



Club Secretary Report 2021

2021 was a truncated year again in terms of fixtures with many Clanns teams still very much involved at the business end of things well into November which resulted in a year to remember on the pitch. Off the pitch, the executive committee and volunteers worked hard to promote the club resulting in increased numbers across participation, membership, and sponsorship. This success also creates capacity issues and members must be made aware of the potential bottlenecks in terms of pitch and facility capacity as we grow as a club and work together to overcome these issues.

Club Façade

The clubhouse was given a new look in the Summer, and we believe the new livery and imagery on the clubhouse gives the club more life. We are committed to ensuring that the look of the clubhouse and the condition of our grounds and pitches are a positive reflection of the hard work being done by our members.

GYM

The club gym opened this year and was a slow burner to begin with due to covid. We hope 2022 will see the true benefit of the gym to the club. Adult teams have already begun preseason strength and conditioning this week for the first time ever in the club's history which will be overseen by professional GAA coaches employed by Movement Fitness. All fully paid club members are entitled to use the fully kitted out gym downstairs during gym opening hours providing they pre book using

MF's Clanna Gael booking app.

Environmental Efforts

We understand the need for everyone to contribute to the global, national, and local efforts to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Bike racks for up to 60 bikes have been installed beside our astro pitch and they are getting great use. Our new solar panels produced nearly 10,000 KWh of electricity in the last year. Many of our members have organised clean-up days in Sean Moore Park and we are extremely grateful for their efforts and the pride they have in the club. In the last year the club has significantly reduced its energy usage for both electricity and gas without any interruption to games and training.

The gas supply to the club was inadvertently shut off mid-2020 and we have managed to provide uninterrupted services without central heating for the best part of 15 months. The supply issue was resolved in November 2021 in conjunction with the installation of a new zonal heating control system which should see future usage be controlled more easily.

Bar / Hall

The Bar was closed in April 2020 due to Covid and has yet to open to the public. There was a dedicated bar committee established in September of this year to evaluate how best to use the bar facility going forward. The executive is waiting on this report and hope to receive it in early January for discussion. Any member who has experience in running a similar facility should contact the bar committee to see if they can be of help. The hall is open for business (covid permitting) and anyone who is interested in renting the hall should contact the club manager Pat Kane.

Pitches

The pitches in Sean Moore Park are the envy of clubs across Dublin with a Prunty drainage system, full Croke Park dimensions, and state-of-the-art LED floodlighting. Ringsend Park also affords us superb facilities, although we are slightly more limited in its usage by a lack of floodlights. We benefitted from generally good weather conditions in 2021, but we

remain exposed to drought conditions in future, particularly in Sean Moore Park due to the drainage system in place. The open nature of the park is also a problem with foxes and dogs digging holes on a regular basis. Club staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that holes are filled but soil and turf are available beside the generator should an ad hoc fix be needed which referees have called for on occasion.

SDZ

Without doubt one of the most important developments the club will face over the coming years. This year the executive met with the developers, local authorities, and all relevant public representatives to present and promote the clubs cause with respect to the new development and the increased capacity issues we are already facing. This will be dealt with elsewhere at the AGM in more detail, but it is important to note that no stone will be left unturned in ensuring we work with all parties involved to ensure the club has a voice in such an important local development. Again expertise within the club which can help put the club on a better footing dealing with developers or state bodies would be most welcome.

Facility Works in Pipeline

We have applied for grants for the extension of LED lighting to pitch 2 in Sean Moore Park, replacing the older metal halide lights. We hope to partner with our energy supplier Flogas by installing batteries on our solar PV system to further reduce our energy usage.

We plan to enhance our website subject to a grant application which was submitted in the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Grant Scheme. Remediation works for Pitch 2 in Sean Moore Park will commence in early December to address the effects of subsidence in the areas closest to the new playground. The area was becoming a danger to players of all ages, and we decided now was the most appropriate time to take action. We will soon be engaging with Dublin Port to discuss the recently announced Port Park initiative.

The maintenance and access to pitches will continue to be crucial to the growth and wellbeing of the club. We continue to strive to work with DCC to help us in maintaining SMP and ensure we get fair and equitable access to Ringsend Park. There continues to be issues with both, and rest assured we will redouble our efforts to work with DCC to highlight the growth of the club and the demands this has on our facilities. This along with the SDZ will be one of the core focuses for the club executive in 2021.

On Field

The underage section of the club continues to thrive with numbers up forty per cent over two years. The Academy and post Academy squads have one hundred kids per year. Go games teams (U8toU12) continue to increase year on year with over fifty teams registered across all codes. There is a very even split between boys and girls. The club continues to promote hurling at underage level and all juveniles are now dual players and even in the Academy, hurling is on every other weekend. Numbers are getting stronger too from U13 through to U16. Teams are performing well with finalists, or cups and shields at U13, U14, U15 and U16 levels. Higher numbers are getting through to Dublin development squads. Coaching standards continue to improve with GAA Foundation a minimum entry requirement and ever-increasing numbers of Level1 and Level 2 coaches. Packed winter zooms on juvenile coaching were organised on the Carver Framework and an interview with Jason Sherlock. Our camps continue to be hugely popular, although limited to members in these Covid times. We continue to forge strong relationships within our school network through very active and dedicated parental support. We would like to thank Shaunna and Sean Og for all their energy, hard work and commitment in this respect.

One thousand juveniles is a huge effort. Saturday mornings are alive as the energetic buzz of five hundred players in their new kit echos around Sean Moore and Ringsend Park. During lockdown we paused...and had time for a dog show. There is an army of volunteers, from coaches, to admin, medical support, team treasurers, communications, cone layers, goalpost lifters, jersey washers and covid supervisors. To every volunteer we say thank you for your dedication and commitment. There are over two hundred Garda vetted persons in the club and a special word of thanks to our Children's Officer, Suzanne McKenna, for all her work and database collation in this regard. It's a team effort. Older kids coach younger kids, transition year students run the Academy, minors' players and U16s are deployed throughout underage teams.

U 16 / Minor

Minor really deserves a category of its own this year with both the boys and girls performing outstandingly well. The Girls beat all before them very comfortably before losing a competitive final away to Castleknock. Many of this team have already made their senior debut and hope to form the bedrock of a strong lady's outfit at senior level well into the future. Our underage girls have featured heavily in Dublin squads in recent years with Lucy Crowe, Ella Darcy, Hannah Rooney involved with the minor team and Sydney McErlean, Tamara Conroy, Sarah Rooney, Lauren Darcy and Sasha O'Neill backing them up at U 16 level.

The minor boys achieved history in winning both the hurling (Kevins) and football (Parnells) double in 2021. 12 players were involved on both panels and a great testament to their management team to keep both groups organised and motivated. This is a landmark achievement and one which should not be underestimated. One week later and the U 16 Boys won their Championship in convincing fashion v Man O War. It was heartening to see a great crowd down to support the team win both finals at SMP. We must use these events as a springboard to ensure our teams are always well supported. With the introduction of a new U19 group, we are hoping that this allied to a redoubled focus on moving players from minor to adult grades will ensure both boys and girls have an increased chance of playing GAA into adulthood. With strong teams at U 16 / Minor in both boys / girls, now is the right time to focus on a dedicated player pathway project.

**This year we have a 400% increase in adult players coaching juvenile teams. The skills and training methods being passed down by players who may one day be a teammate cannot be underestimated. Many coaches have highlighted the huge difference adult players made this year in contributing to juvenile teams' success. This is vital as it builds a link between adult and juvenile teams where one section cannot be successful without the help and encouragement of the other. All this creates a wonderful inter-generational bond, a community spirit and a club culture that inspires all.*

Adult Games

Overall, a positive year with the standout being the elevation of our hurling team to intermediate ranks. As we speak, they continue their journey in Leinster with a game this weekend v Tara Rocks. The camogie team fought to keep the team together and managed to get to a final which they eventually lost away to St Brigid's. A victory this year was keeping the team on the road while we wait for the next batch of girls to come through. (U 15 Cup Runners up)

The Ladies Senior Footballers bloodied many young players this year and achieved their goal of retaining their senior status in a very difficult South Side Division. They will hope to bring more young players through and work their way up the division. The introduction of a Junior Women's team this year will hopefully ensure strength in depth like that of the junior team on the men's footballing side.

Likewise, the Intermediate footballers came out of a very difficult championship group containing both of last year's finalists. They were beaten in the semi final by eventual winners St Pat's Donabate and will hope to go one further next year and achieve senior status. Men's Junior Team lost to St Brigid's in a great contest at the quarter final stage and will hope to win outright next season.

Club Gear

Anyone who has walked around the Ringsend, Irishtown and Sandymount area in recent months will no doubt have seen a horde of club members, young and old, adorning club gear bearing the CGF crest. A recent agreement with MFC has enabled the club to provide quality gear to club members at a very reasonable price. This was in a large part due to the sponsorship of the team gear with almost €60,000 raised toward making the gear affordable for all. A sincere thanks to all who contributed and made it possible.

Charity Efforts

The club continues to make its mark in serving many local charities. SVP were granted use of our club hall for five months for their food bank, and will return to pack Christmas hampers on 8 th December. The club will once again host the annual club SVP donation morning (food and toys) on Saturday 4 th December.

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I would like to acknowledge, once again, the massive impact the support Dublin Port gives the club as headline sponsor. We are extremely lucky to have such a local sponsor which extends beyond financial support and into community development. To the many other sponsors who came on board this year in varying capacities - our sincere thanks.

The executive committee has now reached capacity for the first time in the club's history. We hope that the calibre and commitment of those involved will push the club forward during these changing but exciting times with legal, financial, coaching and community development specialists all present on the committee to lend their expertise to the club. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Eamonn Sherry and Una McCullagh who are stepping down from the executive committee. Eamonn did an outstanding job as Treasurer during a difficult year while Una has given many years' service to the club as both an exec member and treasure of the club.

I would like to reserve a special mention for the outgoing chairman, Brian Delany. Brian has worked tirelessly for the club over the past decade, primarily as secretary and more laterally as Chairman. Brian achieved a huge amount for the club in terms of winning grants and implementing capital development projects. His focus on facilities enhancements can be seen all around the club, building on the great work of volunteers in the past. Having worked closely with Brian over the past year I can attest to the amount of work he puts into the club daily, which is quite honestly astonishing. Thankfully, the knowledge Brian has acquired will not be lost to the club as he has agreed to remain on the executive committee which we as club members, should all be extremely grateful for.

Go raibh maith agat Brian !

Le Meas

Michael Costello

