



2016

Ard Stiúrthóir's Report, Financial Statements
and Motions to 2017 Congress



Tuarascáil an Ard Stiúrthóra,
Cúntais Airgid agus na Rúin
don Chomhdháil 2017



**THE
CAMOGIE
ASSOCIATION**
An Cumann Camógaíochta

Annual Congress - Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2017

Congress Agenda - An Clár

Saturday 25th March 2017

- 9.30am Registration**
- 10.00am Fáilte
- 10.10am Adoption of Standing Orders**
- 10.15am Adoption of 2016 Annual Congress Minutes
- 10.20am Consideration of Audited Accounts of Ard Chomhairle and Provincial Councils**
- 10.40am Consideration of Ard Stiúrthóir's Report
- 11.00am Ratification of Treasurer, Coaching & Games Representative and PR & Communications Representative to Ard Chomhairle**
- 11.20 am Break
- 11.40am Reports: Provincial, National Education Councils and International Units**
- 12.15pm Address by Uachtarán Catherine Neary
- 12.45pm Lunch**
- 1.45pm Presentation by Members of the National Youth Committee, GAA
- 2.00pm Presentation and Discussion on Findings of Fixtures Review Committee**
- 2.30pm Establishment of Voting Strength and Consideration of Motions
- 4.00pm Address by Uachtarán-Tofa, Kathleen Woods**
- 5.00pm Congress Adjourned
- 7.15pm Mass in Croke Park Hotel**
- 8.15pm Congress Banquet in Croke Park Stadium

Sunday 26th March 2017

- 9.30am Registration**
- 9.45am Reports: Ard Chomhairle Sub Committee Reports
- 10.15am Briefing on Club Player Welfare Survey**
- 10.30am Establishment of Voting Strength and Consideration of Motions
- 11.45am Adoption of Venue for Congress 2018**
- 12.00am Closing Remarks
- 12.10am National Anthem**
- 12.15am Lunch available in Croke Park Hotel

Buanordaithe/ Standing Order

1. The proposer of a resolution or an amendment may speak for five minutes.
2. A delegate speaking to a resolution or an amendment may not exceed five minutes.
3. The proposer of a resolution or an amendment may speak a second time for three minutes before a vote. No other delegate may speak a second time to the same resolution or amendment.
4. An Cathaoirleach may, at any time s/he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed, call on the proposer for a reply. When that has been given a vote must be taken.
5. An Cathaoirleach may consider any subject not listed on An Clár provided s/he receives the consent of the majority of the delegates present.
6. Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on An Clár except with the consent of a majority equal to two thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
7. An Cathaoirleach 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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OUR VISION

Inspire to play, empower to stay

OUR MISSION

To provide opportunities to enjoy and play Camogie as a vibrant part of the Gaelic Games family





Réamhrá an Uachtarán

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



Is cúis mór áthais dom fáilte speisialta a chur romhaibh go léir chuig an Chomhdáil Bhliantúil 2017.

Bhí bliain iontach againn i 2016 agus is féidir le gach éinne atá bainteach le Camógaíocht bheith fíorbhródúil as ucht imeachtaí na mbliana.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this Annual Report to you as I enter my final year as President of the Association.

This report to Congress along with the reports from our National Committees, Provincial, Education and International Units summarises the work of the past 12 months.

2016 has seen the beginning of the implementation of the Association's new National Development Plan *Our Sport, Our Future 2016-2019* which was launched in March 2016. This plan provides great direction and a pathway for the Association to grow our sport, and much of this work has already begun to be rolled out.

There were many highlights in 2016, including new All-Ireland Champions crowned across all three grades and a huge crowd in attendance to witness three great Finals on a day which is the Association's showpiece occasion.

It was also a great pleasure to welcome Camogie players from around the world to Dublin for the GAA World Games, which further highlighted the strength and growth of the game beyond these shores.

During the year I had many opportunities to support and admire the work that takes place to promote Camogie at home and internationally. This included visits to clubs, counties, provinces and abroad. It is a privilege to be a witness to the commitment and passion that people have for Camogie and for its ongoing promotion.



I sincerely thank and acknowledge our members for your support and loyalty to our sport.

I wish to acknowledge the sterling service of five Ard Chomhairle members who conclude their terms at this year's Congress. Miriam O'Callaghan (Treasurer), Fiona Casey (Munster Delegate), James Moynihan (Munster Chairperson), Bróna McIntyre (PR and Communications Representative) and Éamonn Browne (Coaching and Games Representative) have all served on Ard Chomhairle ranging over a number of years. I extend thanks to each for their loyalty and commitment to promoting Camogie at national level throughout their tenure.

I want to put on record my thanks, on behalf of the Association, for the tireless and valuable work that outgoing officers and volunteers have contributed over the past year, at many different levels both at home and internationally and I look forward to meeting and supporting our new officers over the course of the coming year.

I also thank the Ard Stiúrthóir Joan O'Flynn and the staff of the Association for their continued support and dedication to advancing the game.

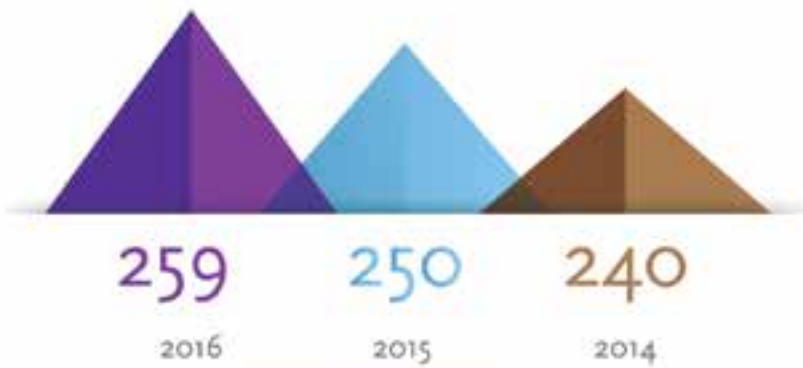
In our everyday administration of Camogie at club, county, provincial or national levels, our relationships with the GAA and the LGFA are key. I am pleased that the strong relationships we enjoy continue to prosper and I thank my fellow Presidents in the GAA and LGFA, Aogán Ó Feargháil and Marie Hickey for their support and co-operation throughout the past year.

I have no doubt that the Camogie Association is heading in the right direction and I look forward to the new vision for the future being realised through the continued implementation of the National Development Plan.

Cáit Ní Náraigh
Uachtarán



2016 in Numbers



259 intercounty games played at national level in 2016 compared to 250 in 2015 and 240 in 2014.



8% increase in peak TV viewing of the Senior Camogie Final, from 305,000 in 2015 to 328,000 in 2016 and a 13.5% increase on viewing figures from 2014 (289,000)



Facebook is the favoured Camogie social media platform showing 53% growth to 27,787 currently from 18,128 this time last year.



This was the **fifth highest** attendance for Camogie All-Ireland Finals since 1932. It was the **highest** attendance in 10 years for stand-alone Camogie Finals when 20,685 attended in 2006.



1,275 coaches accredited at Foundation, Level 1 and Level 2 in 2016 compared to 644 in 2015 and 769 in 2014



Twitter grew from 12,599 followers in 2015 to its current following of 15,215.



5% year on year increase in registered members from 2014 to 2015 and 2015 to 2016



215 clubs participated in national development initiatives



125kph highest ball speed in the 2016 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final by Denise Gaule of Kilkenny compared to 122kph by Niamh McGrath of Galway in 2015



€196,858 invested in clubs, schools, counties and provinces

Tuarascáil an Ard Stiúrthóra 2016

ARD STIÚRTHÓIR'S REPORT 2016



Inspire to play, empower to stay

This is the vision that the Camogie Association set itself in 2016.

This is the vision at the heart of the new National Development Plan (NDP) *Our Sport, Our Future (2016-2019)*.

Over the past year, Camogie continued to produce many examples of inspirational play, effort, ambition and achievement.

On the games' front, not least amongst these were:

- Kilkenny's achievement to win the All-Ireland Senior title in September 2016, after a 22-year wait and to also capture their second All-Ireland Intermediate title
- Carlow's achievement to capture their first All-Ireland Premier Junior title on their first appearance in Croke Park
- Ann Downey's exceptional link with each of the 13 Kilkenny Senior teams that have won All-Ireland titles; Ann was a player on 12 of these and manager last year going on to win Manager of the Year
- Cahir's emergence as first time 2015 All-Ireland Intermediate club champions played in March 2016
- Johnstownbridge's back-to-back defence of their All-Ireland Junior Club title
- The emergence of eight first time Semi-Finalists in the 2016 All-Ireland Intermediate and Senior Club Championships: Burgess-Duharra (Tipperary), Slaughtneil (Derry), Sarsfields (Galway), Thomastown (Kilkenny), Eglishe (Tyrone), Cappataggle (Galway), Gailltír (Waterford) and Myshall (Carlow)
- The presence of 11 Camogie teams from Britain, Europe, Australasia, Middle East, USA and Canada at the 2nd World GAA Games, held in June 2016 in Dublin.

None of these teams, clubs or players started at the top. As always, there is a journey.

Community, club, team, family and personal effort, commitment, determination,



voluntarism, selflessness and purpose characterise these journeys.

And these same characteristics are evident throughout 600 Camogie clubs at home and internationally and in schools and colleges.

The fact that this effort is supporting young girls and women to participate in and to enjoy the benefits of sport is in itself important.

More people continue to play and enjoy Camogie. There was a further 5% increase in individual membership registrations during 2016. This is the second consecutive year to register a 5% increase year on year.

The Association's decision at Congress 2016 to provide free registration of players aged Under 8 makes it even more affordable to enjoy the game from a young age. This decision is in effect now for 2017 registrations. Clubs may continue to charge and retain their own membership fees for U8 members.

National competitions

At the time of writing the 2016 All-Ireland Intermediate and Senior club Semi-Finals have concluded. The 2017 National League is about to commence. Competitions in the education sector are also reaching their final stages.

Any year that eight new club semi-finalists emerge stands out as a statement about the vibrancy and competitiveness of club Camogie at county and provincial levels.

A Carlow-Tyrone All-Ireland Intermediate Final involving Croke Park debutants Myshall and Eglishe on the 5th March in Croke Park was not predictable.

The same could be said for the Derry-Galway contest in the Senior Final. Slaughtneil and Sarsfields will also make their Camogie club debuts in Croke Park.

In 2010 these finals moved from their November slot in the fixtures calendar to the following March. This was to facilitate Camogie players to have the same opportunity as their male

counterparts to play their club finals in Croke Park.

The move hugely enhanced the appeal of the club championships, attendances at the Finals and media and public interest in them.

Calls for scheduling reviews need to take this into account.

The Finals should stay in Croke Park. Maintaining and further enhancing the status of the club game, and the club player, is important. There is certainly value in re-visiting the fixtures schedule. Let us do so with the intention of maintaining and promoting the parity we have achieved for the club championship Finals.

Over the past number of years, the Camogie Association has worked to maximise the number of intercounty games that are played with GAA games.

Last year, the most outstanding of these was the Senior triple header in 2016, when the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Semi-Finals were held prior to the All-Ireland hurling semi-final replay in Thurles in August.

Broadcast live on RTÉ 1, both Semi-Finals went to extra-time in a drama-filled day in Semple Stadium. The heroics of Cork and Wexford, and Kilkenny and Galway will live long in the memory.

A gritty Wexford team kept within two points of defending champions Cork all through normal time. Cork had extra pace and accuracy in extra-time which saw them safely home on a scoreline of 0-19 to 0-15.

Kilkenny led Galway 2-7 to 0-9 at half-time in their Semi-Final. A revved up Galway side came on the park in the second half. Playing at a higher intensity they stayed the distance to score a goal and a point in the last minutes to necessitate extra-time to determine a winner.

A goal direct from a sideline cut by Anne Dalton, six minutes into the first half of extra-time proved the difference and Kilkenny edged Galway as winners to meet Cork in the All-Ireland Final.



“ One of the most significant initiatives of the year was the announcement of government funding of €1m to support intercounty Camogie and football players.

The €1m over two years is strongly welcome and is a first step in the right direction of government support towards achieving the parity of our national games.

For skill, intensity, pace and drama both of these games excelled in front of the biggest TV audience and attendance ever for All-Ireland Camogie Semi-Finals.

On the point of double-headers, full credit to Ulster GAA and Ulster Camogie who for the past number of years have run their Ulster Camogie and Hurling Senior Club Finals as a double-header. There is definitely scope for the other Provincial Councils to work to achieve this too.

The second Sunday in September witnessed a huge crowd of 20,037 in Croke Park, up almost 25% on 2015 and the biggest in ten years. Kilkenny's hunger saw them stop Cork's three-in-a-row ambitions for the O'Duffy Cup. With four points to spare in the end, on a 1-13 to 1-9 scoreline, O'Duffy went Noreside after a 22 year wait.

The Intermediate battle for the Jack McGrath Cup was also a Cork v Kilkenny affair. The slimmest of margins was the difference on a scoreline of 3-6 to 1-11. Kilkenny climbed the Hogan Stand to collect the silverware.

Three goals from the lethal Ciara Quirke and a game-changing contribution by 16-year-old substitute Rachel Sawyer saw Carlow continue their rise through Camogie's ranks to win the All-Ireland Premier Junior Final against a valiant Armagh side. Both sides had huge support in the stadium and created a fantastic opening atmosphere for the occasion. Carlow's win was momentous and this match should also be remembered for the wonder-goal from Armagh's Ciara Donnelly.

Kilkenny made it a National League/Championship double when they secured the Division 1 League title earlier in the year. Meath defeated Galway in the Division 2 Final while Armagh won the Division 3 title.

In 2017 we look forward to an enhanced profile for the new Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues. Unveiled in December 2016, Littlewoods Ireland is a new top tier partner of both the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Camogie Association and we look forward to working together for the next three years.



€1m government funding

One of the most significant initiatives of the year was the announcement of government funding of €1m to support intercounty Camogie and football players.

The funding was the culmination of collaborative work between the Camogie Association, Ladies Gaelic Football Association and the Women's Gaelic Players Association in liaison with Ministers with responsibility for sport in the governments of the day: Patrick O'Donovan TD, Pascal O'Donohoe TD, Michael Ring TD and Sport Ireland.

A fund of €500,000 is available to Camogie and Ladies Football for 2017 with the same again in 2018.

The Camogie Association and the LGFA will receive and account for the funding which will be provided via Sport Ireland.

The release of this level of funding is very welcome. It is an important recognition that, as with other sports, there is a need to invest in supports that help teams to perform at the highest levels possible. The investment will also support the intercounty game to benefit from the range of technical expertise that is available through sports science and other specialities.

In recent years, some counties have put in place stronger programmes and supports to improve Camogie teams' fitness and to improve them technically and tactically.

This scheme makes that more possible now for all county teams. There is a maximum flat grant available across all intercounty grades (for those competing in National League and Championship).

The €1m over two years is strongly welcome and is a first step in the right direction of government support towards achieving the parity of our national games.

There is no arguing that obvious differences remain in the level of public investment that the women's intercounty game is in receipt of.

Our job now is to spend that €1m as well as we can. In the course of this, we will make every effort to capture the impact of the funding and to build the case for further significant investment in women's Gaelic Games.

Gender and governance

Gender and sports governance hit the headlines during the year also.

The Minister's proposal on gender quotas for sports governing bodies raises the important issue of women's under-representation in decision making in sport.

The Camogie Association has a predominantly female membership, both at playing and administrative levels.

Within our current governing body composition, we have 20% men, therefore falling short of the quota proposed by Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD.

Our governing body profile is similar to the profile of our volunteer administrators which comprises 78% women and 22% men (*The Gift of Time*, a profile of Camogie administrators, 2015).

Men dominate Camogie coaching and team management, refereeing and umpiring from club to county to national level.

The differential between men and women coaches is lesser in underage/juvenile coaching where women feature relatively strongly.

Quotas are already in place in several sectors of Irish public, political and commercial life e.g. for appointment to State boards, for candidates contesting general elections. Initiatives that support gender balanced boards include, for example, the 30% club and Board Diversity Ireland.

There are many initiatives at international and national levels, supporting gender balance in sport governing bodies¹.

- ¹In Finland, there is a target of 40% of women on their sport governing boards
- In Germany, the German Olympic Sports Federation adopted measures to promote an equal share of executive positions for women in their respective organisations including quotas for the election of boards.
- In Sweden, a 40% target applies to all decision-making and advisory bodies, senior positions, nomination committees and coaches of the Swedish Sports Federation.



“

In a move to strengthen the coaching standards within the game, the Association has committed to ensuring that counties' management teams at U14/15/16/18 and adult levels will have at least one person with a relevant accredited coaching standard in place by Annual Congress 2020.

For some governing bodies, such as the Camogie Association, where representation on the Board is through election the type of gender quota matters – a quota for election candidates may not deliver the required quota in Board membership.

The timeline for implementation also matters. A phasing to align with the terms of outgoing Board members and the election of new Board members would be a consideration.

For the Camogie Association, the Minister's proposal may affect us differently to many other governing bodies i.e. we need to meet the 30% quota for men whereas others may need to meet the quota for women, who are the predominantly under-represented group on governing structures.

The Minister's proposal of 30% women; 30% men and the balance comprising both genders supports the experience that without critical mass on Boards, female representation is somewhat tokenistic and not taken seriously.

On Boards where critical mass is achieved women are no longer perceived as token or as representatives of all women. They are seen as individuals with their own competencies and perspectives and are likely to contribute widely to any governing issue.²

The Minister's proposal included a withdrawal of statutory funding if quotas were not met.

However, in the context of working with sports, an initial approach that encourages and facilitates governing bodies to take steps to achieve a gender balanced board over an agreed timeframe could be effective.

Governing bodies should be required to report on their progress towards a gender balanced board as part of their publication of Annual Reports and as part of reporting to Sport Ireland. Failure to demonstrate progress over time could then result in the option of possible de-committal of statutory funding to a governing body.

* In France, the Gender Equality Act 2014 requires, by the time of the 2020 Olympics, a gender balance of 40/60 in the governing bodies of those sports federations (European Institute for Gender Equality, Gender Equality in Sport)

²2016. Adriaanse J. Women are missing in sport leadership, and it's time that changed.



Critics can dismiss gender quotas as they may appear to undermine the principle of meritocracy in leadership selection. These arguments fail to acknowledge that other factors including service, longevity, networks, connections, influence are factors in leadership selections and that merit is rarely the sole factor.

The Minister's proposal of 30% women; 30% men and the balance comprising both genders is a step in the right direction.

The current situation, where women are unrepresented on boards, is not a meritocratic approach.

Neither gender has a monopoly of merit or talent.

Quotas facilitate women's merit and talent to be seen and heard in circumstances where these are currently under-represented.

Quotas are not a fix-all for sports governance.

They are a quick and effective way to improve the situation of under-representation of women, and sometimes men, on boards.

Quotas have created change in other sectors.

They can create positive and inclusive change in sport too, as a part of a wider and over-arching strategy to strengthen women's participation in sport.

Coaching requirements by 2020

Coaching of teams by suitably qualified individuals impacts greatly on players' long-term involvement in any sport. Last year we accredited our highest ever number of coaches.

1,275 coaches were accredited across three levels - Foundation Level, Level 1 (underage club coaching) and Level 2 (adult club and underage intercounty coaching).

This is almost double the output of coaches in 2015 when 644 coaches were accredited. It is also significantly strong when compared with 769 accreditations in 2014.

This demand for coaching is very positive.

It demonstrates an appreciation of the value of coaching and its importance in supporting players to enjoy learning the sport in a positive team environment.

In a move to strengthen the coaching standards within the game, the Association has committed to ensuring that counties' management teams at U14/15/16/18 and adult levels will have at least one person with a relevant accredited coaching standard in place by Annual Congress 2020.

This is part of the National Development Plan. There is also a second aim to ensure that all counties have management teams at U14/15 with at least two persons with a Level 1 accredited coaching standard in place.

Coaching in Camogie is dominated by volunteer coaches, operating from grassroots to the intercounty game.

The lead-in time allowed, until Congress 2020, to put the above baseline coaching requirements in place, reflects a concern that volunteer coaches get the opportunity to avail of accredited coach education.

It also provides time for county board officers and administrators to take the opportunity to recruit personnel with an interest in pursuing accredited coach education opportunities when appointing management teams.

Fixtures for all?

For a number of years these annual reports have questioned the extent to which the intercounty games' programmes and its attendant schedule of training is compromising a decent fixtures schedule for club players.

Elsewhere in this report we see that 60% of intercounty championship fixtures ran by Ard Chomhairle are underage fixtures.

117 out of 196 National Championship games are U18 or U16 games while 79 games are adult championships.



“

The Association has put in place a target that by 2020 every player at club level from U8, U9, U10, U11 etc. to U16 would have a minimum of 12 games per year.

12 games per year is a floor, a minimum guarantee.

This pre-dominance of underage games at All-Ireland championship level, involving players who are also eligible for adult club Camogie, is undoubtedly impacting on the adult and underage club schedules.

A Fixtures Review Committee was established and reported in 2016. The findings of the Review will be presented at Annual Congress.

The Review recommends that by 2018, adult club players in Camogie should be aged over 16 (from the current requirement to be over 15).

It also recommends that the eligible age for adult intercounty Camogie should increase to over 18 by 2019 with an interim step in 2018 when a player must be over 17.

These suggestions warrant detailed consideration.

Both proposals would be transformative. The proposal to be over 16 to play adult club Camogie has many benefits.

It establishes that teenage players continue playing with their age peers for as long as possible while also clearly demarcating the adult club player and under 16 intercounty player.

The GAA's requirement where players have to be aged over 17 to play adult hurling/football has been reported as impacting on the capacity of smaller clubs to field adult teams.

This is likely to also be an issue for small or emerging Camogie clubs. It is worth considering if there is a better way to mitigate this in Camogie.

Camogie already allows players to go 'on loan' to other clubs – to play with other clubs on a temporary basis, provided it is sanctioned by the County Board. Anecdotal feedback suggests these loan arrangements are not easy to administer. Some loans are having the unintended impact of diluting the connection to a player's home club.

Other codes allow a restricted number of 'overage' players to play in restricted circumstances.



The inverse of this could be an option. Where there is a verifiable shortfall of adult players, it could be that say one to three players, aged over 15 (the current age requirement) could play adult Camogie in that year. Such eligibility would be restricted to that year only.

This would help to retain the player's affinity with their home club and help the club transition from underage to adult Camogie with their own club.

The provision of a regular club games' programme is one of the issues to the forefront in the National Development Plan.

The Association has put in place a target that by 2020 every player at club level from U8, U9, U10, U11 etc. to U16 would have a minimum of 12 games per year.

Some counties may be attaining this in some age cohorts already; few are attaining it across every age cohort. The target reflects that the sport is about the enjoyment of games, games and more games.

12 games per year is a floor, a minimum guarantee.

To move towards this, we need to establish the current situation. Every club and county board could audit their current games' programme; assess how near or far it is currently from that target and review their fixtures to plan to reach these targets over the next couple of years.

One of the emerging areas to consider in relation to the intercounty and club fixtures is what impact could a re-configured GAA season have on the Camogie fixtures schedule?

Camogie fixture planners will need to consider this, depending on the outcome of the GAA Congress on proposals before it.

Public profile of the sport

The game at all levels continues to experience an increasing public profile.

Last year the Association with Championship

partners, Liberty Insurance, invested with RTÉ in live broadcasting of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Semi-Finals' double-header in August from Semple Stadium in Thurles. The public reaction and interest in this surpassed expectations and audience viewing projections. Building on this success, I am delighted that an agreement has been reached with RTÉ, through the GAA TV rights deal that the All-Ireland Senior Semi-Finals will continue to be broadcast live for the next five years, commencing in 2017.

This guarantees live coverage for the medium term and is a great basis to plan for stronger promotion of the game at national level and greater viewing and attendances.

The Senior and Intermediate All-Ireland Finals will continue to be broadcast live from Croke Park in September on RTÉ and TG4 will broadcast the League Division 1 Camogie Final as part of a double-header with the Division 1 Hurling Final.

Broadcasting is changing with digital platforms offering a diversity of viewing opportunities.

The All-Ireland Junior Club Championship Final between Johnstownbridge and Scariff/Ogonnelloe was the first national Camogie fixture to be fully streamed live online.

This type of broadcasting model definitely offers new opportunities to promote greater coverage of national, provincial and county games in the future.

However, TV currently remains the most watched medium for sport and will remain centrally important. As part of the new National Development Plan, the Association has committed to secure a broadcast deal for Camogie to position the sport more centrally in the public imagination. The live broadcasting of the All-Ireland Premier Junior Final, the National League Division 1 Semi-Finals, the All-Ireland Minor Championship, the All-Ireland Club Championship Finals and Ashbourne Cup Finals are all premier games that the Association wishes to promote more strongly over the next number of years.



“ The All-Ireland Senior Semi-Finals will continue to be broadcast live on RTÉ for the next five years, commencing in 2017.

Our Sport Our Future – from planning to action

In March 2016 the Camogie Association launched our new four-year National Development Plan (NDP).

The National Development Plan is our map to the future.

It guides our behaviour and our resources so that we can achieve a better, stronger and more sustainable sport by the end of 2019, reporting to Annual Congress 2020.

The NDP retains many of the things that are working well. It also involves change - to do new things, or do some things in a different way. If we continue doing the same things in the same way, we will not achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves.

The NDP sets out what we want to develop and implement:

- a) Best practice in club administration and coaching and player experience;
- b) Officer education and development at club, county and Provincial levels;
- c) Referee education and development from county to All-Ireland Final levels;
- d) Putting the player more central in what we do;
- e) Keeping more young players playing beyond their teenage years;
- f) Supporting emerging and developing counties onto an intercounty pathway and retain higher tier counties at their level;
- g) Empowering the Provinces to work more closely with counties and clubs around coach education, officer development, post primary camogie and club-school links
- h) Player welfare and applying sports science at club and intercounty level;
- i) A minimum games programmes across all age ranges and grades;
- j) Minimum coaching standards at intercounty level;
- k) An ongoing focus on participation and growth;
- l) Building sustainable organisational structures.



On the administrative side, there is also a new and renewed focus in the following areas:

- m) Communications;
- n) Marketing;
- o) Commercial development;
- p) Governance;
- q) Developing a closer arrangement with the GAA.

To meet the challenge of progressing the sport Ard Chomhairle has agreed:

- (i) key performance indicators to measure the success of the National Development Plan (see Appendix 3)
- (ii) a National Development Plan Implementation Committee to oversee the Plan (see Reports to Ard Chomhairle document) and
- (iii) a new staff structure with the recruitment of extra staff (see Appendix 2).

Three new Provincial Participation and Growth Co-ordinators to be recruited for Munster, Leinster and Connacht will:

- Be a key contact point for clubs and counties within the Provinces
- Support the roll out of development and participative initiatives of the NDP including club/school links
- Supporting the development of a strong network of volunteer County Development Officers at Provincial levels.

To support the day-to-day running of blitzes, academies, youth camps, workshops a new model of working with graduates, interns, work placements and occasional workers will be formalised.

This will be backed up by new and existing programmes being rolled out to clubs and counties on player retention; youth development; club supports; education sector supports; player welfare at club and county levels; officer training; coach education and training and referee education and training.

Working to support Camogie at grassroots level and to build relationships and at club, county and Provincial levels remains at the heart of this. Each county of the Association will have a designated staff person and the integration and roll out of initiatives will drive the development and growth of the game. The new staff structure and county designations are outlined in Appendix 2.

The next section of this report summarises key issues, initiatives, developments and progress of year 1 of the National Development Plan *Our Sport, Our Future*.

National Development Plan

OUR SPORT OUR FUTURE 2016-2019

First Progress Report to Annual Congress 2017

The National Development Plan puts change firmly on the agenda including organisational and structural changes that are designed, ultimately, to benefit clubs and players.

There are four key strategies in the plan relating to:

- *On the Pitch – supporting players, coaches and match officials*
- *In the Public Eye – raising the profile of Camogie*
- *Off the Pitch – building sustainable organisational structures*
- *Aontas – strengthening relationships, particularly with the GAA and LGFA*

The next section of the report overviews progress under these headings.





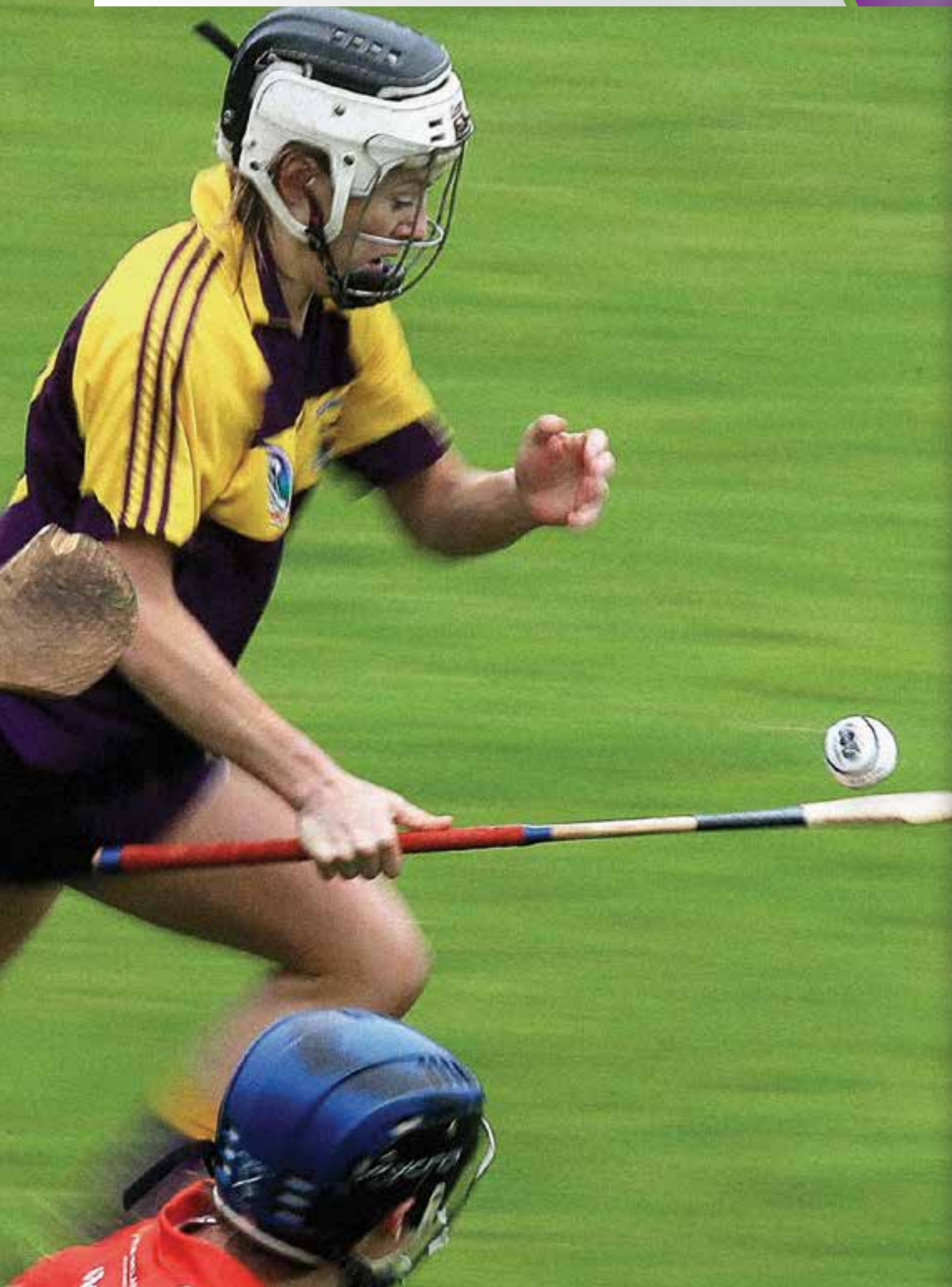


Section 1: On the Pitch

Supporting players, coaches and match officials is a key strategy of the National Development Plan. There are 7 action areas under this strategy as follows:

- a) Supporting players
- b) Player retention
- c) Technical direction plan
- d) Participation and growth plan
- e) Fixtures planning
- f) Referee development programme and
- g) Coach development

Progress in 2016 in these areas is now considered.





1.1 Supporting players

1.1.1 €1m government funding

As mentioned earlier on in this report, the commitment of €1m to support intercounty Camogie and football players was warmly received, following its announcement by Patrick O'Donovan TD, Minister for Sport and Kieran Mulvey, Chairperson of Sport Ireland.

An implementation group of the Camogie Association, LGFA and WGPA is established to oversee the roll-out of the funds. This reports into a high level steering group that also involves the Department Transport, Tourism and Sport and Sport Ireland, under the chairmanship of John Maughan, Sport Ireland Board member.

The funding is available to support injury prevention and medical cover for intercounty teams, costs of support that maximises player and team performance, and access to training facilities.

The scheme is available to the highest grade adult team in Camogie and Ladies Football.

1.1.2 Player Welfare

An Cumann Camógaíochta is in compliance with Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Rules. We agree that doping is contrary to the spirit of fair play and all members have a responsibility to ensure that our sport is free of doping.

All members of county panels taking part in the Senior Championship are subject to testing in competition, (i.e. at any senior championship match). It is the responsibility of players and team management to make themselves aware of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) list of prohibited substances and the Irish Anti-Doping Rules.

We ensure that Senior players and the relevant management teams have access to information and education about anti-doping rules by publishing a link to the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping information on Camogie.ie. We have appointed an anti-doping officer who is the primary liaison person between us and the Anti-



Doping Unit of Sport Ireland. The Anti-Doping Officer is responsible for the distribution of educational materials such as the Wallet Card to our members and particularly to those who will be affected by the anti-doping programme i.e. Senior intercounty players.

This is done by facilitating information sessions for senior county panels and their support personnel, before the start of the championship season. County boards should ensure that their panels/management avail of these information sessions in order that all relevant members are suitably informed.

It should also be noted that a substantial amount of misinformation exists regarding optimal strategies for achieving peak athletic performance and health. We must realise that there is no substitute for matching good food intake with nutrition needs. Sports supplements are commonly used by athletes in the hope of maximising the benefits of participating in sport. But it must always be remembered that there are risks associated with their use and they should never be seen as a substitute for good nutrition. Several studies have shown that a significant proportion of supplements available on the market are contaminated with substances which are on the WADA Prohibited List. Under WADA's strict liability rule, players are responsible for any substance that may be found in their bodies. It does not matter how it got there.

There were four "in competition" tests carried out last year (2016) in Camogie. These tests were carried out by Doping Control Officers on behalf of Sport Ireland. All four tests were negative.

By working together to educate our players, coaches, support personnel and officials we can ensure that Camogie remains a clean sport.

Other player welfare initiatives

The Association initiated a new relationship with the Asthma Society of Ireland to support clubs and players to implement asthma management and control for their members. This work has been initiated in Wexford and Kilkenny in 2016.

During the year, helmet safety and concussion were both identified as player welfare issues that require the development and roll out of awareness initiatives. There is not full compliance by players, of all ages, with the requirements of the quality ISO standards for helmets. This means that helmets that are interfered with e.g. by adjusting the facial guard do not meet safety standards. This puts the player at risk of injury and may also invalidate any insurance cover that a player may have.

Concussion too is an area of concern. The Camogie Association has adopted the GAA protocols on this but there is a need to expand awareness of these protocols amongst players, mentors and others involved with teams.

In recent times there is more strength and conditioning work being undertaken by players. There is a concern to ensure that these conditioning programmes are age appropriate and also appropriate to the female athlete.

These player welfare issues are of concern for all Camogie players. The Association will give this area much higher priority under the new National Development Plan. We have agreed to put in place a Player Welfare Co-ordinator and the recruitment of this position is underway.

1.1.3 Player recognition – National Awards

The annual All-Stars event is a wonderful recognition of the excellence and achievement of intercounty players.

Held in association with Liberty Insurance, 15 Senior players received coveted All-Stars Awards, and 6 players from each of the Intermediate and Premier Junior grades were honoured with Soaring Stars Awards.

Additionally, three Players' Players of the Year Awards were awarded across the Championship grades in association with the WGPA and Liberty Insurance. Ann Downey of Kilkenny won the Manager of the Year Award.

A full list of winners is outlined in Appendix 6.



“

Over the period of the National Development Plan to 2019, the Association will put in place a working group on player retention. We will also develop, pilot and implement new programmes to retain teenagers in the sport and to increase the number of players aged over 21.

The Association is working to put in place an inaugural All-Stars international trip for the All-Stars, Soaring Stars and National Poc Fada winners. This is a commitment of the National Development Plan and it is hoped to be in a position to announce progress on this by the year end.

1.2 Player Retention

Over the period of the National Development Plan to 2019, the Association will put in place a working group on player retention. We will also develop, pilot and implement new programmes to retain teenagers in the sport and to increase the number of players aged over 21. The designation of a staff role to player retention is a recognition of the priority the Association will give over the next 3 years.

In 2016 the key action in this area was the roll-out of the Camogie4Teens Programme.

1.2.1 Camogie4Teens

The Camogie Association received funding for this new programme from the Coca Cola Thank You Fund for use in 2016. The programme worked in clusters of Camogie clubs in a county in order to provide targeted programmes for teenagers (15-18 year olds).

The 20 counties chosen for the programme in 2016 were as follows:

Phase 1: Dublin, Meath, Carlow, Westmeath, Derry, Antrim, Cavan, Galway, Limerick, Cork

Phase 2: Wicklow, Offaly, Wexford, Kildare, Down, Armagh, Donegal, Roscommon, Clare, Tipperary

Teenagers participated in tutored modules including a Coaching Course, Referee Course, Administration/PR Course, Lifestyle & Blitz day.

450 teenagers from over 80 clubs completed the programme in 2016.



1.2.2 The 6th Legends Tournament/ Biddy Phillips Cup

The 6th Legends Tournament was held in Na Fianna, Dublin in March 2016. The tournament is for former intercounty players aged 35 and over.

Galway defeated Tipperary in the Cup Final while Antrim retained the Legends' Shield by defeating Dublin.

The Player of the Tournament was named after the late Kathleen Costine (Cork) RIP who played in previous Legends Tournaments. Sandra Tannian from Galway took the award.

1.3 Technical development – intercounty pathway

For a number of years, the Association has promoted initiatives that support young players to benefit from appropriate competition and development while also representing their county. This continued in 2016 with the addition of two new initiatives. The first of these was the *Progress to Success Programme* for U16s and the second was a national blitz for U17 county squads.

1.3.1 Under 14 National Blitz

The annual National Under 14 Blitz competition took place in Dublin on Saturday September 10th. Over 1,300 girls from 55 teams and 28 counties took part in the competition across 5 divisions. The players from this competition paraded in front of the crowd in Croke Park at half-time of the All-Ireland Intermediate Final on Sunday September 11th.

1.3.2 Under 15 National Blitz

The National Under 15 Blitz for Phase 1 counties took place in Kilkenny on Saturday August 13th.

15 teams from 11 counties took part in the competition. Kilkenny were victorious in both the Cup and Shield competitions on the day. They defeated Antrim in the Cup Final and Limerick in the Shield Final. Clare, Cork, Galway, Wexford, Dublin, Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary and Antrim participated in the Cup Competition. Meath, Wexford, Dublin, Down, Kilkenny and Limerick participated in the Shield Competition.

1.3.3 Progress to Success –U16 Developing counties championship challenge

Tier 3 counties are designated in the National Development Plan as areas targeted specifically to grow the game.

In 2016 the Camogie Association inaugurated a development programme – the U16 *Progress to Success* Championship challenge. Its aim is to provide opportunities for players to experience appropriate levels of competition and development opportunities to upskill players and coaches.

Donegal, Louth, Mayo, Monaghan, Tyrone and Wicklow participated in the programme.

This Programme creates a pathway for U14 Development Squads to intercounty competition. This initiative will run on a three-year basis to provide transition further into minor intercounty Camogie by 2018 when it will be reviewed. The programme content included:

- Workshops and information on best practice of underage intercounty management with all county management
- Skills assessment of coaches/ best practice model on coaching teenage Camogie players/Camogie team management roles and responsibilities
- Appointment of a mentor to each county to assist with team preparation.

Each county participated in two championship blitz days and progressed from there to Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals. Tyrone emerged victorious over Wicklow in the Final.

In 2017, under the National Development Plan a similar programme is being inaugurated for U18 Tier 3 counties. This programme will be called *Strike for Glory*.

1.3.4 Under 17 National Blitz

The inaugural National Under 17 Competition took place in October in the National GAA Games Development Centre in Dublin. Kilkenny defeated Galway in the Cup Final on a scoreline of 1-15 to 2-6. Meath defeated Carlow in the Shield Final on a scoreline of 6-8 to 1-5.



1.4 Participation and Growth

The Association continues to grow with both new members and new clubs.

A 5% increase in personal membership was achieved along with the establishment of the following new clubs:

- Boyle, Roscommon
- Laochra Óg and Kilworth, Cork
- St Ailbies, Limerick
- Fhelim Rapprees, Tipperary
- Castlecomer, Kilkenny
- Clough/Ballacolla, Laois
- Round Towers, Lusk, Dublin
- St. Brigid's, Antrim
- Ragoon/Newcastle, Galway

The national data on affiliated clubs per county in 2016 with prior years in brackets is outlined in Figure 1.

550 clubs were registered in Ireland in 2016.

On the pitch, the regular participative games based programmes continued in 2016. The most participative of these remains Féile na nGael for U14s.

1.4.1 Féile na nGael

The National Féile Competition in association with John West took place in Tipperary and Waterford in June 2016.

76 Camogie teams took part in National Féile (38 host and 38 travelling).

See Appendix 4 for the results of the Camogie Finals in the 5 divisions.

Four Regional Féile events also took place. 26 teams competed across the 4 regions. Results can be seen in Appendix 4.

2,450 Under 14 girls played Camogie as part of Féile na nGael over the weekend.

Figure 1:

Clubs by County 2016

(2015 Data in Brackets)





1.4.2 The Féile Skills Competition

The Féile Skills Competition took place on Saturday June 11th in the GAA Games Development Centre in Abbotstown. 27 counties were represented from Camogie.

Eimear Heffernan (Tipperary) won the skills competition with Aoife Fitzgerald (Waterford) second and Maeve Muldoon (Galway) in third position.

1.4.3 Hurl with Me Programme 2016

The six week programme encourages parents/guardians to learn the basic skills of Camogie while also increasing their own physical activity levels.

24 clubs took part in the National Hurl with Me Programme in 2016.

A National Hurl with Me Day was held in the GAA National Games Development Centre in Sports HQ. Held in association with the National Dairy Council this was a large blitz day for daughters and parents who participated in the national programme.

400 parents and 450 daughters participated on the day.

Clubs involved with Hurl with Me:

Leinster (9):

Craobh Chiaráin (Dublin)
 Athy (Kildare)
 Buffers Alley (Wexford)
 Muinebheag (Carlow)
 St.Lazarians (Laois)
 Ratoath (Meath)
 Kilmacow (Kilkenny)
 Tullamore (Offaly)
 Crookedwood (Westmeath)

Munster (7):

Castlelyons (Cork)
 Ballinora (Cork)
 Cahir (Tipperary)
 Kildangan (Tipperary)
 Knockaderry (Limerick)
 Smith O'Briens (Clare)
 Wolfe Tones (Clare)

**Ulster (5):**

Creggan (Antrim)
 Culloville (Armagh)
 Naomh Bríd (Tyrone)
 Glenillin (Derry)
 Clonduff (Down)

Connacht (3):

Mountbellew-Moylough (Galway)
 Liam Mellows (Galway)
 Athleague (Roscommon)

1.4.4 Camán to Ulster, Connacht, Munster & Leinster Provincial Blitzes

2,900 girls participated in the provincial days in 2016.

Blitzes took place in:

Ulster: Tyrone Centre of Excellence
 (30 clubs, 600 girls)

Leinster: GAA Games Development Centre
 (46 clubs, 920 girls)

Munster: Semple Stadium
 (44 clubs, 880 girls)

Connacht: Pearse Stadium
 (27 clubs, 540 girls)

1.4.5 Camán to Croker

64 Camogie clubs travelled to Croke Park on August 8th for the annual Camán to Croker Day. Over 1,150 under 12 girls played on the hallowed turf of Croke Park. Clubs were chosen from a number of provincial blitz days and 10 clubs were chosen that took part in Hurl Smart week.

1.4.6 Hurl Smart Week

The 5th annual 'Hurl Smart Week' in partnership with ChildFund and the Dream Bikes Initiative took place from June 6th-12th 2016. 82 clubs participated in the week which aims to increase activity levels of all ages, male and female by providing a programme of events in local Camogie clubs.

The number of participating clubs per province was as follows:

Leinster (32)	Munster (25)
Ulster (17)	Connacht (8)

A number of clubs raised funds and purchased a bike through the Dream Bikes Initiative as part of the Hurl Smart Week events.

1.4.7 Cúl Camps and Camogie Camps

The Camogie Association continued to be involved in Cúl Camps during 2016. The Camps continue to grow and expand and this growth is strongly reflected in the number of girls who participate. Between 2015 and 2016, there was an increase of 4,500 girls who played Camogie through the Cúl Camps when the number of girls grew from 51,362 to 65,892.

A number of Camogie camps were held in Kilkenny, Tyrone, Antrim, Waterford, Galway, Dublin and Wicklow. 537 girls were in attendance from 65 clubs across the 7 counties.

1.4.8 Primary and Post-Primary Schools Development

Primary school coaching, blitzes and club school links took place in Carlow, Laois, Mullingar, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo, Louth, Limerick, Killarney, Tralee, Wicklow, Derry Antrim, Fermanagh, Donegal, Waterford city and Dungarvan. A total of 2,404 players and 97 schools were involved. Post-Primary development blitzes were ran in Longford, Kildare, Wexford, Antrim, Derry, Donegal and Monaghan. 671 girls participated and 38 schools participated.

1.4.9 Transition Year and Gaisce, the President's Award

The Association's coaching programme with Transition Year and Gaisce, the President's Award, continued in 2016. 84 girls from St. Mary's Secondary School, Charleville, Co. Cork; Borris Vocational School, Carlow; Westport and Ballinasloe participated in the initiative.

The coaching Foundation courses were facilitated by the Transition Year co-ordinator in these schools and were undertaken to assist clubs in these areas to utilise students as assistant coaches. This is particularly beneficial to clubs in developing club areas and gives an opportunity for each student to be equipped to help out at club level as well as allowing them to increase their confidence and experience of coaching Camogie.



1.4.10 Participation and Growth Project Kildare/Meath

There is a clear trend in national demographics where Leinster counties adjacent to the M50 continue to experience significant population growth.

After consultation with key groups and research Kildare and Meath were prioritised to commence a Camogie growth project.

The Camogie Association recruited a Participation and Growth Officer in October 2016 across both counties.

The project's aim is to expand and consolidate Camogie playing opportunities, particularly into and beyond teenage levels.

A Steering Group drawn from Meath and Kildare Camogie and related personnel will support the work.

1.5 Fixtures

There was a significant improvement in the number of games completed in the national fixtures programme in 2016 (see Table 1).

There were no team withdrawals in 2016 compared to 8 team withdrawals in 2015.

6 games were conceded in 2016 compared to 11 walkovers in 2015.

A total of 259 intercounty fixtures were completed. The results of national competitions finals are outlined in Appendix 4.

The protocols with LGFA to avoid or minimise fixture clashes worked well in 2016.

We are committed to work these again in the forthcoming season. This includes an explicit undertaking by the Camogie Association to avoid a direct clash with the Munster LGFA Finals in 2017 and the LGFA All-Ireland Quarter-Finals in August.





The use of extra-time to initially determine the outcome of a drawn game, will also continue, except in national finals.

Further consideration has been given to the procedure to determine a team's progression in competitions when teams finish on equal points.

In 2017, the result of the group game between the teams in question will determine who progresses if the first step of overall score difference within the group fails to determine a team to progress.

After these two steps, if the teams remain deadlocked, a play-off will apply.

1.5.1 Fixtures Review

A comprehensive consultation and review of fixtures was undertaken and reported on in 2016. Under Hilda Breslin as Chairperson of the Review Committee a detailed set of recommendations on player eligibility; structure of intercounty minor competitions; promotion and relegation; intercounty competitions structures and club competitions were produced.

The report is being considered in greater detail by Ard Chomhairle in 2017. A number of findings from the online consultation were as follows:

- 53% of respondents thought that club fixtures are impacted by the number of intercounty adult fixtures.
- 81% of intercounty player respondents train for adult intercounty teams 3-4 times a week.
- 66% of respondents agreed that there is an adequate number of games at intercounty level between National League and All-Ireland Championship.

Table 1

Number of Intercountry games by competition in 2016

Championship	Number of teams entered	Number of games played	Number of withdrawals/walkovers
All-Ireland Senior	11	30	0
All-Ireland Intermediate	10	22	1 W/O
All-Ireland Premier Junior	7	24	0
Minor A	10	24	0
Minor B	7	14	0
Minor C	5	13	0
Minor C Shield	4	6	1 W/O
U16A	10	23	0
U16B	8	19	0
U16C	6	18	0
National League	Number of teams entered	Number of games played	Number of withdrawals/walkovers
Division 1	11	29	0
Division 2	11	24	4 W/O
Division 3	5	13	0
Club Championship		Number of games played	Number of withdrawals/walkovers
		9	0
Senior Interprovincial		Number of games played	Number of withdrawals/walkovers
		3	0
Total number of National Fixtures	National Intercountry Fixtures	259	
	All-Ireland Club Games	9	
	Senior Interprovincial Competition	3	



1.5.2 World GAA Games

The successful promotion of Gaelic Games at international level was very evident at the Etihad Airways World Games held in Dublin in June. Eleven Camogie teams were represented from Britain, Europe, USA, New York, Canada, the Middle East and Australasia.

The honours were spread across four continents with Australasia defeating London-based Tara in the Cup Final and Britain defeating USA in the competition for players native to those countries. Both of these Finals were held in Croke Park. The Middle East took the Plate Final overcoming Canada while New York brought home the Shield title overcoming Croydon from Britain.

The games were a remarkable festival and celebration of our sports and of their appeal across international boundaries. These were the second World Games and the first to be hosted in Ireland.

1.6 Referee development

Throughout the year, work continued to support the intercounty national panel in officiating at games under Ard Chomhairle's auspices.

A new fitness test for national referees was introduced and the second National Referee Academy commenced in 2016.

Referee courses continued to be widely administered at Foundation level and First Whistle level.

Greater investment of resources for referee recruitment, training and support is envisaged over the next number of years under the National Development Plan.

Four key indicators have been agreed to be achieved by 2020. These include working to ensure that a quarter of national and provincial level referees are female and fully implementing the Referee Pathway policy that was agreed a number of years ago.



1.7 Coach development

The Camogie Association believes strongly in having quality coaching structures in place aligned with a detailed player pathway for our sport.

In the last 10 years Camogie in conjunction with Coaching Ireland have developed and reviewed our coaching structures to have Foundation, Level 1 and Level 2 coach education courses that are conducted via our coach education tutors who qualified through Coaching Ireland.

Rolling out coaching was a very busy field of activity for the Association in 2016.

Foundation courses

61 “Camán get a Grip” foundation courses were completed across the country in 2016.

1,125 coaches being awarded their foundation level certificate.

19 courses took place in Ulster, 19 in Leinster, 16 in Munster and 7 in Connacht.

Of these course, 19 were administered through the Camogie4Teens programmes.

Level 1 courses

8 Level 1 “Camán get Hooked” coaching courses were delivered in 2016.

Of these, 3 were in Ulster, 3 in Leinster and 2 in Munster.

133 coaches received their Level 1 certificate.

Level 2 course

The Level 2 course “Solo to Success” is aimed at county development squad coaches (Under 14, 15 and 17), county U16 & minor level coaches and adult club coaches.

17 participants completed the course in 2016.

Since the launch of the course in 2014, 44 coaches have completed the Level 2 nationwide.

Dublin have 9 Level 2 qualified coaches, Antrim 7, Kildare 6, Wexford 4, Meath 3, Kilkenny 3, Cork 2 and 1 qualified coach in Armagh, Clare, Westmeath, Carlow, Limerick, Donegal, Galway, Laois, Wicklow and Waterford.

As part of the National Development Plan 2016-2019 the Association would like to progress towards having minimum coaching requirements for intercounty coaches by 2019.

It is recommended that all coaches must have a child protection course completed prior to taking part in any of the Camogie Association’s coaching courses.

Section 2: In the Public Eye

The focus of the second strategic area of the National Development Plan, *Our Sport, Our Future 2016-2019* is to promote Camogie to a wider audience and to focus on the commercial development of the sport.

Several important and new communication and marketing initiatives were undertaken in 2016 under the following five action areas:

- (a) Broadcasting of Camogie
- (b) Market information analysis
- (c) Commercial business development
- (d) Positioning programme
- (e) Branding initiatives





“ As well as an increased attendance on the day of September's All-Ireland Finals, the Finals also drew in an increased television audience which saw 328,000 viewers tuning in at its peak for the Senior Final which was broadcast live on RTÉ One.

2.1 Broadcasting of Camogie

This year's Irish Daily Star Division One League Final in May was broadcast live on TG4 as part of a double-header bill with the GAA Allianz Division One Hurling League Final. It marked the third consecutive year of the broadcast of the Division One Camogie Final by pairing the game with the Division One Hurling Final, it allowed the game to not only feature as part of a live broadcast but also brought it to a wider GAA audience, who were in attendance, and also those who were viewing the game at home. Positioning Camogie along with GAA Hurling games, is an important element in securing live broadcasts.

2.1.1 Growing TV audience

As well as an increased attendance on the day of September's All-Ireland Finals, the Finals also drew in an increased television audience which saw 328,000 viewers tuning in at its peak for the Senior Final which was broadcast live on RTÉ One.

This was an increase of 23,000 on the peak of 305,000 viewers who tuned in for the 2015 Finals.

An average of 216,400 viewers tuned into the live coverage of both the Intermediate and Senior Final, representing a 26% share of the market.

These increases were assisted by an improved schedule of live matches and highlights packages both online and on television by the Association in 2016.

A significant investment was made by the Association and its commercial partners Liberty Insurance, to bring the All-Ireland Senior Semi-Finals to as wide an audience as possible via a live broadcast on RTÉ One in August. This was scheduled as part of a triple-header programme with the All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final replay and was an outstanding success.

In 2016 the Association also commissioned highlight packages of feature matches throughout both the National League and All-Ireland Championships that were published online as well as regularly being featured on the RTÉ Six One News.



The longstanding relationship with RTÉ Sport is vital to the promotion of the game. The significant audience figures of RTÉ's The Sunday Game serves to bring the game to a wider audience and our positioning on RTÉ's The Sunday Game along with the GAA Hurling highlights packages and games ensures that we are viewed at peak times.

In November, in conjunction with our sponsor AIB, the All-Ireland Junior Club Championship Final was streamed live online and such a platform is another area which the Association will hope to explore further in 2017.

The strategy that the Association pursues with regard to increasing our broadcast output is an important consideration and is a key part of the National Development Plan.

The balance between committing to investing financial resources into securing increased broadcast coverage and investing resources into raising our attendance levels at our games, is one that needs to be struck, and sustainability, long-term, must be at the core of this.

2.2 Market Information Analysis

As part of our continued commitment to invest in research to better understand market trends and the perception of the game, the Camogie Association commissioned a series of media analyses including; the 2015 AIB All-Ireland Club Championships, the 2016 Irish Daily Star National League, the 2016 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Championships and the 2016 Camogie All-Stars Awards.

The findings re-iterate the importance of regional papers and broadcasters to the promotion of the game, the increasing importance of digital media at all levels and the impact of national print and broadcast.

Some of the key outcomes included:

- Regional publications accounted for the majority (over 80%) of the total press volume across the various competitions and events

- Leinster and Munster were the leading provinces for regional press
- Wexford and Cork were the strongest carriers of coverage, from a regional perspective for both the National League and All-Ireland Championships
- Online coverage increased significantly across the Club Championships, National League and All-Stars Awards

2.3 Commercial Business Development

2016 saw Littlewoods Ireland unveiled as a new top tier partner of both the Camogie Association and the GAA. The fashion, electrical and homewares retailer has signed a three-year deal and which sees the National League rebranded as the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues from 2017.

This exciting partnership will provide the Association with a great opportunity to work with this innovative brand to further boost the profile of both the National League and Camogie in general.

2016 also saw the Camogie Association continue to work closely with both All-Ireland Club Championships' sponsors AIB, and All-Ireland Championships' sponsor Liberty Insurance. We worked closely with both sponsors to identify new opportunities to continue to promote Camogie to an ever increasing audience.

The involvement of our commercial partners in the promotion of our games is vital and the investment into respective promotional campaigns has served to portray the game of Camogie in a new light and has been innovative in the way the game is represented.

Maintaining strong relationships with current commercial partners but also attracting new brands to the Association is a key challenge for us. In light of the wider discussion around women in sport and the heightened interest in increasing female participation in sport, there is now a greater interest demonstrated by commercial brands in female sport.



“ It was pleasing to see the level of activity that counties and clubs engaged in, on social media, in addition to various players.

However, the area of social media is still underutilised by counties, clubs, players and supporters alike and it is an area where massive strides can be made for the promotion of the game with relative ease and at a low cost.

The Association, as part of the new National Development Plan, is investing further through the recruitment of a Commercial Manager in 2017.

2.3.1 Attendances and ticketing promotion

A bumper crowd of 20,037 people attended the All-Ireland Camogie Championship Finals in Croke Park on Sunday September 11th.

This made it the fifth highest attendance for a Camogie All-Ireland Final since 1932 and the highest attendance since 2006 for a stand-alone Camogie Final.

The attendance saw an increase of almost 25% on the 16,610 that attended the 2015 Final.

This increase was the culmination of an integrated marketing strategy which focused on promoting the attendance at this year's Finals.

Increasing attendances, not only at the All-Ireland Finals, but at games across all competitions throughout the year, is a priority for the Association and it is imperative that first and foremost members of the Association, come and support their own games.

Cairde Camogie

The Cairde Camogie ticket was continued as a ticket promotion strategy for the Championship. It was first launched in 2014 as part of the Association's 110th year celebrations.

The All-Ireland Championship loyalty ticket represents fantastic value, to anyone who is a follower of Camogie and Gaelic Games.

The ticket costs €45 and allows entry to all rounds of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Championships, including Semi-Finals and the triple header All-Ireland Finals. The sales figures to date for Cairde Camogie are improving.

The ticket represents excellent value for a whole series of games when compared to the costs of paying entry to games on a case-by-case basis. In addition, for all counties, there is a 20% rebate on the sale of Cairde Camogie tickets in their own counties. The ticket was promoted as part of



the 2016 launch, and consistently across social media during the course of the Championship.

The Cairde Camogie ticket will form part of the 2017 All-Ireland Championship series, and based on the value it represents, members should take the opportunity to purchase the ticket from Centra and SuperValu stores and from tickets.ie, to follow their team during championship 2017.

2.3.2 Licensing and Merchandising

The Association has signed licensing arrangements with O'Neills, Intosport, Azzurri, Cuchulainn Sports, and Masita for the licensed reproduction of the Camogie logo on skorts and jerseys, as per the official rule in the Association Rule Book. Cúl Sliotars are licensed also.

It is the responsibility of all county and club units to negotiate with the respective suppliers, in order to gain the best value for money, for their respective unit. All Units are also required to purchase playing gear from licensed suppliers only. There will be greater scrutiny of compliance with this in 2017.

The Association has provided some event-led merchandising over the past number of years and this continued in 2016. Options to expand merchandising opportunities are currently under review.

2.4 Positioning Programme

2.4.1 Our Game Your Game

2016 marked the third year of the promotional and marketing campaign *Our Game Your Game* featuring five intercounty players, Amy O'Connor (Cork), Denise Gaule (Kilkenny), Rebecca Hennelly (Galway), Sarah Fryday (Tipperary) and Sarah O'Donovan (Dublin).

The aim of *Our Game Your Game* 2016 was to continue to build on the positive PR of previous campaigns by disseminating strong visual imagery of the chosen players and interesting content across print and online platforms.

Weekly interviews with a chosen player were featured in the national media in addition to photography while content was also

disseminated across our online channels and other online outlets. Ensuring good media relationships and providing interesting, eye-capturing content was key to the success of the campaign for the 2016 All-Ireland Series.

Our Game Your Game 2016 presented the players, through words and imagery, as powerful, committed athletes, both on and off the field combining work and study along with the demands of the preparation that goes into competing at an elite level for their county.

2.4.2 Growing Social Media Profiles

The social media profiles of the Camogie Association continue to grow, owing to the consistent dissemination of information across our platforms, relating to our players, games, events and also collaboration with other entities.

Twitter (15,215 followers) and Facebook (27,787) are the two mediums, used most frequently by the Association. In 2016 the Association has also focused on growing its social media audiences to younger demographics via Instagram (2,930) and most recently through the launch of the Association's Snapchat account.

Our YouTube channel, also featured excellent video content, owing to launches and events throughout the year, in addition to highlights packages from matches throughout the year and match previews.

It was pleasing to see the level of activity that counties and clubs engaged in, on social media, in addition to various players.

However, the area of social media is still underutilised by counties, clubs, players and supporters alike and it is an area where massive strides can be made for the promotion of the game with relative ease and at a low cost.

There will be a renewed focus on social media in terms of engaging County units to utilise this medium in 2017 with the support of County PROs being vital to progress being made in this area.



2.4.3 All-Ireland Sunday - Sunday Independent Supplement

In September we linked up with the Sunday Independent to produce a 4 page pull-out on the morning of the All-Ireland Finals in conjunction with the All-Ireland Championship sponsors Liberty Insurance. This was a strategy to promote the Finals and their TV broadcasting to as many Irish households as possible on the day of the Finals in Croke Park.

Exclusive content was produced for this pull-out including content provided by some of the newspaper's leading sports journalists and the initiative was received very positively and helped to boost the profile of the All-Ireland Finals.

2.4.4 Developing Match Analysis - #CamogieTalk

As part of the overall communications strategy around the 2016 All-Ireland Championships we produced an inaugural series of video packages for online distribution.

Entitled **#CamogieTalk**, these packages featured analysis of the Championship by former players and journalists.

Five shows were produced and distributed across the Association's social media channels as well as being distributed to other online media outlets. This initiative received excellent feedback in terms of profiling Camogie and providing critical analysis of the season to a wide audience.

A key aim of the **#CamogieTalk** series was to create and encourage debate regarding the All-Ireland Championships through producing in-depth analysis of matches and the Championships as a whole delivered by Camogie experts.

In turn this series helped to further inform both the Camogie public and the wider sporting public and media regarding the All-Ireland Championships and the sport in general.



independent.ie/sport Sunday Independent 11 September 2016

CAMOGIE

Finals '16

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship Final, captain Lisa O'Connell (Armagh), Fergal Manning (Carlow), Michelle Doherty (Kilkenny), Rachel Thompson (Cork), Aine Fahy (Kilkenny), International and teaming information: Photo: Billy Stockdale

Cats desperate to claw back title

DERMOT CROWE

A WEEK after Kilkenny's failed attempt to win three-in-a-row, their county's camogie team will be bidding to derail another triple hit in Cork's Park this afternoon. It is a good stretch since Ann Downey, manager of the current Kilkenny side, captained her county to their last senior All-Ireland win in 1994. Kilkenny's last two final appearances ended in defeat – to Galway in 2013 and Cork a year later. Having successfully defended their title last season, Cork are favourites to win a third in succession for their first time since the early 1970s.

There is also the beguiling prospect of becoming the most successful county in the history of the championship – victory would bring Cork a record 27th title, moving them one ahead of Dublin on the roll of honours. Cork also contest the intermediate final against Kilkenny, one of the day's curtain raisers, while the junior final sees Carlow challenging for the first time facing Armagh.

Both senior finalists had to play through extra time to qualify, surviving two semi-final matches which Catherine Neary, the Camogie Association President, said were glowing testimony to the game's spectator appeal. "People were blown away by the speed and technical skill on display," she said, "and we're looking forward to more of the same".

Kilkenny have endured a series of setbacks during their valley period, including high-profile losses to Cork

in the finals of 2009 and 2014, as well as last year's semi-final. All of their last six All-Ireland final appearances have ended in defeat.

Their manager, Downey, acknowledges that a win is overdue. "You have a team on top for a long time and then others take over," she says. "Winford came on the scene and were very strong and Kilkenny could never match them, and you had other counties who were successful – like Tipperary and Cork. I suppose 22 years is too long. We had won seven All-Irelands in a row. But we were unlucky too in getting to finals a few times and not getting over the line".

Cork overcame a fierce challenge from Westford in their semi final, 0-19 to 0-15, having lost to Westford earlier in the campaign by a goal. It was their only defeat in their group, which featured comfortable wins over Waterford, Clare, Offaly and Limerick.

Kilkenny had a battling semi-final win over Galway, 3-15 to 1-19, helped by a crucial goal from Anne Ballin in the first period of extra time. Kilkenny met Cork in the league earlier in the year, where Cork were narrow 1-09 to 0-11 winners. Last year's championship semi-final win over Kilkenny was more comprehensive, 4-10 to 1-10.

Downey has some able backroom assistance in former Kilkenny hurlers Conor Phelan and Paddy Mullally, both team selectors, while Liam Egan, formerly of John Lockes, Callan, is the team's strength and conditioning trainer. Downey's twin sister, Annela, and Mullally's sister Bridget were also on the last team to win an All-Ireland 22 years ago.

Downey, a 12-time All-Ireland winner

with Kilkenny, took over from Fintan Deegan – who left after one year of what was to be a three-year term. Downey had previous stints in management and captained the county to the All-Ireland in 1989 as well as '94.

"Paddy (Mullally) and I worked together in Waterford IT (winning an All-Ireland college title in 2015) and we spoke about it," she adds. "We said if we were going to do it we were going to do it together – and get Conor (Phelan) in as well. (Phelan is the GAA development officer at WIT). So we knew each other.

Paddy does the coaching and he was involved with Glenmore when they won the All-Ireland junior title this year."

Downey arrived at a time of uncertainty, with some players signalling they were no longer able to commit. She made no wild promises, except to guarantee hard work and to urge patience. But she felt they were close to reaching their ultimate goal, citing the Galway defeat among a number of close misses.

Speaking earlier in the year, she said Kilkenny needed stiffer opposition before facing a team of Cork's calibre.

Something she felt hadn't been available to them last year. Cork have had to deal with significant losses too. After winning the title in 2014, coming from five points down to Kilkenny at half time to win by six, they shed 10 players from the panel, but still managed to retain their title a year later.

"We had a great run in the League and beat Galway in the League final," says Downey of their year so far, "but Championship is different, and Galway beat us in the group stages and look as if to extra time when we met them in the All-Ireland semi-finals. Winning the League was great, but it's a platform for the Championship, really."

"I came back as junior manager in 2002 and we won the All-Ireland, and then I had a year as senior manager in 2011 and intermediate manager – we won the intermediate. Through WIT, seeing a lot of the Kilkenny players, I knew the talent was there and it was a real challenge to manage Kilkenny again – and one I was looking forward to."

"There's a few new faces and we made some positional switches. Meighan Farrell was injured last year for most of it. She's had a couple of injuries, but she's back and we're looking forward to her. There's a couple of changes to the team and a good few changes to the panel.

"We probably haven't enough senior clubs in Kilkenny at the moment and winning an All-Ireland would help keep the youngsters playing the game. It is about getting back to the day when we were playing – when we would have hundreds going to matches from every parish in the county."

TODAY'S GAMES

- Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship Final Cork v Kilkenny, Crickle Park 4.0
- Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Championship Final Cork v Kilkenny, Crickle Park 2.0
- Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship Final Armagh v Carlow, Crickle Park 12.0
- Senior and Intermediate Finals Live on RTE ONE and on RTE Player (including International Player) Junior final live on the RTE Player (including International Player)
- Highlights of all three finals on the Sunday Game on RTE 2 at 8.15

2.5 Branding Initiatives

2.5.1 On The Ball Magazine and Annual Calendar

Two editions of the Association's Official Magazine 'On The Ball' were produced in 2016. The magazine was revamped in terms of design and content and received very positive feedback.

The magazine is an important tool to look back at achievements within the Association as well as plans for the coming months but is also increasingly important in terms of raising the profile of the sport and of players in particular.

A 2017 Calendar promoting players and games' activity was also published and disseminated.



Section 3: Off the Pitch

Building sustainable organisational structures is the third strategic priority of the National Development Plan. There are five action areas under this:

- a) Creating a sustainable financial model
- b) Ensuring best practice in governance
- c) Resourcing counties and Provinces
- d) Club Constitution
- e) Club officer support



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3.1 Creating a sustainable financial model

The Association's 2016 audited accounts are presented elsewhere in this Report.

The accounts highlight income increases in 2016 in affiliations (6%), sponsorship (20%), gates and match programmes (4%) and from Sport Ireland (4%) last year.

The analysis of income sources for 2016 highlight that 35% of our income is in grant-aid from Sport Ireland and the GAA; 9% is fundraised by the Association through commercial partnerships, showing a slight increase from 2015; and over half is sourced from affiliation fees, games related income and licensing and merchandising.

Last year's Congress decided that U8 players should not be charged a cost to register as Association members. This decision takes effect from January 1st 2017. (All players including U8s are still required to be insured and clubs may charge a club membership fee).

The affiliation income has increased year on year over the past three years. This trend may not continue in 2017. With no U8s returning an affiliation fee to the national Association, there is likely to be a stabilisation or some revenue adjustment in 2017 in this budget line.

3.1.1 Indebtedness Review

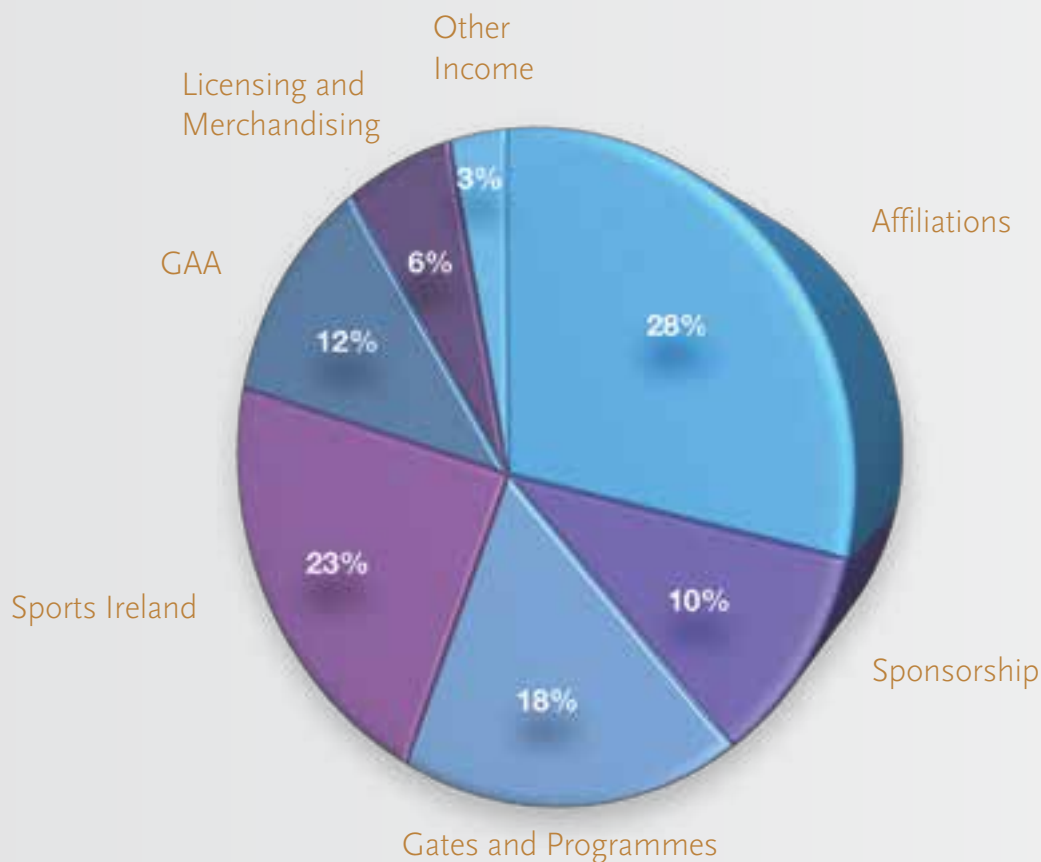
The 2015 accounts of nine counties were examined: Dublin, Kilkenny, Wexford, Cork, Tipperary, Galway, Derry, Clare, Offaly. Indebtedness levels of a number of county boards and failure to comply with financial procedures were identified in a number of cases.

Tipperary County Board's progress in overturning a significant operational deficit was noted and commended.

3.1.2 Insurance

The National Development Plan stipulated that the Association would evaluate the commercial benefits to Camogie in developing common player insurance/injury fund schemes with GAA/LGFA counterparts.

Figure 2:
Income Sources 2016



Initial scoping work commenced on this in 2016 and it is hoped to report further on it by the end of 2017.

In the course of 2016 a number of clubs/counties have questioned whether players insured at club level are covered to play Camogie at other representative levels e.g. represent their county, province etc.

Insurance cover to protect against loss arising from injury etc. while playing Camogie is provided by independent commercial insurance companies. There is no national scheme.

The nature and extent of the cover is a matter of negotiation between each club and their commercial insurance company. Companies may change the terms of their insurance cover and/or clubs may purchase insurance cover that may or may not extend to representative Camogie outside the club.

Under Rule 23.1 each club must ensure and be satisfied that its playing members, members

who officiate at games and members involved in managing/coaching teams are covered by insurance.

Clubs are advised to inform players if the insurance policy purchased by the club does not cover players to play representative Camogie e.g. with the county team etc. County and Provincial units are also advised to check if their representative players are properly covered by insurance.

Clubs are also advised to check that insurance policies cover referees to referee all games, including games held in venues other than the club grounds or games involving the club. In the case of club members who are intercounty referees, the same applies.

Heretofore it was common for club insurance to cover all representative Camogie.

It appears that this may not be the case and requires close monitoring by players themselves and by administrators at all levels.



“

Last year's Annual Report observed that a number

of Camogie units have not appointed Children's Officers. This remained the case in 2016. This is extremely unsatisfactory and clearly contrary to the Association's rules as outlined in the Official Guide.

3.2 Ensuring best practice in governance

In June 2016, Ard Chomhairle agreed to adopt the Governance Code.

The Governance Code is a set of independent principles and practices that are considered to represent good governance (www.governancecode.ie).

In agreeing to adopt the Code there are a number of steps required of organisations before achieving full compliance.

Ard Chomhairle commenced the process of reviewing its status vis-a-vis the standards set in the Code. This work is ongoing and has included decisions to put in place an Internal Audit Committee and a Risk Management Committee.

The initiation of this process is timely as the Minister for Sport announced in November that sports' governing bodies who have 10 or more staff will require to be fully compliant with the Code by January 1st 2019 to remain eligible for statutory funding.

In related governance work over the past year, the Association completed a number of other important elements including:

- Agreeing Ard Chomhairle roles of Secretary, Treasurer, Coaching and Games representative and PR and Communications representative
- Reviewing and updating the Association's procurement policy and internal financial controls policy
- Agreeing a remuneration policy for staff and establishing a Remuneration Committee
- Establishing an oversight implementation committee for the National Development Plan
- Agreeing performance indicators for the National Development Plan (see Appendix 3)
- Addressing reputational risk issues through the development of a new social media policy for members and units



- Agreeing a confidentiality policy for Ard Chomhairle members, members of Ard Chomhairle sub-committees and staff.

There are several legislative compliance requirements on the Association and these are now detailed.

3.2.1 Vetting

A very large proportion of the Camogie Association's membership is aged under 18.

Legislative change in 2016 introduced the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Person) Acts. Under these, since April 2016, it is an offence to engage a person to work with children unless that person has been vetted in advance of taking up such a role. The National Vetting Bureau (NVB) undertakes vetting in the Republic of Ireland while Access NI does the same role in the six counties.

The vetting requirement applies to Camogie coaches of underage teams and to others who, on our behalf, carry out roles of responsibility with children.

The GAA online vetting system is successfully in place since 2016, the Camogie Association hopes to implement a similar system in 2017

3.2.2 Child Welfare

The three Gaelic Games bodies jointly administer the Code of Behaviour for working underage players *Our Games Our Code*. Work continued to promote awareness of this throughout the year including national and local seminars and training events. The new procedure for dealing jointly with alleged breaches of the Code was also introduced.

Last year's Annual Report observed that a number of Camogie units have not appointed Children's Officers. This remained the case in 2016. This is extremely unsatisfactory and clearly contrary to the Association's rules as outlined in the Official Guide.

Each County Children's Officer should verify that all clubs have Children's Officers and each Provincial Officer should do likewise at county level. The National Child Welfare Committee could consider an audit to monitor this on an annual basis.

3.2.3 Lobbying

The Camogie Association complied with the requirement of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 and made a number of returns on the lobbying register during 2016.

3.2.4 Data Protection

The Association is obliged to operate in compliance with the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003. Over the past year work commenced on the drafting of a data protection policy for the Association. It is intended to have this completed in 2017.

3.3 Resourcing of Counties and Provinces

The National Development Plan provides for a review of the remit of Provincial Council including their roles around coach education, officer development, post-primary and support the club-school link. In 2016 the National Development Plan implementation committee consulted with the Provinces on their role and on the impact of the plan on provinces.

A broader review of the resources needed to implement the National Development Plan was also undertaken. Arising from this, a proposal to put in place nationally employed staff who are assigned to act as Participation and Growth Co-ordinators in Munster, Leinster and Connacht provinces was proposed. Ard Chomhairle agreed this and the recruitment for these positions is currently underway. The designation of funds to Ulster Camogie Council towards the salary costs of their Administration Manager was also agreed.



3.4 Funding support to counties and Provinces

Development funding in 2015/16 was provided directly to a number of counties, and to Provinces for Camogie development, taking into account evidence of need as outlined by the counties themselves. The main areas of funded activity were:

- Growing Participation
- Improving Performance
- Volunteer Development and Leadership

In 2016, Camogie in counties and provinces also benefited from a range of other direct and indirect funding and programme support.

Details are summarised in Appendix 5.

3.5 Club Constitution

The National Development Plan committed the Camogie Association to work with the GAA and the LGFA to align the respective governing documents in relation to club governance.

During the year this work progressed with an agreement that the three Associations would collaborate on the production of a common resource on 'One Club'. This would provide guidelines and support to clubs who wish to voluntarily opt into administering their club on a unified basis across the codes of the GAA, Camogie and Ladies Football.

A steering group of the Ard Stiúrthóirí of the three Associations are overseeing this and hope to finalise this project in 2017.

3.6 Club Officer Support

Support to club officers is a new priority of the National Development Plan with a focus on work being advanced by 2018. Initial consideration was given to training course provision and contact was made with the GAA and its National Officer Development Programme and its Club Leadership Programme.



3.6.1 Volunteer of the Year Awards

Club officers are of course key volunteers and during the year the annual Volunteer of the Year Awards were administered at county and national level. In February, the National Volunteer Awards Dinner in Croke Park showcased the work of the volunteers from 29 counties. The recognised volunteers are detailed in Table 2.

Camogie volunteers were also acknowledged in other ways during 2016:

- Mary Connor, Louth was the Camogie recipient of the GAA President's Award in 2016, presented in Croke Park.
- Marion McStay, Armagh was the recipient of the Síghle Nic an Ultaigh Award from the Camogie Association and presented at Congress 2016.

3.6.2 Media Awards

The Association also presented its annual Media Awards to recognise the volunteer and media efforts to promote Camogie as follows:

Media Awards 2015/16
PRO of the Year Róisín Hartley, Waterford
Match Programme Clare County Board
Local Newspaper The Southern Star
Photographer of the Year Desmond Loughrey
Social Media Award Waterford Camogie Board
Local Radio Station KFM

Table 2

Volunteer of the Year Awards 2015/16	
Antrim	Kieran Convery
Armagh	Ann O'Hare
Carlow	Mick Lillis
Cavan	Catriona Byrd
Clare	Catherine O'Gorman
Cork	Joan Casey
Derry	Emmet McCloskey
Donegal	Fergal Doherty
Down	Bernard McKee
Dublin	Anne Noctor
Galway	Seán Geraghty
Kildare	Aileen Kelly-Rafferty
Kilkenny	Sinéad Quigley
Laois	Danny Gorman
Limerick	Paul Doyle
London	Bridget Hehir
Louth	Mary Connor
Mayo	Rosaleen Duggan
Meath	Teresa Clinec
Monaghan	Catherine Greenan
New York	Ger Lavery
Offaly	Frances Teehan
Roscommon	Geraldine Beattie Greene
Tipperary	Mary Howard
Tyrone	Tony Cassidy
Waterford	Derek Healy
Westmeath	Mary Glynn
Wexford	Jacinta Roche
Wicklow	Trish Kehoe



3.6.3 Enhancing the Servasport Registration system

At club, county and Provincial levels, the Servasport registration system is integral to running well-administered units. Registrars, Secretaries and Treasurers at these levels have important roles in ensuring that the unit membership is appropriately registered with the Association and that all people associated in a formal capacity with the Unit are so registered.

In 2016, arising from the experiential input of officers at all of these levels, the Association made further significant investment to enhance the Servasport system. These enhancements are all operational since January 1st 2017 and include:

- a) A new facility that gives a member's registration status via colour coding
- b) A new deadline for the club payment date of the All-Ireland Finals advance ticket payment
- c) A new facility that reminds clubs that players are required to be registered for 3 days before they are eligible to play
- d) A new facility whereby transfers must be administered on the system at county, provincial or national level – central administration of all transfers will no longer continue. A new CC4 transfer form includes the Servasport Registration ID for the player which clubs must complete.
- e) An updated CC2 Team Sheet which includes a requirement for officials to verify that the players and team mentors associated with the team/match fixture are currently registered members of the Camogie Association.

All units need to remember that the Servasport system contains personal information, e.g. date of birth, personal address, phone numbers etc. All of this personal data is covered by data protection legislation. Under the legislation, limited and necessary access should only be granted.

Access to the Servasport system should be limited to authorised members only. Access to Servasport should be reviewed on a yearly basis. The Camogie Association recommends that Servasport access is given to the Registrar and the Treasurer or Secretary only.



Section 4: Aontas – Strengthening relationships

The National Development Plan's fourth and final strategy priority is to show leadership in working closely with the GAA to achieve our common goal of delivering Gaelic games. The priority also promotes close collaboration with other national bodies including the Ladies Gaelic Football Association, statutory and non-statutory bodies and charitable partners.





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The National Development Plan committed the Camogie

Association to work with the GAA and the LGFA to align the respective governing documents in relation to club governance. During the year this work progressed with an agreement that the three Associations would collaborate on the production of a common resource on 'One Club'.

4.1 Aontas Programme

A plan for greater unity with the GAA is one of the headline targets in the Association's National Development Plan 2016-2019. The plan designates the Aontas Programme as the method to achieve this target.

During 2016, the Camogie Association initiated discussions with the GAA to progress this.

4.2 ChildFund Ireland

In 2016 the Camogie Association continued to work closely with our charity partner ChildFund Ireland. ChildFund's mission is to work internationally to develop an enabling environment where children's basic needs are met and their rights are promoted and respected.

Cork goalkeeper and ChildFund ambassador Aoife Murray addressed last year's Congress in Limerick and helped to create great awareness around our joint initiative with ChildFund, called the Dream Bikes Initiative which encourages clubs to raise €100 towards the cost of purchasing a bicycle for children in countries in which ChildFund work.

As part of this initiative both Aoife and Wexford goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy travelled to Ethiopia in 2016 to deliver bikes to children and also to see first-hand the impact of the initiative and ChildFund's work on the ground. They were joined on their trip by RTÉ's Anne Cassin and the trip formed part of a special episode of RTÉ's Nationwide series. Both Aoife and Mags relived their trip when addressing the audience at November's Camogie All-Stars Awards.





Section 5: Appreciations and thanks



Section 5: APPRECIATION AND THANKS



“ The individual and combined contributions of staff and our volunteer network was vital in making 2016 our best year ever.

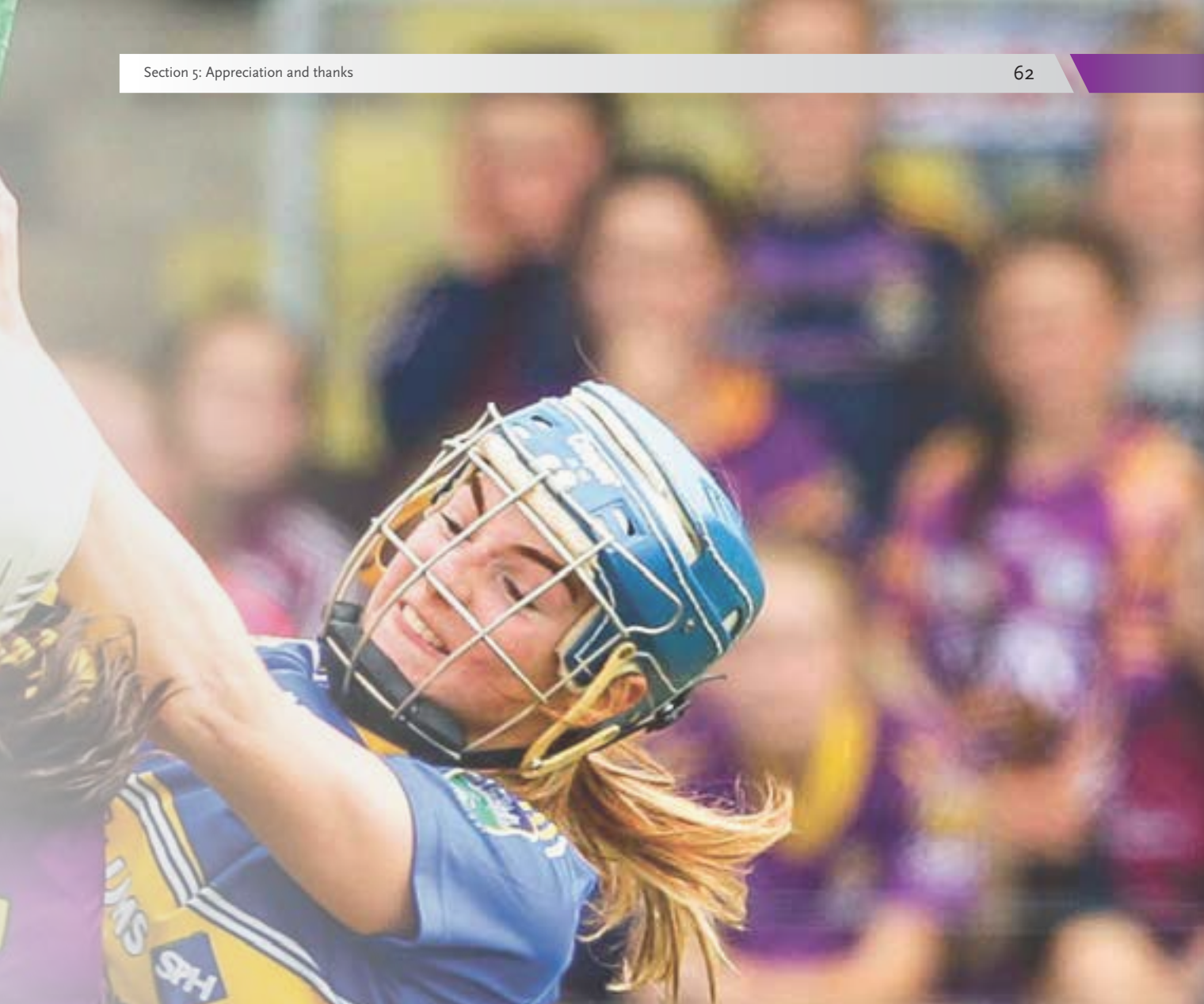
Every year there is enormous effort put in by hundreds and hundreds of people to support the playing of Camogie. In particular, the national office is dependent on the tireless work of club, county, provincial, international and educational sector administrators of the Association.

Thank you all for an amazing and exciting year for our sport.

Your support and courtesy to me and the staff of the Association is much appreciated.

I want to particularly acknowledge and thank Ard Chomhairle members and the members of all our national committees for their ongoing commitment in the stewardship of the Association and the game.

Thank you to Kieran Mulvey, John Treacy and all the staff of Sport Ireland who are most supportive in providing guidance and advice as well as funding to us.



Thank you to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and Ministers Patrick O'Donovan, Shane Ross, Pascal O'Donohoe and former Minister Michael Ring.

We enjoy very active and positive working relationships with our Gaelic games counterparts. Thank you especially to Páraic Ó Dufaigh and Helen O'Rourke who facilitate and support this at all times.

The Uachtarán of the Camogie Association, Catherine Neary, has put in a huge year of leadership and commitment. I very much thank Catherine for her support and guidance. I know well that she gives these generously, along with an enormous amount of her personal time. It is much appreciated.

The staff of the Association are extremely committed as professionals and as Camogie enthusiasts. Flexible working hours, adaptability to meet diverse and demanding workloads and

a willingness to do their best for Camogie and for the Association characterises their day-to-day working. As well as being professionally engaged in the game, many are also active in their clubs as volunteers or players. A sincere thank you to one and all.

The individual and combined contributions of staff and our volunteer network was vital in making 2016 our best year ever. Let's work together to make 2017 better again - our sport, our future.

Joan O'Flynn
Ard Stiúrthóir



Appendices



Appendix 1:

Ard Chomhairle membership and meetings attended during 2016



Ard Chomhairle member 2016/17: Back row l. to r. James Moynihan, Bróna McIntyre, Marion Graham, Fiona Hamilton, Kitty Morley, Phyllis Breslin, Bridghidin Heenan, Fiona Casey, Eamonn Browne, Kathleen Woods, Hilda Breslin. Front row l. to r. Miriam O'Callaghan, Treasurer, Joan O'Flynn, Ard Stiúrthóir, Catherine Neary, Uachtarán, Sheila O'Donohoe, Secretary, Pat Martin.

Name	Position	Number of meetings attended
Catherine Neary	Uachtarán	7
Joan O'Flynn	Ard Stiúrthóir	7
Sheila O'Donohoe	Secretary to Ard Chomhairle	7
Miriam O'Callaghan	Treasurer to Ard Chomhairle	7
James Moynihan	Munster Chairperson	7
Pat Martin	Leinster Chairperson	6
Kathleen Woods	Ulster Chairperson	6
Fiona Hamilton	Connacht Chairperson	7
Eamonn Browne	Coaching and Games Development Representative	5
Fiona Casey	Munster Delegate	7
Hilda Breslin	Leinster Delegate	7
Kitty Morley	Connacht Delegate	7
Brighidin Heenan	Ulster Delegate	5
Bróna McIntyre	PR and Communications Representative	5
Phyllis Breslin	Trustee	7
Marion Graham	Trustee	4

A number of teleconferences were also held during the course of the year.

Appendix 2: Staff (As at end of February 2016)

Position	
Ard-Stiúrthóir	Joan O'Flynn
Director of Technical Development and Participation	Mary O'Connor
Communications Manager	Cian Nelson
Finance Manager	Feena Hosford
Commercial Manager	TBC
Operations Co-Ordinator	Caroline Fitzsimons
National Competitions Administrator	Liz McGuinness
Office & Communications Administrator	Ali Nolan
Finance Administrator	Damien O'Connor
Provincial & County Officer Training and Support Co-Ordinator	Eve Talbot
Participation and Growth Officer Kildare/Meath	Brendan Kenny
Player Retention and Programme Evaluation Co-Ordinator	Caroline Murray
Youth Development Co-Ordinator	Clare Dowdall
Club and Education Support Co-Ordinator	Kathleen Egan
Referee Education and Development Co-Ordinator	Lizzie Flynn
Coach Education and Development Co-Ordinator	Yvonne Byrne
Player Welfare Officer	To Be Appointed
Munster Participation and Growth Co-Ordinator	To Be Appointed
Leinster Participation and Growth Co-Ordinator	To Be Appointed
Connacht Participation and Growth Co-Ordinator	To Be Appointed
Finance Director <i>Paula Bruen on maternity leave from January 2017</i>	Paula Bruen

Former National Staff (who left since Congress 2016)

Fiona Balfe Finance Administrator; Patrick Mullaney, Brian Laverty, former Regional Development Officers; Keona Koster, Mark Haughton, Seán Murray, Shane Redmond – all Intern Support.

Other Occasional or Volunteer Roles

National Anti-Doping Officer:	Mairéad Ní Mhaoileoin
Garda Vetting Officer:	Ray Quigley
All-Ireland Post Primary Competitions Servicing Officer:	Bronagh Gaughan

Designated counties

Antrim	Clare Dowdall, Youth Development Co-ordinator
Armagh	Player Welfare Co-ordinator to be appointed TBA
Carlow	Leinster Participation and Growth Co-ordinator TBA
Cavan	Player Welfare Co-ordinator TBA
Clare	Munster Participation and Growth Co-ordinator TBA
Cork	Kathleen Egan, Club and Education Support Co-ordinator
Derry	Clare Dowdall, Youth Development Co-ordinator
Donegal	Clare Dowdall, Youth Development Co-ordinator
Down	Ulster Council Staff Member TBC
Dublin	Eve Talbot, Officer Training and Support Co-ordinator
Galway	Caroline Murray, Player Retention and Programme Evaluation Co-ordinator
Kerry	Munster Participation and Growth Co-ordinator TBA
Kildare	Brendan Kenny, Participation and Growth Officer
Kilkenny	Leinster Participation and Growth Co-ordinator TBA
Laois	Eve Talbot, Officer Training and Support Co-ordinator
Limerick	Kathleen Egan, Club and Education Support Co-ordinator
Louth	Player Welfare Co-ordinator TBA
Mayo	Yvonne Byrne, Coach Education and Development Co-ordinator
Meath	Brendan Kenny, Participation and Growth Officer
Monaghan	Player Welfare Officer TBA
Offaly	Lizzie Flynn, Referee Education and Development Co-ordinator
Roscommon	Connacht Participation and Growth Co-ordinator TBA
Tipperary	Munster Participation and Growth Co-ordinator TBA
Tyrone	Ulster Council staff member TBC
Waterford	Kathleen Egan, Club and Education Support Co-ordinator
Westmeath	Lizzie Flynn, Referee Education and Development Co-ordinator
Wexford	Leinster Participation and Growth Co-ordinator TBA
Wicklow	Eve Talbot, Officer Training and Support Co-ordinator

TBA = To Be Appointed, TBC = To Be Confirmed

Appendix 3:

Key Performance Indicators of National Development Plan, agreed by Ard Chomhairle

Proposed indicator	By Congress 2020
A.	Have in place a minimum of 12 games per year at club level for players at single age level up to 16 (outcome)(u8, 9 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 ,15 16) and/or each county set a minimum for itself in consultation with Provincial Council (given role re cross county fixtures)
B.	Two additional funding sources secured and one significant commercial partnership in place
C.	Increased live TV games coverage
D.	Increased TV viewing
E.	25,000 attendance at All-Ireland Finals
F.	7,000 attendance at All-Ireland Semi-Finals
G.	3,000 at All-Ireland Quarter-Finals
H.	The Association will be recognised by the Governance bodies and Sport Ireland as being fully compliant
I.	Tier 2 counties - increase Kildare by 25% (20 to 25 clubs) and Meath by 33.3% (15 to 20 clubs). Increase registration levels to 10% of girls at both primary and secondary school age across both counties (from current 7%), from 3,000 to 4,000 girls playing camogie.
J.	Tier 1 counties - 14 additional clubs in 11 counties and Tier 3 counties – 4 additional clubs
K.	A net increase of members aged over 21 nationally and/or in targeted area
L.	All counties have a structured recruitment, education and training programme for referees from 1st Whistle Referee to Level 1 Club Referee
M.	All Provinces have a Level 2 Provincial Referee education and training programme established
N.	A National Referee recruitment, education and training programme established
O.	25% of National and Provincial panel are female
P.	All counties to have management teams at u14/15/16/18/adult with at least one person with relevant accredited coaching standard in place with each county team
Q.	All counties to have management teams at u14/15 with at least two persons with Level 1 accredited coaching standard in place with each county team
R.	All officer roles filled at club level
S.	All counties implementing an annual structured recruitment, education and training programme for club officers
T.	One Club Model Template established and operational on a voluntary opt-in model
U.	Camogie Association and GAA to be integration ready with change management plan in place

Appendix 4:

Torthaí na gComórtas / Competition Results 2016 – National Competition Results

Competition	Winners	Runners-Up	Referee	Player Of The Match
All-Ireland Senior Championship	Kilkenny 1-13	Cork 1-09	Eamon Cassidy	Julie-Ann Malone
All-Ireland Intermediate Championship	Kilkenny 3-06	Cork 1-11	John McDonagh	Keeva Fennelly
All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship	Carlow 4-10	Armagh 2-07	Andrew Larkin	Ciara Quirke
Minor A Replay	Tipperary 4-09	Galway 2-06	Owen Elliot	Orla O'Dwyer
Minor B	Down 1-06	Roscommon 0-06	John McDonagh	Catriona Caldwell
Minor B Shield	Antrim 1-18	Derry 0-06	Philip McDonald	Laoise McKenna
Minor C	Armagh 2-16	Westmeath 1-11	Gavin Donegan	Hannah Hughes
Minor C Shield	Tyrone 3-12	Monaghan 1-03	Louise Reilly Smith	Niamh Forker
U16A	Galway 3-14	Kilkenny 1-11	John Dolan	Siobhán McGrath
U16B	Westmeath 2-13	Laois 0-06	Fintan McNarmara	Lucy Power
U16C	Kildare 1-11	Carlow 1-08	Julie O'Neill	Laoise Dunne
National League Division 1	Kilkenny 2-07	Galway 0-07	Cathal Egan	Anna Farrell
National League Division 2	Meath 1-10	Galway 2-03	Andrew Larkin	Megan Thynne
National League Division 3	Armagh 3-11	Roscommon 2-09	Alan Doheny	Ciara Donnelly
All-Ireland Senior Club Championship 2015 Final	Milford 2-08	Killimor 1-03	Alan Lagrue	Anna Geary
All-Ireland Intermediate Club Championship 2015 Final	Cahir 0-14	Eyrecoort 1-02	Liz Dempsey	Aishling Moloney
All-Ireland Junior Club Final 2016 Final	Johnstownbidge 1-10	Scariff Ogonnoloe 1-09	John Dermody	Eimear Hurley
Ashbourne Cup	University of Limerick 3-12	University College Cork 4-07		
Purcell Cup	Cork Institute of Technology 1-12,	Maynooth University 0-04		
Fr. Meaghair Cup	Trinity College 1-10	Athlone Institute of Technology 0-08		
GAA World Games Camogie Shield Final	New York 4-03	Croydon 3-05	Paul Flanagan	
GAA World Games Camogie Plate Final	Middle East 1-07	Canada 2-03	John Dermody	
GAA World Games Camogie Native Final	North America 1-04	Britain Native 0-4	Philip McDonald	
GAA World Games Camogie Cup Final	Australasia 5-17	Tara 1-08	Julie O'Neill	

Competition	Winners	Runners-Up	Referee	Player Of The Match
All-Ireland Post Primary Senior A Replay	St Brigid's-Loughrea 2-06	Loreto-Kilkenny 0-09	Julie O'Neill	Patricia Mannin
All-Ireland Post Primary Senior B	Scoil na Tríonóide, Doon 4-10	St. Joseph's, Lucan 0-03	John McDonagh	Gráinne Regan
All-Ireland Post Primary Senior C	St. Joseph's, Rochfortbridge 1-08	Mercy Convent, Roscommon 1-07	Jenny Byrne	Hannah Core
All-Ireland Post Primary Senior D	Our Lady of Lourdes, Wexford 2-07	St. Augustine's, Dungarvan 1-03	Gerry McGough	Oonagh Doyle
All-Ireland Post Primary Junior A	Loreto Kilkenny 3-07	Coachford College, Cork 1-10	Jenny Byrne	Rachel Kelly
All-Ireland Post Primary Junior B	Coláiste Choilm, Cork 3-06	Our Lady's, Terenure 3-02	Alan Lagrue	Eimear Ní Chadhala
All-Ireland Post Primary Junior C	Scarrif Community College, Clare 6-07	Banagher College, Offaly 0-02	Liz Dempsey	Amy Barrett
All-Ireland Junior D	St. Anne's Killaloe 4-06	Presentation De La Salle, Carlow 0-04	Alan Lagrue	Maeve Óg O'Leary
Senior Inter-Provincial Final	Connacht 2-07	Leinster 1-06	Eamon Cassidy	Ann-Marie Starr
Poc Fada	Aoife Murray			
Results of the Camogie Finals in National Féile na nGael				
Division	Winners	Runners-up		
Division 1 Cup	Sarsfields, Cork 1-3	Thomastown, Kilkenny 0-3		
Division 1 Shield	Knockavilla Donoskeigh Kickhams, Tipperary 2-6	Éire Óg Annacarty Donohill, Tipperary 1-1		
Division 2 Cup	Wolfe Tones Bellaghy, Derry 1-5	Ballina, Tipperary 0-3		
Division 2 Shield	Michael Davitts Swatragh, Derry 2-5	St Anne's, Waterford 1-4		
Division 3 Cup	Naas, Kildare 1-3	Myshall, Carlow 1-1		
Division 3 Shield	Camross, Laois 1-3	Fethard, Tipperary 0-4		
Division 4 Cup	Cill Aird, Kerry 2-7	Eglis, Tyrone 2-4		
Division 4 Shield	Burgess, Tipperary 2-0	Westport, Mayo 0-5		
Division 5 Cup	JK Brackens, Tipperary 4-4	San Francisco 2-0		
Division 5 Shield	St Eunan's, Donegal 1-2	Cappoquin, Waterford 0-0		
Results of the Camogie Finals in Regional Féile na nGael				
Competition	Winners	Runners-up		
Downey Cup	Ballinora, Cork 2-6	Carnmore, Galway 0-2		
Pat Moloney Shield	Ardrahan, Galway 2-1	Galbally, Limerick 1-0		
Imelda Hobbins Shield	Sarsfields, Galway 2-4	Pilltown, Kilkenny 2-1		
Mairín McAleenan Shield	Bridíní Óga, Antrim 4-6	Lusmagh/Drumcullen, Offaly 2-2		

Appendix 5:

Investing in clubs, schools, counties and provinces

1. National Fixtures Grant

In 2015 Ard Chomhairle decided that a grant would issue to all counties who completed their adult fixtures programme in 2015. This continued for 2016.

18 grants issued to county boards as follows: Dublin, Carlow, Laois, Offaly, Derry, Limerick, Kerry, Roscommon, Galway, Kildare, Meath, Armagh, Clare, Westmeath, Waterford, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Wexford.

Total: €18,000

2. All-Ireland Finalists' Grant

Grants have issued to All-Ireland Finalists for a number of years and this continued in 2016.

16 Grants were given to Post-Primary Schools in 2016 consisting of €400 each. Eight finalists were in Junior grade and eight in the Senior grade.

10 grants in total issued to county boards and clubs as follows: Killimor, Milford, Scariff-Ogonnelloe, Johnstownbridge, Cahir, Eyrecourt, Armagh, Carlow, Cork and Kilkenny.

Total: €16,300

3. Provincial Council Development Grants

A total of €10,429 was paid to Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster.

Total: €10,429

4. County Board Development Grants

A total of €5,459 was paid to Galway, Kilkenny, Wexford, Clare, Limerick, Tipperary and Derry.

Total: €5,459

5. Capital Funding for Counties

The following amounts were paid to Counties for Capital Funding to support pitch developments:

€7,500 to Galway

€9,000 to Clare

€20,815 to Cork

Total: €37,315

6. Start-up Grants for New Clubs

New clubs are eligible for a start-up grant of €1,000. This funding level was increased in 2014 following the introduction of the new membership fees.

10 grants were issued in 2016 for clubs in the following counties: Galway, Roscommon, Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Cork and Limerick.

Total: €10,000

7. Subsidy to Counties for Financial Transaction Costs for Membership Registrations

Total: €8,517

8. Progress to Success u16 County Teams Initiative

The Camogie Association U16 'Progress to Success' Championship challenge involved Donegal, Louth, Mayo, Monaghan, Tyrone and Wicklow.

This initiative will run on a three year basis to provide transition into minor inter county camogie and review at the end of the 2018 playing season.

Total: €4,908

9. Primary and Post-Primary Development Activity

Primary school coaching, blitzes and club school links took place in Carlow, Laois, Mullingar, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo, Louth, Limerick, Killarney, Tralee, Wicklow, Derry, Antrim, Fermanagh, Donegal, Waterford City and Dungarvan.

Post-Primary development blitzes were ran in Longford, Kildare, Wexford, Antrim, Derry, Donegal and Monaghan.

Total: €6,251

10. Hurl with Me Grants

A total of 24 Clubs were involved:

- Leinster (9): Craobh Chiaráin (Dublin), Athy (Kildare), Buffers Alley (Wexford), Muinebheag (Carlow), St.Lazarians (Laois), Ratoath (Meath), Kilmacow (Kilkenny), Tullamore (Offaly), Crookedwood (Westmeath).
- Munster (7): Castlelyons (Cork), Ballinora (Cork), Cahir (Tipperary), Kildangan (Tipperary), Knockaderry (Limerick), Smith O Briens (Clare), Wolfe Tones (Clare).
- Ulster (5): Creggan (Antrim), Culloville (Armagh), Naomh Brid (Tyrone), Glenillin (Derry), Clonduff (Down).
- Connacht (3): Mountbellew-Moylough (Galway), Liam Mellows (Galway), Athleague (Roscommon).

Total: €9,175

11. Camán to Croker and regional events

Camán to Ulster, Connacht, Munster & Leinster Provincial Blitzes

Blitzes took place in:

Ulster: Tyrone Centre of Excellence (30 clubs, 600 girls)

Leinster: GAA Games Development Centre (46 clubs, 920 girls)

Munster: Semple Stadium (44 clubs, 880 girls)

Connacht: Pearse Stadium (27 clubs, 540 girls)

Camán to Croker 2016

64 Camogie clubs travelled to Croke Park on August 8th for the annual Camán to Croker Day.

Total: €7,800

12. Supporting County U14, U15 and U17 Development Squads

28 counties participated in U14, U15 and U17 intercounty activity.

Total €11,172

13. International Support

11 grants were paid to support teams' participation in the World GAA Games in Dublin in June.

A grant was paid to Johnstownbridge Camogie Club to support their participation in the All-Ireland Junior Club Championship in London in 2016. Referee costs for the USA National Finals were also paid.

Total: €2,560

14. Camogie for Teens

The 20 counties chosen for the programme in 2016 were as follows:

Phase 1: *Dublin, Meath, Carlow, Westmeath, Derry, Antrim, Cavan, Galway, Limerick, Cork.*

Phase 2: *Wicklow, Offaly, Wexford, Kildare, Down, Armagh, Donegal, Roscommon, Clare, Tipperary.*

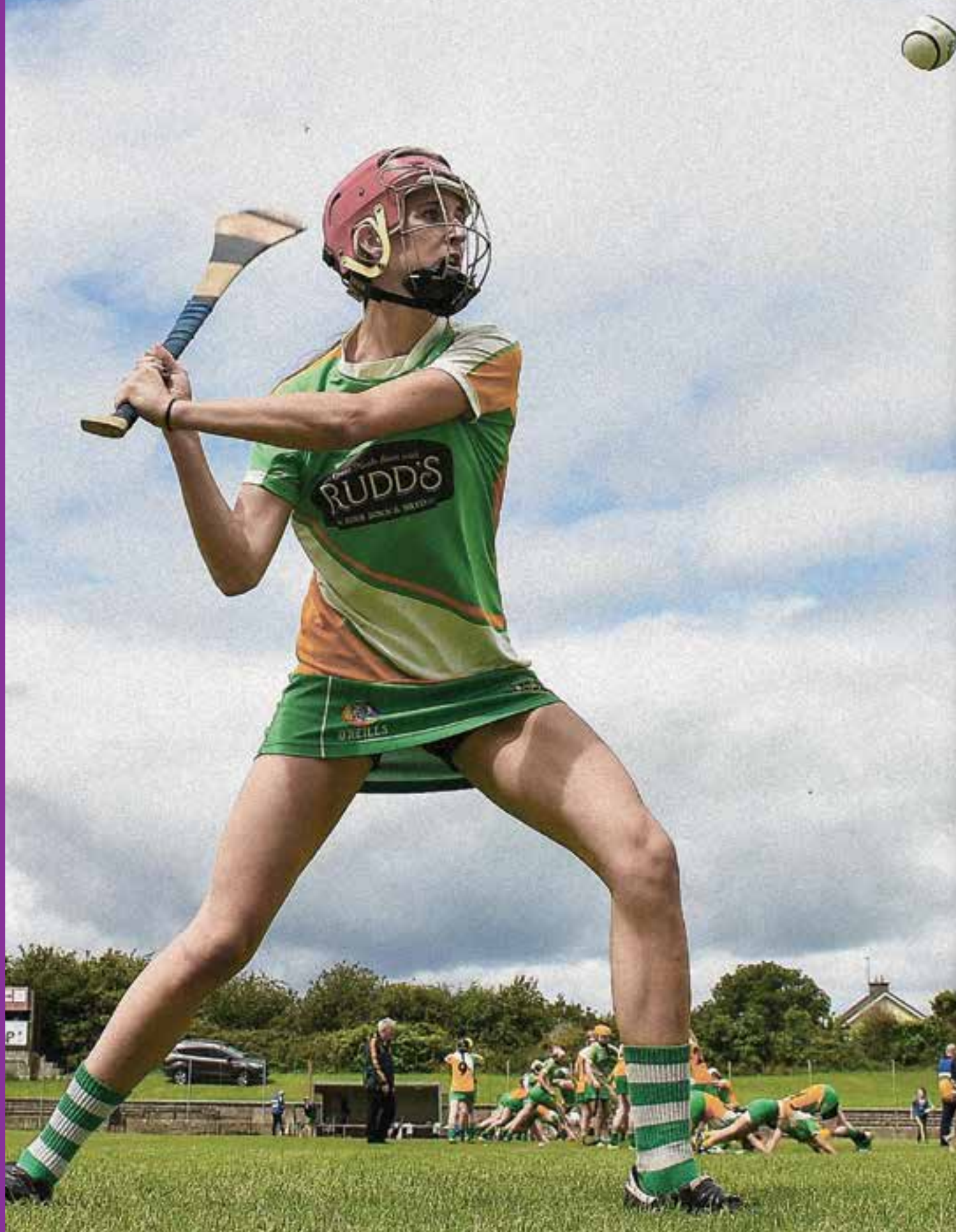
Total: € 17,967

15. Club Grant Scheme

Vouchers claimed and paid in 2016 amounted to €22,505.

Total €22,505

Total investment expended or provided for in 2016: €196,858



Appendix 6:

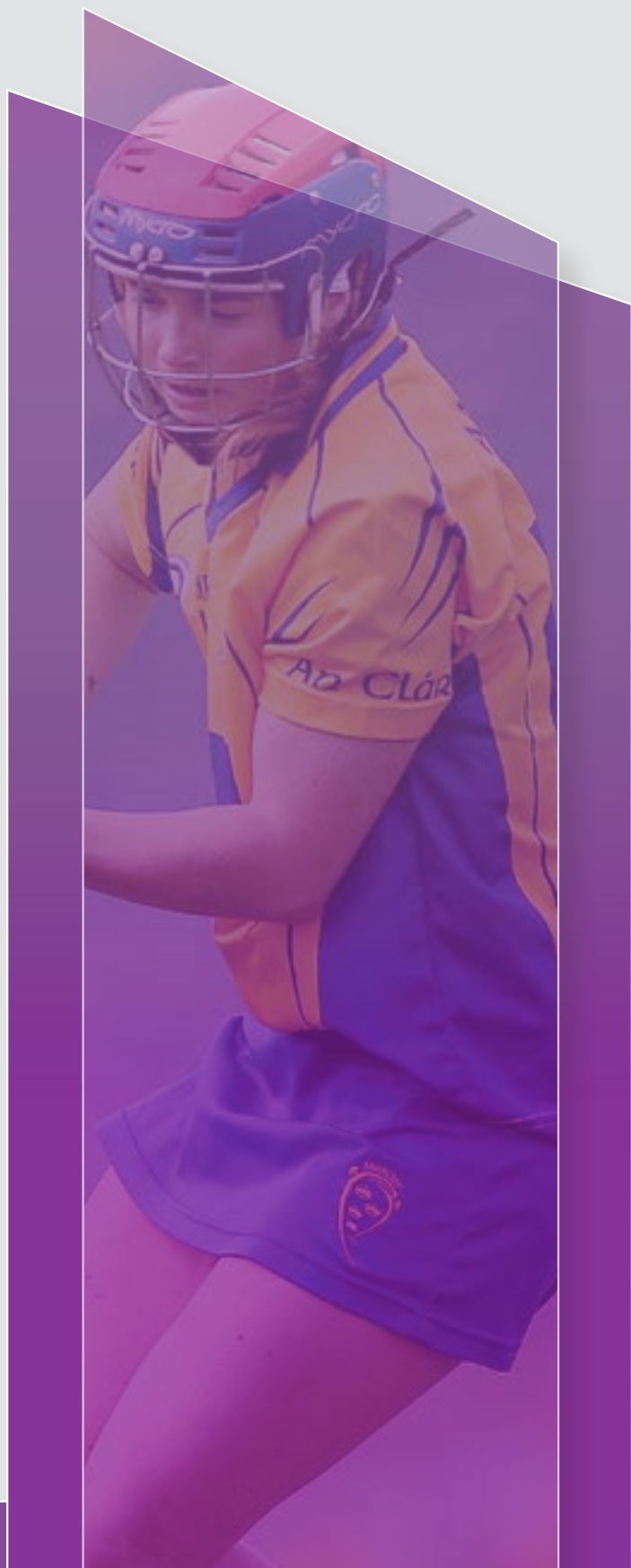
All-Stars, Soaring Stars, Manager and Players of the Year

All-Stars Awards, sponsored by Liberty Insurance

Number	Names	County
1	Emma Kavanagh	Kilkenny
2	Pamela Mackey	Cork
3	Sarah Dervan	Galway
4	Collette Dormer	Kilkenny
5	Rebecca Hennelly	Galway
6	Anne Dalton	Kilkenny
7	Meighan Farrell	Kilkenny
8	Orla Cotter	Cork
9	Miriam Walsh	Kilkenny
10	Denise Gaule	Kilkenny
11	Julie Ann Malone	Kilkenny
12	Aoife Donohue	Galway
13	Michelle Quilty	Kilkenny
14	Kate Kelly	Wexford
15	Katrina Mackey	Cork

Intermediate Soaring Stars Awards, sponsored by Liberty Insurance

Names	County
Jenny Clifford	Kilkenny
Ciara Holden	Kilkenny
Linda Collins	Cork
Chloe Sigerson	Cork
Jane Dolan	Meath
Aisling Burke	Laois



Junior Soaring Stars Awards, sponsored by Liberty Insurance

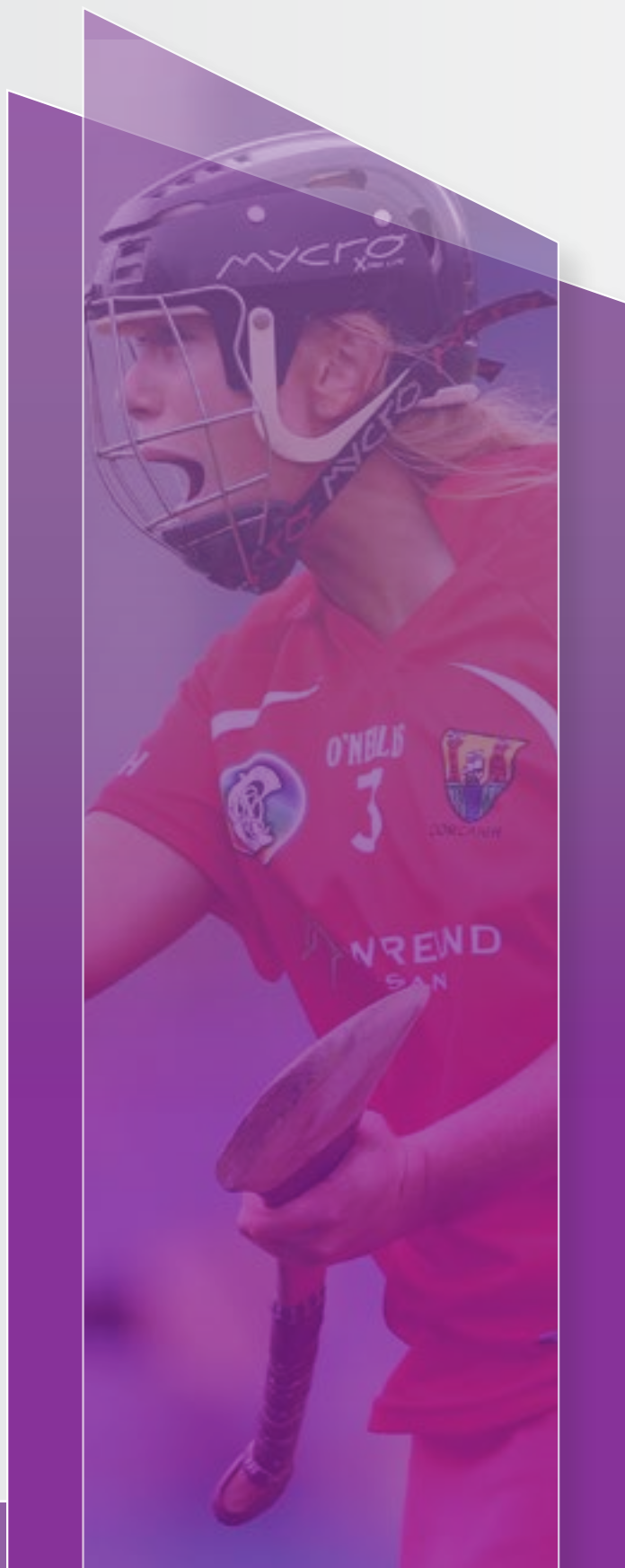
Names	County
Ciara Quirke	Carlow
Ciara Donnelly	Armagh
Eleanor Tracey	Carlow
Kelley Hopkins	Roscommon
Dinah Loughlin	Westmeath
Bernie Murray	Armagh

Manager of the Year Award, sponsored by Liberty Insurance

Name	County
Ann Downey	Kilkenny

2016 Camogie Association /WGPA Players' Player of the Year sponsored by Liberty Insurance

Names	County
Senior Players' Player Of The Year	
Denise Gaule	Kilkenny
Intermediate Players' Player Of The Year	
Ciara Holden	Kilkenny
Junior Players' Player Of The Year	
Eleanor Tracey	Carlow





2016 Cuntais Airgid



AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2016

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA
PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH,
ÁTH CLIATH 3.

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA**INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31st December 2016

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AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

STATEMENT OF ARD CHOMHAIRLE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Ard Chomhairle are responsible for preparing financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish Law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

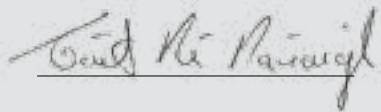
The Ard Chomhairle is required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Association as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the Association for the financial year.

In preparing these financial statements the Ard Chomhairle is required to:

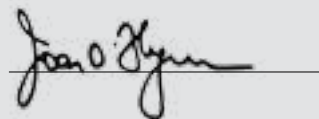
- (i) Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- (ii) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- (iii) Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue its activities.

The Ard Chomhairle is responsible for ensuring that the Association keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Association, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the Association to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable the financial statements to be audited.

The Ard Chomhairle is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



Cáit Ní Náraigh
Uachtarán



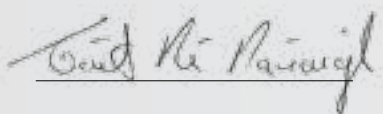
Joan O'Flynn
Ard Stiúrthóir

Date: 27th January 2017

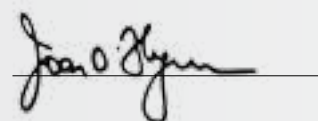
AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016

	Page	2016 €	2015 €
INCOME			
Grants – Sport Ireland	84.	395,000	378,519
Grants – Cumann Lúthchleas Gael	84.	200,000	200,000
Other Income	84.	1,096,532	1,029,900
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income		1,691,532	1,608,419
EXPENDITURE			
Total Expenditure	85.	1,626,294	(1,481,500)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			
		65,238	126,919
		25,180	-
Exceptional Items	89.	<hr/>	<hr/>
		90,418	126,919
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD			
		722,205	595,286
		<hr/>	<hr/>
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD			
		812,623	722,205
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>



Cáit Ní Náraigh
Uachtarán

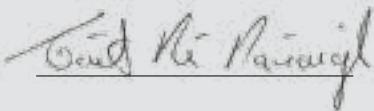


Joan O'Flynn
Ard Stiúrthóir

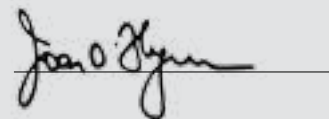
AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2016

	Note	2016		2015	
		€	€	€	€
FIXED ASSETS	1.		-		-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and Prepayments	4.	37,868		54,744	
Stock		1,291		866	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		981,146		1,063,729	
		<u>1,020,305</u>		<u>1,119,339</u>	
CREDITORS (amounts falling due within a year)					
Creditors and Accruals	5.	207,682		397,134	
		<u>207,682</u>		<u>397,134</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			812,623		722,205
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>812,623</u>		<u>722,205</u>
REPRESENTED BY:					
Revenue Account			812,623		722,205
			<u>812,623</u>		<u>722,205</u>



Cáit Ní Náraigh
Uachtarán

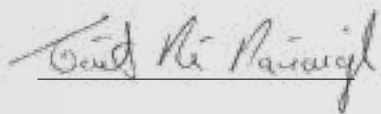


Joan O'Flynn
Ard Stiúrthóir

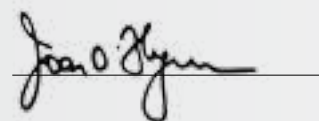
AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

INCOME ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016

	2016 €	2015 €
Affiliation Fees	473,315	447,398
Grants Sport Ireland (Note 6)	395,000	378,519
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Grants (Note 7)	200,000	200,000
Open Draw Championships (Note 8)	271,133	262,935
National Leagues	16,364	13,729
Programme Sales	18,701	18,090
Fines/Appeals	3,950	10,300
Sponsorships	160,350	133,450
Deposit Interest	19,118	13,473
Course/Workshop Fees	30,892	26,176
Licensing Income	52,992	47,984
Merchandising Income	49,382	56,209
Sundry Income	335	156
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL TO REVENUE ACCOUNT	1,691,532 =====	1,608,419 =====



Cáit Ní Náraigh
Uachtarán



Joan O'Flynn
Ard Stiúrthóir

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016

	Note	2016		2015	
		€	€	€	€
Wages & Salaries	2.	635,048		612,789	
Staff Travel Expenses		73,726		73,254	
			708,774		686,043
On The Pitch					
Initiatives, Programmes, Grants & Player Welfare		84,462		58,724	
International Development		17,411		5,429	
Administration of Fixtures		231,375		215,895	
Coach Development	2.	40,461		39,180	
Referee Development		25,493		16,172	
All Ireland Participation Grants		16,300		10,500	
County Fixture Grants		18,000		13,000	
			433,502		358,900
In the Public Eye					
All Star Awards		67,410		54,515	
Marketing and Public Relations		109,254		64,408	
Promotional Material		16,161		12,302	
Merchandising Costs		38,593		44,210	
Website		9,780		2,066	
			241,198		177,501
Strategic Grants					
Provincial & County Development Grants		10,000		50,000	
Club Equipment Grants		(23,657)		(26,000)	
			(13,657)		24,000
Governance and Organisational Development					
Congress & Ard Chomhairle & Sub-Committee Expenses		82,594		91,043	
Volunteer Development & Leadership Initiatives		14,693		16,826	
Child Protection Administration	2.	8,310		10,724	
Audit Fees		4,305		4,305	
Bank Interest & Charges		2,707		3,204	
Legal Fees & Professional Fees		53,649		7,981	
Information Technology		20,802		18,728	
Stationery and Office Expenses		19,546		26,923	
Telephone		9,174		8,317	
Postage		7,266		6,500	
Staff Development & Team Building		9,407		8,508	
Sundry Expenses		3,994		4,253	
National Development Plan Consultancy & Consultation		5,067		16,796	
Transaction Costs re Registrations		14,467		10,948	
Foreign Exchange Adjustment		496		-	
			256,477		235,056
TOTAL TO REVENUE ACCOUNT			1,626,294		1,481,500

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland. Accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland giving a true and fair view are those issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets representing obsolete office furniture and computers which had previously been fully depreciated have been written off in this financial year. These items are of no value and are no longer in use by An Cumann Camógaíochta.

An Cumann Camógaíochta has title to the following cups which, subject to satisfactory valuations, may be included in the financial statements in future years.

1. O'Duffy Cup (GAA Museum)
2. Ashbourne Cup (GAA Museum)
3. O'Duffy Cup (current)
4. Ashbourne Cup (current)

PENSIONS

An Cumann Camógaíochta operates a defined contribution pension scheme for a number of its employees. The contributions are charged to the expenditure account in the period in which they are paid and are included in the wages and salaries expense line.

GRANTS

In line with a directive from the Irish Sports Council, grants underspent by An Cumann Camógaíochta are treated as deferred income and accounted for separately in the balance sheet.

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2016

1. FIXED ASSETS:

	Equipment €	Total €
Cost		
Opening Balance	48,556	48,556
Disposals	(48,556)	(48,556)
Closing Balance	—	—
Depreciation		
Opening Balance	48,556	48,556
Disposals	(48,556)	(48,556)
Closing Balance	—	—
Net Book Value 31st December 2016	—	—
Net Book Value 31st December 2015	—	—

2. STAFF NUMBERS AND COSTS

	2016	2015
The average number of employees was	16	15
Staff Costs comprise of:		
	2016 €	2015 €
Staff Wages & Salaries	557,223	542,657
Coaching, Tutors and Child Protection	33,610	23,346
Employers PRSI Costs	60,380	60,280
Employers Pension Contributions	17,445	14,004
	—	—
	668,658	640,287

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (contd.....)

For the year ended 31st December 2016

3. STOCKS

	2016 €	2015 €
Kay Mills Replica Cups	668	668
Merchandising Goods	623	198
	<u>1,291</u>	<u>866</u>

4. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2016 €	2015 €
Sponsorship	14,500	32,500
Licensing Income	16,143	12,230
Other Debtors	7,225	9,014
Prepayments	-	1,000
	<u>37,868</u>	<u>54,744</u>

5. CREDITORS

(amounts falling due within one year)

	2016 €	2015 €
Creditors	46,502	113,683
Grants	49,340	141,972
Accruals	96,580	75,089
Paye, Prsi & USC	11,449	15,465
Pension	3,811	-
Sundry Creditors	-	745
Deferred Income Coca Cola Fund	-	25,000
Players Welfare Scheme	-	13,500
Insurance Rebate	-	11,680
	<u>207,682</u>	<u>397,134</u>

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (contd.....)

For the year ended 31st December 2016

6. SPORT IRELAND

The grant received from Sport Ireland was €395,000. This was wholly expended during the year for the purpose for which it was intended by Sport Ireland.

7. CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

	2016	2015
	€	€
Ard Chomhairle	200,000	200,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	200,000	200,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

8. OPEN DRAW CHAMPIONSHIPS

	2016	2015
	€	€
Inter County	201,140	196,662
Club	42,243	39,023
Club Levy All Ireland Tickets	27,750	27,250
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	271,133	262,935
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

9. EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

Prior year provisions of Player Welfare Fund €13,500 and Insurance Rebates €11,680 were written back to the revenue account as they were no longer required.

10. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at 31st December 2016.

11. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The accounts were approved by Ard Chomhairle on 27th January 2017.

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

To the Ard Chomhairle An Cumann Camógaíochta

We have audited Financial Statements of An Cumann Camógaíochta for the year ended 31st December 2016 which comprise the Revenue Account, Income and Expenditure Accounts, Balance Sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely for the Ard Chomhairle, An Cumann Camógaíochta. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Ard Chomhairle those matters which 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 responsibility to anyone other than the Ard Chomhairle, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or the opinions we have formed.

Respective Responsibilities of Ard Chomhairle and Auditors

The Ard Chomhairle of An Cumann Camógaíochta is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable accounting policies.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practising Board in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

We report to you as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the accounting policies. In addition we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether An Cumann Camógaíochta's Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure account are in agreement with the accounting records.

Scope of the Audit of the Financial Statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to An Cumann Camógaíochta's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Ard Chomhairle ; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the reports and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2016 to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

However the evidence available to us was limited as, An Cumann Camógaíochta, in line with other similar organisations derives a portion of its income from receipts which are outside its control until received and entered in the accounting records. The completeness of such income is therefore not susceptible to independent audit verification.

AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT (cont.....)****To the Ard Chomhairle An Cumann Camógaíochta****Qualified Audit Opinion Arising from Limitation in Audit Scope**

Except for any adjustments that might have been found necessary had we been able to obtain sufficient evidence concerning income not subject to independent audit verification, in our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and the financial position of An Cumann Camógaíochta as at 31st December 2016 and of its surplus for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework.

In all respects, with the exception of the matters stated above we have obtained all the information and explanations we considered necessary for the purpose of our audit and in our opinion the accounting records of An Cumann Camógaíochta were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.



Ronan Leech
For and on behalf of:
Ronan Leech & Company
Statutory Auditor

Hill House
26 Sion Hill Road
Drumcondra
Dublin 9

Date: 6th February 2017

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress





Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

Na Rúin/Motions

Proposed amendments are in ***bold italics***. A strikethrough is used to denote the deletion of a word or words within a rule.

1. That Rule 4.1:

Membership of the Association can only be granted by a Club or through a National Education Council. Membership is open to all persons who subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Association. The club with which a player first legally participates in club competition either league or championship, organised by the County Board or one of its subcommittees is designated as a player's home club. A Club reserves the right to refuse membership to any person. The decision to refuse membership must comply with relevant equality legislation. A person can only be registered with one club

Is **amended** to read:

Membership of the Association can only be granted by a Club or through a National Education Council. Membership is open to all persons who subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Association. ***All members are bound by the Official Guide, mandatory codes and Ard Chomhairle binding decisions.***

The club with which a player first legally participates in club competition either league or championship, organised by the County Board or one of its subcommittees is designated as a player's home club. A Club reserves the right to refuse membership to any person. The decision to refuse membership must comply with relevant equality legislation. A person can only be registered with one club.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

2. That Rule 4.2.1:

There will be four types of membership

- (i) Full membership for persons who are players and have reached the age of 18 years.
- (ii) Child membership for persons who are players and are aged under 8 ('under' is understood as per definition in Rule 28.4)
- (iii) Youth membership for persons who are players aged over 8 ('over' is understood as per the definition in Rule 28.4) and have not reached the age of 18 years
- (iv) Administrators/Coaches/Referees/Team Mentors at all levels of the Association who are non-players
- (v) Social membership; may be granted to persons, who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the Camogie Association, but who do not seek to take part in the administrative or games related affairs of the Club. These members will have full voting rights as per Rule 18.3.a

Is **amended** to read:

There will be ~~four~~ ***five*** types of membership

- (i) Full membership for persons who are players and have reached the age of 18 years.
- (ii) Child membership for persons who are players and are aged under 8 ('under' is understood as per definition in Rule 28.4)
- (iii) Youth membership for persons who are players aged over 8 ('over' is understood as per the definition in Rule 28.4) and have not reached the age of 18 years

- (iv) Administrators/Coaches/Referees/Team Mentors at all levels of the Association who are non-players
- (v) Social membership; may be granted to persons, who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the Camogie Association, but who do not seek to take part in the administrative or games related affairs of the Club. These members will have full voting rights as per Rule 18.3.a

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

3. That Rule 4.2.2:

Before 30th April each year a club must submit affiliation/membership fees as outlined in the table below. Once a club is affiliated, its members remain registered until 29th April of the following year.

Affiliation fee / Membership type	Total	Affiliation fee per member to County Board	Affiliation fee per member to Provincial Council	Affiliation fee per member to Ard Chomhairle
Child members aged under 8 (Players)	All revenue to club			
Youth Members aged over 8 (Players)	€13	€5	€2	€6
Full Members (Adult Players)	€23	€5	€2	€16
Full Members (Administrators/ Coaches/ Referees/ Team Mentors at all levels of the Association)	€3	€0	€0	€3
Social Members	All revenue to club			

Is **amended** to read:

Before 30th April each year a club must submit affiliation/membership fees as outlined in the table below. Once a club is affiliated, its members remain registered until 29th April of the following year.

Affiliation fee / Membership type	Total	Affiliation fee per member to County Board	Affiliation fee per member to Provincial Council	Affiliation fee per member to Ard Chomhairle
Child members aged under 8 (Players)	All membership revenue to club			
Youth Members aged over 8 (Players)	€13	€5	€2	€6
Full Members (Adult Players)	€23	€5	€2	€16
Full Members (Administrators/ Coaches/ Referees/ Team Mentors at all levels of the Association)	€3	€0	€0	€3
Social Members	All membership revenue to club			

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

4. That Rule 5.3:

Each Club will be comprised of the registered members of the Club. All members aged 16 years or over will have the right to vote at general meetings including the AGM

Is amended to read:

Each Club will be comprised of the registered members of the Club. All members aged ~~16~~ **18** years or over will have the right to vote at general meetings including the AGM

Rules affected 12.3 c and 18.3

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

5. Add a new Rule 6.4 e:

Each County Board is required to:

e. be responsible for all matters in relation to county teams that represent the county in inter county competition

Re-number subsequent rules under 6.4

Rules also affected 7.4f relating to responsibilities of Provinces for teams that represent them.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

6. That Rule 6.4.1:

Each County Board may appoint staff whose employment contract and job specification must be approved by Ard Chomhairle's Resource Management Committee and ratified by Ard Chomhairle

Is amended to read:

Each County Board may appoint staff whose employment contract and job specification must be approved by Ard Chomhairle's Resource Management Committee and ratified by Ard Chomhairle. ***agreed with the Ard Stiúrthóir and ratified by Ard Chomhairle's Resource Management Sub Committee.***

Rule affected 7.4.1

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

7. That Rule 7.2:

Each Provincial Council will be comprised of the Executive Committee, the delegate to Ard Chomhairle and two voting delegates of each affiliated County Board within the Province

Is **amended** to read:

Each Provincial Council will be comprised of the Executive Committee, the delegate to Ard Chomhairle, and two voting delegates of each affiliated County Board within the Province. ***One of the County Board delegates to the Provincial Council must be elected by the County Board from the restricted candidate list of the County Board Chairperson, County Vice Chairperson or County Secretary. This County Board delegate to the Provincial Council cannot be represented by proxy at Provincial Council meetings.***

Rule affected 7.3

Proposed that this rule change would take effect from 1 January 2018 to allow implementation at Provincial Council AGMs in January

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

8. That Rule 7.3:

Executive Committee members, as defined in Rule 3.4, cannot be represented by proxies at meetings of Provincial Council. A County representative may with the prior approval of the County Board, be represented by a proxy

Is **amended** to read:

Executive Committee members, as defined in Rule 3.4, cannot be represented by proxies at meetings of Provincial Council ***and cannot hold a County Board Executive officer role (as defined in Rule 3.4) simultaneously with a Provincial Officer role.***

A County representative ***delegate, with the exception of the delegate elected under Rule 7.2*** may with the prior approval of the County Board, be represented by a proxy.

Proposed that this rule change would take effect from 1 January 2018 to allow implementation at Provincial Council AGMs in January

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

9. That Rule 10.5.i

The powers of Ard Chomhairle include:

- i. ratification of the appointment of central level staff of the Association

Is **amended** to read:

The powers of Ard Chomhairle include:

- i. ratification of the appointment *of the Ard Stiúrthóir and other staff, in accordance with the Association's recruitment policy.*

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

10. Add a **new** Rule 10.5.e

The powers of Ard Chomhairle include:

- e. to appoint an Audit Committee.***

Re-number subsequent rules under 10.5

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

11. That Rule 10.5k:

The powers of Ard Chomhairle include:

- k. when a new Uachtarán assumes office, Ard Chomhairle appoint the following Standing Sub-Committees;

- Resource Management Sub-Committee
- Coaching and Games Development Sub Committee;
- Referees' Committee;
- Competitions Management Committee;
- Communications & Marketing Sub Committee;
- Player Welfare Sub-Committee;
- Child Welfare and Protection Committee;
- National Transfers, Hearings & Disciplinary Committee;
- National Final Appeals Committee;
- Clemency Committee; and any other Sub Committees as required.

Is **amended** to read:

The powers of Ard Chomhairle include:

k. when a new Uachtarán assumes office, Ard Chomhairle appoint the following Standing Sub-Committees;

- Resource Management Sub-Committee
- Coaching and Games Development Sub Committee;
- Referees' Committee;
- Competitions Management Committee;
- Communications & Marketing Sub Committee;
- Player Welfare Sub-Committee;
- Child Welfare and Protection Committee;
- National Transfers, Hearings & Disciplinary Committee;
- National Final Appeals Committee;
- Clemency Committee; and any other Sub-Committees as required.
- **and any other Sub Committees as required.**

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

12. That Rule 10.6:

On taking up office, the incoming Uachtarán will nominate to Ard Chomhairle all members of Standing Sub-Committees for its ratification. Ard Chomhairle Standing Sub-Committees will be required to work to specific terms of reference. The terms of reference of the Sub-Committees will be approved by Ard Chomhairle and posted on the official Camogie website. Sub-Committees will not assume the powers, rights and authority which is vested in Ard Chomhairle, with the exception of the National Transfers, Hearings & Disciplinary Subcommittee and the National Final Appeals Sub-Committee

Is **amended** to read:

On taking up office, the incoming Uachtarán will nominate to Ard Chomhairle all members of Standing Sub-Committees for its ratification.

Ard Chomhairle has the power to delegate authority to Standing Sub-Committees as appropriate.

Ard Chomhairle Standing Sub-Committees will be required to work to specific terms of reference. The terms of reference of the Sub-Committees will be approved by Ard Chomhairle and posted on the official Camogie website. Sub-Committees will not assume the powers, rights and authority which is vested in Ard Chomhairle, with the exception of the National Transfers, Hearings & Disciplinary Sub-Committee and the National Final Appeals Sub-Committee.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

13. Delete Rule 27.2:

Disciplinary procedures will be administered by the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary SubCommittee at county, provincial and Ard Chomhairle levels. The Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee has the powers to hear and adjudicate on transfer requests, objections and to independently investigate irregularities and have autonomy to suspend, fine or disqualify Clubs or individuals for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder in accordance with the Disciplinary Code.

And replace it with existing Rule 10.7:

The National Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee will hear and adjudicate on transfers, objections and appeals and independently investigate irregularities and will have autonomy to suspend, fine or disqualify clubs or individuals for games breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder in accordance with the Disciplinary Code. The committee will act in accordance with the procedures agreed and issued by Ard Chomhairle. It will be the final appeal on decisions from Provincial Council Transfers, Hearings, and Disciplinary Committees. Ard Chomhairle has the power to expel clubs or individuals for breaches of the Rules.

Re-number remaining Rules under Section 10

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

14. Delete Rule 27.3:

The National Final Appeals Committee will hear and decide on appeals arising from decisions first heard by the National Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committees

And replace it with an amended Rule 10.8 below:

The National Final Appeals Committee will only hear and decide on cases submitted to the National Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee ~~under Rule 10.7;~~ **and the Hearings and Disciplinary Committees of the National Education Councils**

Re-number remaining Rules under Section 10

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

15. That Rule 8.1d:

National Education Councils are required to:

Appoint a Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee to hear and adjudicate on objections and to independently investigate irregularities and have autonomy to suspend, fine, disqualify or debar individuals, postprimary schools or third level Units for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder in accordance with the Disciplinary Code. The committee will act in accordance with the procedures agreed and issued by Ard Chomhairle. National Education Councils only have the power to expel clubs or individuals for breaches of the Rules. For further appeal reference Rule 10.8;

Is **amended** to read that:

National Education Councils are required to:

Appoint a Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee to hear and adjudicate on objections and to independently investigate irregularities and have autonomy to suspend, fine, disqualify or debar individuals, postprimary schools or third level Units for breaches of the Rules of the Association or any bye-laws made thereunder in accordance with the Disciplinary Code. The committee will act in accordance with the procedures agreed and issued by Ard Chomhairle. National Education Councils only have the power to expel clubs or individuals for breaches of the Rules. For further appeal reference Rule 10.8;

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

16. Delete Rule 10.9:

The Clemency Committee will hear appeals from members/Units only in the event of a period of suspension being of more than twelve months' duration and after the adjudication of the National Final Appeals Committee. See Rule 27.4

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

17. That Rule 12.2:

The Annual Congress will be held on the last weekend of March each year, except where that coincides with Easter weekend. Each Congress will fix the date and venue for the next Congress

Is **amended** to read:

The Annual Congress will be held on the ~~last weekend of March~~ **first weekend of April** each year, except where that coincides with Easter weekend. Each Congress will fix the date and venue for the next Congress.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

18. That Rule 15.1:

Electronic format (E-mail or fax) will be the preferred format for all official correspondence to and from Units. In the case of e-mails the sender's name must be contained in the e-mail itself and the e-mail must be sufficiently identifiable as coming directly from the person sending the e-mail

Is **amended** to read:

Electronic format (E-mail or fax) will be the preferred format for all official correspondence to and from Units. In the case of e-mails the sender's name must be contained in the e-mail itself and the e-mail must be sufficiently identifiable as coming directly from the person sending the e-mail. **Correspondence or notification by mobile messaging including mobile texting or messaging via social media applications or platforms is not acceptable as official correspondence to or from Units.**

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

19. That Rule 18.5d (iii):

At least 10 days prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention, the Unit Secretary will forward to the Unit's Executive Committee and to those relevant parties as listed in Rule 18.3.

d. accounts prepared to professional accounting standards prepared by an independent accountant, except for the following, who must provide audited accounts:

- (i) Units that are in receipt of funding where an audited statement of accounts is a condition of funding
- (ii) Units that have employees
- (iii) Any other circumstances determined by Ard Chomhairle or funding bodies All Clubs, except those whose accounts are included with the GAA Club accounts, all Education Councils and County Boards will prepare accounts to year end 30th September. Provincial Councils will prepare accounts to year end 30th November. Should any Unit executive committee deem an audit necessary they are empowered to make that decision on an individual basis.

Is **amended** to read:

At least 10 days prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention, the Unit Secretary will forward to the Unit's Executive Committee and to those relevant parties as listed in Rule 18.3.

d. **Unit** accounts **compliant with Rule 22.3** and ~~and to professional accounting standards prepared by an independent accountant;~~ **a member of a Professional Accountancy Body (PAB)**, except for the following, who must provide audited accounts:

- (i) Units that are in receipt of funding where an audited statement of accounts is a condition of funding
- (ii) Units that have employees
- (iii) Any other circumstances determined by Ard Chomhairle or funding bodies All Clubs, except those whose accounts are included with the GAA Club accounts, all Education Councils and County Boards will prepare accounts to year end 30th September. Provincial Councils will prepare accounts to year end 30th November. Should any Unit executive committee deem an audit necessary they are empowered to make that decision on an individual basis.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

20. That Rule 18.5d (iii):

At least 10 days prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention, the Unit Secretary will forward to the Unit's Executive Committee and to those relevant parties as listed in Rule 18.3.

d. accounts prepared to professional accounting standards prepared by an independent accountant, except for the following, who must provide audited accounts:

- (i) Units that are in receipt of funding where an audited statement of accounts is a condition of funding
- (ii) Units that have employees
- (iii) Any other circumstances determined by Ard Chomhairle or funding bodies All Clubs, except those whose accounts are included with the GAA Club accounts, all Education Councils and County Boards will prepare accounts to year end 30th September. Provincial Councils will prepare accounts to year end 30th November. Should any Unit executive committee deem an audit necessary they are empowered to make that decision on an individual basis.

Is **amended** to read:

At least 10 days prior to the date of the AGM/Annual Convention, the Unit Secretary will forward to the Unit's Executive Committee and to those relevant parties as listed in Rule 18.3.

d. accounts prepared to professional accounting standards prepared by an independent accountant, except for the following, who must provide audited accounts:

- (i) Units that are in receipt of funding where an audited statement of accounts is a condition of funding
- (ii) Units that have employees
- (iii) Any other circumstances determined by Ard Chomhairle or funding bodies All Clubs, except those whose accounts are included with the GAA Club accounts, all Education Councils and County Boards will prepare accounts to year end 30th September **30th October**. Provincial Councils will prepare accounts to year end 30th November. Should any Unit executive committee deem an audit necessary they are empowered to make that decision on an individual basis.

LOCH GARMAN

21. That Rule 23.1:

Each club must ensure and be satisfied that its playing members, members who officiate at games and members involved in managing/coaching teams are covered by insurance. Any member not insured may not play, officiate at games or manage/coach teams

Is **amended** to read:

Each club **Unit** must ensure and be satisfied that its playing members, members who officiate at games and members involved in managing/coaching teams are covered by insurance. Any member not insured may not play, officiate at games or manage/coach teams.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

22. That Rule 28.1

Before taking part in competition, a player must be registered with the Committee in charge of the competition. A player may play in a competition three days after her registration has been received by the Committee in charge or by the person nominated by the Committee in charge to accept registrations

Is **amended** to read:

Before taking part in a competition, a player must be registered with the Committee in charge of the competition. **Players registered the previous year are eligible to play immediately from the time of registration. New or transferred members are eligible to play 3 days after e-registration.**

LOCH GARMAN

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

23. That Rule 28.4:

A player must meet the following age criteria in order to be eligible to participate in competitions:

U12 Be Under 12 and Over 8

U14 Be Under 14 and Over 10

U16 Be Under 16 and Over 12

U18 Be Under 18 and Over 14

Adult Be Over 15 except in the case of intercounty competitions where a player must be over 16

'Under' means that a player must be under the age limit by midnight on the 31st December of the year prior to the Championship year e.g. to play U16 a player must be aged 15 years or under on the 31st December prior to the Championship year.

'Over' means a player must be over the age limit by midnight 31st December of the year prior to the Championship (e.g. to play under 14 a player must be 10 years of age on the 31st December prior to the Championship year).

For breaches of the above Rule, the penalty is the awarding of the game to the opposing team where applicable and a suspension of up to six months to the person(s) in charge of the team in which the breach is committed (Also see Rule 44 for player playing illegally).

Is **amended** to read:

A player must meet the following age criteria in order to be eligible to participate in competitions:

U12 Be Under 12 and Over 8

U14 Be Under 14 and Over 10

U16 Be Under 16 and Over 12

U18 Be Under 18 and Over 14

Adult Be Over 15 except in the case of intercounty competitions where a player must be over 16

'Under' means that a player must be under the age limit by midnight on the 31st December of the year prior to the Championship year e.g. to play U16 a player must be aged 15 years or under on the 31st December prior to the Championship year.

'Over' means a player must be over the age limit by midnight 31st December of the year prior to the Championship (e.g. to play under 14 a player must be 10 years of age on the 31st December prior to the Championship year).

For breaches of the above Rule, the penalty is the awarding of the game to the opposing team where applicable and a suspension of up to six months to the person(s) in charge of the team in which the breach is committed (Also see Rule 44 for player playing illegally).

DOIRE

24. That Rule 28.4:

A player must meet the following age criteria in order to be eligible to participate in competitions:

U12 Be Under 12 and Over 8
U14 Be Under 14 and Over 10
U16 Be Under 16 and Over 12
U18 Be Under 18 and Over 14

Adult Be Over 15 except in the case of intercounty competitions where a player must be over 16

‘Under’ means that a player must be under the age limit by midnight on the 31st December of the year prior to the Championship year e.g. to play U16 a player must be aged 15 years or under on the 31st December prior to the Championship year.

‘Over’ means a player must be over the age limit by midnight 31st December of the year prior to the Championship (e.g. to play under 14 a player must be 10 years of age on the 31st December prior to the Championship year).

For breaches of the above Rule, the penalty is the awarding of the game to the opposing team where applicable and a suspension of up to six months to the person(s) in charge of the team in which the breach is committed (Also see Rule 44 for player playing illegally).

Is **amended** to read:

A player must meet the following age criteria in order to be eligible to participate in competitions:

U12 Be Under 12 and Over 8
U14 Be Under 14 and Over 10
U16 Be Under 16 and Over 12
U18 Be Under 18 and Over 14

Adult Be Over 15 except in the case of intercounty competitions where a player must be over 16

‘Under’ means that a player must be under the age limit by midnight on the 31st December of the year prior to the Championship year e.g. to play U16 a player must be aged 15 years or under on the 31st December prior to the Championship year.

‘Over’ means a player must be over the age limit by midnight 31st December of the year prior to the Championship (e.g. to play under 14 a player must be 10 years of age on the 31st December prior to the Championship year).

In the event of competitions, and their qualifying rounds, running over two calendar years, a player who was ineligible based on the age criteria in the first of the calendar years remains ineligible to play in games that run on to the next calendar year.

For breaches of the above Rule, the penalty is the awarding of the game to the opposing team where applicable and a suspension of up to six months to the person(s) in charge of the team in which the breach is committed (Also see Rule 44 for player playing illegally).

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

25. That Rule 29.1:

Any player who plays a higher graded Championship is not eligible thereafter to play in a lower graded league or championship in the same year. This applies to all graded competitions e.g. adult and under-age A, B and C competitions

Is **amended** to read:

Any player who plays a higher graded Championship **on two occasions** is not eligible thereafter to play in a lower graded league or championship in the same year. This applies to all graded competitions e.g. adult and under-age A, B and C competitions.

LOCH GARMAN

26. That Rule 29.3:

A player may apply to the County Board, by a date specified by the Board, to be re-graded in the following year. A player's application must specify the reason for her grading request. The County Board may delegate responsibility for dealing with applications for Re-grading to a Sub-Committee. The Re-Grading Sub Committee must make a recommendation to the County Board for ratification. If a re-grading application is unsuccessful, within five days, the player must be personally notified in writing of the reasons.

Is **amended** to read:

A player may apply to the County Board, by a date specified by the Board, to be re-graded in the following year. A player's application must specify the reason for her grading request. The County Board may delegate responsibility for dealing with applications for Re-grading to a Sub-Committee. The Re-Grading Sub Committee must make a recommendation to the County Board for ratification. If a re-grading application is unsuccessful, within five days, the player must be personally notified in writing of the reasons.

When club competitions involve relegation, or where a team is regraded by the Unit in charge, there is automatic regrading to the lower grade of players on the relegated/regraded panel at the end of the competition from which they are being relegated or regraded. In these instances, a submission for individual player regrading is not required.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

27. That Rule 30.2:

A player must apply to Ard Chomhairle to be regraded in the following year by a date specified by Ard Chomhairle. Ard Chomhairle must delegate responsibility for dealing with applications for re-grading to a Sub-Committee. The Re-Grading Sub Committee must make a recommendation to Ard Chomhairle for ratification. If a re-grading application is unsuccessful the player must be personally notified in writing within five days of the reasons.

Is **amended** to read:

A player must apply to Ard Chomhairle to be regraded in the following year by a date specified by Ard Chomhairle. Ard Chomhairle must delegate responsibility for dealing with applications for re-grading to a Sub-Committee. The Re-Grading Sub Committee must make a recommendation to Ard Chomhairle for ratification. If a re-grading application is unsuccessful the player must be personally notified in writing within five days of the reasons.

When inter county competitions involve relegation, or where a team is regraded by the Unit in charge, there is automatic regrading to the lower grade of players on the relegated/regraded panel at the end of the competition from which they are being relegated or regraded. In these instances, a submission for individual player regrading is not required.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

28. That Rule 31.7:

Transfers are not necessary in the following instances:

- From one club to another within a county or in another county if the player has not taken part in any competitive match with a Club for a period of twenty-four months
- From a club which has disbanded.

Is **amended** to read:

Transfers are not necessary in the following instances:

- From one club to another within a county or in another county if the player has not taken part in any competitive match with a club for a period of twenty-four months
- ***From one club to another in another country if the player has not taken part in any competitive match with a club for a period of twenty-four months***
- From a club which has disbanded.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

29. That Rule 39.7:

All All-Ireland under 16, minor and junior A and B Inter-County championship games must be played at a venue which is approximately half way between competing teams when the distance between competing teams is greater than 320 kilometres (200 miles).

Is amended to read:

All All-Ireland under 16, minor and junior A and B Inter-County championship **and league round robin** games **and playoffs** must be played at a venue which is approximately half way between competing teams when the distance between competing teams **within the island of Ireland** is greater than 320 kilometres (200 miles).

PORT LÁIRGE

30. That Rule 41.3:

The Referee must keep a record of the match and must lodge with the Committee in Charge a report of the match including the score and commencing and finishing time of each half. Such report must be submitted on Official Form CC5, together with signed Team Lists, on or before the sixth calendar day after the date of the match. The Referee's report must be considered as final except where the Committee in charge is satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt that the match was not Refereed in accordance with the Rules. Failure of a Referee to submit a report does not render the game null and void.

For a trial period, should Ard Chomhairle so decide, a Referee or Goal Umpire may seek and/or obtain a clarification, from the officially sanctioned Score Detection System where operable, that a sliotar has gone between the posts for a point or outside the posts for a wide. The protocols for the operation and use of the system must be in accordance with the specific provisions determined and authorised by Ard Chomhairle.

Is amended to read:

The Referee must keep a record of the match and must lodge with the Committee in Charge a report of the match including the score and commencing and finishing time of each half. Such report must be submitted on Official Form CC5, together with signed Team Lists, on or before the sixth calendar day after the date of the match. The Referee's report must be considered as final except where the Committee in charge is satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt that the match was not Refereed in accordance with the Rules. Failure of a Referee to submit a report does not render the game null and void.

For a trial period, should Ard Chomhairle so decide, A Referee or Goal Umpire may seek and/or obtain a clarification, from the officially sanctioned Score Detection System where operable, that a sliotar has gone between the posts for a point or outside the posts for a wide. The protocols for the operation and use of the system must be in accordance with the specific provisions determined and authorised by Ard Chomhairle.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

31. That Rule 41.5:

The Referee must:

- Give a final decision on scores or wides where the Goal Umpires disagree, or where there is only one Goal Umpire or no Goal Umpire. The Referee must not over-rule the joint decision of both Goal Umpires;
- Give a final decision on side-line pucks and may over-rule the decision of a Line Umpire. In the absence of a Line Umpire, the Referee's decision must be final.

The Referee may:

- Consult the Goal and Line Umpires on any matter during the course of the match;
- Apply the appropriate penalty when his/her attention is drawn to a Rule infringement by a Goal/Line Umpire. (See Rules 42.2 and 42.3)

Is **amended** to read:

The Referee must:

- Give a final decision on scores or wides and may over-rule the decision of a Goal Umpire(s). ~~The Referee must not over-rule the joint decision of both Goal Umpires;~~
- Give a final decision on side-line pucks and may over-rule the decision of a Line Umpire. In the absence of a Line Umpire, the Referee's decision must be final.

The Referee may:

- Consult the Goal and Line Umpires on any matter during the course of the match;
- Apply the appropriate penalty when his/her attention is drawn to a Rule infringement by a Goal/Line Umpire. (See Rules 42.2 and 42.3)

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

32. That Rule 41.9:

The Referee must dismiss a player from the field of play in the following instances:

- a. by showing a red card when a player is adjudged by the Referee to have struck an opponent, unless the Referee is satisfied that such was accidental.
- b. where a player who, having already been warned once by the Referee in connection with rough and/or dangerous play, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a Yellow Card, commits a second offence of this nature, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a second Yellow Card and has also indicated her dismissal by showing the player a Red Card;
- c. where a player who, having already been warned once by the Referee for dissent or the use of abusive language, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a Yellow Card, commits a second offence of this nature, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a second Yellow Card and has also indicated by showing the player a Red Card
- d. for a first offence should she/he deem that the player's conduct warrants such.

Such player shall be dealt with by the committee in charge in accordance with Rule 44.

e. A player dismissed from the field of play in a, b, c, or d above stand suspended until they appear before the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee which will decide on the action to be taken (Section 27 and Section 44). In all instances, substitution of a dismissed player will not be permitted in normal time. In the event of extra time teams revert to fifteen players. Players dismissed under Rule 41.9 a, b, c or d above during normal time may not play in extra time.

Is amended to read:

The Referee must dismiss a player from the field of play in the following instances:

- a. by showing a red card when a player is adjudged by the Referee to have struck an opponent, unless the Referee is satisfied that such was accidental ***committed any of the aggressive fouls/dangerous play and abusive language outlined in Official Playing Rules 10.3 (a) to (l)***
- b. where a player who, having already been warned once by the Referee in connection with rough and/or dangerous play ***and dissent (Official Playing Rules 10.2 (a) to (l))***, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a Yellow Card, commits a second offence of this nature, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a second Yellow Card and has also indicated her dismissal by showing the player a Red Card;
- c. ~~Where a player who, having already been warned once by the Referee for dissent or the use of abusive language, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a Yellow Card, commits a second offence of this nature, and the Referee has indicated this by showing the player a second Yellow Card and has also indicated by showing the player a Red Card~~
- d. ~~c.~~ for a first offence should she/he deem that the player's conduct warrants such. Such player shall be dealt with by the committee in charge in accordance with Rule 44.

e. **d.** A player dismissed from the field of play in a, b, c, or d above stand suspended until they appear before the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee which will decide on the action to be taken (Section 27 and Section 44). In all instances, substitution of a dismissed player will not be permitted in normal time. In the event of extra time teams revert to fifteen players. ~~Players dismissed under Rule 41.9 a, b, c or d above during normal time may not play in extra time.~~ **Any player dismissed from play in normal time cannot play in extra time. All yellow cards issued in normal time are carried forward into extra time.**

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

33. That Rule 44.1

A player dismissed from the field of play during a match by the Referee will stand suspended until the decision of the Transfers Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee is advised to her per Rule 27. Subject to the decision of the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee, the player may be further suspended at their discretion and where applicable in accordance with Rule 44.1.2 below.

Is **amended** to read:

A player dismissed from the field of play during a match by the Referee will stand suspended until the decision of the Transfers Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee is advised to her per Rule 27. Subject to the decision of the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee, the player may be further suspended at their discretion and where applicable in accordance with Rule 44.1.2 below.

If a player is reported by a Referee as being dismissed for the duration of a game more than once in any one playing season in a competition under the same Committee in Charge, she stands suspended until she appears before the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee

Rule affected 44.1.1.a see below

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

34. That Rule 44.1.1.iiii

There are three exceptions to Rule 44.1.1

(i) Where the player waives her right to a hearing and accepts the mandatory penalty. The player must notify in writing, no later than seven days, of her dismissal from the field of play the secretary of the committee in charge of the competition of her decision to waive her right to a hearing and accept the mandatory penalty set out in 44.1.2.

(ii) Where an official/mentor waives her/his right to a hearing and accepts the mandatory penalty. The official/mentor must notify in writing within 7 days of her/his incident/dismissal from the field of play the secretary of the committee in charge of the competition of her/his decision to waive her right to a hearing and accept the mandatory penalty set out in 44.1.2.

(iii) Where two yellow cards followed by a red card are issued, such dismissals are for the duration of the game, except for breaches reported of playing Rules 10.2 (h) and (i). If a player is reported by a Referee as being dismissed for the duration of a game more than once in any one playing season in a competition under the same Committee in Charge, she stands suspended until she appears before the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee.

Is amended to read:

There are three exceptions to Rule 44.1.1

(i) Where the player waives her right to a hearing and accepts the mandatory penalty. The player must notify in writing, no later than seven days, of her dismissal from the field of play the secretary of the committee in charge of the competition of her decision to waive her right to a hearing and accept the mandatory penalty set out in 44.1.2.

(ii) Where an official/mentor waives her/his right to a hearing and accepts the mandatory penalty. The official/mentor must notify in writing within 7 days of her/his incident/dismissal from the field of play the secretary of the committee in charge of the competition of her/his decision to waive her right to a hearing and accept the mandatory penalty set out in 44.1.2.

(iii) Where two yellow cards followed by a red card are issued, such dismissals are for the duration of the game, except for breaches reported of playing Rules 10.2 (h) and (i).

If a player is reported by a Referee as being dismissed for the duration of a game more than once in any one playing season in a competition under the same Committee in Charge, she stands suspended until she appears before the relevant Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

35. That Rule 44.1.2:

The following mandatory penalties apply in the following circumstances:

- a. Persistent dissent by a player or team official towards a Referee's decision • An automatic two match ban for the player or official in the competition that the offence took place.
- b. To use abusive or threatening language, gestures or behaviour, (including but not limited to anything which could be construed as sectarian, racist or homophobic), towards a Referee, match official, any player or team official.
 - An automatic two match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in. For the purposes of a match ban tournaments and challenge/friendly games are not considered official competitions.
 - The Unit which the player/official was representing in competition will be fined €100 for a first offence. The fine will increase by €100 for each subsequent guilty offence within the calendar year, i.e. for the 3rd guilty offence in same year the fine will be €300
 - Should the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee adjudge the offence sufficiently serious, it may disqualify the offender's team from the competition in question.
- c. Punching, hitting (without a hurley) or kicking a player in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental • An automatic three match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in.
- d. Kicking, hitting or striking of a match official by a player or team mentor or known partisan in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental.
 - An automatic 48 weeks suspension from all Camogie membership and activity.
- e. Striking a player with a hurley in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental.
 - An automatic three match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in.

In the case of a. to e. above, all penalties will carry over from one season to the next until the ban is fully served.

In the case of an offence undertaken in games under Ard Chomhairle auspices, an automatic match ban refers to all official competitions (e.g. championships, league, other competitions) sanctioned by Ard Chomhairle as the Committee in Charge.

In the case of an offence undertaken in games under Provincial Council auspices, an automatic match ban refers to all official competitions (e.g. championships, league, other competitions) sanctioned by Provincial Council as the Committee in Charge.

In the case of an offence undertaken in games under County Board auspices, an automatic match ban refers to all official competitions (e.g. championships, league, other competitions) sanctioned by County Board as the Committee in Charge.

Na Rúin/Motions to Congress

Is amended to read:

The following mandatory penalties apply in the following circumstances:

- a. Persistent dissent by a player or team official towards a Referee's decision
 - An automatic two match ban for the player or official in the competition that the offence took place
- b. To use abusive or threatening language, gestures or behaviour, (including but not limited to anything which could be construed as sectarian, racist or homophobic), toward a Referee, match official any player or team official.
 - An automatic two match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in. For the purposes of a match ban tournaments and challenge/friendly games are not considered official competitions.
 - The Unit which the player/official was representing in competition will be fined €100 for a first offence. The fine will increase by €100 for each subsequent guilty offence within the calendar year, i.e. for the 3rd guilty offence in the same year the fine will be €300
 - Should the Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Sub-Committee adjudge the offence sufficiently serious, it may disqualify the offender's team from the competition in question.
- c. Punching, hitting (without a hurley) or kicking a player in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental
 - An automatic ~~three~~ **two** match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in.
- d. Kicking, hitting or striking of a match official by a player or team mentor or known partisan in a manner the Referee deems non-accidental.
 - An automatic 48 weeks suspension from all Camogie membership and activity.
- e. Striking a player with a hurley in a manner that the Referee deems non-accidental.
 - An automatic ~~three~~ **two** match ban applicable to all official competitions sanctioned by the committee in charge that the player or official is involved in.

In the case of a. to e. above, all penalties will carry over from one season to the next until the ban is fully served.

In the case of an offence undertaken in games under Ard Chomhairle auspices, an automatic match ban refers to all official competitions (e.g. championships, league, other competitions) sanctioned by Ard Chomhairle as the Committee in Charge.

In the case of an offence undertaken in games under Provincial Council auspices, an automatic match ban refers to all official competitions (e.g. championships, league, other competitions) sanctioned by Provincial Council as the Committee in Charge.

In the case of an offence undertaken in games under County Board auspices, an automatic match ban refers to all official competitions (e.g. championships, league, other competitions) sanctioned by County Board as the Committee in charge.

36. That Rule 27.4:

The Clemency Committee will hear appeals from members/Units only in the event of a period of suspension being of more than twelve months duration and after the adjudication of the National Final Appeals Committee

Is **amended** to read:

The Clemency Committee will hear appeals from members/Units only in the event of a period of suspension being of more than twelve months duration and after the adjudication of the National Final Appeals Committee.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE

Motions to Amend:

Definition of Terms in Official Guide Part 1

(i) That the term officer:

Officer – A term used to describe the following officer positions on an Executive Committee: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, PRO, Children’s Officer, Development Officer and Delegates to the higher Unit

Is **amended** to read:

Officer – A term used to describe the following officer positions on an Executive Committee: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, PRO, Children’s Officer, Development Officer and Delegates to the higher Unit. ***The term also applies to all members of Ard Chomhairle and members of its sub committees.***

(ii) That a new term is included as follows:

Signed by: In the case of official transfer forms, regrading forms, nomination forms the term ‘signed by’ requires the person’s name to be written in her/his own hand. A printed name or an e-signature is not acceptable.

(iii) That a new term is included as follows:

Match bans: To serve the ban, means that a player has to actually miss an officially sanctioned game that her team plays. If a game is properly convened and the other team fails to turn up but the player’s team does, this does not constitute a served match ban as not game has been played.

(iv) Title of Official Guide Part 1

Amending the title of Official Guide Part 1 to Official Guide Part 1: Camogie Constitution Rules

Ainmniúcháin/Nominations

Role	Nominee	Nominated By
Ard Chomhairle Treasurer	Aileen Pierce (UCD)	Munster Council, Ulster Council. Carlow Camogie Board
Coaching and Games Representative to Ard Chomhairle	Ailish Whitty (Wexford)	Clare, Wexford, Waterford, Dublin, Carlow, Kilkenny Camogie Boards Leinster and Munster Provincial Councils Comhairle Camógaíochta Ard Oirdeachas
PR and Communications Representative to Ard Chomhairle	Roberta Farrell (Kildare)	Dublin Camogie Board Leinster and Munster Provincial Councils
Uachtarán-Tofa (President Elect)	Kathleen Woods	Dublin, Waterford, Derry, Antrim, Armagh, Down, Tyrone County Boards Munster, Leinster, Connacht and Ulster Provincial Council

Withdrawn nominations

The following candidates were also nominated but formally withdrew their nomination:

Treasurer: Rachel Hogan (Wexford) nominated by Waterford

Coaching & Games Representative to Ard Chomhairle: Gerry Dolan (Galway) nominated by Connacht Council;
Roberta Farrell (Kildare) nominated by Ulster Council

PR & Communications Representative to Ard Chomhairle: Geraldine Kinane (Tipperary) nominated by Waterford;
Ailish Whitty (Wexford) nominated by Ulster Council



The Camogie Association thanks the following for their support





**THE
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