounds of the Allianz League?

Kierans, a gentleman who has done quite a bit for Louth GAA since taking over as minor supremo for 2016, deserves to be remembered for his relative achievements, his guidance of the Reds' U18 side to a first provincial final in 46 years (1971-2017) chief among them. Instead, however, it's the dismalness of a programme of drubbings that will decisively tarnish his record and dilute, in mind anyway, his policy of lowering the age profile within the panel.

And if results aren't indicative of the full tale, the absence of Declan Byrne, Ciarán Byrne and Ciarán Downey from the squad since training resumed is representative of a deeper issue. What value is there in devoting a life to Louth's cause?

Add the trio's absence to that of Jim McEaney, Derek Maguire and Andy McDonnell and the Wee County's assembly is deprived of some necessary quality.

Eoghan Callaghan, James Califf and Conor Grimes also sat out Saturday's clash.

## LEESIDE LEAKAGE

Indeed, Louth only escaped a more severe annihilation courtesy of Cork's several relaxed patches, during which the game lacked any sort of intensity. Having shot over the affair's opening two points, from Sam Mulroy - who was, again, the Leinster line-up's best man, and the returning Anthony Williams inside jig time, the Reds went scoreless for 21 minutes, until Tommy Durnin converted, momentarily reducing the shortfall to 3-6 to 0-3. The hosts' match-winning spell had yielded goals via Colm O'Callaghan, Ian Maguire and pacey Paul Kerrigan, with Killian O'Hanlon and Paul Walsh among the minor registrars. Mulroy, the key to Naomh Máirtín's recent senior championship triumph, was blemishless from placed kicks, splitting the posts 11 times in all from both hand and off the deck, and it was his accuracy which moved Louth to eight first half points; notwithstanding Cork's dominance as Ronan McCarthy's troops were a dozen-less-two ahead at the interval





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And a blazing rampage on the resumption completely killed the contest, O'Hanlon, Damien Gore and Kerrigan (goal) putting the Munster competitors 4-11 to 0-8 clear. Mulroy continued to carry the Louth fight and included in his batch of points was a beauty from along the left-hand touchline. But, not to be outdone in the cameo stakes, Mark Collins came in from the bench to fire 1-5 for the Rebels as the gap grew to some 17 points in advance of a Wee rally, when Cork had lost interest, that cut it by three.

### DREADFUL DISCIPLINE

That number, three, was also the tally of players Louth had dismissed. After Fergal Donohoe and Patrick Reilly had been ordered off on second yellow cards, calls which were arguably harsh, Emmet Carolan got a straight red for foul play, collapsing knees first on to an opponent.

Frustration or indiscipline, it's unacceptable. Louth have now had six red cards in as many games and five in the last two. And bear in mind, stretching back to Colin Kelly's period in charge, this type of wayward streak where the rules are concerned has been apparent for quite some time. While the particular stats are not to hand, the issue has been recurrent.

The Reds have also conceded 12-81 in six league fixtures, by far the highest across each of the divisions.

Cork: Micheál Martin; Kevin Flahive, Maurice Shanley, Paul Ring; Kevin O'Donovan (0-2), Mattie Taylor, Cian Kiely; Ian Maguire (1-0), Paul Walsh (0-2); Ruairí Deane (0-1), Killian O'Hanlon (0-4, one free), Kevin O'Driscoll; Damien Gore (0-2), Colm O'Callaghan (1-1), Paul Kerrigan (2-1, 0-1 free)

Subs: Nathan Walsh for Ring (43), Mark Collins (1-5, 0-4 frees) for Kerrigan (47), Eoghan McSweeney (0-1) for O'Driscoll (52), Niall Hartnett for Walsh (57), Seán Meehan for O'Hanlon (60)

Louth: Craig Lynch; Daniel Corcoran, Bevan Duffy, Kevin Carr; Fergal Donohoe, Emmet Carolan, Anthony Williams (0-1); Tommy Durnin (0-3), Conor Early; Conall McKeever, Robbie Curran, Liam Jackson; Patrick Reilly, Sam Mulroy (0-11, frees), Ryan Burns

Subs: Ciarán Keenan for Curran (HT), John Clutterbuck for Carr (45), Conor Whelan (0-1) for Burns (50), Dermot Campbell for Early (55), Gerry Garland for McKeever (63),

Referee: Seamus Mulhare (Laois)



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## Allianz NFL Division Three – Round 7

### Louth 3-14 Down 0-16

Louth saved their best display of an otherwise dour National League campaign to last as they consigned a promoted, if desperately poor, Down to defeat at St. Brigid's Park on Sunday afternoon.

Indeed, it was a Wee County performance that will inspire confidence through the panel as they approach this weekend's Leinster Championship encounter against Longford; the additions of Conor Whelan, Dermot Campbell, Eoghan Callaghan and Ciarán Keenan to the starting XV inputted an energy and sense of purpose to the line-up which were the key to a much-needed outcome.

Manager Wayne Kierans may even have stumbled across his neatest blend of components with Campbell, Callaghan, Tommy Durnin and Bevan Duffy, Keenan and Sam Mulroy up the middle. And with that sextet flanked by the energy of Anthony Williams, John Clutterbuck,

Liam Jackson and Conall McKeever, the Reds looked so much stronger than when trudging off the pitch at Páirc Uí Chaoimh eight days earlier. Notwithstanding Louth's major improvement in both organisation and intensity, Down played into their hands in Dowdallshill. The Mourne men's build-up was far too ponderous and offensive ventures regularly lacked momentum, leading to depressive spells of lateral ballwork. CLINICAL COMPOSURE Louth, therefore, were able to filter back into position before springing lethally on the counter-attack, three or four forward passes often enough to find entry to the scoring zone where Sam Mulroy and the shoals of intruding runners were the beneficiaries. Campbell, Durnin, Duffy and Jackson each registered from fast-flowing sequences down the field. But the basis for Louth's victory was built on defensive solidity with Campbell and Callaghan vital in bringing the class of composure that was so lacking in all their prior efforts. Kevin Carr's clampdown on Donal O'Hare meant blunt Down could only score from distance, which Dylan Ward and Ryan Johnston did confidently ahead of half-time. Not that Louth were flattered by their 2-7 to 0-9 interval cushion, Keenan and Mulroy hitting the net on 11 and 32 minutes despite facing into the stiff, bitterly cool breeze that gusted towards the Newry Road. The second major was sublimely configured by McKeever, whose workrate, pace and accurate delivery to Mulroy from the flank saw the Naomh Máirtín sharpshooter compose himself before picking out the roof of the target off his weaker left foot.



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**STOOD STILL** Contrastingly, the closest Down came to enforcing a green flag wave was through Ryan Johnston, the leggy Kilcoo winger cutting into Wee County territory only to fumble in his battle to outwit Louth custodian Craig Lynch. The opportunity, at a time when the hosts' lead amounted to little more than two points, was critical to how the match panned out thereafter.

Kierans' crew were in pole place for a maiden triumph in Division Three, one imagined, with the conditions in their favour ahead of the restart. But the weather played no part in a confident second half return which produced a further 1-7; the flags which arrowed stiffly in the direction of the clubrooms during the opening period, after all, stood motionless when the action resumed; the chill of the October afternoon lessening in turn. And Louth's play will have kept the Down defence very warm.

Within six minutes the margin was extended by three to seven overall and after John O'Hare's disastrous kickout was gathered, carried and dispatched to the goal by McKeever, the lead was nine.

The visitors gained a degree of scoreboard respectability with a late flurry but they will require huge improvement for their Ulster trip to Fermanagh; that is if they're to avoid another early provincial departure.

For the second season on the trot, Louth have beaten Down in the league's final round. Overall, though, the pair's campaigns couldn't have been any more different.

**Louth:** Craig Lynch; Daniel Corcoran, Dermot Campbell (0-1), Kevin Carr; Anthony Williams, Eoghan Callaghan, John Clutterbuck (0-1); Tommy Durnin (0-1), Bevan Duffy (0-1); Liam Jackson (0-1), Ciarán Keenan (1-1), Conall McKeever (1-0); Patrick Reilly, Sam Mulroy (1-7, 0-6 frees), Conor Whelan Subs: Paul Mathews for Whelan (51), Fergal Donohoe for Clutterbuck (59) Gerry Garland for Jackson (59), Robbie Curran (0-1, mark) for McKeever (64), Eoghan Duffy for Keenan (66)

**Down:** John O'Hare; Stephen Fegan, Ryan McEvoy, Brendan Gallen; Conor Clarke, Cormac McCartan, Shane Annett; Dylan Ward (0-2), Niall Donnelly; Ryan Johnston (0-4), Paul Devlin (0-6, four frees), James Guinness; Barry O'Hagan (0-4, frees), Owen McCabe, Donal O'Hare Subs: Peter Fegan for S Fegan (41) Conor McCrickard for McCabe (43), Sheelan Johnston for O'Hagan (47), Daniel Guinness for Annett (47), Johnny Flynn for Donnelly (61) Referee: David Gough (Meath)



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## Leinster SFC Preliminary Round

Louth 1-7 Longford 1-9

Is the fact that Sam Mulroy was Louth's only scorer in Sunday's Leinster Championship defeat by Longford grounds upon which to grin or groan?

The Naomh Máirtín forward was hailed by his manager, Wayne Kierans, as “not just an outstanding player, but outstanding young man” and future Reds skipper after a most disappointing defeat which draws a line under a hugely concerning campaign.

Kierans' post-match assertion that Louth “aren't a free-scoring team” is most accurate and the Mullingar loss was indicative of that, yet it was an affair in which the losers could so easily have emerged victorious.

Longford, by the standards they set last winter and spring, were underwhelming in sodden conditions and so Louth dominated both in the possession and territory stakes, albeit lacking the rudimentary ingenuity, craft and guile to laser their way through an often packed rear-guard.

It could also be argued that Longford's defensive wall was a symptom of the Wee County's lethargic, paceless approach to attack. Too often it took multi-phase moves to even breach the halfway line, by which time Mulroy and his inside colleague, Conor Whelan, were kept warm in the chill by several bodyguards in blue.

And the game's one glimpse of quality, aside from the individualistic kind, produced the decisive score when Longford midfielder Darren Gallagher was integral to an incisive handpassing move that yielded the No8's first half major.

The Reds had been dominant during the opening 10 minutes but were 1-2 to 0-1 in arrears having failed to punish an uncharacteristically slow start by the winners. But that was the encounter's tale: Louth were dominant for longer and yet unable to convert the sum required to book a quarter-final set-to with Laois.

Victory here would also have strengthened the case for Kierans' reappointment, and possibly afforded reason to allow him continue his investment in youth. Six players made



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their championship bows at Cusack Park, four, including Dermot Campbell at full-back, as starters. Seven of the 20 players-used previously played minor football under the O'Connell's man.

## **SAM SUPREME**

There was vast consensus that Mulroy was the match's outstanding performer and likely the first player in history to have scored his county's entire championship tally. Be it off right foot or left, the powerful Monasterboice native was an omnipresent touch of class in a game desperately low on high-calibre.

He opened the scoring from a free on three minutes and ended his team's 17-minute barren spell in advance of gathering possession in the left corner of the Dunnes Stores end, soloing past two or three defenders and firing a shot off the near-hand post and into the far corner, levelling the encounter seconds ahead of the half-hour mark.

Himself and Gallagher exchanged a pair of points before Daniel Mimmagh gave Longford a 1-5 to 1-4 interval advantage that, on the basis of play, they failed to earn.

Could Mulroy have been moved into the middle sector of the field? Perhaps. There, he could have picked out passes to those closer to the target and gone again to receive possession when running at pace in the desired direction. Any flurry of long-range registers would have been out of the ordinary and may have given Louth a winning platform. He was the only capable executor of such a plan.

As it was he had to fight as though practising MMA on every occasion the leather was punted his way, with referee David Coldrick, who was inconsistent and poor, very slow to award frees.

Whelan's half-time withdrawal was surprising, especially with his replacement, Paul Mathews, not the scoring option that was needed. And while the list of reserves wasn't lush with men adept to aiding Mulroy in the finishing department, the later introduction of Conor Grimes did sharpen Louth's offensive axe for the closing grind.





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## KEY CHANGE

Most agonising about the loss was the failure to capitalise on Longford's failure to score from 39th minute to the hour. Mulroy, hit a brace in the meantime -- his second was a stunner -- but Louth really ought to have taken firm control. They would have had Paddy Collum not got a foot to Anthony Williams' goalbound arrow.

Ultimately, it was a ghost from Louth's past, Robbie Smyth, who led the Midlanders to a qualifier victory in Drogheda three years ago, that swayed the triumph. Having won and converted a mark, the Abbeylara clubman shot over marvellously in the dying embers to seal victory.

Louth, in their desperate bid to salvage Delaney Cup hopes, resorted to carrying the ball into tackles and cheaply giving away the ball amid a frantic spell of additional time.

Just another one that got away.

Louth: Craig Lynch; Daniel Corcoran, Dermot Campbell, Kevin Carr; Anthony Williams, Eoghan Callaghan, John Clutterbuck; Tommy Durnin, Bevan Duffy; Liam Jackson, Ciarán Keenan, Conall McKeever; Patrick Reilly, Sam Mulroy (1-7, four frees & 45), Conor Whelan

Subs: Paul Mathews for Whelan (HT), Conor Grimes for Keenan (50), Emmet Carolan for Duffy (50), Gerry Garland for McKeever (63), Gerard McSorley for Reilly (68)

Longford: Paddy Collum; Patrick Fox, Andrew Farrell, Barry O'Farrell; Donal McElligott, Gary Rogers, Iarla O'Sullivan; Darren Gallagher (1-3, 0-1 free), Kevin Diffley; Daniel Mimmagh (0-1), Colm P Smyth, Dessie Reynolds; Rian Brady (0-2), Liam Connerton (0-1), Joseph Hagan

Subs: Darragh Doherty for Hagan (35), Robbie Smyth (0-2, one mark) for Reynolds (50), Peter Lynn for O'Sullivan (60), Aidan McGuire for Connerton (72)

Referee: David Coldrick (Meath)



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## National Hurling League

### Allianz NHL Division 3A – Round 1

#### Louth 1-16 Tyrone 1-21

When these sides clashed in the league 12 months ago, at Healy Park in Omagh, Tyrone inflicted a 15-point defeat on Paul McCormack's Louth, so a much narrower margin of defeat can be judged as a step in the right direction.

But it could have been so much better had Louth taken all their opportunities in this entertaining Division 3A encounter in Darver on Sunday afternoon.

When the home side opened up a well-merited five-point lead early in the second half, nobody watching from the grassy banks would have foreseen the final result. Ultimately, the turning point came on 58 minutes when, with the sides tied at 0-15 apiece, Louth were awarded a penalty only for Ryan Walsh's weakly-struck effort to be saved.

The Red Hands capitalised on this missed opportunity to fire over three unanswered points and grabbed what turned out to be a game-clinching goal a minute from full-time when Conor Grogan blasted home. BACK FOR MORE Nine of Louth's starting 15 also began the Nicky Rackard Cup group encounter between the teams last season, with centre-half Liam Molloy, captain on this occasion, one of those to keep his place.

The Reds opened their account with a pointed free on eight minutes from the reliable Darren Geoghegan (below) and a foul on full-forward Seaghan Conneely saw last year's leading light grab his second and third points, before Naomh Moninne colleague Feidhelm Joyce had Louth a point in front by the 12th minute Tyrone, with Damien Casey in fine fettle, regained the advantage, but Louth, to their credit, came again, striking four points unanswered, with Geoghegan (3) and Shane Callan registering.

McCormack's men continued to hold the upper hand, despite losing Roscommon native Niall Keenan on his National League debut to injury, and eased into a four-point advantage when Ronan Byrne landed a monster effort, only for Casey to cut Tyrone's interval deficit to three, 0-12 to nine.

Nonetheless, substitute Conor Deane and Callan extended the hosts' lead to five in the early stages of the second period, and with Louth playing so well the outcome looked favourable. But the Ulster outfit reeled off five points to no reply, levelling via Casey with 20 minutes to play.

The following points were shared as the match petered on a knife-edge until Louth received a major boost when referee Richie Fitzsimons, after consultation with his umpires, awarded Deane a penalty. But goalkeeper Conor McElhatton made himself a hero by stopping Walsh's shot.



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**COSTLY MISS** And the miss proved ultra-costly as Tyrone took a three-point lead, which was four by the time a move involving corner-forwards Matthew Mulgrew and Liam Armstrong was finished to the net by Grogan from close range.

Callan bagged a consolation goal for Louth, but Casey's ninth point of the affair ensured Tyrone departed relatively comfortable victors.

Louth will hope to go one better than their football counterparts when they travel to Pearse Park on Sunday afternoon to take on Longford, the victors over the footballers in their opening Division Three league game. The hurling clash again throws in at 2pm.

**Louth:** Donal Connolly; Andrew Smith, Ronan Byrne (0-2, one free), Stephen Kettle; Jamie McDonnell, Liam Molloy Andrew McCrave (0-1); Niall Keenan, Donal Ryan; Darren Geoghegan (0-8, seven frees), Shane Callan (1-2), Feidhelm Joyce (0-1); David Kettle, Seaghan Conneely, Ryan Walsh (0-1, free)

**Subs:** Conor Deane (0-1) for Keenan (32), Pádraig Fallon for Geoghegan (44), Andrew Mackin for D Kettle (55), Conor Mathews for McCrave (66), Robert Grace for Walsh (70)

**Tyrone:** Conor McElhatton; Dean Rafferty, Ruairí Devlin, Dermot Begley; Josh Ferguson, Chris Kearns, Pádraig McHugh; Conor McNally (0-1), Lorcan Devlin (0-3); Ryan Butler, Ryan McGurk, Conor Grogan (1-3); Matthew Mulgrew (0-3), Damian Casey (0-9, eight frees), Liam Armstrong (0-1)

**Subs:** John McGurk for Butler (44), Ben Gormley (0-1) for McHugh (55)

**Referee:** Richie Fitzsimons (Offaly)

**Allianz NHL Division 3A– Round 2**

**Longford 1-15 Louth 1-10**

Paul McCormack reckons Louth have shown they belong in Division 3A of the National Hurling League despite losing both of their opening encounters. The Reds suffered a five-point loss in Longford on Sunday, a result which sees them rooted to the foot of the table alongside pointless Monaghan. Seven days after the footballers went down to defeat at Pearse Park, the hurlers never looked like faring any better, having opted to face the stiff breeze during the opening half. Nonetheless, McCormack is adamant his charges can recover to prime themselves for the visit of Donegal to Darver on Sunday week.



*Convention 2020*

“There’s no doubt the players are disappointed about where we’re sitting, but they’re the facts of where we are,” the Armagh man told The Democrat.

“We can either put our heads down and feel sorry for ourselves, or we can face the challenges that the next three games present, and I know the character that our boys have that that’s what we’re going to do.

“We’ll be looking forward to this week’s training and next week’s in preparation for Donegal.

“I’m under no illusions that this is a tough league, but I feel we’re well able to be competitive in this league and this is the league where we belong.”

He added: “We didn’t just reach the performance levels (of the Tyrone game) again. There were too many handling errors, too many basic errors in terms of use of the ball, and that definitely contributed to our downfall. If we can tighten those areas up again I’ve no doubt that we’ll be competitive against Donegal and keep improving.”

Alan Ward was ultimately the most painful thorn in Louth’s side, Longford’s marksman-in-chief converting eight of his 10 points before half-time, at which stage the winners were 0-12 to three in front.

And The Wee County’s challenge hit the rocks within three minutes of the second period getting underway as Johnny Casey fired past Donal Connolly for the game’s opening goal. Andrew McCrave’s goal six minutes from time helped Louth to draw back the deficit, but were ultimately untroubled in their quest for victory.

“We completely dominated the second half, but just couldn’t close the gap enough,” the manager added. “The minutes after half-time just gave us too much to claw back, but, again, I can’t fault the effort of the players. They put a huge shift in and the gap, which went from nine to 13, was just too much to bridge.” “We had a good phase of three points in a row and at the 28th minute mark (of the second half), it was 1-15 to nine, when we hit 1-1 to leave it a five-point game going down the stretch, over the last five minutes and injury-time.” “I felt we’d a chance, but Seaghan Conneely, who’d a great game for us, had a shot which went over the bar as opposed to going under and we probably needed a second goal to really turn the screw on them.” “It’s a frustrating day for both players and management, in terms of not getting the rewards for the effort at training and commitment on matchdays.

”Longford: Eanna Daly; Aidan Sheridan, Gerard Moore, Paddy Corcoran; Cian McLoughlin, Enda Naughton, Daniel Connell; Cathal Mullane, Johnny Casey (1-2); Paul Barden jnr (0-1), David Buckley (0-2), Alan Ward (0-10, five frees); Maitiu O’Donoghue, Martin Coyle, Reuben Murray  
Subs: Iomar Creaven for O’Donoghue, Kevin Shine for Moore, Evan Tully for Buckley, I Campbell for Murray



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Louth: Donal Connolly; Andrew Smyth, Ronan Byrne, Stephen Kettle; Jamie McDonnell, Liam Molloy, Andrew McCrave; Conor Deane, Donal Ryan; Darren Geoghegan, Shane Callan, Feidhelm Joyce; David Kettle, Seaghan Conneely, Ryan Walsh  
Subs: Conor Mathews for S Kettle, Pádraig Fallon for Callan, Andrew Mackin for D Kettle, Gavin Kerrigan for Walsh

Referee: Chris Mooney (Dublin)

Allianz NHL Division 3A – Round 3

Louth 1-10 Donegal 2-9

Louth hurlers were only seconds away from recording a deserved victory in Division 3A of the National Hurling League in windy conditions in Darver on Sunday afternoon. But, heartbreakingly for Paul McCormack's men, visitors Donegal grabbed what turned out to be the match-winning goal with the last puck of the sliotar, five minutes into injury-time. The Reds had the elements in their favour in the opening half and were five points to the good on 21 minutes. All of The Wee County's scores came via Robert 'Bob' Grace frees, the St. Fechin's man earning a starting place at the expense of regular free-taker Darren Geoghegan. It took all of 24 minutes before wing-back Niall Cleary accounted for the Ulster side's opening score with a point from play. Full-forward Declan Coulter added another point for the visitors, also from open play, before the impressive Andrew McCrave struck over Louth's sixth score of the half on 29 minutes, 0-6 to 0-2. One feared that this opening half tally of points would not be enough against a team of Donegal's quality and Coulter increased this unease when he added another brace of points late in the half to leave his side trailing by just 0-6 to 0-4 at the break. It didn't take long for Donegal to get on level terms, in fact, just 60 seconds, when Ronan McDermott fired over from long range, which was added to almost immediately by another from Coulter from close to the target, from right of the posts. A foul on David Kettle presented Grace with the opportunity to grab the home team's first point of the second half on 45 minutes. This would be his last contribution and he was replaced from the bench by Geoghegan soon after. Midfielder Darren O'Hanrahan was making his first start of this league campaign for Louth and he wasted a good opportunity to net his side's first goal when his effort from close range was just wide of the target.

A good point from play by substitute Colm Flood on 52 minutes had the visitors in front for the first time in this match, 0-8 to 0-7, and five minutes later, danger man Coulter got away from his marker, Liam Molloy, and was picked out by a team-mate to finish off a good move by firing past 'keeper Gerard Smyth for the game's opening goal.





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That score would normally have knocked opponents for six, but not this Louth team who have been displaying a quality missing for the last couple of seasons.

O'Hanrahan and Coulter exchanged points from play before a pass by substitute Ryan Walsh played Andrew Mackin in and despite being tackled by two defenders he managed to scramble the ball to the net, on 60 minutes.

From a foul awarded to Kettle, the reliable Geoghegan fired over an equalising point, 1-9 apiece, before, four minutes into stoppage time, stalwart Shane Callan struck what looked like a matchwinner for Louth from a tight angle.

However, from the resultant puck-out, an error in the defence, which saw the sliotar dropped by Smyth, allowed midfielder Danny Cullen to pounce to fire high to the net from close range to clinch the spoils.

Next up for Louth is a trip to the Athletic Grounds this Sunday, February 23, and a clash in round four against joint-table toppers Armagh, at 2pm.

**Louth:** Gerard Smyth; Andrew Smyth, Liam Molloy, Conor Mathews; Jamie McDonnell, Conor Deane, Andrew McCrave (0-1); Darren O'Hanrahan (0-1), Donal Ryan; Robert Grace (0-6, frees), Shane Callan (0-1), Feidhelm Joyce; David Kettle, Seaghan Conneely, Andrew McCrave (1-0)

**Subs:** Stephen Kettle for Deane (HT), Darren Geoghegan (0-1, free) for Grace (50), Ryan Walsh for Conneely (55)

**Donegal:** Luke White; Mark Callaghan, Stephen Gillespie, Pdraig Doherty; Jack O'Loughlin, Seán McVeigh, Niall Cleary (0-1); Joe Boyle, Danny Cullen (1-0); PJ McCarron, Lee Henderson, Ronan McDermott (0-1); Gerry Gilmore, Declan Coulter (1-6, 0-2 frees), Sam Doherty

**Subs:** Michael Donoghue for O'Loughlin (20), Conor O'Grady for Doherty (41), Colm Flood (0-1) for Callaghan (43), Ryan Hifferty for Cleary (61)

**Referee:** Gearoid McGrath (Wexford)



*Convention 2020*

## Division 3A – Round 4

### Armagh 1-19 Louth 1-18

It was a case of late despair for the second week in a row at the Athletic Grounds with title chasers Armagh having struck a controversial late winner with the game's final play, denying Louth from getting off the mark in Division 3A.

After Darren Geoghegan had landed a 65 deep into stoppage time, drawing Louth level at 1-18 apiece, The Reds, who had fought back from seven points behind at half-time, were set for a morale-boosting share of the spoils.

However, with play going on, Dean Gaffney's free conversion earned The Orchard County a victory they hardly deserved, while Louth's boss wasn't happy with the circumstances surrounding the winner.

"Armagh are the best team in the division and highest scorers, but once we got the 65 to level the game at 73 minutes and 40 seconds, I thought that would be it," manager Paul McCormack said.

"Then there was a bit of confusion over a sideline ball. It should have been a Louth ball, but the sideline official gave it to Armagh and there was an argument over it. The referee then moved the ball in for the free, which was incredible.

"(Gaffney) hit the free, it hit the post and it fell over; another inch and it would have dropped out."

The visitors started slowly and trailed by five points before getting off the mark and closing the gap to the minimum. Yet a purple patch towards the end of the opening period saw Armagh take firm control, retiring to the dressing room with a 0-12 to five cushion. Louth, though, were a different proposition when the game resumed. Ryan Walsh and substitute Geoghegan began to find their range and after Feidhelm Joyce located the Armagh net, Louth were soon on terms, 0-14 to 1-11. The Naomh Moninne youngster then fired The Reds into the lead, only for Gaffney to finish a penalty past Gerard Smyth in restoring the winners' advantage. Louth weren't for quitting, though, and a run of six of the game's closing nine points saw them tied, prior to the decisive closing play. "I'm so proud of the lads, the way we dug in," McCormack added. "I can see when I look into their eyes that they're nearly there, but we've a wee bit to go yet. There's huge signs of encouragement and any of the supporters who were at the game, I hope they can see lads who are playing with passion and pride for their county. "That's what I want and I got that today in buckets, especially during the second half. I couldn't be more proud of them, the way they stood up in the second half."



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**Louth:** Gerard Smyth; Jack Murray, Liam Molloy, Conor Mathews; Matthew Fee, Jamie McDonnell (0-1), Donal Ryan; Darren O'Hanrahan, Shane Callan; Bob Grace (0-2), David Kettle, Ryan Walsh (0-6); Gavin Kerrigan (0-1), Andrew Mackin (0-1), Feidhelm Joyce (1-3) **Subs:** Niall Keenan for Grace (HT), Pádraig Fallon for O'Hanrahan (45), Darren Geoghegan (0-4) for Kerrigan (47), Stephen Kettle for Mathews (55), Seaghan Conneely for Mackin (59) **Referee:** Thomas Gleeson (Dublin)

**Division 3A – Round 5**

**Monaghan 3-12 Louth 1-10**

Louth hurlers' relegation to Division 3B of the National Hurling League was confirmed on Sunday as Monaghan prevailed in their derby tussle at Inniskeen. Paul McCormack's men had gone into the round five affair in confident mood as recent results appeared to show that they were the team in better form, with narrow defeats by Donegal and Armagh - who will now contest the league final - over successive weekends. But, in a game they simply had to win, The Wee County produced a below-par performance in failing to retain their fifth-tier status. Their inability to take their opportunities, particularly in the first half, proved costly in a game where they actually led by one-point midway through the second period, before the concession of two late goals sealed their fate.

#### **GOOD START**

It was important for the visitors to get off to a good start and they struck over two points, from the sticks of Ryan Walsh and Niall Keenan, inside the opening two minutes. The Monaghan reply was swift, though, with midfielder Brendan McQuaid firing over a brace in between which top-scorer Fergal Rafter converted the first of his match-winning tally of nine points, from a free. Louth responded with three unanswered points of their own, from a Robert Grace free, Seaghan Conneely and Feidhelm Joyce, to lead by two on 12 minutes. The concession of frees presented Rafter with the opportunity to take his tally to four points before full-forward Mark Treanor grabbed the game's opening goal on 24 minutes from close range, 1-6 to 0-5. Louth had major chances of their own, but failed to take any of them, though they did reduce the deficit with a pointed free from Walsh and another good score from play by Joyce to trail by 1-6 to 0-7 at the break.

#### **RESURGENCE**

The home side doubled their lead on the resumption with good points from play by Rafter and Treanor. Walsh then saw his effort from close range deflected out at the expense of a 65 metre free which second half substitute Darren Geoghegan struck over with his customary aplomb.



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A foul on Keenan presented the same player with the opportunity to add another point and now trailing by just two Louth continued to apply the pressure. They would go in front on 51 minutes when the experienced Shane Callan found the net from a tight angle to the left of the post, 1-9 to 1-8.

The Louth management would now have expected their charges to drive on, but, sadly, this did not transpire. They soon found themselves trailing again with Rafter grabbing three points in a row - all from frees - but as the game entered the last 10 minutes the visitors found themselves trailing by just one as Geoghegan fired over from a free awarded for a foul on Callan.

That would turn out to be Louth's last score of this encounter as The Farneymen grabbed a second goal on 63 minutes when Treanor booted the sliotar to the net, as Louth defenders protested that there had been a foul in the build-up to the goal.

Rafter quickly added a point from a long-range free as relegation was now staring The Reds in the face with time running out.

Monaghan goalkeeper Hugh Byrne came out to take a free from inside his own half and his wind-assisted effort caught his opposite number, Gerard Smyth, off guard, the sliotar going over his head and into the net.

Tempers flared in what time the referee had decided to add on with two Monaghan players, Brendan McQuaid and Pauric Malone, as well as Louth captain Liam Molloy, seeing red.

McCormack will now have to find some way of lifting this side as they prepare for their Lory Meagher Cup campaign which opens with a home match against Fermanagh on Saturday, May 16.

**Monaghan:** Hugh Byrne (1-0, free); Eoin Leonard, Conor Gernon, Declan Hughes; Kevin Crawley, Peter Treanor, Colin Merrick; Brendan McQuaid (0-2), Brian Flanagan; Shane McNally, Stephen Lambe, Conor Flynn; Fergal Rafter (0-9, seven frees), Mark Treanor (2-1), Eamon Sheehan

**Subs:** Gareth Brennan for Merrick (48), Pauric Malone for Lambe (70)

**Louth:** Gerard Smyth; Conor Mathews, Liam Molloy, Andrew McCrave; Andrew Smyth, Jamie McDonnell, Donal Ryan; Niall Keenan (0-1), Darren O'Hanrahan; Robert Grace (0-1 free), Shane Callan (1-0), Feidhelm Joyce (0-2); Seaghan Conneely (0-1), Andrew Mackin, Ryan Walsh (0-2, one free)

**Subs:** Jack Murray for Mathews (15), Darren Geoghegan (0-3, two frees @ 65) for Conneely (HT), Pádraig Fallon for Mackin (48), Matthew Fee for McCrave (60), Paul Mathews for Grace (65)

**Referee:** Aidan Ferguson (Fermanagh)

  
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## Lory Meagher Cup Round 1

### Fermanagh 3-10 Louth 1-15

Once again Louth hurlers succumbed to a late late lapse, seven months on from the very league failings, the same form of defeat to Fermanagh was found in round one of the Lory Meagher Cup in Darver on Saturday afternoon.

A minute and a half into additional time, Fermanagh captain John Duffy fired a stinging shot to the net from nowhere, to set up Seán Corrigan to complete the smash and grab job with a wonderful point from the sideline.

The loss stung, but Louth's season is not lost, they will play Cavan in a fortnights time to set up a possible rematch with the Erneiders. Never mind the silverware on offer, that proposition alone will be enough motivation itself for the Louth camp. In a scrappy opening, Seaghán Conneely spurned a goal chance right from the throw in as the sides would find themselves level on three occasions in the first half. The visitors took the lead every time only for Louth to pull back a score each time. Seanie Crosbie with the pick of the replies. Fermanagh corner forward Tom Keenan rounded his marker Jack Murray, to propel Fermanagh ahead 1-5 to 0-7 at the turn, but the scoreline was somewhat misleading as Louth sprung Niall Keenan into the action before half time to go on a 1-6 to no scoring run either side of the interval. Keenan from Tremane in Roscommon originally, replaced Darren O'Hanrahan in midfield, O'Hanrahan looked to have shipped a heavy knock at the start of the game and was forced to come off, he was linking up well with youngster Ryan Walsh up to that point. Walsh was catching clean possession so often at times and such was Louth's attacking potency all of their six forwards had found the target in the first half, but it would be centre back Jamie McDonnell that would land the goal in the second half. A driving run from the St. Feichins player pushed Paul McCormack's men to a commanding 1-10 to 1-5 lead. Feidhelm Joyce's pace was causing Fermanagh all sorts of problems too and was Louth's liveliest forward on show but that dominance was halted by Fermanagh's impressive Corrigan. The full forward linked up well with corner forward Caolan Duffy to level the game in the 50th minute. However, despite the setback, Louth looked certain winners once they sprung Darren Geoghegan from the bench, The Naomh Moninne free taker showed his class to control the scoreboard with three of the next four scores. Keenan got the other, as Louth led by four with less than four minutes remaining. Corrigan and Duffy combined to reduce the gap to two, but Geoghegan showed the deftest of touches to land the score of the day, flicking the sliotar down from the sky into his hand before neatly firing over.





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Three-point lead and Louth looked certain for victory even more so as Fermanagh were losing their cool and focus. Their manager Joe Baldwin was sent off and put behind the fence for taking his frustrations out on the nearest officials.

The incumbent implosion duly came, but not without warning, Louth full back Ronan Byrne saved a shot off the line before the second effort in that double play was pulled wide. Just when the hosts were about to breath, Duffy struck the sucker punch in the next attack.

Amidst a crowd of bodies, the wing forward struck a sweet shot that left Louth stunned. Sensing Louth were still in that daze, Corrigan fired over the winner. As chance would have it, Geoghegan would have a chance to level the round 1 contest but he couldn't find the target. Louth will hope to stew over the loss and regroup for the third team in the competition Cavan, in Breffni Park in a fortnight's time. Win that and they'll get a chance to enact some revenge on Fermanagh in the final. All is not lost for Paul McCormack's men.

**LOUTH:** Donal Connolly; Matthew Fee, Ronan Byrne, Jack Murray; Conor Deane, Jamie McDonnell 1-0, Andrew McCrave; Ryan Walsh, Darren O'Hanrahan; Seaghán Conneely 0-2, Seanie Crosbie 0-1, Paddy Lynch 0-2(1f); Fiedhlm Joyce 0-2, Andrew Mackin 0-1, David Kettle 0-1.

**Subs:** Niall Keenan 0-2 for O'Hanrahan (26), Darren Geoghegan 0-4 (3f) for Lynch (42), Peter Fortune for Mackin (46), Padraig Fallon for Kettle (60).

**FERMANAGH:** Mark Curry; Dylan Bannon, Andrew Breslin, Aidan Flanagan; Odhrán Russell, F McBrien; Conor McShea, Caolan Duffy; Shea Curran, Luca McCusker 0-1, John Duffy 1-2(1f); Tom Keenan 1-0, Sean Corrigan 1-7(3f), Caolan Duffy.

**Subs:** Eoin Cleary for Curran (44), Barry McPhillips for Flanagan (62), Rory Porteous for Breslin (64), Adam McShea for O Russell (66).

**REF:** Richard Fitzsimons (Offaly)

**Lory Meager Cup Round 2**

**Louth 1-15 Cavan 0-16**

Louth stood up to their fears and withheld their Cavan opponents right at the very death to advance to the Lory Meagher final at Kingspan Breffni on Sunday afternoon. The fact that Louth hung on is significant in itself. This is a Louth side has been cursed as recently as the opening round of the competition, where they befell to a late surge from their prospective final challengers Fermanagh.



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Not to mention their league campaign, that ended in relegation, blighted with late collapses against Armagh and Donegal in particular. The act of defiance was a long time coming and the reward of a final place was nearly forgotten about at the final whistle, such was the overriding sense of relief in the Louth camp in the aftermath.

Credit must go to the Louth management who changed one third of their team in response to that opening day defeat. The review worked as Louth showed much better cohesion and purpose in their play. With those two components in tow, Louth played with boundless energy throughout, and despite losing David Kettle to a second yellow card in the 52nd minute, the new players kept to their game plan and saw the game out.

Right from the throw in, one of these aforementioned changes Darren Geoghegan validated his start with the opening score of the contest. A long-range effort from the Moninne man who was in immaculate form all afternoon. The crispness of Geoghegan's place striking gave Louth confidence to overcome a sticky opening stanza with the sides going level on four occasions. Brian Fitzgerald was an able marksman for the men in blue. One of three Cuala players on show for Cavan, would end the day with 11 placed balls, one a 65'.

Despite the marksmanship on show, Louth were edging the contest in open play and looked a lot more threatening in attack compared to Cavan. The movement of Ryan Walsh from midfield to centre forward worked a treat as the Fechin's youngster's direct play caused havoc to the hosts defence all afternoon.

Liam Molloy came back into the side from suspension and was imperious in the half back line. The Knockbridge man's point from the side-line was the best in the game and sparked Louth into an unanswered scoring run of 1-5 to no score.

Getting back to Walsh, with the defensive responsibilities gone he could enjoy his game and stick to his strengths all along the half forward line, while club team mate Paul Mathews provided the oomph inside. Having come off the bench the week previous for the footballers, the dual player was a real option for Louth's direct play. Claiming high balls and an end product to back it up Mathews was excellent. However, it was the creation of the goal that was his crucial impact on the game.

After driving at his marker, Mathews forced Darren Sheridan to make a good save but such was the force behind the shot, Sheridan could only parry the effort across the goalmouth for full forward Andrew Mackin to duly scrap home.



~~Louth were well~~  
*Coronavirus 2020*  
Louth were well in the ascendancy on the back of this sterling forward play and all the while David Kettle was revelling too, with two first half points. His second, brought the half to a close 1-10 to 0-7, deservedly in Louth's favour.

After the break, Ollie Bellew's Cavan side quickly began the half in spirited fashion and narrowed the gap with three Brian Fitzgerald placed efforts. With Louth's scoring rate plateauing in the second half, the indefatigable centre field duo of Niall Keenan and Fiedhelm Joyce provided Paul McCormack's side enough of a platform to push their lead back to six points through substitute Gavin Kerrigan and Geoghegan's first point from play.

Then came Kettle's sending off and the unwanted opportunity for Louth to shake their unwanted characteristic of pressing the self-destruct button. The game could have gone either way, but with five points in a row and Louth's recent history, Cavan looked set on reaching the final. Fitzgerald landed a 65' and an astonishing point from Sean Keating added to Louth's growing nerves.

Also, during this worrying stage, Louth goalkeeper Donal Connolly was forced into action just before he was gladly made to retake a wayward puck out after uncharacteristically finding a blue jersey.

But Louth dug deep with Darren Geoghegan duly dispatching the monkey of his sides back by converting a free he cleverly won himself. Therefore, sealing a place in this year's Lory Meagher final.

Louth: Donal Connolly; Matthew Fee, Ronan Byrne, Conor Mathews; Liam Molloy 0-1, Jamie McDonnell, Andrew McCrave, Fiedhelm Joyce 0-1, Niall Keenan; Seanie Crosbie, Ryan Walsh 0-1, David Kettle 0-2; Paul Mathews 0-2, Andrew Mackin 1-0, Darren Geoghegan 0-7(6f). Subs: Gavin Kerrigan 0-1 for Mackin (42), James Costelloe for Crosbie (49), Peter Fortune for Joyce (62), Conor Deane for Walsh (68).

Cavan - Darren Sheridan; Bart Nannery, Dominic Crudden, Caolan Kelly; Anthony Sheridan, Enda Shalvey, Fred Williams; Colum Sheanon, Matthew Hynes; Diarmuid Carney, Fiachra Hughes 0-1, Sean Keating 0-2; Philip Brady 0-1, Brian Fitzgerald 0-11 (10f 165'), Cillian Sheahan 0-1. Subs Sean McGeough for Hughes (ht), Darragh Madden for Nannery (40), Gary O'Rourke for Hynes (74).

Referee: Colm McDonald (Antrim)



*Convention 2020*

## Lory Meagher Cup Final

Louth 2-19 Fermanagh 2-8

Relentless Louth ground out Lory Meagher Cup success over Fermanagh, pulling away in the second half with an impressive eleven point margin. Andrew Mackin's two goal after both water break restarts proved decisive. Early possession edged towards Fermanagh and it would remain in their favour throughout the opening sequence. Louth goalkeeper Donal Connolly caught the first effort on goal over his crossbar and from that resultant play, Darren Geoghegan opened his account from a free.

Fermanagh soon levelled from a sublime Tom Keenan effort but the game entered a scrappy phase with both sides tallying three wides a piece. Both sides would go point for point with Louth pulling back each time through David Kettle and Feidhelm Joyce. Joe Baldwin's side struck a massive blow before the first half water break when John Duffy fired a well taken penalty to the net. The penalty provided deserved daylight for the Ulster side but the timing of the goal was kind to Louth.

After the break Louth regrouped and Andrew Mackin found the net. The full forward also scored a goal the last time Louth played in the Lory Meagher final. Mackin forced his way past four Fermanagh defenders before kicking low to the net. With that surge in confidence Louth stormed into half time, much the better side. Geoghegan and Kettle added to their tallies either side of dual player Paul Mathews effort. Three unanswered scores saw Louth lead 1-06 to 1-03 at half time. Right upon the resumption, Fermanagh substitute Ciarán Corrigan levelled the game with a devastating goal from the throw in. Corrigan took off on an arcing run along the end line to bat past Connolly. Conor McShea quickly followed up with a lead point. Louth responded through Niall Keenan, the Roscommon native playing in midfield whipped over a point along the empty Cusack stand. Geoghegan added three more free's to push Louth back in front. When talented Louth substitute Ryan Walsh came off the bench to find the target with his first touch the Lory Meagher Cup looked to be going only one way. Mathews pushed Louth's lead out to four at the second half water break.

Once again, Mackin, was the quickest amongst his peers, burying his second goal after cleverly linking up with his forty yards man Joyce. With that major the game was decided. To Fermanagh's credit, John and Caolan Duffy did try in vain to get their side going with scores but despite replacement Darren O'Hanrahan seeing red, the wee county had too much, Geoghegan piled on free after free and aptly closed out the game with his ninth free.



*Convention 2020*

**Louth:** Donal Connolly; Matthew Fee, Ronan Byrne, Liam Molloy; Conor Deane (0-01), Jamie McDonnell, Andrew McCrave; Niall Keenan (0-01), James Costelloe; Darren Geoghegan (0-09, 0-09f), Feidhelm Joyce (0-01), Seanie Crosbie; Paul Mathews (0-02), Andrew Mackin (2-01), David Kettle (0-02).

**Subs used:** Darren O'Hanrahan for Costelloe (39) Ryan Walsh (0-01) for Kettle (43) , Pádraig Fallon (0-01)for Joyce (58), Gavin Kerrigan for Paul Mathews (54), Shane Callan for Keenan (68).

**Fermanagh:** Mark Curry; Ciarán Duffy Andrew Breslin, Aidan Flanagan; Rory Porteous, Daniel Teague, Francis McBrien; Conor McShea (0-01), Dylan Bannon, Caolan Duffy (0-01), Mark Slevin, John Duffy (1-03, 0-03f, 1-00pen); Tom Keenan (0-01), Seán Corrigan (0-01, 0-01f), Ciarán Corrigan (1-01).

**Subs used:** Barry McPhillips for S Corrigan (24) John Paul McGarry for Bannon (ht), Luca McCusker for Slevin (45) Shea Curran for Flanagan (54), Adam McShea for T Keenan (69).

**Referee:** Gearóid McGrath (Wexford)

**Under 20 Football**  
**Leo Murphy Cup**

**Down 2-14 Louth 1-6L**

Louth U20s suffered defeat in their opening Leo Murphy Cup match on Saturday afternoon as Down prevailed convincingly in Burren. The Reds got off to an ideal start in the affair with a goal from Ciarán Keenan helping them to lead 1-1 to no-score early on. Hopes, thus, were high that manager Aidan Shevlin could record his first win since taking the reins last year, but a physically stronger home side began to impose their advantage and a pair of three-pointers in quick succession left The Wee County trailing 2-6 to 1-3 at half-time. Captain Ciarán McMahon and Carl Gillespie were among the team's point-scorers prior to the changing of ends. The second half was a different story, though, as Down eased to a comprehensive victory which leaves Louth needing a win against Tyrone on Saturday (Darver, 2pm) if they're to retain any hope of progressing from the group.





*Convention 2020*

Louth: Cillian Rice (Clan na Gael); Ciarán Murphy (St. Patrick's), Peter Lynch (Roche Emmets), Conor Garland (St. Mochta's); Tom Jackson (Ardee St. Mary's), Donal McKenny (Ardee St. Mary's), Alan Connor (Newtown Blues); Conor Quigley (Kilkerley Emmets), Evan Whelan (Naomh Máirtín); Glen Stewart (Roche Emmets), Dáire Nally (Newtown Blues), Nathan Sutherland (Dreadnots); Carl Gillespie (Ardee St. Mary's), Ciarán McMahon (St Mochta's), Ciarán Keenan (Ardee St. Mary's) Listed subs: Joe Gordon (Naomh Máirtín), Seán Healy (Naomh Máirtín), Craig Shevlin (Dreadnots), Ben Collier (St. Joseph's), Craig Lennon (St. Mochta's), Kieran Murtagh (Kilkerley Emmets), Luke Matthews (Ardee St. Mary's), Conall McCaul (St. Joseph's), Joe Mee (Cooley Kickhams), Jay Crawley (Ardee St. Mary's), Tiernan Corrigan (Ardee St. Mary's), Adam Hanratty (Naomh Fionnbarra), Alex Finnegan (St. Nicholas), Jonathan Commins (Ardee St. Mary's), Niall Brady (Cooley Kickhams), Martin McEneaney (St. Patrick's)

Leo Murphy Cup

Louth 1-7 Tyrone 0-7

Conall McCaul's goal proved decisive as Louth weekend out a confidence-boosting victory on a freezing cold and wet Saturday afternoon in Darver. St. Joseph's man McCaul was one of several changes made by Aidan Shevlin from the previous week's defeat by Down, in a bid to give players as many minutes as possible. And there were several performances that would have certainly impressed the manager; not least McCaul, who finished with 1-2. The Roche Emmets duo of Peter Lynch and Glen Stewart worked tirelessly, while Tom Jackson, younger brother of Louth inter-county panel member Liam, finished with 23 possessions over the 60 minutes. Ben Collier also put in a commendable shift following his introduction. Playing into a tumultuous wind in that opening half, it took 25 minutes for Tyrone to register a white flag, which came from half-back Cathal Colton, and at that stage Louth had 1-5 on the board, with McCaul collecting a sideline ball from Luke Mathews before drilling low past Mark McGale. Carl Gillespie, Ciarán McMahon and Mathews also found the range as Louth played some wonderful football during this dominant period. A seven-point lead at half-time did not flatter Louth, but it could have been so much bigger had they been a little more economical; having kicked six wides and dropped one short amid the first 30 minutes, which could have proven costly.

**STRONG RESTART**

The Reds scored the opening two points after the restart, through Gillespie and McCaul, but The Wee County would not score again as Tyrone dominated the next 25 minutes. They lacked guile, though, converting 0-6 from 13 shots, while Ronan Duffin hit the butt of the post, much to the relief of the home support.



*Convention 2020*

Substitute Tom Donaghy's sideline free deceived everybody and bounced over the bar with Louth hearts in mouths, before Lorcan McBride broke free of the defence, only to be denied by Martin McEneaney, who stood firm to keep the effort out.

McBride's physical presence continued to carry the fight to Louth, who admirably held firm, with Lynch, Jackson and Donal McKenny excelling to secure an opening win of 2020, ahead of Saturday's visit to Antrim.

Louth: Martin McEneaney (St. Patrick's); Donal McKenny (Ardee St. Mary's), Peter Lynch (Roche Emmets), Bobby Butterly (Stabannon Parnells); Ciarán Murtagh (Kilkerley Emmets), Ciarán Murphy (St. Patrick's), Tom Jackson (Ardee St. Mary's); Glen Stewart (Roche Emmets), Evan Whelan (Naomh Máirtín); Conall McCaul (St. Joseph's; 1-2), Ciarán Keenan (Ardee St. Mary's), Seán Healy (Naomh Máirtín); Luke Mathews (Ardee St. Mary's; 0-1), Ciarán McMahon (St. Mochta's; 0-1), Carl Gillespie (Ardee St. Mary's; 0-3, one free)

Subs: Conor Garland (St. Mochta's) for Healy (40), Ben Collier (St. Joseph's) for Murtagh (42), Conor Quigley (Kilkerley Emmets) for Whelan (44), Jay Crawley (Ardee St. Mary's) for Butterly (50), Nathan Sutherland (Dreadnots) for Mathews (50)

Tyrone: Mark McGale; Ronan Hollywood, Mathew McCusker (0-1), Conor Ward; Tiarnan Colhoun, Antoin Fox, Cathal Colton (0-1); Joe Oguz, Lorcan McBride; Ruairi Slane, Mathew Murnaghan, Cormac Monroe; Eunan Devlin, Ethan Jordan (0-1), Ronan Duffin

Subs: Neil Kilpatrick (0-1) for Colhoun (15), Cormac Quinn (0-1) for Ward (22), Aaron Montgomery for Slane (35), Liam Gray (0-1) for Duffin (43), James McCann for Colton (45), Tom Donaghy (0-1, free) for Monroe (48)

Referee: Margaret Farrelly (Cavan)

U20 Leo Murphy Cup

Antrim 1-10 Louth 1-12

Louth sensationally booked a place in the Leo Murphy Cup final on Saturday, their victory over Antrim in Dunsilly, coupled with the drawn clash of Tyrone and Down, earning The Reds a shot at Mayo next weekend. The qualifying win was hugely impressive on a number of levels, not least given Aidan Shevlin's side found themselves trailing by two points entering the dying embers, having led by a half-dozen at the interval.



*Convention 2020*

Antrim were, ultimately, much improved in the second half and when their goal eventually came, The Saffrons were totally on top as Louth struggled for relief. Not that the match referee was aidful of the visitors, with a string of hugely questionable decisions going in favour of the Ulster side.

The whistler's most contentious spell gifted Rory Brolly, son of former Derry star Joe, the chance to give Antrim the lead for the first time amid the closing quarter. As Louth pleaded for a decision in the aftermath of a midfield incident, a delivery into Brolly saw him call for a mark, standing still with his arm raised. But with the pass having come from within Louth's 45-metre line, and thus not worthy of the benefit of the new rule, the Antrim forward raced from his static position, overcarried and yet somehow was still the recipient of a free. He missed his kick, but the man in the middle gave him another opportunity after deeming Nathan Sutherland to have been too close. Such bizarre episodes were commonplace and Louth continually on the brunt end. Minutes later, the match appeared to be gone from The Wee County, trailing 1-10 to 1-8, but after Antrim lost players to red (for a strike) and black cards, Louth upped the ante, with Conall McCaul and Ciarán Keenan, the winners' outstanding forward duo, contributing significantly to the turnaround. A victory which was deserved on the balance of a titanic hour's football, Tom Jackson was another of the Louth heroes and it was the Ardee player's powerful, 21-yard drive which delivered his team's goal, on the eve of the interval. It must also be said that the triumph was in spite of captain Ciarán McMahon's injury-enforced absence. Should he recover in time for the encounter with Mayo, The Reds will have a good cut at garnering welcome silverware.

Louth: Martin McEneaney (St. Patrick's); Donal McKenny (Ardee St. Mary's), Peter Lynch (Roche Emmets), Gerry Garland (St. Mochta's); Kieran Murtagh (Kilkerley Emmets), Ciarán Murphy (St. Patrick's), Tom Jackson (Ardee St. Mary's; 1-0); Glen Stewart (Roche Emmets), Seán Healy (Naomh Máirtín; 0-1); Conall McCaul (St. Joseph's; 0-3), Ciarán Keenan (Ardee St. Mary's; 0-3), Darragh Malone (Lannléire); Ben Collier (St. Joseph's), Luke Matthews (Ardee St. Mary's; 0-2, one free), Carl Gillespie (Ardee St. Mary's; 0-3 frees) Subs: Dáire Nally (Newtown Blues) for Malone, Craig Lennon (St. Mochta's) for Collier, Craig Shevlin (Dreadnots) for Matthews, Pierce Hawkins (Lannléire) for Healy, Nathan Sutherland (Dreadnots) for Murtagh



*Convention 2020*

## Leo Murphy Cup final

Louth 0-8 Mayo 2-17

Louth's Leo Murphy Cup bid came up short in Saturday's final in Carrick-on-Shannon despite a spirited effort by Aidan Shevlin's team.

The Wee County trailed throughout a game in which they conceded two second half goals, as Mayo pressed home their superiority at Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada to convincingly prevail. An early point from Craig Lennon kept The Reds in touch, and following a burst which returned scores for Lennon, Ciarán Keenan and Ben Collier, the gap was back to just two. But five of the half's closing six points were registered by the Connacht side, with Darragh Malone, who came off the bench before half-time, shooting Louth's sole effort.

Trailing 0-11 to five at the interval, Frank Irwin struck a killer goal for Mayo in the early stages of the second period as hopes of a Louth victory dissipated. Conall McCaul - a star of The Wee County's victories over Tyrone and Antrim in recent weeks - and substitute Carl Gillespie brought The Reds' tally to seven, while Lennon added his third of a decent individual display. But Mayo were rampant, Kuba Callaghan hitting the winners' second major shortly after coming on.

Louth: Martin McEneaney (St. Patrick's); Donal McKenny (Ardee St. Mary's), Peter Lynch (Roche Emmets), Conor Garland (St. Mochta's); Kieran Murtagh (Kilkerley Emmets), Ciarán Murphy (St. Patrick's), Alan Connor (Newtown Blues); Glen Stewart (Roche Emmets), Pierce Hawkins (Lannléire); Conall McCaul (St. Joseph's; 0-1), Ciarán Keenan (Ardee St. Mary's; 0-1), Dáire Nally (Newtown Blues); Craig Lennon (St. Mochta's; 0-3), Ben Collier (St. Joseph's; 0-1), Seán Healy (Naomh Máirtín)

Subs: Evan Whelan (Naomh Máirtín) for Hawkins, Darragh Malone (Lannléire; 0-1) for Murtagh, Carl Gillespie (Ardee, St. Mary's; 0-1) for Healy, Ronan McBride (Cooley Kickhams) for Garland, Jonathan Commins (Ardee St. Mary's) for Lennon

Mayo: Jamie McNicholas; Jack Coyne (0-1), David McBrien, Luke Tunney; Aaron McDonnell, Rory Brickenden, Enda Hession; Paddy Goldrick (0-1), Jack Carney; Ciarán Gavin (0-1), Frank Irwin (1-1), Aaron McHale; James Jennings (0-1), Mark Moran (0-4), Paul Towey (0-8)

Subs: Leo Howard for Brickenden, Mikie Conroy for McHale, Kuba Callaghan (1-0) for Jennings, Aiden Cosgrove for Hession, John Gallagher for Irwin



*Convention 2020*

## Leinster U20 Championship

### Louth 0-9 Offaly 2-6

The record still stands - Louth are yet to win a championship match at U20 level, after three years.

And of all the four outings in that time, failure to prevail here is likely the hardest to stomach given The Reds dominated the affair possession-wise. But the concession of two slack goals, either side of half-time, proved hugely significant in the overall context of a game played in harsh conditions.

Had Daniel Corcoran and Liam Jackson been made available by the senior management, the outcome may have been different, though Offaly, you can be guaranteed, didn't field a full complement either. The simple fact is that Louth had enough of this game to win - that they didn't was of their own making. A stiff breeze whirled into the road-end goals of Páirc Uí Mhuiri and, ruefully, Aidan Shevlin's charges failed to capitalise during the opening half, scoring a mere six points, whereas The Faithful managed 1-5 after the break.

Seán Courtney, Offaly's Bomberesque full-forward, bagged the match's only majors. Louth had been in total control, opening with three points to no-reply, when a brisk move by the Midlanders caught the home backline cold, Courtney taking possession on the way to goal before directing Martin McEneaney the wrong way.

Having had all of the play, it took The Reds some time to recover their composure from the body blow, with five of their 10 wides overall coming over a wasteful spell prior to Carl Gillespie, who gave an impressive individual account, establishing a two-point advantage at the halfway juncture, 0-6 to 1-1. So sharp was the Ardee man that it was a major surprise to see his withdrawal towards the close, at a time where Louth were in need of a clinical presence in front of the target. Clearly, Offaly held pole position at the turnaround, considering the gust and their more cohesive play, though The Wee County resumed positively, with Gillespie extending the gap from a free. However, by the time Louth would next score, Gillespie adding just the team's third point from play, their hopes of victory had faded extremely, Courtney's second goal, a flick of a hopeful punt, deflating the home outfit's challenge.





*Convention 2020*

Aaron Kellaghan, son of former Offaly star Pascal, subsequently put The Faithful ahead and when Cathal Flynn followed it, the gap was two and Louth were staring at a hapless exit.

Yet they summoned a late push, albeit lacking the sort of ingenuity required to truly threaten Offaly's position of command. Powerful runners were needed and the directness of Craig Lennon, with Ciarán Keenan, brought life to Louth's play, which poses an obvious question: Why was the St. Mochta's man not introduced much, much earlier?

It's just one of many, all too familiar talking points.

**Louth:** Martin McEneaney (St. Patrick's); Donal McKenny (Ardee St. Mary's), Peter Lynch (Roche Emmets), Bobby Butterly (Stabannon Parnells); Alan Connor (Newtown Blues), Ciarán Murphy (St. Patrick's), Tom Jackson (Ardee St. Mary's); Conor Quigley (Kilkerley Emmets), Evan Whelan (Naomh Máirtín); Dáire Nally (Newtown Blues), Ciarán Keenan (0-1, free; Ardee St. Mary's), Conall McCaul (St. Joseph's); Carl Gillespie (Ardee St. Mary's; 0-6, one mark & two frees), Glen Stewart (Roche Emmets), Luke Matthews (0-2, one free; Ardee St. Mary's)

**Subs:** Seán Healy (Naomh Máirtín) for Quigley (HT), Ben Collier (St. Joseph's) for Whelan (40), Craig Lennon (St. Mochta's) for Gillespie (56), Craig Shevlin (Dreadnots) for Lynch (58), Darragh Malone (Lannléire) for McCaul

**Offaly:** Seán O'Toole; Fionn Dempsey, Adam Bolger, Clive Keena; Lee Pearson, Aidan Bracken, Aaron Brazil; Bill Carroll, Cathal Donoghue; Cathal Flynn (0-1), Cormac Delaney (0-1), Kevin McDermott; Mikey Cunningham (0-1), Seán Courtney (2-0), Aaron Kellaghan (0-3, one free)

**Sub:** Seán Flynn for Delaney (49)

**Referee:** Barry Tiernan (Dublin)



*Convention 2020*

## Leinster Minor Football Championship

Louth 0-15 Wexford 1-6

Any victory in the Leinster Minor Championship provides a feel-good factor, and this six-point win over Wexford was no different as Louth set up a quarter-final date with Kildare on Wednesday week.

Overall, it was a deserved victory as the young Reds were in the driving seat for the majority of the game and outscored Wexford by 0-8 to 0-1 in the second half. Nine of Louth's final tally of 0-15 came from inside forwards Kyle McElroy and Tom Mathews who were lively throughout. O'Raghallaighs attacker McElroy finished with 0-7 from nine shots over the hour and the inside duo nicked late points to ensure Louth led at the break by 0-7 to 0-5.

Louth were leading by 0-5 to 0-2 after 16 minutes with 0-2 coming from Kyle McElroy with Lee Grifferty and Tom Mathews also finding their range. The pick of the scores came from Cameron Maher with a superb strike from distance.

Louth were in control at this point, winning seven from nine on their own kick out in that opening half, with Lee Grifferty (22 possessions), Beanon Corrigan and Brian Cafferty foraging hard. Defenders Ruairi O'Hagan, Con O'Donoghue and Cian Murphy made life very difficult for Wexford forwards, while Paul Brennan provided wonderful leadership from number six, flanked either side by Jamie Lee and Cameron Maher.

After the water break, Wexford stepped things up, kicking a hat-trick of points through Rian Fitzpatrick and Michael Mackey (f), while a Jack Higgins strike bounced over the bar to level things up at 0-5 each after 23 minutes.

Louth's tactic of kicking as early as possible into Tom Mathews worked again, as Jamie Lee found the St Kevin's man who kicked over on the run to restore Louth's lead, before another point from Kyle McElroy following decent approach play by Fionn Meagher and Cian Murphy, gave the Wee County a two-point cushion at the interval. Louth would surely have been disappointed to let that early superiority slip. Some poor use of possession led them to being turned over 18 times in that opening period, which meant that despite being wasteful in front of the posts themselves,

Wexford were still in the contest. Kyle McElroy and Michael Mackey traded scores after the restart, and it seemed that it would continue to be tight, however, Wexford failed to score again until stoppage time as Louth pushed on, winning seven from 13 Wexford second half kick outs.



*Convention 2020*

Paul Brennan kicked over an inspirational point and it appeared to provide the impetus for Louth as Aaron Hoey's side scored six points in a row to all but seal a place in the quarter-finals with Kyle McElroy continuing to find his range with four second-half points.

Enda O'Neill, whose influence grew as the game progressed, finishing with 21 possessions in the match converted a free, while sub Sean Reynolds made a noticeable impact from the bench, striking beautifully over the bar from long range, and turning over the opposition twice, with excellent tracking back.

Wexford were awarded a penalty late on, which was converted by Rian Fitzpatrick, a goal which his own performance merited, however another Louth sub Cian Connor had the final say, raising a white flag as Louth prevailed by six to progress in the Leinster Championship.

Louth will need to improve their shooting, having only scored 0-8 from 18 shots from open play. They fared better on placed balls, kicking 0-7 from eight free kicks.

Louth: Dylan Cassidy; Ruairi O'Hagan, Con O'Donoghue, Cian Murphy; Cameron Maher 0-1, Paul Brennan 0-1, Jamie Lee; Brian Cafferty, Beanon Corrigan; Lee Grifferty 0-1 (1f), Fionn Meagher, Enda O'Neill 0-1 (1f); Calum O'Hanlon, Tom Mathews 0-2, Kyle McElroy 0-7 (3f, 1 mark). Subs: Cian Connor 0-1 for O'Hanlon (34), Sean Reynolds 0-1 for Grifferty (B/Sub) (44), Leigh Grifferty for Meagher (48), Sean Flanagan for O'Hagan (58).

Wexford: Rory Tubritt; Conor Lyne, Leigh Newport, Conor Kelly; Brian Cushe, Rian Fitzpatrick 1-1 (1 pen), Corben Brown; David Hennebry, Sean Hughes; Conor Murphy, Alan Mahoney 0-1 (1f), Jack Higgins 0-1; Cian Hughes, Saul McGirr, Michael Mackey 0-3 (3f). Subs: Liam Doyle for Mahoney (HT), Kyle Rankin for McGirr (37), Shane Culleton for Hennebry (41), Bill Peare for Higgins (54), Luke Darley for Murphy (57).

Referee: Seamus Farrelly.



*Convention 2020*

## CLUB COMPETITIONS

As we approached the mid-year point, the number of Covid-19 cases were thankfully decreasing and there was a slight glimmer of hope as the Government and the Public Health Authorities relaxed the restrictions. On this note, the GAA Association provided guidance to all clubs for the safe return to action in July. This was most welcome news and all clubs took to the task as they endeavoured to make their facilities Covid-19 ready for the safe return of players and spectators to their grounds.

The work that was carried out by all clubs and their volunteers in ensuring that all protocols were followed was excellent and all training and games could go ahead in a safe manner.

Our return to play started out with games in the leagues and when we broke for the Club Championships the excitement kicked in throughout the county.

In the Senior Football Championship Naomh Mairtin lifted the Joe Ward cup for the first time in their history after been beaten in the previous two finals. The men from Monasterboice played some excellent football throughout the Championship. In the final they came up another form team in Ardee St Marys who themselves were in fine form throughout the championship and with a very youthful side I have no doubt they will be lifting the Joe Ward cup in the not too distant future.

The Intermediate Football Championship, what a year it turned out to be for St Brides. The men from Knockbridge waited a long time to lift the Seamus Flood cup and what a performance they put in, in the final. Coming up against the free scoring Kilkerley side the men from Knockbridge were deserving winners on the day.

Naomh Fionnbarra made a swift return to the Intermediate ranks following their relegation in 2019. They started the year as favourites for the Junior football championship but were ran very close by the up and coming Lannleire team.

Knockbridge HC reclaimed the Paddy Kelly cup and made it a remarkable double for the parish. With a mixture of youth and experience they played top class hurling throughout the year.

A huge well done to all the Players, management teams and club officials who made our club championships possible.



*Convention 2020*

## **Anchor Tours Senior Football Championship – Group Results**

### **Date Stage Result Venue**

16th August 2020 Round 1 St Patricks 1-10 O'Raghallaighs 1-10 Páirc Naomh Bríd, Dowdallshill

16th August 2020 Round 1 Dundalk Gaels 0-17 O'Connells 0-9 Páirc Mhuire, Ardee

16th August 2020 Round 1 St Mochtas 1-13 Dreadnots 0-16 Páirc Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer

16th August 2020 Round 1 Newtown Blues 2-12 Mattock Rangers 2-10 Gaelic Grounds Drogheda

23rd August 2020 Round 2 St Josephs 2-9 Dundalk Gaels 2-6 Darver

23rd August 2020 Round 2 Ardee St Marys 1-12 Newtown Blues 0-14 Darver

23rd August 2020 Round 2 Naomh Mairtin 2-15 Dreadnots 0-7 Darver

25th August 2020 Round 2 O'Raghallaighs 2-11 Geraldines 2-11

Round 3 Naomh Mairtin 1-13 St Mochtas 1-11 Darver 30th August 2020

Round 3 Ardee St Marys 4-15 Mattock Rangers 0-20 Darver 30th August 2020

Round 3 St Josephs 0-13 O'Connells 0-10 Darver 30th August 2020

Round 3 St Patricks 2-14 O'Raghallaighs 1-10 Darver 30th August 2020

## **Anchor Tours Senior Football Championship – Knockout Stages Date Stage Result Venue**

6th September 2020 Q/Final Newtown Blues St Josephs Darver

6th September 2020 Q/Final St Mochtas 1-15 St Patricks 1-11 Darver

6th September 2020 Q/Final Naomh Mairtin 4-12 Dundalk Gaels 0-6 Darver

6th September 2020 Q/Final Ardee St Marys 4-15 Geraldines 3-11 Darver

20th September 2020 Semi Final Naomh Mairtin 4-16 St Mochtas 2-11 Páirc Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer

20th September 2020 Semi Final Ardee St Marys 1-13 Newtown Blues 0-13 Darver

27th September 2020 Final Naomh Mairtin 1-13 Ardee St Marys 1-9 Darver





*Convention 2020*

## **Anchor Tours Senior Football Championship – Relegation Play-Offs**

### **Date Stage Result Venue**

**13th September 2020 Semi Final Mattock Rangers 0-14 Dreadnots 1-10 Darver**

**13th September 2020 Semi Final O'Connells 3-9 O'Raghallaighs 1-10 Darver**

**18th September 2020 Final Dreadnots 3-17 O'Raghallaighs 3-6 Darver**

## **CTI Business Solutions Intermediate Football Championship –**

### **Group Results Date Stage Result Venue**

**15th August 2020 Round 1 Hunterstown Rovers 1-10 Dundalk Young Irelands 0-12 The Grove**

**15th August 2020 Round 1 Clan Na Gael 5-11 Oliver Plunketts 0-12 Páirc Uí Mhuirí, Dunleer**

**15th August 2020 Round 1 St Fechins 1-17 Glen Emmets 1-11 Gaelic Grounds**

**15th August 2020 Round 1 St Brides 0-11 St Kevins 1-6 Darver**

**22nd August 2020 Round 2 Hunterstown Rovers 1-10 Cooley Kickhams 0-9 Darver**

**22nd August 2020 Round 2 St Brides 2-15 Roche Emmets 0-7 Darver**

**22nd August 2020 Round 2 Kilkerley Emmets 0-21 Clan Na Gael 0-16 Darver**

**22nd August 2020 Round 2 Sean O'Mahonys 0-13 St Fechins 0-11 Darver**

**29th August 2020 Round 3 Sean O'Mahonys 3-13 Glen Emmets 1-11 Darver**

**29th August 2020 Round 3 Dundalk Young Irelands 0-9 Cooley Kickhams 1-3 Darver**

**29th August 2020 Round 3 Kilkerley Emmets 1-13 Oliver Plunketts 2-8 Darver**

**29th August 2020 Round 3 Roche Emmets 2-9 St Kevins 1-12 Darver**

## **CTI Business Solutions Intermediate Football Championship –**

### **Knockout Stages Date Stage Result Venue**

**5th September 2020 Q/Final St Fechins 0-12 Hunterstown Rovers 0-8 Darver**

**5th September 2020 Q/Final Sean O'Mahonys 1-12 Clan Na Gael 1-12 Darver**

**5th September 2020 Q/Final St Brides 0-11 Dundalk Young Irelands 0-5 Darver**

**5th September 2020 Q/Final Kilkerley Emmets 1-23 St Kevins 1-12 Darver**

**19th September 2020 Semi Final Kilkerley Emmets 2-15 St Fechins 0-15 Darver**

**20th September 2020 Semi Final St Brides Sean O'Mahonys Darver**

**26th September 2020 Final St Brides 1-21 Kilkerley Emmets 1-8 Darver**



*Convention 2020*

### CTI Business Solutions Intermediate Football Championship – Relegation Play-Offs

**Date Stage Result Venue**

12th September 2020 Semi Final Cooley Kickhams 1-10 Oliver Plunketts 0-7 Darver

12th September 2020 Semi Final Roche Emmets 0-13 Glen Emmets 0-11 Darver

19th September 2020 Final Oliver Plunketts 0-12 Glen Emmets 1-8 Gaelic Grounds Drogheda

### Anglo Printers Junior Football Championship – Group Results

**Date Stage Result Venue**

14th August 2020 Round 1 Sean McDermotts 0-17 Cuchulainn Gaels 2-9 Clan Na Gael Park

14th August 2020 Round 1 Naomh Fionnbarra 2-18 Naomh Malachi 0-4 Páirc Uí Mhuirí,  
Dunleer

14th August 2020 Round 1 Glyde Rangers 4-21 Dowdallshill 0-3 The Grove

17th August 2020 Round 1 Wolfe Tones 1-12 Stabannon Parnells 0-9 Páirc Mochta

17th August 2020 Round 1 John Mitchels 3-10 St Nicholas 3-5 Stabannon

17th August 2020 Round 1 Na Piarsaigh 1-13 Westerns 0-10 Darver

21st August 2020 Round 2 Naomh Malachi 0-13 Stabannon Parnells 0-7 Cluskey Park

21st August 2020 Round 2 Lannleire 3-6 Glyde Rangers 1-5 Darver

23rd August 2020 Round 3 Naomh Fionnbarra 0-13 Wolfe Tones 0-10 Darver

24th August 2020 Round 3 John Mitchels 3-11 Na Piarsaigh 2-11 Darver

24th August 2020 Round 3 Westerns 3-10 St Nicholas 1-6 Darver

25th August 2020 Round 3 Annaghminnon Rovers 1-10 Sean McDermotts 2-6 Darver

28th August 2020 Round 3 Lannleire 3-21 Dowdallshill 1-7 Darver

28th August 2020 Round 3 Naomh Fionnbarra 3-14 Stabannon Parnells 1-2 Stabannon

28th August 2020 Round 3 Wolfe Tones 2-9 Naomh Malachi 0-9 Darver

30th August 2020 Round 3 Annaghminnon Rovers 5-5 Cuchulainn Gaels 2-13 Darver

31st August 2020 Round 3 John Mitchels 2-14 Westerns 1-6 Darver

31st August 2020 Round 3 Na Piarsaigh 3-17 St Nicholas 0-10 Páirc Baile Fiach



*Convention 2020*

## Anglo Printers Junior Football Championship – Knockout Stages

**Date Stage Result Venue**

4th September 2020 Q/Final Glyde Rangers 0-15 Annaghminnon Rovers 1-5 Darver

4th September 2020 Q/Final Lannleire 1-8 Wolfe Tones 0-6 Darver

5th September 2020 Q/Final John Mitchels 3-7 Sean McDermotts 2-5 The Grove

5th September 2020 Q/Final Naomh Fionnbarra 0-19 Na Piarsaigh 3-10 -NF Win The Grove

22nd August 2020 Semi-Final Naomh Fionnbarra 1-9 John Mitchels 1-6 Darver

22nd August 2020 Semi-Final Lannleire 1-11 Glyde Rangers 0-8 Pairc Mhuire Ardee

26th September 2020 Final Naomh Fionnbarra 3-7 Lannleire 2-7

**Anchor Tours Senior Hurling Championship – Group Results**  
**Date Stage Result Venue**

20th August 2020 Round 1 Knockbridge 0-11 St Fechins 1-5 Darver

27th August 2020 Round 1 Knockbridge 2-19 Naomh Moninne 1-10 Darver

3rd September 2020 Round 2 St Fechins 4-18 Naomh Moninne 0-14 Darver

**Anchor Tours Senior Hurling Championship – Final**  
**Date Stage Result Venue**  
3rd October 2020 Final Knockbridge 3-16 St Fechins 2-14 Darver

## **Roll of Honour**

Senior Hurling Championship – Knockbridge HC

Senior Football Championship – Naomh Mairtin

Intermediate Football Championship – St Brides

Junior Football Championship – Naomh Fionnbarra

Minor Football Championship – Cooley Kickhams/Cuchulainn Gaels

Under 16 Football Championship – Mattock Rangers / Hunterstown Rovers

Under 16 Football League – Mattock Rangers / Hunterstown Rovers

Under 14 Football Championship – Ardee St Marys

Under 14 Football League – Newtown Blues

Is mise

Roibeard ó Duchonna,

Bob Doheny,

Rúnaí,

Coiste Chontae Lú.



*Convention 2020*

## **Darver Report**

In a year that we will all never forget but wish we could the Centre has never been busier or more important. It has been a home and training hub to all our Senior & Underage teams in Football, Hurling, Ladies Football, and Camogie teams and a safe place to meet for our committees. We have seen nearly 100 club games played both Football & Hurling and at all grades in the space of a few months. If there was ever a question about how important Darver is in the lifeblood of Louth GAA, 2020 has forever answered that.

You've heard of a 'Game of Two Halves' well, we had the 'Game of Two Pitches'. I wonder has it ever happen anywhere in the country that a Senior Championship game started on one pitch and was finished on another. That's one for the Pub Quiz in years to come.

**Ongoing works.**

Upgrade plans for the walking track are well advanced and we hope to begin work in the new year. The project under the stewardship of David Rogers & Sean McClean plans to do resurfacing work as well as add much-needed lighting along the 1.5Km track. In addition, it is planned to install drinking water stations at several points along the walk. We are also looking at providing an automated gate system to allow easier public access to the track.

A huge thanks has to go to John Byrne and all his groundsmen who performed miracles at times to get pitches ready for the Championship. We had up to 5 games per day at times and it took some amazing coordination to ensure the smooth running of this program. Again some serious credit must go to Bob Doheny, Francie McMullen, Sean McClean, Stephen Murphy, Aidan Berrill and his gate crew, Mark Byrne and the team behind LúTV plus all the local Media. Thanks to the local Garda from Ardee, Louth & Dundalk for their assistance, Thanks also to Simon Fagan and Jason Hoey for running the show as usual.



*Convention 2020*

To Fra Kierans, John Kerr, Martin Molloy and all the Stewards of course thank you all for your help. To Denis McArdle and our Referees thank you for a thankless job. Finally, on behalf of everyone involved in Darver and running the championships a sincere 'Thank You' to all the clubs, officials, mentors, players, and supporters. Your cooperation and assistance on match day made a difficult situation much easier to handle. If I've forgotten anyone I Thank You and I apologise.

We hope not to see you all back again for the 2021 Championship. Please God, we'll be back in our fantastic club grounds by then, but if it's needed Darver won't let us down.

--

Regards

Declan Byrne

Darver Committee Chairman



[www.louthgaa.ie](http://www.louthgaa.ie)



# Louth GAA Financial Report 2020



**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Report & Financial Statements for**  
**Year Ended 31st October 2020**

**FLC Frank Lynch & Co**  
**Statutory Auditors & Chartered Certified Accountants**  
**Avoca House**  
**28-31 Seatown Place**  
**Dundalk**  
**Co. Louth**

**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

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**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Management Committee and Other Information**

**Management Committee**

Peter Fitzpatrick (Chairman)  
Bob Doheny (Secretary)  
Aidan Berrill (Treasurer)  
Sean McClean  
Fra Kieran  
Aidan Halpin  
Mark Byrne  
Derek Crilly  
Dermot Clarke  
Pat Toner  
Padraic O'Connor  
Declan Byrne  
Clodagh McClean  
David Rogers  
Maurice Murphy

**Committee Secretary**

Bob Doheny

**Business Address**

Darver  
Co. Louth

**Auditors**

FLC Frank Lynch & Co  
Statutory Auditors & Chartered Certified  
Accountants  
Avoca House  
28 - 31 Seatown Place  
Dundalk  
Co. Louth

**Bankers**

Bank of Ireland  
Drogheda  
Co. Louth

**Solicitors**

JC Kieran & Son  
Ardee  
Co. Louth

**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Management Committee Report**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

The management committee present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st October 2020.

**Principal Activity**

The board continues to manage & promote the development of gaelic games in County Louth.

**Results**

The surplus for the year after providing for depreciation amounted to €41,130 (2019 - €164,720).

**Management Committee**

The current committee officers are as set out on page 1.

**Auditors**

The auditors, FLC Frank Lynch & Co, have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

**Accounting Records**

To ensure that proper books and accounting records are kept, the management committee have employed accounting personnel and maintained appropriate accounting systems. The books of account are maintained at the board's office at Darver, Co. Louth

**Covid-19:**

Coiste Chontae Lú is exposed to the impact of the recent outbreak of the Covid-19 virus pandemic. This crisis is unprecedented both in Ireland and at a global level. As a result, there is no way of predicting how long the pandemic will last and what the longer-term impact of the pandemic will be on the economy. The Management Committee is continuing to actively monitor the situation in order to take the necessary steps to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on Coiste Chontae Lú.



**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Management Committee's Responsibilities**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

The management committee is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the board and of the surplus or deficit of the board for that year.

In preparing these financial statements the management committee are required to:

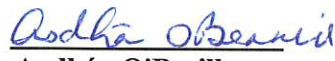
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the board will continue in business.

The management committee are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the board and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and the rules laid down by the G.A.A. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the board and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the committee



**Peadar Mac Giolla Phádraig**  
**Caithaoirleach**



**Aodhán O'Berill**  
**Cisteoir**

**Date: 4th December 2020**

**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Independent Auditors Report**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

**Opinion:**

We have audited the financial statements of Coiste Chontae Lú for the year ended 31 October 2020 which comprise the Income & Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet, Accounting Policies and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our Opinion the Financial Statements:

- Give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the affairs of Coiste Chontae Lú as at 31st October 2020 and of its surplus for the year
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the constitution of the board

**Basis of Audit Opinion:**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards, issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the officers and members of the committee in the preparation of accounts and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

**Other Information:**

The management committee are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Committee Report & financial statements other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Independent Auditors Report**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

**Respective Responsibilities:**

**Responsibilities of the Management Committee**

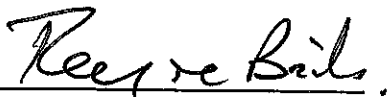
The Management Committee are responsible for keeping books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Club, for safeguarding the assets of the Club and the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Responsibilities of the Auditor**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

**The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities:**

Our report is made solely to the members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than Coiste Chontae Lú and the members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Tony McBride, Statutory Auditor**

**FLC Frank Lynch & Co**

**Statutory Auditors & Chartered Certified Accountants**

**Avoca House**

**28 - 31 Seatown Place**

**Dundalk**

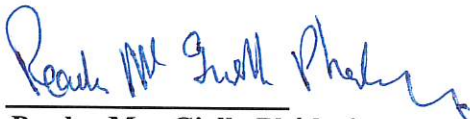
**Co. Louth**

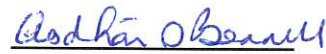
**Date: 4th December 2020**

**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Income & Expenditure Account**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

Sources of Income	Schedule	2020 €	2019 €
Gate Receipts	1	62,818	226,762
National League Shares		21,337	52,314
Commercial Income	2	115,045	134,000
Fund Raising Activities	3	1,263	10,132
Other Income	4	171,969	200,266
Transfer Income	5	172,479	221,501
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>544,911</u>	<u>844,975</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Competition Expenses	6	46,919	112,259
County Teams Administration	7	240,632	392,871
Darver Grounds Operating Costs	8	103,197	119,700
Maintenance of Grounds	9	1,470	1,845
Financial Expenses	10	2,337	3,514
Administration Expenses	11	39,135	66,010
Grants & Subscriptions	12	29,496	46,047
Coaching & Games Development	13	40,595	(61,991)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<u>503,781</u>	<u>680,255</u>
<b>Surplus for the Year</b>		<u>41,130</u>	<u>164,720</u>

  
**Peadar Mac Giolla Phádraig**  
**Caithaoirleach**

  
**Aodhán O'Berill**  
**Cisteoir**

**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Schedules**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b><u>Schedule 1 - Gate Receipts</u></b>		
Gate receipts - Club Championship	30,322	214,297
Underage Competitions	13,866	12,465
Lútv	18,630	-
	<u>62,818</u>	<u>226,762</u>
<b><u>Schedule 2 - Commercial Income</u></b>		
Sponsorships - O'Neills	52,500	75,000
Sponsors: County Teams & Club Competitions	39,500	49,500
Other Commercial Activities	23,045	9,500
	<u>115,045</u>	<u>134,000</u>
<b><u>Schedule 3 - Fund Raising</u></b>		
Fundraising activities - Ticketing & draws	1,263	10,132
	<u>1,263</u>	<u>10,132</u>
<b><u>Schedule 4 - Other Income</u></b>		
Club referees fees	56,658	53,462
Fines	100	6,450
Fees & Levies	24,890	23,587
Club Contributions	79,641	101,844
Rent - Darver grounds	10,680	14,923
	<u>171,969</u>	<u>200,266</u>
<b><u>Schedule 5 - Transfer Income</u></b>		
Central council - team grants & share of commercial income	102,098	188,305
Government Funding	50,000	-
Provincial council - team expenses & grant	20,381	33,196
	<u>172,479</u>	<u>221,501</u>



**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Schedules**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b><u>Schedule 6 - Competition Expenses</u></b>		
Medals and trophies	18,108	27,263
Referees	6,906	33,212
Programmes, bands and public address	13,992	21,032
Rent of grounds	930	18,927
Match ambulance expenses	3,150	7,250
Security and other expenses	3,833	4,575
	<u>46,919</u>	<u>112,259</u>
<b><u>Schedule 7 - Team Administration Expenses</u></b>		
Catering & meals	28,207	51,243
Players travel	73,823	88,979
Team management & support staff	31,000	54,227
Bus Hire & overnight accommodation	6,749	25,710
Sportsgear & equipment	61,915	75,536
Medical & Physiotherapy	20,889	40,771
Training expenses	18,049	56,405
	<u>240,632</u>	<u>392,871</u>
<b><u>Schedule 8 - Darver Grounds Operating Costs</u></b>		
Lighting system	27,291	34,718
Interest Payable	10,546	10,620
Grounds & building maintenance	28,179	25,825
General Expenses	28,855	46,285
Depreciation : Fittings & Equipment	8,326	2,252
	<u>103,197</u>	<u>119,700</u>
<b><u>Schedule 9 - County Grounds Operating Costs</u></b>		
Legal & Professional Fees	1,470	1,845
	<u>1,470</u>	<u>1,845</u>

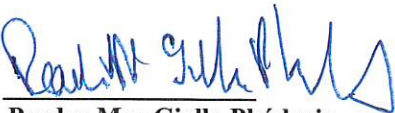
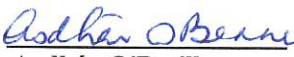
**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Schedules**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

	2020 €	2019 €
<b><u>Schedule 10 - Financial Expenses</u></b>		
Bank Charges	2,337	3,514
	<u>2,337</u>	<u>3,514</u>
<b><u>Schedule 11 - Administration Expenses</u></b>		
Printing, Stationery and advertising	12,396	15,637
Postage and telephone	6,012	10,152
Audit and accountancy	5,862	6,138
Congress expenses	2,927	710
County board officers expenses	-	13,579
Sub-committee & general meetings	3,505	5,465
Donations, subscriptions and presentations	1,000	6,655
Miscellaneous	7,433	7,674
	<u>39,135</u>	<u>66,010</u>
<b><u>Schedule 12 - Grants &amp; Subscriptions</u></b>		
College scholarships	3,740	5,120
Minor football board expenses	25,756	40,927
	<u>29,496</u>	<u>46,047</u>
<b><u>Schedule 13 - Coaching &amp; Games Development</u></b>		
Coaching grants & summer camps - Income	(202,419)	(467,933)
Coaching & summer camps - Expenses	243,014	405,942
	<u>40,595</u>	<u>(61,991)</u>

**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Balance Sheet**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

	Note	2020 €	2019 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Darver Grounds	1	5,638,992	5,638,992
Drogheda Grounds	2	539,705	539,705
New Stadium Site	3	980,256	695,855
Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	4	32,791	5,760
		<u>7,191,744</u>	<u>6,880,312</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Investments	5	12,184	12,184
Bank Accounts	6	452,015	175,248
Cash in Hand		2,550	3,400
Stock of Footballs, Hurleys Etc		3,250	2,950
Debtors	7	59,599	253,462
		<u>529,598</u>	<u>447,244</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors	8	225,418	160,218
Leinster Council Loan		11,428	11,428
		<u>236,846</u>	<u>171,646</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		292,752	275,598
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>			
Bank Loan - Darver Grounds		330,660	401,345
Bank Loan - New Stadium		125,000	-
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<u><u>7,028,836</u></u>	<u><u>6,754,565</u></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward		888,203	723,483
Surplus for the year		41,130	164,720
Closing Accumulated Funds		<u>929,333</u>	<u>888,203</u>
Darver Development Funds	1	4,649,395	4,649,395
Drogheda Development Funds	2	460,914	460,914
Stadium Site Funds	3	619,666	619,666
Restricted Funds: Trustees Louth GAA	9	52,472	55,752
New Stadium House Draw Funds	10	317,056	-
<b>Total Capital Employed</b>		<u><u>7,028,836</u></u>	<u><u>6,673,930</u></u>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>Peadar Mac Giolla Phádraig</b>  <b>Caithaoirleach</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>Aodhán O'Berill</b>  <b>Cisteoir</b> </div> </div>			

**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

**1 Accounting Policies**

**1.1 Basis of accounting**

The financial statements are prepared under the historic cost convention.

**1.2 Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets on the following basis:

Fixtures, fittings & Equipment - 20% straight line

**1.3 Stocks**

An inventory of stocks as at 31st October 2020 has been estimated in accordance with information supplied by the officers of the Board at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

**2 Contingencies and Commitments**

The development grants may become repayable if certain circumstances contained in the grant agreements are not adhered to.

The County committee of Coiste Chontae Lú have provided guarantees totalling €286,259 in respect of loan facilities advanced by GAA, Cumann Luthchleas Gael, Croke Park to certain Louth GAA clubs.

As at 31 October 2020, Bank of Ireland held the following security in respect of Loan Facilities:

- Charge over property at the Darver Centre of Excellence, Darver, Readypenny, Dundalk.

The County Board has entered into building contracts with Ellencourt Construction Ltd & Shannon Homes (Blackrock) Ltd respectively for the construction of two residential properties, which are Prizes in the House Draw. The initial deposits in respect of the properties, amounting to €47,000 have been paid as at 31 October 2020.

**3 Approval of Financial Statements**

The financial statements were approved by the Management Committee on 4th December 2020

**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Notes**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b><u>Note 1 - Darver Grounds</u></b>		
<b>Expenditure on Darver Grounds</b>		
Expenditure on Darver Grounds	5,638,992	5,638,992
<b>Grants and contributions received</b>		
Leinster Council	625,000	625,000
Cumann Luthchleas Gael - Croke Park	1,650,000	1,650,000
National lottery	1,290,000	1,290,000
Contributions from clubs	161,800	161,800
Contributions from individuals and corporations	959,741	959,741
	4,686,541	4,686,541
Administration and fund raising expenses	37,146	37,146
<b>Darver grounds development fund</b>	4,649,395	4,649,395
<b><u>Note 2 - Drogheda Grounds</u></b>		
<b>Expenditure on Drogheda Grounds</b>		
Stand and grounds	539,705	539,705
<b>Grants &amp; Contributions received</b>		
National Lottery	126,974	126,974
Leinster Council	140,631	140,631
Cumann Luthchleas Gael - Croke Park	63,487	63,487
Contributions from clubs	125,378	125,378
Sponsors	4,444	4,444
<b>Drogheda grounds development fund</b>	460,914	460,914
<b><u>Note 3 - New Stadium Site</u></b>		
<b>Expenditure on Stadium Site</b>		
Site Purchase & Associated Costs	980,256	695,855
<b>Grants &amp; Contributions received</b>		
Cumann Luthchleas Gael - Croke Park	619,666	619,666
	619,666	619,666
<b><u>Note 4 - Fixtures, Fittings &amp; Equipment</u></b>		
Cost	143,785	108,428
Accumulated depreciation	(110,994)	(102,668)
<b>Net Book Value</b>	32,791	5,760



**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Notes**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b><u>Note 5 - Investments</u></b>		
G.A.A. credit scheme	1,143	1,143
Share in Drogheda G.A.A. Grounds Co. Ltd	1,016	1,016
Prize Bonds	10,025	10,025
	<u>12,184</u>	<u>12,184</u>
<b><u>Note 6 - Bank Accounts</u></b>		
Bank of Ireland - Current A/c	134,247	175,788
Bank of Ireland - House Draw	317,056	-
Bank of Ireland - Savings A/c	786	786
Visa	(74)	(1,326)
	<u>452,015</u>	<u>175,248</u>
<b><u>Note 7 - Debtors</u></b>		
Grants due from Central Council	12,250	164,243
Sundry Debtors	47,349	89,219
	<u>59,599</u>	<u>253,462</u>
<b><u>Note 8 - Creditors</u></b>		
Trophies and medals	12,500	12,500
Coaching and games development initiatives	60,288	69,379
March ambulance expenses	-	9,000
Audit & Accountancy	5,830	5,830
PAYE/PRSI	(5,721)	(4,925)
County Board expenses Due	9,000	15,000
Referees Expenses due	20,395	27,200
Travel Expenses	5,170	-
Sportsgear & equipment	14,707	8,171
Other Creditors	22,614	18,063
Loans repayments due within 1 Year	80,635	80,635
	<u>225,418</u>	<u>240,853</u>
<b><u>Note 9 - Restricted Fund: Trustees Louth GAA</u></b>		
This represents a bequest received by the County Board, for the exclusive purposes of providing scholarships to members of the GAA over a 21 year period.	<u>52,472</u>	<u>55,752</u>

**Coiste Chontae Lú**  
**Cumann Luthchleas Gael**

**Notes**  
**for the year ended 31st October 2020**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b><u>Note 10 - New Stadium - House Draw Funds</u></b>		
Draw Receipts	466,213	-
<b>Payments:</b>		
Draw Expenses	102,157	-
Deposits paid on Building Contracts	47,000	-
	<u>317,056</u>	<u>-</u>



*Convention 2020*

# Louth GAA Sub-Committee Reports





*Convention 2020*

## **County Development Officer County Board update**

**A Chara,**

The main role of the County Development Officer is assist in the delivery of club officer development and club planning programmes for the principal club officers in the county, i.e. Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and PRO. The Development Officer works with the County Committee and the Provincial Council in addition to other full-time and voluntary personnel in delivering the goals of the Association as set by the National Officer Development Committee.

The Club Leadership Development Programme (CLDP) provides learning opportunities to new and existing Club Officers in GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association Clubs to help them gain the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfil their roles.

The programme has been designed and is delivered by the GAA's National Officer Development Committee (NODC). It focuses on the practical aspects of the primary roles on a Club Executive, i.e. Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO, Coaching Officer, Registrar and Irish Language and Culture Officers.

The NODC collaborates with the various functions in Croke Park, the Provincial Councils and County Development Officers to provide learning opportunities to Club Officers.

The following Club Officer training was organised via the Club Leadership Development Programme (CLDP) for Club Officers in Louth for 2020.

4 Primary Modules Chairperson , Secretary, Treasurer and PRO - (Tue 28th Jan-Darver).

Office 365 module – (Tue 4th Feb- Creative Spark).

Volunteer Recruitment Workshop – (Mon 10th Feb, Darver).

Canva online Workshop for PROs – May 2020

For the 2020/2021 rollout, all module will be delivered online via remote webinar until further notice.



*Convention 2020*

## **County Development Officer County Board update (continued)**

The Club Planning Programme (CPP) is designed to support Clubs in the development, implementation and review of Club Plans.

The key features of the Programme include:

- Trained Club Planning Facilitators working with each Club
- A Club Planning Guide for Clubs together with online supports
- Implementation, monitoring and evaluation advice

The updated Club Planning Programme will support Clubs through the following planning process:

1. Club enters the Club Planning Programme
2. Appointed Facilitator meets Club Executive
3. Club Planning structures established
4. Club membership consulted
5. Club Plan developed and launched
6. Club Plan implemented and reviewed

The duration of this process will largely be at the discretion of the Club; however, the design and development phase should take between two to three months and the recommended Club Plan duration should be between three to five years.

Should any club wish to undergo this process for 2021 please get in contact.

Is mise,

Derek Crilly

Louth GAA County Development Officer

087 9407092

developmentofficer.louth@gaa.ie



[www.louthgaa.ie](http://www.louthgaa.ie)





Convention 2020

# LOUTH GAA PRESENTS



## Monster Drive-In Bingo



BOOKS AVAILABLE TO BUY ONLINE



€100 per book



Sunday 27th December 2020 at 1pm

in  
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For enquiries contact:  
[louthgaabingo@gmail.com](mailto:louthgaabingo@gmail.com)



[www.louthgaa.ie](http://www.louthgaa.ie)



*Convention 2020*

## **COISTE IOMANA CHONTAE LU REPORT FOR ANNUAL CONVENTION**

As Secretary of Coiste Iomana Co Lu I am pleased to present my report for Annual Convention 2020.

Unfortunately 2020 has been a year like no other with Covid 19 reaching these shores in March and as I write up this report we are still in Level 5 restrictions. Hopefully on the night that we hold our Convention restrictions will have eased and with the recent good news on the vaccine front, we can look ahead to 2021 with some optimism and get our clubs back on the field of play in the spring.

Pre Covid, agreement was reached with Leinster Council for a County squad at both U13 and U15 level to compete in the Leinster Cross County Hurling Leagues. This request was submitted as clubs had indicated that they would struggle with numbers to compete in the competition solely as a club team.

The following are the results of the games played by these squads prior to the country going into lockdown in mid-March. Leinster U13 Cross County League – Saturday 15/02/2020 Louth 2-3 Navan O Mahony's (Meath) 3-7 in Darver; Saturday 29/02/2020 Louth 1-6 The Saints/Colmcille's/Patrick's (Meath) 1-1 in Darver.

Leinster U15 Cross County League – Saturday 15/02/2020 Louth 1-6 Gael Colmcille (Meath) 1-1 in Darver; Saturday 07/03/2020 Louth 2-6 Maynooth (Kildare) 3-11 in Maynooth.

The enforced period of inactivity during the lockdown resulted in the postponement of two high profile underage hurling competitions which were the National U14 Feile na nGael Festival of Hurling and the U17 Celtic Challenge. It has been confirmed in recent correspondence from Croke Park that the 2021 National U14 Feile na nGael competition will not involve host clubs with the competition taking place on a weekend to be confirmed and will involve a grading day of games for clubs followed by competition the following day at venues around the country.



*Convention 2020*

## **COISTE IOMANA CHONTAE LU REPORT FOR ANNUAL CONVENTION (continued).**

Following the confirmation that games could resume in early August, the committee members of Coiste Iomana decided that due to the time restraints that games would be played in only the U12 O'Broin Shield, U14 League/Championship and U16 League/Championship age groups.

Four teams competed in the U14 League/Championship competition with four group games being played before St Kevin's/Mattock/Glen Emmets and St Fechins contested the Final in Collon on Thursday October 24. In a low scoring match the combination side lifted the cup with a 2-0 to 0-3 victory.

Naomh Moninne and St Fechins qualified for the U16 League/Championship final which was played in Termonfeckin on Tuesday September 29 with the Dundalk outfit coming out on top in a well contested match on a scoreline of 1-12 to 0-10.

Only three teams fielded in the U12 O'Broin Shield competition with the 'A' Shield final taking place on Friday October 2. Sadly Michael O'Broin (Wolfe Tones) died on Friday September 18 and he will be remembered most for having served as both Secretary and Treasurer of Coiste Iomana Co Lu for many years. He also organised the Hurling and Helmet Scheme where clubs availed of equipment at a lower cost. During this time he also filled the role as Irish Language and Cultural Officer on the Co Board.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

I would like to thank the following clubs Mattock Rangers, St Fechins and St Brides for making their pitches available for our three finals this year. I would like to express my appreciation to Francie McMullen our County Operations Manager, Bob Doheny County Secretary, Shane Lennon County Games Manager, Anthony Briscoe and Kevin Gordon of the Minor Board, John Byrne Darver Centre of Excellence and my Coiste Iomana Chairman Ronan O'Gorman and fellow officers for all their assistance throughout this difficult year.

Is mise

Muiris O Murchu

Runai, Coiste Iomana Co Lu





Convention 2020

# Successful Lory Meagher Cup Winning Team 2020



Wall ball training

## Lory Meagher Final Preview



Louth squad  
who beat Fermanagh  
in Croke Park



*Convention 2020*

## Report of Coiste Eisteachta Co. Lu

### County Convention 2020

The Hearings ctte had a fairly quiet year given the pandemic background.

We dealt with a number of outstanding appeals from the previous year and an appeal case referred to us via the Rules Advisory ctte which involved another Gaelic games Association.

We also adjudicated on seven Transfer appeals arising from transfer decisions of the CCC.

Four of the appeals were upheld and one appeal which was refused was referred by the player to the Disputes Resolution Authority (DRA) .

That case was heard on 7.30pm at the Green Isle Hotel, St John's Dr, Newlands Cross, Dublin 22, on Tuesday, 21 July 2020 with Covid19 protocols applying. All persons attending the hearing were requested to observe social distancing procedures both inside and outside the hearing room. The venue had been selected due to the availability of a large hearing room and every precaution was taken to reduce the risk of transmission. Each party/committee was requested to limit their representation to two persons. Hand sanitisers were available and all persons were strongly encouraged to use face masks.

The DRA upheld the decision of the Louth Hearing ctte and we await the DRA written decision.

The Ctte had a very quiet year on the disciplinary front and dealt with the few cases arising including a disciplinary hearing at U18 level.

I would like on behalf of myself and the Chairperson Noel Litchfield to extend my thanks to the members of the hearings ctte themselves who were always available when requested throughout the year.

Finally on behalf of the Ctte I would like to thank the County Board and their officers , the CCC and its officers ,the Clubs , their officers and players for their cooperation and courtesy throughout the year. We all I am sure look forward to a more active 2021 in the Gaelic games arena.

Prepared by

Tomas O Dubhlaigh

( Tom Dooley )

Runai Coiste Eisteachta Co Lu.



[www.louthgaa.ie](http://www.louthgaa.ie)





Convention 2020

THE  
12K's OF CHRISTMAS

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GIVEAWAY

[www.pickahouse.ie](http://www.pickahouse.ie)



[www.louthgalia.ie](http://www.louthgalia.ie)





*Convention 2020*

## Louth GAA Children's Office 2020 Report

In the first month of 2020, Louth County Board Ratified County Children's (Youth) Committee in line with national policy. The purpose of this committee is to assist the County Children's officer with the implementation of the GAA Code of Behaviour, when working with underage or vulnerable players, including setting up and running training nights to educate various clubs on this code.

The committee for 2020 were as follows

Chairperson Dermot Clarke Children's Officer

Louth GAA Chairperson Peter Fitzpatrick (DLP)

Louth GAA Secretary: Bob Doheny.

Louth GAA Garda Vetting officer Stephen O'Connor

Coiste Iomama Maurice Murphy – Naomh Moninne

An Bord Peil Mionuir – Kevin Gordon.

Assistant Referees Administrator David Fedigan.

Óg Sport Mairead Monahan

Also, on as per official guidelines we ratified the 'Code of Best Practice Hearings Committee' the committee consists of the following members.

Louth GAA – Anthony Melia – John Mitchel's

Louth Camogie Association – Eileen Moynagh – St Annes Camogie club

Louth LGFA – Sonia Gernon – Na Piarsaigh

Training Days from Croke Park:

This year training took a different look because of Covid -19 and government restrictions County Children's Officer training was delivered online through the MS Teams app. First webinar was on 1st July. Second webinar took place on 29th August.



*Convention 2020*

## Louth GAA Children's Office 2020 Report (continued)

### **Training within Louth**

**Safeguarding 1, Child Protection in Sport Awareness Training**

**Safeguarding 2 Children's officer training**

**I would like to thank the clubs who hosted training nights this year and the tutors.**

**From January 2021: Any member of our association vetted by us between 1st January 2016 and 1st January 2019 must reapply to be re-vetted by the GAA and from 1st January 2021.**

**Each club has 6 months to complete this task. From 1st January 2021 vetting shall have a 3-year recognition period.**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL CLUB COMMITTEES AND PERSONEL INCLUDING COACHES AND MENTORS**

**Revised Child Safeguarding Statement** You will recall last year that all GAA Clubs in Ireland were required to carry out a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment, following which they were obliged to then agree on the contents of a Child Safeguarding Statement. Clubs were then obliged to put that Statement on display in their Club premises or where Club teams meet or play. This is now a legal requirement in accordance with Children First legislation but has also been adopted by the Association to include all Clubs on the island of Ireland as part of our general good child safeguarding practices. The purpose of the Risk Assessment is to enable a Club, as in your case, to consider the potential for harm that may come to children while they are participating in our Games and other activities and to minimise and address such risks in an appropriate manner through the publication of your Child Safeguarding Statement.



*Convention 2020*

## Louth GAA Children's Office 2020 Report (continued).

**This Statement reflects how the Club, having recognised the risks, will then ensure through good practices that as far as is practicable, children shall be safe from harm while participating in our games and activities.**

**These good practice procedures include the vetting or background checks of all persons who work in a role of responsibility with children, ensuring that coaches of underage players attend child safeguarding training, that they also have a minimum coaching qualification, that the Club has an anti-bullying statement and that in general the club takes its safeguarding responsibilities seriously and this is then reflected in the manner in which they operate on a daily or weekly basis.**

**The Code of Behaviour (Underage) contains much of what you require for your statement and we have published a new and revised Child Safeguarding Statement template that you may find to be most useful in completing the new Statement**

**<https://www.gaa.ie/thegaa/child-welfare-and-protection/children-first>**

**What is now required of your Club? We are now requesting that you replace last year's Child Safeguarding Statement with an amended version based on a template we have recently agreed with Tusla's Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit. To do this please consider all that is included in the Risk Assessment form that your Club previously used for last year's Child Safeguarding.**



**[www.louthgaa.ie](http://www.louthgaa.ie)**



*Convention 2020*

## **Louth GAA Children's Office 2020 Report (continued)**

The Risk Assessment form and the new Child Safeguarding Statement template was emailed to each club secretary. If, having examined the Child Safeguarding Statement template, your Club believes it accurately reflects and addresses the practices and procedures that are required to address identified safeguarding risks then you may add your Club logo to the Statement and put it on display in a visible area in the Club once it has been endorsed by the Club Executive Committee.

If the new Child Safeguarding Statement does not reflect the procedures and practices that are required to address all safeguarding risks in your Club then you should amend the statement and ensure that its contents addresses all such needs before you put the Child Safeguarding Statement on display in your Club.

Once you have completed your Child Safeguarding Statement please send a copy to your County Children's Officer.

Who should carry out this task? The Club Children's Officer is the named person or 'the relevant person' for the purpose of the Child Safeguarding Statement. Therefore, it is this person who should lead and oversee this task on behalf of the Club or the Club Executive. The Club Children's Officer will require assistance in completing all tasks and when the Risk Assessment has been completed and a draft Child Safeguarding Statement agreed it should then be forwarded to the Club Executive for consideration, discussion and ratification.



*Convention 2020*

## **Louth GAA Children's Office 2020 Report (continued)**

**Who should carry out this task? The Club Children's Officer is the named person or 'the relevant person' for the purpose of the Child Safeguarding Statement. Therefore, it is this person who should lead and oversee this task on behalf of the Club or the Club Executive. The Club Children's Officer will require assistance in completing all tasks and when the Risk Assessment has been completed and a draft Child Safeguarding Statement agreed it should then be forwarded to the Club Executive for consideration, discussion and ratification.**

**Who endorses the Child Safeguarding Statement? Legally it should be the Club Executive Committee that endorses the outcome of the Risk Assessment and the content of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This should be done at a Club Executive Committee meeting and noted in the minutes of that meeting. The Statement should be signed by the Club Children's Officer.**

**When do we review the Child Safeguarding Statement again? Once agreed and put on display Clubs shall review their Child Safeguarding Statement review no later than 31st May 2021. This deadline is in accordance with legislative requirements. New email addresses for all Club Children's Officers. During the month of June our CLUB CHILDREN'S OFFICER EMAILS will live. The new email address will follow the format of other Club Officer emails e.g. childrensofficer.club.county@gaa.ie (there are still several clubs still to activate their emails)**



*Convention 2020*

## Louth GAA Children's Office 2020 Report (continued).

**Child Safeguarding Training:** The GAA continues to deliver high quality child safeguarding training to more than 25,000 members per year who are working in a role of responsibility with children and young people. Our training, which has been most favourably commented upon by external bodies, has been enhanced on an on-going basis so as to reflect the principles and content of our internal Codes, our Guidance and Safeguarding Policies and Rules.

Clubs may be aware that recent correspondence from Sport Ireland informed sports bodies that all training delivered must conform with the contents of the Sport Ireland training programmes.

Having met with Sport Ireland to discuss this issue we are happy to confirm that the Gaelic Games Associations will continue to deliver our child safeguarding workshops which are relevant to our needs and continue to comply with our legal requirements.

What does this now mean for our Clubs? Should a person present themselves to a Club as a potential underage coach or be approached to take up such a role they will in accordance with our procedures have to be vetted, must complete a minimum coaching qualification and must also complete Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Training. They must complete these requirements prior to commencing any role with Children in our Associations





Following our discussions with Sport Ireland all that has changed is that if a person attends their initial safeguarding training (Safeguarding 1) with another sports organisation or with a Local Sports Partnership, we continue to recognise this training and the individual will then complete their child safeguarding training requirements by undertaking the new Gaelic Games on-line refresher training programme. (outlined below). The new on-line shall be completed by the individual within a time frame agreed with their Club. This agreement only applies to safeguarding training, as promoted by Sport Ireland, and is delivered by other sports bodies or LSPs. It does not apply to non-sports child safeguarding training.

Similar to all other underage coaches in any of the Gaelic Games Associations if a person attends their initial safeguarding training (Safeguarding 1) with another sports organisation or with a Local Sports Partnership and then completes the on-line programme they must still be vetted and must have a recognised coaching qualification.

New on-line child safeguarding programme available for GAA coaches As part of our joint approach to Child Safeguarding within the Gaelic Games Associations a new On-Line Child Safeguarding Programme was recently launched by the National Child Safeguarding Committee.

The On-Line Safeguarding Programme addresses a long-standing request that we introduce easy to access training as a repeat or refresher programme for those who have previously attended face to face child safeguarding training.



To participate and complete the on-line training a participant, i.e. a coach or a person working in a role of responsibility with or for children, must have fulfilled one of the following requirements:

1. They must within the last three years have attended a Gaelic Games Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop (Safeguarding 1) and they may then avail of the on-line programme in preference to attend another face to face repeat workshop, or
2. The participant, having attended a non-Gaelic Games Child Protection Safeguarding 1 Workshop with another Sports Association or a Local Sports Partnership (LSP), must then also undertake the new on-line Child Safeguarding Programme so as to familiarise themselves with our agreed safeguarding policies, procedures and in particular our joint Code of Behaviour (Underage) prior to commencing their work with children in any of the Gaelic Games Associations.

The new on-line training programme is available free of charge by accessing <https://learning.gaa.ie/safeguarding>

Gaelic Games Association. The range of training programmes will now also include the on-line safeguarding refresher programme.

Safeguarding 1: Child Protection in Sport Awareness Training

Safeguarding 2: Children's Officer Training

Safeguarding 3: Designated Liaison Training Programme

Information on all Child Safeguarding Training Workshops in your County is available from your County Children's Officer and from [nationalchildrensoffice@gaa.ie](mailto:nationalchildrensoffice@gaa.ie)



In addition to Safeguarding 1,2 and 3 workshops the GAA Children's Office can source a tutor for Clubs who wish to avail of the GAA Tackling Bullying Workshop. The combined number of workshops delivered under Safeguarding 1, 2, and 3 this year is expected to surpass 1,000 far exceeding the numbers delivered in any other sector. Well done to all.

### Safeguarding Training Policy for Gaelic Games

This policy is part of the Safeguarding Statement for Gaelic Games under the Children First Act 2015, Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), the Children (NI) Order 1995, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy and Procedures and Practice and as required by our Association Rules.

It is, highlighted in Section 11(3) Children First as being mandatory and is required for whatever the level of child safeguarding engagement one has in the Association. While we previously maintained this level of training as part of our good practice standards, and included it as part of basic coaching qualification requirements, safeguarding training is now mandatory in law. A list of typical roles to attend training appropriate to their role is included at the end of this policy.

Different levels of Child Safeguarding Training (see below) are now in place in Gaelic Games. Attendance at any of the workshops obviously depends on the role an individual has in any of our Associations. All training is delivered in workshop format and all workshops are of three hours duration unless specified otherwise below. This policy sets out the accepted Safeguarding Workshops for all Gaelic Games Associations together with any specific requirements for attendance and renewal of certification.



Convention 2020

## Louth GAA Children's Office 2020 Report (continued)

Renewing Safeguarding certificates Safeguarding training requires renewal every 3 years unless specified below.

N.B .If you do not hold a \*valid safeguarding training certificate, you cannot continue in your role until you refresh your training.

The Club & individual are both responsible to ensure that appropriate training has been completed and is valid.

*\*Valid certificate refers to a Gaelic Games certificate issued in respect of attendance at a Child Protection in Sport (Safeguarding 1) programme or the Sport Ireland or Sport NI equivalent certificate or the certificate issued following satisfactory completion of the Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher programme. All Safeguarding certificates 1,2 and 3, are valid for a maximum of three years.*

### Gaelic Games accepted Workshops

Gaelic Games Safeguarding Workshops are outlined as follows

Safeguarding 1–Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop  
(attending face to face workshop with qualified Gaelic Games tutor)

Outcomes from Safeguarding 1- Implement best practice in protecting the welfare of participants through our Code of Behaviour (underage)  
Create a child-centered environment within the Club. List categories of abuse and indicators associated with abuse. Make a report to the appropriate Statutory Authority. Make a report to a Designated Liaison Person, and or Association's Mandated Person



Convention 2020

## Louth GAA Children's Office 2020 Report (continued)

**Certification validation period = within a 3-year period**

**Prerequisite:** Participants must be nominated by the club to attend the training. Any participant aged 16-18 years of age must submit a parental consent form prior to attending the workshop

**Renewal:** Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 certificate may be renewed by completing; Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 (face to face workshop with qualified Gaelic Games tutor) Or Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher (e-learning module—see next)

### Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher (e-learning module).

**Prerequisite:** Valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 certificate or a Safeguarding 1 Sport Ireland or Sport Northern Ireland certificate

**Certification Validation period = within a 3 year period**

**Required attendees:** any person having completed the Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1, any person who has attended an LSP or other Sports NGB's safeguarding training and any person who has attended the Sport Northern Ireland Safeguarding 1 training but who has not attended the Gaelic Games Associations equivalent within the last 3 Years

**Renewal:** Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher certificate may only be renewed by attendance at a Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 workshop

**Link for e-learning Module;**

**<https://learning.gaa.ie/safeguarding>**





Convention 2020

## Louth GAA Children's Office 2020 Report (continued)

Advanced Safeguarding Workshops –Role specific are outlined as follows;

Safeguarding 2 (Club Children's Officer Workshop–face to face with qualified Gaelic Games tutor).

Outcomes from Safeguarding 2; Implement best practice in protecting the welfare of underage players. Create a child-centered environment within the club. Understanding and awareness of Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Structures. Reflect on the Club Children's Officer role & develop an action plan. Understand how to communicate with young people. Deal with Code of Behaviors (Underage), breaches and manage Safeguarding issues.

Prerequisite: Valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1/Safeguarding 1 Refresher certificate Validation period = 3 Years

Renewal: Safeguarding 2 certificate may only be renewed by attendance at Gaelic Games Safeguarding 2 CCO face to face workshop with qualified Gaelic Games tutor).§Safeguarding 3 (Designated Liaison Person Workshop –face to face with qualified Gaelic Games tutor)

Outcomes of Safeguarding 3; Awareness of Legislation§ Understanding and awareness of Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Structures. Understanding of your role as Designated Liaison Person. Understanding of dealing with Allegations & Concerns of Abuse Understanding and awareness of communications with Parents/Agencies as appropriate. Understanding and awareness of reporting Procedures,





*Convention 2020*

## **Louth GAA Children's Office 2020 Report (continued)**

**Prerequisite: Valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 or valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Refresher certificate**

**Certificate Validation period = within a 3 year period**

**Renewal: Safeguarding 3 may only be renewed by attendance at Gaelic Games Safeguarding 3 (face to face workshop with qualified Gaelic Games tutor)**

### **Cul Camp Assistant Safeguarding Training**

**Prerequisite: Nil**

**Validation period = 1 year**

**Mandatory attendees: person appointed to role of Cul Camp Assistant.**

**Renewal: If in the role of Camp Assistant in a different calendar year, the workshop must be repeated**

**N.B. This programme does not replace Safeguarding 1 (i.e. if a Cul Camp Assistant becomes a Coach working with children in any of our Associations S1 must be completed)**

### **Referee Safeguarding Training**

**Prerequisite: Nil**

**Duration of Workshop: It is a module built in as part of training for referees**

**Expected attendees: any person taking on the role of a referee (excluding young whistlers who are under 16)**

**Renewal::N/A**

**Footnotes: Notwithstanding the mandatory requirement on participants to attend the Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 workshop.**



*Convention 2020*

## **Louth GAA Children's Office 2020 Report (continued)**

- 1. It is the responsibility of the individual and club to ensure that anyone working with, or who has interaction with, or who is involved in the planning/administration of activities or events with children and young people in our Associations, holds a valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 certificate.**
- 2. If a member of any Gaelic Games Associations presents a certificate of attendance from Sport Ireland such as attendance at an LSP or other Sports NGB's safeguarding training or a Sport Northern Ireland Safeguarding 1 workshop our member will be obliged to complete the Gaelic Games Online Safeguarding Refresher prior to commencing their role with the relevant Gaelic Games Association. The purpose of this is to ensure that those who work with children and young people receive relevant information on our own Gaelic Games safeguarding policies or practices, or our reporting procedures or our Code structures and on the role of Gaelic Games Children's Officers and DLPs in our three Associations.**
- 3. Our Children's Officers and our Designated Liaison Persons in our three Associations are required to attend the relevant Gaelic Games work shop in order to receive information specific to their role of Gaelic Games Children's Officers and DLPs in our Associations and on our own Gaelic Games safeguarding policies or practices, or our reporting procedures or our Code structures.**
- 4. Validation period commences from the date of workshop completion/date of certificate**



**I wish to thank the following:**

**The GAA's National Children's Officer, Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl, and Michelle Harte their office, as always have been readily available on the end of a phone line to assist when needed. The children's officers and Juvenile committees of all the clubs within the county.**

**I look forward to working with you all in 2021.**

**Louth County Board Chairman Peter Fitzpatrick who took the role of Designated Liaison Person (DLP). The Louth County Board Secretary Bob Doheny who as always provided assistance when needed. Louth GAA Operations Manager Francie McMullen. Code of Best Practice Hearings Committee, Anthony Melia, Sonia Gernon and Eileen Moynagh. The County Children's (Youth) Committee. The Louth County Board Treasurer Aidan Berrill, the Garda Vetting Officer Stephen O'Connor, the IT Officer Declan Byrne, and the PRO Mark Byrne, Kevin Gordon, Anthony Briscoe and the Minor Board Committee, Maurice Murphy and Coiste Iomana. Shane Lennon, Brian O'G Corra Mairéad Monahan and the Coaching & Games committee.**

**Tutors Stephen O'Connor and Tom Flynn for all their efforts in educating us all. I would like to offer my congratulations to the Naomh Fionnbarra, St Brides, Naomh Martin and Knockbridge Hurling Club on their championship wins in 2020 and finally to congratulate the Louth Hurling team on winning the Lory Meagher Cup.**



*Convention 2020*

## **Louth GAA Children's Office 2020 Report (continued)**

I would also like to wish all Louth Gaels a Happy Christmas, as we look forward to 2021, success and good health to all involved with every club within the County.

Please keep safe and well in these uncertain times.

Is mise le meas,  
Diarmuid O'Cleirigh Oifigeach Na Nóg, Coiste Chontae Lú  
Dermot Clarke  
Arthurstown  
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*Convention 2020*

# Louth Stadium Plans

## Planning Permission Granted in 2020





### Drogheda Region Report- Karl O Connor

#### O'Raghallaighs

In my first year as GDA in Drogheda, we entered unprecedented times, anything that some clubs had planned for the coming year were more or less scrapped, we had a meeting in the club house at the start of the year, to talk about how I could assist the club, unfortunately we didn't get to do a lot of those things. It was pleasing to see that we had a lot of coaches logged into our County webinars from March and throughout the lockdown and our Turas specific workshop back in June. The club like many clubs decided not to host the annual Cúl camp. Schools coaching has continued, and C&G are getting to coach a massive number of kids each week. Its brilliant that we get to finish off 2020 on the grass with coaching sessions before the winter break.

#### Wolfe Tones GFC

The Tones are a club who have made massive strides over the past few years and their coaches and club members have been a really important part in that, people like Lyndsey, Peter and Niall to name a few. At the start of the year, we finished the clubs underage winter program with players from the u13-u16. The club's coaches were very active during the lockdown attending a lot of our county webinars and numerous Club Turas workshops. The club school link is still extremely strong with St. Mary's PPS. The club hosted an intercounty u11 tournament with teams coming to play from 3 other different counties, it was a massive success. The club Cúl camp was a huge success apart from some rain which put a small dampener on things. At the beginning of the year the Tones also had 4/5 coaches who attended a foundation level course in the Plunkett's.





### St Nicholas GFC

Another club who are making massive strides on and off the field. The nursery in the club is growing and the club improving their underage structure by linking up with the Tones. A very successful Cúl Camp was also held this year. The completion of the new club house has allowed us to be able to hold meetings and workshops indoors in the club. The club again have been very active during the lockdown and coaches have been upskilling themselves by signing into the webinars we had during the lockdown. The club school link is in place with St. Paul's NS and the club are reaping rewards massively from

### Oliver Plunketts

The Plunkett's have worked hard in what I have been able to see in this difficult year. We started off the year by holding a foundation level course in the Plunkett's with 9/10 coaches gaining the award. I met with 7/8 coaches also in February to discuss developing a player pathway within the club to help get their underage team players into the club's adult squads while gaining all the important skills in between. Plans for a winter program had to be shelved because of the second lockdown. It was brilliant to have all the coaches logged into a Turas online webinar and into our county webinars also. Schools coaching in Mell NS also took place during the year. The club hosted a Cúl camp in the first week of camps and it ran perfectly with over 100 attendees.



### Newtown Blues

Schools coaching took place in Aston Village Educate Together and surrounding schools to the Blues club. I met with the new coaching officers and some coaches at the beginning of the year and any plans put in place then were all scrapped because of COVID-19. The Blues decided not to run a Cúl Camp this year due to COVID-19. On the other hand, the Blues coaches engaged online during the lockdown on the county webinars.

### South Louth Report- Sean Hand

#### St Fechains

Fechins are an extremely active club and given the circumstances of the strange year they still managed to be very proactive. At the beginning of the year we finished our winter program which ran for 12 weeks Nov – Jan. In the early months there was plenty of interaction with Senior/Juvenile Coaching officers to help the club progress by educating coaches to ensure players receive highest quality of training. This coaching is also done through the school and post lockdown the two schools in the parish have been receiving 4 hours of coaching each week. The club also managed to have a successful Cúl Camp of 120 kids which was great to have in such difficult times. The club still has many club interactions with me assisting sessions and helping out coaching by offering new ideas and helping their needs. Between now and the end of the year we will have several interactions as well as get another winter programme in place.



### Glen Emmet's

A very productive year with Glen Emmet's, club coaches are passionate and extremely active in the club scene. Myself and some of the club coaches met at the beginning of the year and discussed what the aim was for the year, we agreed that schools coaching was the priority which such a massive number of players in the school it was the ideal place to start. We began with 3rd who had a total of 78 kids across 3 classes who got coaching for 8-12 weeks before the lockdown came in. The club had also hosted a Cúl camp that accommodated over 120 kids we were lucky with the weather and it was a great week. Over the year Glen Emmet's received a few coaching sessions to help coaches freshen up their ideas while understanding different coaching styles.

### Naomh Mairtin

Naomh Mairtin had an extremely successful year especially the senior team after they won the senior championship, this made coaching in the club very positive as the kids want to aspire to be like the senior team. On meeting the coaching officers at the beginning of the year there was also demand for workshops, winter programmes, school coaching and coach education. The 2 schools in the parish Tenure and Harestown receive 4 hours of coaching each week. The club had also hosted a Cúl camp that had over 130 kids attending it was a great week enjoyed by all and the kids didn't let the weather affect their enjoyment.



### Mattock Rangers

Like other clubs in the region Mattock received a number of coaching sessions that helped coaches understand different coaching techniques as well as new ideas for training. They also ran a winter programme with Hunterstown for 8 weeks it was very successful and really enjoyed by all and is something that the clubs hope to build on for the next year. The club also hosted a Cúl camp of over 100 kids attending, before lockdown the school was receiving regular coaching but since lockdown the school did hold back on restarting coaching sessions as COVID-19 cases were rising and was safer to reassess later in the year.

### Hunterstown Rovers

In Hunterstown this year there were several club engagements that assisted teams from schools coaching to underage and right up. We sat down at the beginning of the year and agreed that the biggest challenge in the club is participation numbers especially from parent's/Volunteers. There are only a limited number of coaches willing to volunteer therefore our plan was to encourage senior players to get involved in the basics of training so they can help out an hour or so before their own training and eventually encourage them to get their foundation award to help the club move forward. The club is really active and hosted a winter programme with Mattock that ran for 8 weeks, similar to the Collon school coaching has been put on the back-burner post lockdown to reassess COVID figures and to ensure it works safely.



*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

### Dundalk Report- Brian Óg Corr

#### Clan na Gael

The club has since wrapped up all training for the year since the last round of restrictions. Throughout the year I held meetings with coaching officer Gerry Smith to plan ways forward and ways to improve the club and maybe get more players in. During March we held an online Turas workshop which 10 coaches from the club signed into, this was then followed up by other visits working with different age groups. A winter programme with the club U16 team was planned but fell through after the latest round of restrictions.

#### Dowdallshill

The club is moving along nicely, and I had a number of interactions with their coaching officer Peter Hughes throughout the year. Their playing numbers have increased this year and the club hosted a successful Cúl camp. The main aim is to recruit more coaches to adequately deal with their playing numbers. I recently held a workshop for the club coaches themed around conditioned games which those who attended found beneficial.

#### Sean O'Mahony's

The O'Mahony's are progressing nicely, numbers are increasing, and they also have enthusiastic hard-working coaches. I held a Turas workshop in the club which was attended by 13 coaches. There then was follow up Turas visits with the U13s and U8s & 9s. Certain age groups within the club are continuing for as long as they can throughout the winter and plan to go into DKIT sport when the weather deteriorates. Overall, the club is moving in the right direction.



Convention 2020

## Coaching and Games Report

### Dundalk Gaels

The Gaels continue to do a lot of good work with their under-age teams and are continuing to train throughout the winter months, with a programme for their players from u9s-u12 focusing on developing both sides of the body over a 6-week period. The numbers in their nursery group were exceptional with up to 80 children attending but it has since stopped due the current restrictions around training. The clubs U15/16 team are continuing training, working on different aspects of their game. The clubs also hosted it biggest ever Cúl camp this year with 130 children attending. There was also plans for an Easter camp, but it had to be pulled due to COVID-19. In February, the club hosted a foundation course with 24 coaches in attendance. The club has also developed a positive club/school link with St. Malachys.

### Na Piarsaigh

Na Piarsaigh has several coaches eager to learn and develop. Their numbers at óg sport level are very encouraging with up to 25 children attending their nursery group. A Turas workshop was organised for the club but fell through since the latest round of restrictions and the club has since finished up for the year. I have been in regular contact with club man Gavin McGee on how to move the club forward.

### Dundalk Young Irelands

DYI are getting positive numbers at training throughout the year and have seen an increase from last year. There have been several Turas club visits throughout the year, with also an online Turas workshop taking place. Other workshops have been organised but have been difficult to run with the current circumstances. The club ran a successful Cúl camp this year.





### North Louth Report- Anthony Courtney

#### Roche Emmet's

In the month of January up until 14th March I was delivering primary schools coaching once a week to 4th, 5th and 6th class in Kilcurry NS, and Scoil Eoin Baiste NS. Roche teams took part in the DkIT Óg sport Blitzes every Saturday in February & March. Kilcurry NS took part in the 6th class boy's 5 a side indoor blitz in February which was held in St Patrick's Hall in Lordship, where a few players were picked for the upcoming Tain Academy. From May right up until the end of July I ran a number webinars which focused on the TURAS principles, GAA Player 15 warm up & Live smoothie demonstration with Q & A.

Also, during this time, I kept in contact with club coaches and players by creating skills challenges so players could continue to develop their skills at home. Louth coaching & Games staff delivered a few different coaching webinars over the course of May, June, and July and this offered something for every club coach from nursery up to adult level coaches. Thirty-eight coaches logged on over the course of the county webinars.

1st week of August Roche held the Cúl Camp with 105 in attendance, 73 boys and 32 girls. Monday to Thursday camp ran as normally, but rain on the Friday meant camp had to finish early. The 2nd weekend of August I helped assist in a very successful Inclusion programme every Saturday morning which give kids with a disability the opportunity to be integrated into the GAA community through fun games.



*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

This ran until end of September and each week the numbers grew and credit to the coaches and parents for making this an enjoyable morning for the kids. September was the start of a new school term and I have been in Faughart NS every Monday delivering 1 hours GAA coaching to 60 children from Junior infants to 6th class boys and girls. The club have got me out to assist some of the coaches through their own sessions with the focus on covering the TURAS principles.

### Cooley Kickhams

In the month of January up until 14th March I was delivering primary schools coaching in the Cooley area once a week, schools who received coaching where Muchgrange, St Oliver's and Rathcor. All Three schools took part in the 6th class boy's 5 a side indoor blitz in February which was held in St Patrick's Hall in Lordship, where several players where picked for the upcoming Tain academy. Cooley teams took part in the DkIT Óg sport Blitzes every Saturday in February & March and performed well in all grades when football resumed in July, which is a credit to everyone involved with coaching and mentoring the teams.

From May right up to the end of July I ran a number webinars which focused on the TURAS principles which highlighted the importance of a player pathway which helped the coaches identify the different Stages and Phases of development their players. Other webinars I delivered to the coaches where GAA Player 15 warm up & Live smoothie demonstration with Q & A. Also, during this time, I kept in contact with club coaches and players by creating skills challenges so players could continue to develop their skills at home.



*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

Louth coaching & Games staff delivered several different coaching webinars over the course of May, June, and July and this offered something for every club coach from nursery up to adult level coaches. Forty-seven coaches logged on over the course of the county webinars. Last week of August Cooley held the Cúl Camp with 150 in attendance, 74 boys and 76 girls. With word coming in that other camps around the county had to be cut short due to the weather, Cooley were extremely lucky that the rain showers passed us by. September was the start of a new school term and I have been in Rathcor NS every Tuesday and Mullaghuoy NS every Friday delivering 1 hour GAA coaching to each class from Junior infants to 6th class boys and girls. The club have got me out to assist some of the club coaches through their own sessions with the focus on covering the TURAS principles.

### Naomh Malachi

In the month of January up until 14th March I was delivering primary schools coaching once a week in Shelagh. I hope to return in the coming months to continue with the GAA coaching. Naomh Malachi teams took part in the DkIT Óg sport Blitzes every Saturday in February & March and performed well in all grades. From May right up to the end of July I ran a number webinars which focused on the TURAS principles which highlighted the importance of a player pathway which helped the coaches identify the different Stages and Phases of development their players. I delivered a Live smoothie webinar that showed how to make a pre- and post-match smoothie with Q & A. Also, during this time, I kept in contact with club coaches and players by creating skills challenges so players could continue to develop their skills at home.



Louth coaching & Games staff delivered several different coaching webinars over the course of May, June, and July and this offered something for every club coach from nursery up to adult level coaches. Four coaches logged on over the course of the county webinars. Normally Naomh Malachi would host a Cúl Camp, but this year they decided not to host due to COVID-19 but are keen to host one in 2021. The club have got me out some Tuesdays and Thursday to assist some of the club coaches through their own sessions with the focus on covering the TURAS principles.

### Cuchulainn Gaels

In the month of January up until 14th March I was delivering primary schools coaching once a week in Ardagh and Omeath primary schools. Both schools took part in the 6th class boy's 5 a side indoor blitz in February which was held in St Patrick's Hall in Lordship, where several players were picked for the upcoming Tain academy. Cuchulainn Gaels teams took part in the DkIT Óg sport Blitzes every Saturday in February & March and performed well in all grades when football resumed in July, which is a credit to everyone involved with coaching and mentoring the teams. From May right up to the end of July I ran a number webinars which focused on the TURAS principles which highlighted the importance of a player pathway which helped the coaches identify the different Stages and Phases of development their players. Other webinars I delivered to the coaches where GAA Player 15 warm up & Live smoothie demonstration with Q & A.



Also, during this time, I kept in contact with club coaches and players by creating skills challenge so players could continue to develop their skills at home. Louth coaching & Games staff delivered several different coaching webinars over the course of May, June, and July and this offered something for every club coach from nursery up to adult level coaches. Three coaches logged on over the course of the county webinars. On and off the field, massive efforts are being made to develop and grow the clubs under age structures, this was clear for everyone to see when Cuchulainn Geals hosted a Cúl Camp for the first time in a number of years. 45 children attended the camp, 23 boys and 22 girls. The club have got me out some Thursday evenings to assist some of the club coaches through their own sessions with the focus on covering the TURAS principles. The Juveniles finished the footballing season with fun Games delivered by Louth coaching & Games staff and special guest appearances from the minor winning team with the cup. I will be back in Scoil Naomh Lorcan and Ardagh in 2021 to delivery GAA coaching.

### St Patricks

In the month of January up until 14th March I was delivering primary schools coaching once a week in Dulargy, Rampark and Bellurgan. All Three schools took part in the 6th class boy's 5 a side indoor blitz in February which was held in St Patrick's Hall in Lordship, where several players where picked for the upcoming Tain academy. St Patrick teams took part in the DkIT Óg sport Blitzes every Saturday in February & March and performed well in all grades when football resumed in July, which is a credit to everyone involved with coaching and mentoring the teams.





Convention 2020

## Coaching and Games Report

From May right up to the end of July I ran a number webinars which focused on the TURAS principles, GAA Player 15 warm up & Live smoothie demonstration with Q & A. Also, during this time, I kept in contact with club coaches and players by creating skills challenges so players could continue to develop their skills at home. Louth coaching & Games staff delivered several different coaching webinars over the course of May, June, and July and this offered something for every club coach from nursery up to adult level coaches. Forty-Two coaches logged on over the course of the county webinars.

St Patrick's hosted the Cúl Camp the 3rd week of August with 150 children in attendance, 77 boys and 73 girls. The weather was good to us for most of the week although we had to cut our Wednesday camp short due to the rain.

September was the start of a new school term and I have been in Bellurgan NS every Wednesday and Rampark NS every Thursday delivering 1 hours GAA coaching to each class from Junior infants to 6th class boys and girls.

The club have got me out to assist some of the club coaches and to deliver session focusing on the TURAS principles.

West Louth Region – Craig Lynch  
Post Lockdown

I started my first term with this region in January as I started to contact clubs and the first move was when I sat in on the Kilkerley Juvenile AGM where they discussed the plans for the year and how to best utilise me. Other clubs hadn't much going on in January and was more February when they got up and running after club AGMs and nominating their Club Coaching Officers.





*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

Annaghminnon Rovers created their own Nursery strand with huge success for the first time in many years and huge credit goes to them for resurrecting this. Fast Forward onto August after lockdown clubs cautiously came out to train and play again. I took the first of my Turas Club visit 1 with Kilkerley U8s and U9s on a Saturday morning where I showed the coaches how to work on Team Play while maximising space and utilising the coaches available. I also gave them a session template prior the session. We also went ahead and promoted the Clubs nursery starting in September. When the nursery came around, we had 20 kids on the day and 4 new coaches.

I led the session using the Turas model and prior the session giving these new coaches the template for the session and working alongside them to carry out the session. The 2nd nursery session Louth GDA Anthony Courtney assisted with Club senior player Sean Hand. All clubs were up and running efficiently in September and I was asked down to help St Brides U10s coaches with a Turas club visit 1 and work on Team Play with spatial awareness, on the day we had 3 coaches and 20 players.

In October Some clubs started to close up shop with the Level 4 NPHE recommendations but St Mochtas U9s invited me down for a session to work on Team Play and they found it a huge benefit as they had 19 players involved and 10 coaches down for the session and got great reports back after it. John Mitchel's similarly ran a session on Tactical Prowess for their U12s & U13s. There was 4 coaches and 18 players there on the night and once again was beneficial to all involved.



Currently we are looking at Winter Programmes for multiple clubs. All club visits would consist of a session with their players on a topic from the Turas Otú Model and a session template and feedback to and from the coaches in attendance.

### Lockdown

Lockdown consisted of multiple online interactions with clubs showing huge buy in from all. During lockdown we ran 9 Online Webinars for the clubs which I will break down below and multiple online skills programs for their players to stay active during the lockdown. Overall, we had good attendance in West Louth with over 148 coaches engaging with us in a period of 3 months. I also sent out a skills challenge video on social media with over 3000 views and kids taking the challenge on themselves was brilliant. I also created individual skills challenges for the club and its players to try at home.

### Webinar 1 – Technical Practices for Child Strand.

Annaghminnon Rovers - 1.

Kilkerley Emmets - 16.

Glyde Rangers - 3.

John Mitchel's - 1.

St Brides - 0.

St Mochtas - 1



*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

### Webinar 2 – Coaching Officer Training

- Annaghminnon Rovers - 2
- Kilkerley Emmets - 10
- Glyde Rangers - 1
- John Mitchel's - 1
- St Brides - 1
- St Mochtas - 1

### Webinar 3 – Building Resilience with Johnny Doyle

- Annaghminnon Rovers - 0
- Kilkerley Emmets - 8
- Glyde Rangers - 0
- John Mitchel's - 0
- St Brides - 1
- St Mochtas - 2

### Webinar 4 – GK Union with Craig Lynch

- Annaghminnon Rovers - 1
- Kilkerley Emmets - 9
- Glyde Rangers - 1
- John Mitchel's - 1
- St Brides - 0
- St Mochtas - 0



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## Coaching and Games Report

### Webinar 5 – Conditioning with Ciaran Sloan

- Annaghminnon Rovers - 0
- Kilkerley Emmets – 10
- Glyde Rangers - 0
- John Mitchel's - 1
- St Brides -1
- St Mochtas- 2

### Webinar 6 – Canva Training for Club PROs

- Annaghminnon Rovers - 1
- Kilkerley Emmets -3
- Glyde Rangers - 0
- John Mitchel's - 1
- St Brides - 0
- St Mochtas - 2

### Webinar 7 – Health & Nutrition with Sharon Courtney

- Annaghminnon Rovers - 1
- Kilkerley Emmets - 2
- Glyde Rangers - 0
- John Mitchel's - 1
- St Brides -2
- St Mochtas - 0



*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

### Webinar 8 – Return to Play with Colm Nally

- Annaghminnon Rovers - 3
- Kilkerley Emmets - 9
- Glyde Rangers - 4
- John Mitchel's - 6
- St Brides - 2
- St Mochtas - 2

### Webinar 9 – Club Turas Workshop

- Annaghminnon Rovers - 4
- Kilkerley Emmets - 11
- Glyde Rangers - 4
- John Mitchel's - 3
- St Brides - 2
- St Mochtas - 9

### Mid Louth Regional Report- Ciaran Sloan

#### Ardee St Mary's:

2020 has been a strange year, In the early part of the year Ardee Boys Primary School received weekly coaching before lockdown hit. Over lockdown the coaches were very engaging, and we had numerous regional workshops online. Since September schools coaching has returned to Ardee Boys Primary School and we had a follow up Turas workshop with the U7/8. St Mary's hosted a few successful Cúl Camp during the summer.



*Convention 2020*

## **Coaching and Games Report**

### **St Kevin's:**

2020 has been a strange year, In the early part of the year both Philipstown and Dromin received weekly coaching sessions before lockdown hit. Before lockdown hit, we had a Turas regional workshop in the club with 6 coaches showing up and a great evening of learning was had. Over lockdown the coaches were very engaging, and we had numerous regional workshops online. Since September schools coaching has returned to Philipstown and Dromin and we had a Turas workshop with the U9/10. The club also hosted a very successful Cúl Camp in the summer.

### **Westerns:**

There were many positives throughout the year for the club with the Westerns hosting their second ever Cúl Camp during the summer. Westerns were present at some of the Turas regional workshops and were ever present on our online regional workshops held during lockdown.

### **Stabannon Parnell's:**

Pre lockdown Stabannon National School received weekly coaching and schools coaching will continue after Halloween. 1 Stabannon coach was present at all the Turas regional workshops held in St Kevin's. Stabannon coaches took part in our online workshops throughout lockdown. Post lockdown we had a Turas follow up workshop with their U14s. The U14s received an Athletic Development plan for the winter. They held a very successful Cúl Camp during the summer.





Convention 2020

## Coaching and Games Report

### Sean Mc Dermott's:

There were many positives throughout the year for the club with the Sean Mc Dermott's hosting their second ever Cúl Camp during the summer. They held their academy on a Friday night and there were great numbers every week.

### East Louth Region-Mairead Monahan

### Naomh Fionnbarra

Players from the Naomh Fionnbarra club who attend Tullydonnell National School participated in the 6th Class Tain Academy trials blitz that took place in January this year in the Pavilion Centre, Dunleer with 4 players from the school being selected for the squad. Following on from this, players from the club participated in a six-week programme of Pella Games for U12 players which was arranged to take place in the Pavilion Centre beginning on Wednesday 22nd January and finishing on Wednesday 26th February.

Players from the Dreadnots, Naomh Fionnbarra, Lannleire and O'Connell's club were in attendance. Their U10 team had been participating in the ÓgSpórt Lu pre-season games in DkIT Sport during February and March before it had to be cut short due to COVID-19.

Schools coaching had been taking place regularly in both Tullydonnell and Dillionstown Primary schools before they had to close in March.

Coaching has been arranged to take place in Dillionstown between November and December and hopefully in Tullydonnell in 2021.

Many thanks to the principals and teachers for their support of Gaelic Games coaching in their schools, particularly at this time. Since the lockdown was enforced, I engaged with club through County Webinars, Club Turas Webinars and by sending out Skill Challenges for coaches to share with their players.



Convention 2020

## Coaching and Games Report

When restrictions finally eased, I visited the club in August and September and delivered Turas coaching sessions with each of the u9, u10, u11 and u12 teams and coaches.

The aim over the winter months is to identify what coaches need to get their Foundation Award course done so I can arrange for them to complete the theory part of it online before doing the practical session with them in the club when it is possible to do so.

### Geraldines

On Friday 24th January 6th class boys from the 3 local school St Oliver's, St Francis, and St Fursey's travelled to DKIT Sport to participate in the 6th Class Tain Academy Trials. With plenty of skill and talent on display it was no wonder that a total of 15 players between all 3 schools got the call up to attend the trials. So, it was such a disappointment for these players that they never got to experience the benefits and enjoyment of being involved in it. As usual there was a great turn out of teams from the Geraldine's at the ÓgSpórt Lu Pre Season games in DkIT Sport. Two teams were entered in at U9 and U10 level and a total of 3 teams for the U8s. The U9 and U10 teams didn't do so bad getting 4 and 5 weeks respectively of action, however the U8 only got to tog out on one occasion before the curtains had to come down. Likewise, schools coaching had regularly been taking place in all 3 schools, complementing the work being done by the Geraldine's coaches with the junior classes before it came to a sudden halt.

However, I have been back in both St Oliver's and St Francis for a 6-week coaching block between September and Halloween. In St Oliver's 4th, 5th and 6th class children all received coaching while in St Francis, Senior Infants, 3rd, 4th, and 5th class children received coaching.



*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

I would like to thank both schools for all their support and encouragement towards GAA coaching in the school during these times. It is very much appreciated. I will hopefully begin coaching in St Fursey's in 2021.

At the Cúl Camp in July, 130 lucky children from the club enjoyed their first bit of normality in months. Despite some poor weather the children never let it bother them and just got on with the business of having fun and playing with their friends and developing their skills. Throughout the lockdown I kept in touch with club through County Webinars, Club Turas Webinars and by sending out Skill Challenges for coaches to share with their players. It was great to see so many Geraldine's coaches logging into all the various Louth GAA webinars and engage with it so well. Hopefully, all coaches will have benefited greatly from these sessions. I will arrange an online Foundation Award course over the winter months for any coaches that need to get it completed.

### Dreadnotes

School boys from Callystown and Walshestown took part in the 6th Class Tain Academy trials that took place in the Pavilion in Dunleer in January this year. They played matches against Tullydonnell, Kilsaran, Dromiskin and Dunleer schools. Four boys, who are members of the club, got invited to attend for trials on foot of their performance, but sadly for them it couldn't go ahead. The U11 team were able to attend the first week of the U12 Pella Games programme in the Pavilion in Dunleer and accounted very well for themselves despite them being much younger than the other players from the clubs.



*Convention 2020*

## **Coaching and Games Report**

The U8 team was all set to take part in the ÓgSpórt Lu Pre Season games in March but unfortunately it was cut short due to COVID-19. Coaching had been taking place on Wednesdays in both Callystown and Walshestown schools before they had to close in March.

However, since September I have completed a 6-week coaching block in Callystown Schools, and I will complete another 6-week coaching block between November and December in Walshestown school.

During April May and June, I was in contact with club through County Webinars, Club Turas Webinars and by sending out Skill Challenges for coaches to share with their players.

When restrictions finally eased, I visited the club and delivered Turas coaching sessions with each of the u7, u8, u9 and u10/U12 teams and their coaches.

It was great to see the club run a hugely successful Cúl Camp with 120 delightful children in attendance, given the fact that so much ÓgSpórt Lu activity for these children could not go ahead.

I will arrange an online Foundation Award course over the winter months for any coaches that need to get it done.

### **St Joseph's**

The 6th class boys' team from St Peter's Dromiskin did very well when they took part in the 6th Class Tain Academy Trials in the Pavilion in Dunleer. They played tough matches against Callystown NS, Kilsaran NS and Tullydonnell NS with 4 boys proving themselves worthy of being selected for the 6th Class Academy. However, with COVID-19 the players never got to enjoy playing and training with all the other boys that were selected.



*Convention 2020*

## **Coaching and Games Report**

Unfortunately, the ÓgSpórt Lu Pre Season games in DkIT were cut short in March. The U10 teams didn't do so bad getting 5 weeks of action, while the U9s got their 4 weeks. However, the U8s only got one outing before it was cancelled.

Coaching had been taking place in both Dromiskin and Darver schools before they had to close in March. Schools coaching will recommence this November for 6 weeks in Dromiskin and in the New Year for Darver.

During April, May, and June, I was in contact with club through County Webinars, Club Turas Webinars and by sending out Skill Challenges for coaches to share with their players.

I assisted regularly with the large nursery group and their coaches throughout July, August and September implementing activities through the Turas principals

The club were blessed with top class summer weather for the very well organised and safe Cúl Camp with 120 enthusiastic and eager children in attendance. Despite not being able to play mini league competitions the children thoroughly enjoyed the camp which brought them some sort of normality for a couple of days.

An online Foundation Award course will be arranged over the winter months as there are a number of coaches that need to get it done.

### **O'Connell's**

In January of this year, a total of 3 players from Kilsaran school who are also players with the club were selected for the 6th Class Tain Academy after putting in great performances with them at the trials that were held in the Pavilion in Dunleer. The school team played against Callystown NS, Dromiskin NS and Tullydonnell NS. However, the Tain Academy never got fully up and running which was a shame for those players that were selected.





*Convention 2020*

## **Coaching and Games Report**

Some of the O'Connell's players participated in the U12 Pella games that were organised in the Pavilion in Dunleer for 6 weeks in January and February. Players from Lannleire, Dreadnots and Naomh Fionnbarra were there also and teams were made up of different players from all the clubs involved.

The U10 team had been going really well in the ÓgSpórt Lu Pre-Season games in DkIT Sport before it had to finish prematurely. It was a real pity that U8 only got 1 week as there were great numbers attending with O'Connell's entering 2 teams.

Schools coaching had been continuing until they had to close in March. However, the good news is that I will be back in for a 6-week coaching block between November and December and the school have been very helpful in arranging that this takes place safely and successfully.

During April, May, and June, I was in contact with club through County Webinars, Club Turas Webinars and by sending out Skill Challenges for coaches to share with their players.

Between August and September, I delivered Turas coaching sessions with each of the Nursery, U7/U8, and u10/U11 teams and their coaches when we were allowed back into clubs to assist coaches.

Many thanks to the club for facilitating and hosting a GAA Cúl Camp this year, which every child (and their parents!!) were very grateful for. It was a well-deserved week of fun and games for the children who had missed out on so much GAA activity.

Over the winter I will organise an online Foundation Award course for those in the club who need to get it done



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Convention 2020

## Coaching and Games Report

### Lannleire

The Lannleire club regularly use the brilliant facilities of the Pavilion centre beside them and in particular use it for their underage training during the winter months where I assisted on occasion. I have also used it for some school coaching and all the staff and management there have been very accommodating to any activities I looked to arrange there.

The Pavilion is where I organised the trials for the 6th Class Tain Academy in January where children from 8 schools including Scoil Bhride Dunleer attended. Two boys from the Lannleire club that attend the local school were selected to attend the Tain Academy, but unfortunately due to COVID-19 it had to be shelved.

It also played host to the U12 Pella Games programme which ran for 6 weeks between January and February where up on 30 boys and girls from 4 clubs including Lannleire attended. Taking place at 8pm on Wednesday evenings a large number of the boys and girls would play the Pella games straight after being at their youth club activities from 7pm – 8pm upstairs in the Pavilion.

Schools coaching resumed in September where I was in Scoil Bhride every Thursday for 6 weeks up until the Halloween break. The boys and girls from 3rd, 4th, 5th and both 6th classes all received regular GAA coaching. Many thanks to the principal and teacher for accepting coaching in the school despite Covid 19 and helping me to run safe and enjoyable sessions. During April, May, and June, I was in contact with club through County Webinars, Club Turas Webinars and by sending out Skill Challenges for coaches to share with their players. The club have a thriving nursery section and it's a testament to the work being done by members to increase participation in the club.



*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

It is with this group and their coaches that I assisted with throughout August and September implementing activities through the Turas principals. Over the winter I will organise and online Foundation Award course for those in the club who need to get it done.

### Hurling GDA- Daire Hoey

Daire started in a part time hurling GDA role in January 2020. We got sorted with 20 Primary schools that wanted to receive Hurling coaching from Louth Coaching and Games. From January to March, 10 schools received coaching from Daire around the county. Unfortunately, with the country going into lockdown in the middle of March these schools never received their block of coaching. During the lockdown we hosted webinars with Martin Fogarty and also a discussion with Louth senior Hurling Manager Paul Mc Cormack. During the Summer we hosted 29 Cúl Camps in total with 2 of them been specific hurling only camps, Naomh Moninne and also Knockbridge Hurling Club. These 2 camps ran excellently with over 110 attending the 2 camps in total. Daire is back in schools since September and a lot of coaching is based around fundamentals as there are restrictions in schools with sharing hurls and helmets.



*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

### DkIT Report

#### Post Lockdown

January time our men's senior team unfortunately lost in the Trench Cup semifinal below in Portlaoise vs an excellent and winners of the Trench Cup Cork IT. Our ladies team done superbly and reached the Lynch Cup Finals weekend in March also Daniel Farrelly from our Handball club took his League 2 title in Belfast. Our Hurling team got narrowly beaten in the Corn Padraig MacDiarmada final. I got out to present the Lennon Cup Player of the Tournament prize to Bush player Cian Connor kindly sponsored by ABP Ireland where Cian's club Cooley Kickhams and school Bush PP both received €500 each.

#### Cúl Camps

The Cúl camps in 2020 went very successfully especially given the current global situation and the impact of COVID-19 throughout the country. Due to covid it was important that procedures were put in place and the camps ran slightly differently than previous years. This year everyone had to pre-book their place online and no walk ups would be allowed on the day, everyone entering the ground for the camp had to fill out a return to play form and continue to submit it each day for the duration of the camp. To be eligible to coach at the camps all applicants had to be 18 or over, keeping to the new coach to child ratio of 1:8. Almost 100 coaches were employed this summer as part of the camp programme.



*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

The camps start date was delayed this year due to covid restrictions but the first week of camps began on July 20th with the final week finishing on August 21st. In all 29 Cúl camps were run throughout the county, with 2978 children taking part. These number were great given the circumstances and no doubt would have been higher only for the fact that this year the number of participants attending each venue was capped depending on the space available.

Overall, the camps proved once again to be a fantastic success and given the difficult times we are currently in there was no incidents to report.

### Academy Squads Summary:

#### Louth U14:

Unfortunately, due to covid the U14s squad was not picked but plans are in place for the 2021 season.

#### Louth U15:

The U15 academy squad got back into the gym with Ciaran Sloan in January, twice a week. During February we started the trialing process for the coming year. We held 3 regional trials and identified a number of players to bring into the squad for further assessment. Unfortunately, before we could advance to the next stage the country went into lockdown, which brought everything to halt. We continued to keep in touch with the players send out skill challenges and conditioning exercises. The players then took up the challenge of running from Darver to Croke Park and logging their runs each day, which brought a bit of enthusiasm back to the group. Hopefully, we can get back to working with them more frequently over the next few months.



*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

### Louth U16:

In January we finished our regional trials. Over the course of the regional games we had seen over 100 players each player getting six games this included semi-finals and finals to show their skill set. The panel was then made up of 50 players and over the next six weeks another ten players would be let go from the U16 panel. January and February the players got to enjoy new ways of training this included jiu-jitsu and some players were introduced to the gym for the first time. February mid-term the squad was brought in for two days where they worked on speed work and skills development. Also, in February we played a challenge match v Monaghan in Darver and this was our last outing before all football had to stop due to covid 19.

### Louth Minors Report Post Lockdown

With the new management starting to take shape in early January everything started to come together with 3 training sessions weekly continuing with Aaron Hoey, David Reilly and Eamon Connolly on the pitch and Ciaran Sloan in the gym everything was going to plan when they took on three challenge games prior to lockdown vs Monaghan in Cloghan where they narrowly lost, vs Antrim in Dunsilly where they won and vs Longford in Pearse Park where our boys lost. Coming out of lockdown in early September Aaron and the lads continued as they left off 2 pitch sessions and 1 gym session but the gym sessions were done by the players outside of Darver with the help of Ciaran Sloan. They played Down in Ballyholland on their first week back and played two teams in separate halves and won one game and lost the other.



*Convention 2020*

## **Coaching and Games Report**

They pushed hard ahead of the Leinster championship by adding new players and with some stepping away the group got smaller and tighter knit. They played Wexford in Darver in their Leinster Championship first round fixture where they put on a stellar performance to win and progress to a fixture vs Kildare.

### **Lockdown**

During lockdown Ciaran Sloan took the brunt of the workload by setting out conditioning session. Ciaran gave the lads Nutrition info, Home S&C programs & Running sessions to keep the lads bodies ticking over.

### **U 13 Louth Hurling Academy -2020**

The u13 hurling academy commenced training in late January and consisted mostly of the players who participated in the u12 academy from 2019. A panel of 28 players were made available from Naomh Moninne, St. Fechins GAA, Knockbridge Hurling and St Kevin's. With no club having sufficient numbers to enter the u13 Leinster Cross County, Coiste Iomana requested Louth Coaching and Games to seek permission from the Leinster Council to enter a combined clubs team representing the County at both u13 and u15 level. Louth Coaching and Games advised that the clubs have to look after the running of the teams but would assist with administration and logistical matters. This request was sanctioned with fixtures set for the 15th Feb v Ashbourne/Donaghmore (Meath), 29th February v The Saints (Meath) and 7th March v Clonkill (Westmeath).





*Convention 2020*

## **Coaching and Games Report**

With very little preparation time and no practice matches, the opening fixture against Ashbourne/Donaghmore proved to be a difficult assignment and they were well beaten by a more physical team. Despite the loss the team and management learnt from the experience and the next couple of training sessions demonstrated that there was an appetite to do better.

The second fixture with the players more familiar with each other and playing in positions far more suited to their ability they defeated The Saints comfortably. The final fixture was winner takes all against Clonkill. The fixture was originally fixed for the 7th but was postponed due to weather. With COVID headline news at this stage it was likely that this fixture would not be fulfilled, and this came to pass when on the 12th March, GAA suspended all activity. For 2020, I wish to thank Shane Lennon and Daire Hoey from Coaching and Games and to my fellow mentors, Dermot Plunkett (Knockbridge) and Brendan McCourt (Naomh Moninne).

### **Post Primary Teams:**

Both the Dundalk Schools and Louth Schools teams started in October and Dundalk schools were beaten in their opener against Wicklow Schools with Louth Schools beating Carlow & Wicklow schools before been beaten by eventual winner Rochfortbridge in the quarter finals. I would like to thank our sponsors of the school teams Cullen Auto Parts, Oxygen Environmental & DKIT.

The 2020/21 school season is currently on hold until the lockdown 2.0 is over.



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*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

### Ardee Community School:

A pilot project is being run in Ardee CS with the aim being to have a team competing in the Senior Leinster A competition by 2025. Covid has slightly altered the plan but training have continued as per the guidelines with 2/3rd years on a Monday and squad made up of 1/2/3rd years who can play U16 schools football next year are training on a Tuesday and Thursday and 1st years training on Wednesday. This will not just improve the school but also the clubs that feed into Ardee CS

### Sky Sports Super Games 2020

Following the success of our super games in 2019 and the positive feedback we received from coaches and parents, we planned on 2020 being even bigger and better when it came to Louth GAA Super games. Unfortunately, with the current pandemic all plans were binned due to Covid-19, when we restarted and returned to play, the priority was our Cúl camps and getting our clubs back up and running. The Super Games were planned for a return to clubs and for clubs to run them internally to stop people from different clubs mixing. Unfortunately, with the second lockdown those plans have been put on hold.

### Óg Spórt Lú

Another devastating impact of the corona virus pandemic was Óg Spórt Lú and our underage games programme which took a severe hit from mid-March through to mid-August where the football fields up and down the length and breadth of the county should have been filled with sights and sounds of children training and playing games.



*Convention 2020*

## Coaching and Games Report

We did manage to timetable 3 rounds of regional blitzes for the U7, U8, U9 and U10 between August and September with players and coaches delighted to be back in action. Instead of the normal 6 teams at avenue we now had to group only 4 teams. Unfortunately, the scheduled All County Blitzes in Darver for these ages could not take place as restrictions on numbers attending would not allow

Although they didn't get any All County Blitzes either, the U11s faired a bit better as they had a 6 week programme of games that began on Saturday 15th August until Saturday 19th of September with a starting time of 2.30pm. Similar to Coiste na nÓg, fixtures were arranged by clubs from the following regions:- Dundalk & North Louth· Mid Louth· Drogheda & South LouthThe pre-season programme of games that take place during February and March in DkIT Sport for U8, U9 and U10 teams also had to be cut short due to COVID-19. The U10 teams managed to get 5 weeks of activity while the u9 teams got their 4 weeks.

Unfortunately, the U8 only managed to get 1 run out before it was cancelled. Everyone in the Drogheda region was very disappointed with the sudden closure of Drogheda Leisure Park leaving us with no venue to host the pre-season games for the clubs who were ready to play there. Despite contacting local schools and community halls an alternative suitable indoor venue could not be found and while clubs made themselves available the weather conditions hampered any chance of playing outdoors. It was also a pity that the enjoyable Winter Programme that generally takes place in Darver between September and October for U8, U10 and U11 teams also fell afoul of Covid 19 restrictions.



*Convention 2020*

## **Coaching and Games Report**

### **Coach Education**

#### **Spring Learning & Development Programme**

We managed to get through some of our Spring Learning & Development Programme despite the impact of Covid-19. The biggest casualty however was Award 2 Course which had been going really well with a total of 22 coaches in attendance – 14 from Louth, 7 from Meath and 1 from Offaly.

The group had completed 3 out of their 6 modules in Darver along with some assessments and practical work and were due to complete their remaining 3 modules in the Meath GAA Centre of Excellence in Dunganny. However, the course was paused and hopefully will resume some time in 2021.

Of the various workshops run by games development staff, the Conditioning Strategies for U16 – Adult players run by Louth GDA and Strength & Conditioning coach Ciaran Sloan attracted the most attention from clubs around the county with 28 coaches in attendance.

### **Coaching Webinars**

Throughout May and June, Louth Coaching and Games ran a number of successful webinars with large numbers of coaches both from inside and outside the county logging in



*Convention 2020*

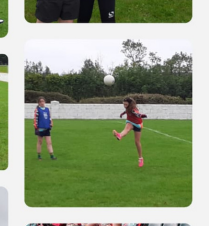
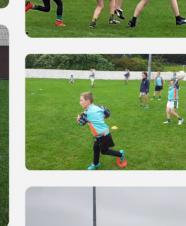
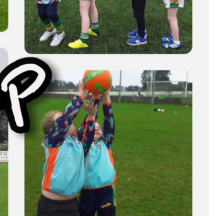
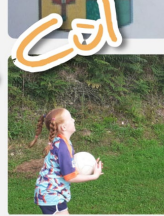
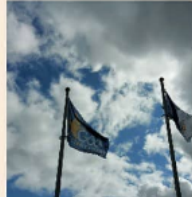
## **Coaching and Games Report**

### **Formal Coach Education Courses**

There continues to be good attendance and demand for Foundation Award and Safeguarding 1 courses. The theory part of the Foundation Award course can now be done online and if any club is interested in Organising one for their club they can contact the regional GDA to arrange this. For Safeguarding courses is it best to go through the club's Children's Officer. Clubs are reminded that all adults assisting and helping with underage teams must have completed a Foundation Award course, have an up to date Safeguarding 1 Course done and be Garda Vetted.

Finally, Leinster Council have circulated details of all the Louth club coaches on their system that have completed formal education courses such as Foundation Award, Award 1, and Award 2. This is very valuable information for every club to have. Should any club like to receive their own club coach's status please contact their regional GDA or Coach Education Administrator Mairead Monahan.









*Convention 2020*

## Cultural Report 2020

The Louth Gaeltacht Scholarships took place earlier than previous years. This took place in Darver on February 1st with 49 participants each receiving a €100 scholarship to be paid to their Gaeltacht. Coláiste an Phiarsaigh matched the county boards scholarship and offered a further €100 scholarship (to be taken off the course fees) to the participants who were going to their Gaeltacht.

These Gaeltacht courses, however, did not go ahead.

The Louth county Scór Sinsir competition took place on February 26th in Naomh Mairtin's Hall and consisted of three entrants, all from Glen Emmets. We held a Tráth na gCéist on the same night which was attended by 5 clubs. Glen Emmets won on the night. The Leinster rounds did not go ahead. We were represented in the Leinster Scór na nÓg Final in two categories as well as the Tráth na gCéist by members from Naomh Mairtins and Newtown Blues. The 2020 Scór na nÓg did not go ahead.

During the lockdown, a Virtual Scór was run. Louth was well represented with 10 entries from Clan na Gaels, Newtown Blues, Mattock Rangers, Glen Emmets, Kilkerley, Naomh Mairtins and St Josephs. Singers who took part in Scór also sang the National Anthems at our Louth Championship Finals.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Clodagh Nic Ghiolla Eáin

Oifigeach Cultúrtha agus Teanga

CLG Lú

087 9709715



*Convention 2020*

## CCC Report

Thanks to all the CCC committee members, Padraig McDonnell, Brian Carrig, Frank Scriven, Sean Byrne, Denis McArdle, Aiden Haplin and in particular our secretary Stephen Murphy. It has been a very challenging year but with the fantastic work by the members of the CCC, the clubs and players we were able to schedule the fixtures and competitions to allow games to be played in an orderly and timely manner.

### Competitions

We started the year with a new and complete fixture calendar which clearly laid out all fixtures and competitions. Unfortunately, this calendar soon became irrelevant as the government and GAA imposed Covid 19 restrictions seen games being postponed and cancelled. Despite a few false starts we managed to complete the majority of the competitions. I would like to thank all the clubs and players for their co operation through out the year. As the restrictions forced us to fix and rearrange games at very short notice the clubs and players continued to fulfil their fixtures without complaint. There has been very positive comments form both the clubs and players regarding the way the championship was scheduled this year and is a subject we will look closely at this year again.

It was with deep regret and disappointment that we were unable to complete the league programme and fulfil the U20 and Junior B championship. We took the decision to cancel the remainder of the competitions when new restrictions were imposed in October and would not allow games or training to continue until at least the beginning of December.



*Convention 2020*

## CCC Report

We felt it would be unfair to ask players to return to championship games in the middle of winter with no training or game time prior to the competitions.

The year as usual started with the Paddy Sheelin Cup and Kevin Mullin Shield competitions which proved a challenge to fulfil due to the bad weather but with thanks to the staff in Darver we continued to play the competitions and complete the majority of the games before we were forced to suspend all competitions in March due to Covid 19 regulations.

When the regulations were eventually eased in August, we were again able to return to competitions. Following a lengthy debate at a County Board Executive online meeting, it was decided to proceed with the league competition on the following basis. The leagues would be divided into groups and played without promotion or regulation. The Championship would proceed as normal, but the quarter and semi finals would be completed on the day with no replays. It was also decided that, where possible, all championship games would be played in Darver as spectators were either not allowed or capacity was restricted, and this would allow the games to be televised by LuTV and broadcast live. This proved to be a great success.

Congratulations to the championship winners, Naomh Mairtin on winning their first County Senior Football Championship, Knockbridge HC on their success in the Senior Hurling Championship, St Brides following a 53 year wait, won the intermediate football championship and Naomh Fionnbarra who after a closely fought game, won the Junior football final.



Convention 2020

## CCC Report

Congratulations also to the remaining finalist who provided top quality football, hurling and entertainment on the day, St. Marys, St. Fechins, Kilkerley Emmets and Lann Léire.

Competitions	Winners (Promoted)	Relegated From (via Play-Offs)
Senior Football Championship	Naomh Martin	O'Raghallaighs
Senior Hurling Championship	Knockbridge	N/A
Intermediate Football Championship	St Brides	Glen Emmets
Junior Football Championship	Naomh Fionnbarr	N/A

The scheduling of the games for the coming year has yet to be defined. The idea of a split season has been spoken about and appears to be gaining momentum. How or when it will be implemented has still to be decided. It also looks like we will have to contend with the Covid 19 virus and the uncertainty it brings to our competitions.

Thanks to our referees and administrators, Denis McArdle and assistant David Fedigan. As was noted during the year, we have a shortage of referees within the county. It is a testament to the administrators and referee's that we had officials available for all the games. We would ask clubs to encourage members to put themselves forward for the referee courses and training. We are nearing a crisis point where as if new referee's cannot be enlisted and trained, we will have trouble in fulfilling all competition fixtures in the near future. We have developed a programme to train and educate our referee's which we will implement in 2021. Continuous training and assessment is required to ensure our referee's meet the standards required at the top level.



Convention 2020

## CCC Report

Disciplinary infractions still remain a concern and we would encourage clubs to train and educate our members on the rules and infractions. It is as important to play within the rules as it is to train and play the games. There is no tolerance within the CCC for abuse to the referee's and officials from either the players, team management or supporters.

Disciplinary Infractions	2020
Category II (Black Card – Ordered Off)	38
Category I (2 Yellow Cards- Rest of Game)	24
Category III (Red Card Minimum 1 Match)	26
Category IV (Red Card – Minimum 2 Matches)	3
Other Categories (Player/Team Officials/Supporters)	2
	<b>93</b>

### Transfers:

Transfers were dealt with in January and the CCC made the following decisions,

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Ruled Out of Order	1	0	1
Transfer Application Withdrawn	1	0	1
Signed by both clubs and or no objection	24	4	28
Sanctioned by C.C.C.	5	2	7
Refused by C.C.C.	11	4	15
Total Inter Club Transfer Requests Handled	42	10	52

Thanks to our venue manager, Declan Byrne who sourced venues for all the games, some with very short notice, to the clubs for the use of the grounds and to the stewards and gate men and women for all their help and assistance throughout the year





*Convention 2020*

## CCC Report

This year was exceptionally difficult for our supporters as they were unable to attend a lot of the games. This was somewhat eased by the excellent coverage and reporting of all the games by the local media outlets and in particular the excellent work by our county PRO, Mark Byrne and LuTV who in their first year of game coverage done an exceptional job.

Thanks to our County Chairman, Peter Fitzpatrick and all the county officers for the help and assistance we received all year. We have had the full support of the county board in all our decisions and it is very much appreciated

I would like to wish all our county and club officers, committee members, players members and all their families a very Happy Christmas and healthy and prosperous New Year. Hopefully, we can return to a safe and normal life in 2021 and resume our games in a safe environment for all.

On behalf of the CCC Committee

Is Mise

Seán Mac Giolla Eáin

Cathhaoireach

Coiste Cheannais na Comortaisi (C.C.C.)



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*Convention 2020*

## PRO Report

My first year as Co.PRO was a very strange and busy year. The role of the Public Relations Officer (P.R.O) is hugely demanding and time consuming and as we all know social media plays a massive role in the promotion of our games and other events and activities.

We have many new followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, which continues to grow and we now have a new and easy to navigate website. I would like to thank Ronan Lynch for all his hard work in setting it up and for assisting with any issues that have needed addressing over the course of the year. All forms of social media are regularly updated and I would like to thank all who have regularly provided content.

Throughout lockdown, when games and competitions were put on hold, Louth GAA provided its followers with plenty of webinars and skills competitions, hosted by Louth Coaching and Games. We also set up our #WeeAreOurClub initiative, where every club in the county was promoted and the fantastic work they were doing during lockdown for their community was acknowledged. I would like to thank Conor Walsh, an Oliver Plunketts clubman who provided me with the graphics to promote this initiative.

When games returned in August, our new streaming service LúTV was established. A lot of the ground work had been done during lockdown to find the right platform suitable for what we needed. I would like to thank Ronan Lynch and Francie McMullen for all their hard work in this process. LúTV proved to be a huge success and gave all Louth Gaels the opportunity to see their club playing on a regular basis as we successfully streamed every championship game once restrictions on crowds were put in place.



*Convention 2020*

## PRO Report

I would sincerely like to thank all our LúTV team including LMFM's Colm Corrigan, Dan Bannon, Stephen Yore, Bob Doheny, Fra McCullough, Ogie Harmon, Jimmy Murray, Karl O'Connor, Conor Lynch, David Reid, Craig Lynch, Aidan Shevlin, Fra Kieran and Mark Stephenson who provided us with commentary over the duration of the championship. To our cameramen Joe Finnegan and Shane Cunningham who between them videoed every championship game this season. To 247 media for providing us with the technical help and platform to stream. And finally, to Jolene and all in Anglo Printers who has assisted me all year in developing matchday programmes. She has always been very approachable and helpful even when I asked her to produce three finals programmes for one weekend with about 3 days notice.

We have continued to have a good working relationship with local newspapers and local radio station LMFM. I would like to thank them for all the work they do in promoting Louth GAA. We hope this positive working relationship continues in the future. I would also like to thank Kieran Carr for his photographs throughout the year which have kept websites and social media full of content.

I would like to thank all the clubs who have assisted me throughout the year in promoting Louth GAA in a very positive light and providing me with information for matchday programmes. I look forward to another year where we have a very positive and mutual working partnership. Most clubs have very active social media platforms and websites which is a great credit to these clubs.



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*Convention 2020*

As social media is a very big aspect of match day and the role of PRO encompasses many different roles on match day, I would like to thank Niamh Kirk for her assistance on National League matchday prior to lockdown in keeping our social media platforms up to date. To Stephen Yore, who has been a great addition and help in many capacities since games resumed in August. He has assisted in commentary, pre match preparation and scoreboard duties and next year will take on the role as Hurling PRO to actively promote Hurling in the county. I would also like to thank Susan McShane, Anthony Briscoe and Kevin Gordon for their work in promoting underage games in the county.

Finally I would like to thank Francie McMullen, Bob Doheny, Peter Fitzpatrick and all the management committee for making my first year in this role so enjoyable. I would also like to acknowledge my wife Carmel and son Senan, for allowing me the time and space to fulfill these duties to the best of my ability.

I would like to wish all committee members, their families and all clubs a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Is mise,  
Marc O'Broin  
PRO Coiste Contae Lú  
0851428328





Convention 2020

## Louth GAA Convention 2020-Nominations

LOUTH GAA CONVENTION 2020 - NOMINATIONS		
Position	Nominee	Nominated By
Cathaoirleach - Chairperson	Peadar Mac Giolla Phadraig - <b>Peter Fitzpatrick</b> (Clan Na Gael) - <b>Outgoing</b>	Clan Na Gael, Naomh Caoimhin, Ragaire Baile Fiach, Naomh Padraig, Naomh Feichin, Naomh Bríd, Lannleire
Leas Cathaoirleach - Vice Chairperson	Sean Mac Ghiolla Eain - <b>Sean McClean</b> (Ragaire Baile Fiach) - <b>Outgoing</b>	Ragaire Baile Fiach, Naomh Caoimhin, Naomh Padraig, Naomh Feichin, Naomh Bríd, Lannleire
Rúnaí - Secretary	Roibeard Ó Dochanna - <b>Bob Doherty</b> (Naomh Caoimhin) - <b>Outgoing</b>	Naomh Caoimhin, Ragaire Baile Fiach, Clan na Gael, Dreadnotts Ceann Chlochair, Naomh Padraig, Naomh Feichin, Naomh Mairtin, Naomh Bríd, Lannleire
Leas Rúnaí - Asst. Secretary	Proinsias O Clairin - <b>Fra Kieran</b> (Clan na Gael) - <b>Outgoing</b>	Raonáithe Maiteoige, Naomh Padraig, Naomh Feichin, Naomh Bríd, Lannleire
	Muiris Mac Enrí - <b>Maurice Harrison</b> (Clan na Gael)	Clan na Gael
Cisteoir - Treasurer	Aodhan Ó Berrill - <b>Aidan Berrill</b> (Naomh Mairtin) - <b>Outgoing</b>	Naomh Mairtin, Seán Mac Diarmada, Ragaire Baile Fiach, Naomh Padraig, Naomh Feichin, Naomh Caoimhin, Naomh Bríd, Lannleire
Leas Cisteoir - Asst. Treasurer	Aodhan Ó hAilpín - <b>Aidan Halpin</b> (Raonáithe Maiteoige) - <b>Outgoing</b>	Raonáithe Maiteoige, Naomh Caoimhin, Seán Mac Diarmada, Naomh Feichin, Naomh Caoimhin, Naomh Bríd, Lannleire
Oifigeach Gaeilge Cultúr - Irish Language Cultural Officer	Clodagh Ní Ghiolla Eain - <b>Clodagh McClean</b> (Ragaire Baile Fiach) - <b>Outgoing</b>	Ragaire Baile Fiach, Seán Mac Diarmada, Naomh Caoimhin, Naomh Feichin, Naomh Bríd, Lannleire
OCP - PRO	Marc Ó Broin - <b>Mark Byrne</b> (Naomh Mairtin) - <b>Outgoing</b>	Naomh Mairtin, Naomh Caoimhin, Seán Mac Diarmada, Ragaire Baile Fiach, Naomh Feichin, Naomh Bríd, Lannleire
Oifigeach Oiliúna - Coaching Officer	Brian Mac Eafartaigh - <b>Brian Cafferty</b> (Na Gearaltaigh)	Na Gearaltaigh
Teachta Ard Chomhairle - Central Council Delegate	Pádraig Ó Tomhnair - <b>Pat Toner</b> (Cnoc Dubhdail) - <b>Outgoing</b>	Cnoc Dubhdail, Seán Mac Diarmada, Naomh Caoimhin, Naomh Padraig, Naomh Feichin, Naomh Bríd
Teachta Comhairle Laighean (2) Leinster Council Delegate	Pádraig Ó Conchuir - <b>Padraic O'Connor</b> (Naomh Pádraig) - <b>Outgoing</b>	Naomh Padraig, Seán Mac Diarmada, Naomh Feichin, Naomh Bríd, Lannleire
	Daibheid Mac Ruairí - <b>David Rogers</b> (Naomh Caoimhin)	Naomh Caoimhin
	Pádraig Ó Ollibhéar - <b>Paddy Oliver</b> (Naomh Padraig)	Naomh Bríd
Delegates to Congress 2021 (2) Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí, Ard Chomhairle (2020) attend as per rule	Daibheid Mac Ruairí - <b>David Rogers</b> (Naomh Caoimhin)	Naomh Caoimhin
	Aodhan Ó Berrill - <b>Aidan Berrill</b> (Naomh Mairtin)	Seán Mac Diarmada
	Deaglan Ó Broin - <b>Declan Byrne</b> (Uí Chonaill)	Seán Mac Diarmada
	Sean Mac Ghiolla Eain - <b>Sean McClean</b> (Ragaire Baile Fiach)	Ragaire Baile Fiach
	Proinsias O Clairin - <b>Fra Kieran</b> (Clan na Gael)	Raonáithe Maiteoige





Convention 2020

## Motions

### COISTE CHONTAE LÚ COMHTHONÓL 2020 MOTIONS

#### Motion 1

When our new stadium is completed that a statue of Dermot O'Brien be erected in a place of prominence in our stadium

Seán Mac Diarmada

#### Motion 2

Divisions 3B Championship

A championship for division 3B clubs, with the winners playing the second last team in Division 3A league for promotion. If the winner is already promoted, runners up take their place in the play off

Seán Mac Diarmada

#### Motion 3

Referees.

A committee to be formed comprising of former referee administrators and other members. To review all aspects of refereeing in Louth. The recruitment and retention of referees. The training and assessment of referees. Showing a clear career path for the referee.

Seán Mac Diarmada

#### Motion 4

Amend the County Bye Law number 3 (County Management Committee) add in that the "Coiste na nóg Chairperson to sit on the management committee of Coiste Chontae Lú" Agreed at Club Meeting on October 19th 2020

*3. The County Committee shall appoint the following Sub Committees whose functions and responsibilities shall be in each case to be as defined in R 3.20. T.O. 2019 All members of sub-committees shall be named. • County Management Committee It shall consist of the Officers, Provincial Council Representatives and Central Council representative and two named members of the County Committee.*

Naomh Chaoimhín



*Convention 2020*

## Motions

### Motion 5

#### All County Championship Proposal

- 8 Group teams will be formed based on the Club location in the County. The clubs that will be represented by each Group team will be finalised and agreed at a later date.
- The Club teams which will be represented by each Group team is fixed and cannot change from year to year.
- Each Group team will comprise of Junior, Intermediate and Senior Clubs however only Intermediate and Junior club players are allowed to play in their Group team in any year. eg. if a Senior team gets relegated to Intermediate in 2020, their players are available to represent the Group team in 2021.
- A preliminary competition of the All County Championship will take place where 8 Group teams gets reduced to 4. This will consist of 2 groups of 4 teams. Each Group team will play 3 matches and the top 2 of each group will progress to the knock out stages of the All County competition. These matches will be played in May time (based on last years football calendar)
- There is a compromise where the preliminary Group Team Competition can be played without County Players

The 4 Group team winners of the preliminary round of the All County Championship gets entered into the remainder of the competition with the 12 Senior club teams making 16 teams altogether.

- The 16 teams play off in a knock out Championship in which county players must be made available to play in.
- The All County Championship will be played at a time that suits The County team depending on if they are in tier 2 or still in the All-Ireland series and will be completed before the normal championship starts.



Convention 2020

## Motions

- The All County Championship knock out matches get finished on the day.
- A Playoff match between Joe Ward winners and All County Championship winners will take place. This match will be completed on the day.
- If the winner of this playoff is a Senior Club team (i.e. not a Group team) they will go on to represent Louth in the Leinster Club Championship.
- This playoff will not occur if the winner of the Joe Ward also wins the All County Championship and that team will automatically represent Louth in the Leinster Club Championship.

### Coiste Bainistíochta

#### Motion 6

Motion : Revert back to system where Championship Status determines League Status

Our Proposal is to return our competition structure where your league position in the previous year's league will determine both your League and championship for the following year. Example for clarification. An intermediate team that gains promotion via the intermediate league, will, the following year compete as a senior team in both league and championship. Likewise a team that has been relegated from the Intermediate league will compete the following year as a junior team in both League and Championship. If a club win their respective championship they are automatically promoted to the next higher division. A team that wins the championship cannot be relegated, the next lowest team will be relegated in both league and championship.

Relegation only to be decided by the league.

Motion : Revert back to system where League Status determines Championship Status

Division 3/ Junior: The top team in the league and the championship winner go up in the league and championship. Second and third placed teams will play off and the winner will play the team placed third from bottom in division 2. The winner of this game will play in Division 2 and intermediate championship the following year. The loser will play in Division 3 and Junior championship the following year



*Convention 2020*

## Motions

### Division 2/ Intermediate:

Team which finishes top of the league following a full league programme will be deemed league winners and will be automatically promoted in both league and championship, the teams placed 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th will play off and the winners will play the team placed 3rd from the bottom Division 1. The winner of this playoff will play in division 1 and senior championship the following year. The loser will play in Division 2 and intermediate championship the following year

The championship winner will be promoted the league and championship

Bottom 2 teams in the league are regulated in both league and championship. The team which finishes third from bottom will play in a regulation playoff place with the winner of the Division 3 league playoff game. The winner of this game will play in Division 2 and intermediate championship the following year. The loser will play in Division 3 and Junior championship the following year

### Division 1/ Senior:

Bottom 2 teams in the league are regulated in both league and championship. The team which finishes third from bottom will play in a regulation playoff place with the winner of the Division 2 league playoff. The winner of this game will play in Division 1 and senior championship the following year. The loser will play in Division 2 and intermediate championship the following year. A team cannot be regulated if they win their championship. The next lowest team in that League Division will be regulated in both league and championship.

Next 3 years or until the competitions align (whichever is first)

Junior is good

Intermediate and Senior

Playoff winner in the league and the championship winner go up in the league and championship.

If this unbalances the league or championship competitions the following criteria will be used to align the competitions in this order.



*Convention 2020*

## Motions

1. Highest placed Division 1 team (or teams if more than one is required to redress the balance) playing in intermediate championship will move from intermediate championship into senior championship

2. Lowest placed senior championship team (or teams if more than one is required to redress the balance) playing in Division 2 will move from senior championship to intermediate championship

During the time of rebalance a team playing in senior championship cannot be regulated to Division 3.

If the competitions are aligned after the regulation and promotion then the following criteria will be used only for the next 3 years or until the competitions align (whichever is first)

1. The intermediate championship team which finishes lowest in league 1 will be demoted to Division 2 and the senior championship team which finishes highest in Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1

There would be no regulation in the championship whenever the competitions align. The league will be the competition which will determine your championship status

It is our belief that the existing competition structures in Louth GAA have contributed to the lessening of competitiveness of our county senior team. We believe that a return to the structure as ascribed in the motion will give Louth Football the best chance of producing the consistent calibre of player to help return Louth football to the higher ranks of GAA.

We all know that in the past Louth were consistently challenging at the latter end of the Leinster championship and we believe that this was largely due to the quality of players the competitive nature that our leagues provided. The previous changes to the present league and championship structure, while done so with the best intentions, have had a real detrimental turnaround in the fortune's of Louth football. There have been some consequences of this change, Louth Club teams who have tasted success at provincial level, have done so by competing at a lower grade than their league status. When you look at this year's championship winners you see that the junior championship was won by an intermediate league team and the intermediate championship was won by a Senior league team.





Convention 2020

## Motions

While this anomaly has allowed some of our club teams be successful at the provincial level and we don't wish to tarnish these successes, but these successes are not a true measure of the standard of teams we are producing, as most of these success have come at a lower level then the winning team's league status in our county and we don't believe it should continue.

With all things being equal, the higher the level of competitive club football a player is playing the more consistently tested he will be, and it is only by facing this challenge in each and every game that a player grows. This lack of consistent competitive challenges we believe have denied our club players the chances to improve physically, competitively, tactically and skilfully. Since 2010 Louth football has slumped alarmingly and now sit firmly in the bottom ranks of Div 4 in the national league.

We have a serious problem when our senior team is rooted in Division 4 while our club teams are only able to be successful at provincial level by playing at a grade lower than their real status. We need to help our senior team be successful by giving our players the tools THEY need to be successful, and the first step on this is to fix our broken competition structure. That's why we firmly believe that a return to the format of league positions determining your championship status, is a vital factor to help Louth football progress.

Coiste Bainistíochta

### Motion 7

#### RESERVE TEAM PROMOTION PROPOSAL

We set out to find a way to have reserve team promotion to the first team leagues while at the same time addressing the concerns of clubs. We firstly tried to address a couple of important issues and then come up with a proposal. The main issue junior clubs had originally was how first teams were affected by performances of reserve teams both in games and in promotion and relegation. Since the introduction of D3b first clubs cannot be relegated to the reserve teams' leagues so reserve teams would not affect the status of first teams in D3a. It was felt that reserve teams could be strong or weak at different times of the season depending on how many players were required to play for their first team. Listing a top 20 would mean that the reserve team would be selected from practically the same squad each week with little to no reliance on first team players and would therefore be of a similar standard throughout the season.



*Convention 2020*

## Motions

There was also a worry that reserve team matches could be conceded as this had happened the last time reserve teams played in D3. It was agreed that the CCC would decide if the reserve team had adequate numbers to maintain a position in D3a so the reserve team would not be promoted without the approval of the CCC.

It was also felt that reserve teams should not have to accept promotion, they are free to remain in D4 if that is their preference.

Below is the outline proposal for reserve teams to be allowed promotion from D4 to D3a.

### Outline proposal

Reserve teams can win promotion to the top 3 Divisions providing that:

1. Club names top 20 players that can only play for their first team and further name top 12 players that can only play for their second team.
2. Club agree to playing matches on the same day as their first team where necessary
3. The club does not have to take the promotion, they do not have to go to D3a if they don't wish to.
4. Final approval from the CCC

Reserve teams cannot be promoted to or relegated to D3(b)

Relegation from D3(a) and promotion from D3(b) will remain as is currently and relegation or promotion of 'reserve' teams will not affect this process. The final placing of a reserve team in the league cannot affect the promotion or relegation of a 'first team' playing in D3(a). In other words, the number of 'first teams' being either promoted to or relegated from D3(a) stays the same as is currently.

Reserve teams relegated from D3(a) are relegated directly to division 4

It is suggested that in year one that the top 2 teams from D4 will be promoted to D3(a) bringing that division to 8 teams. Thereafter the lower finishing reserve team will be replaced by the team winning D4.

Promotion for reserve teams is capped at D3a. There is no promotion to D2. This will be reviewed after 3 years.

These rules apply to league only as reserve teams cannot enter the senior, intermediate or junior championships. Reserve teams playing in the top 3 leagues will only be eligible for the D4 championship. This is a trial to be reviewed in full after 3 years.

