

Minutes of Clonduff GAA AGM - Wednesday 29th November 2017 in Clonduff Club

Present: Jimmie Cousins (Cathaoirleach), Anita Brannigan (Runai), Lorraine Bloomfield (Cisteoir), Dermot Fitzpatrick (Leas Cathaoirleach) Níamh Murray (Leas Runai), Paudie Matthews (Leas Cisteoir) 96 Other Members

Matters arising:

Jimmie stressed that this meeting is very important for the club, but that it must be done in accordance with standing orders.

Minutes of 2016 AGM:

These were adopted on the proposal of PO McConville and seconded by Francis Quinn

Adoption of Standing Orders:

Standing Orders were adopted on proposal of Francis Quinn seconded by John Anthony Gribben

Secretary's Report:

Brendan Murray proposed the adoption of Secretary's Report and this was seconded by Tommy Kelly. Anita summarised her Report highlighting the key points – the club enjoyed some measure of success in every discipline on and off the field with the Ballad Group's All Ireland win the main highlight for her. The Senior Camogs won the County Championship and League; the U16 Camogs won their Championship and were runners up in the League; U16 LGFA were runners up in both League and Championship as were the U14 Camogs; Senior Hurlers were runners up in the Championship final after a replay and finished joint top of Ulster Div 2 League (Playoff will be at start of next season); U14 Foot won their division of the Down Feile and reached the semi-final of the All Ireland; U16 Footballers won All County League and were runners up in Championship; Minor Footballers were runners up in both League and Championship; the handballers continued to enjoy success at adult and juvenile levels have won five juvenile and two County titles and at the time of writing a number of players are going well in the adult League. Two of our young Pool Players were selected to play on the NI Youth team in a Home Nations Cup and they were runners up in that. Four young people have got Gealtacht bursaries from Down County Board

We did field in the majority of our games though it was disappointing that the Thirds were unable to field in the League Playoff having finished joint top with two other teams. Anita thanked all the mentors and helpers by name involved with both adult and juvenile games and Scór preparation.

There are 866 registered Adult and Juvenile members (across all codes). Anita thanked Registrar Sean Fearon for his work on this as well as Paddy Morgan and Brian McGreevy. She stressed the importance of being registered before they can train or play – unregistered players have no insurance. We did have quite a few injuries and whilst the Insurance does not cover the full cost of surgery and rehab it goes a long way. Anita thanked Lorraine for following up these claims. She also singled out the Young Volunteers for all their work without whose help we may not have been able to run some events. She congratulated our Referees Ciarán Branagan who had refereed the last ever All Ireland U21 Final. We need more referees in all codes and at all levels – thanks very much to our existing referees without them there would not be any games. Our original 5-Year Plan is now expired and needs to be prioritised as our Club Maith also needs renewing and the 5-year plan is necessary for the basic award. Club Maith is essential when seeking funding.

Discipline: There are too many players receiving red cards – Youth teams were the main culprits and is something mentors should look into and it may be costly to have players unavailable for key games.

Schools: Club members in local primary schools give our young people great opportunities; Anita thanked them and particularly Miss Una Lawless Principal of St Patrick's for use of school premises for Scór but in turn the Club's facilities are made available not only to local schools but also to other schools/colleges for their games. Funding for coaching in schools has been secured for at least another six months

With regard to Fields & Facilities a new mower has been purchased Anita thanked PJ and his team for all the hard work around the club but much more help is required. PJ reiterated that we need lots of more help for the field. PJ thanked the adult team managers and their players for leaving dressing rooms respectable..

The Club Shop is a major boon to the club and is primarily responsible for the big increase in the large volume of club merchandise that is now so visible in the area and thanks to those who do the orders and run the shop.

Heath & Wellness: we have competed Phase 2 of the Healthy Club Award and are due payment for this. Club is now a 'Non Smoking Club' and many thanks to Attracta for this and the Health and Wellness events/courses organised during the year.

Social Club: Functions run since the re-opening of the Club in March were outlined in report. Thanks to Dermot and his team for all their work.

Development: A safety fence being erected on the car park side of the back field. The ABO Wind agreement has been signed – If wind farm proceeds we get £1.6m. The proposed building is now a Club building.

PR: The secretary thanked to Ciara for all her enthusiasm and work since she joined the executive after the start of the season.

History: The Club's history is kept updated on the Clonduff website.

Administration: Anita thanked to Lorraine, Niamh, Ciara and Jimmie for their help throughout the year. She wished to put on record her especial thanks to Lorraine and Jimmie who are retiring from their posts this year.

The Secretary concluded her report by thanking everyone involved in helping the club in any way, congratulating all those who brought success to the club and sympathised with those who lost loved ones during the year especially mentioning three Trustees – Arthur Murphy, Paddy O'Hagan and Danny Murphy RIP.

Camogie Report:

Guinevra gave a verbal report and thanked the club and community for their support in the run to the Ulster Final.

Treasurer's Report:

Paudie presented the audited accounts and explained the items detailed therein. Bar and Shop takings were very healthy as was the Balance Sheet. There was heavy expenditure for Player welfare and he thanked Lorraine not only for following up on the Player Injury Scheme but also for her detailed monthly reports and pointed out the importance of the 'paper trail'. Paudie thanked Lorraine for all her great work and hoped that despite her retirement she would make herself available for advice and help. He stated there needs to be a major fundraiser this incoming year and the Finance Committee would look into field signs, match programmes, sponsorship, etc.

Thanks to Friends of Clonduff for all their work and to those who sold/collected Lotto monies every week. There is a vast amount of work that goes on in Social Club; thanked Dermot and his team, the gate Collectors and also the people who ran the Club shop; when merchandise is bought through the Club shop we get a 10% 'kickback' from O'Neill's.

CCMS - £4,000 this year; anyone else looking to join speak to any Executive Member.

County Draw: ticket sales slightly down due to tickets not being available earlier but this should not be an issue in the incoming year as tickets are now in hand – many thanks to the ticket sellers.

Thanks to Lorraine, her work has been outstanding the past 5 years and she has been a pleasure to work with.

Chairman's Address:

Jimmie said he appreciated the role he had over the past two years. We need to work together to do the best for the Club. He cited examples of how we could improve – we are so close to Senior Football success if we could only get there. The potential we have is second to none. Congratulations to all those who brought success during the year and for all the good work that has gone on. Jimmie thanked Anita, Lorraine and Dermot, team managements and mentors particularly those working with younger people. Thanks for all the well wishes during his illness. He thanked Pauline for the use of the hotel for the AGM this year and last. On behalf of us all he sent his best wishes to our President Dean Anthony Davies who was unable to be with us tonight.

Election of Officers:

As the President generally takes charge of the Election of Officers Anita Brannigan proposed that in Dean Davies' absence Jimmie Cousins should chair Election of Officers. This was seconded by Brendan Murray and unanimously agreed. It was also unanimously agreed that Anita Brannigan assist with the Elections as she is not being opposed.

Tellers appointed: Vincent Devlin, Lorraine Bloomfield, Brian McGreevy, Francis Quinn

Results of Elections:

Chairperson: Pdraig Matthews elected on majority vote (Martin Farnon)

Vice Chair: Dermot Fitzpatrick returned unopposed

Secretary: Anita Brannigan returned unopposed

Assistant secretary: Níamh Murray returned unopposed

Treasurer: Daniel McPolin elected unopposed

Assistant Treasurer: Jayme Fegan elected unopposed

Registrar: Sean Fearon returned unopposed

Delegate to Co. Board: Tommy Kelly returned unopposed

P.R.O.: Ciara Kelly returned unopposed

Children & Welfare Officer: Teresa Carr returned unopposed

Cultural/Language & Community Officer: Thomas Murnin returned unopposed

Facilities Management Officer: PJ McGreevy returned unopposed

Adult Games Officer: Brendan Murray returned unopposed

Juvenile Games Officer: Paul McConville elected on majority vote (Niall Rafferty)

Players' Representative: with agreement of AGM leave this to incoming committee

Additional Members: Standing: Paul Shields, James McConville, Damian Fearon, John Anthony Gribben, Aidan Brown, Martin Farnon, Niall Rafferty – the incoming Chair Pdraig Matthews proposed that all be elected to the Executive – this was unanimously agreed.

Attracta Brown is automatically on committee as Health & Wellbeing Officer

On handing over the Chairmanship to Pdraig, Jimmie wished the incoming Executive well.

New Chairperson's Address:

Paudie (Pdraig) thanked everyone who voted for him and having confidence in him. He said he stood for the role because people he respected had approached him about being Chairperson. He said we have a good committee from the existing members and from new ones. His Agenda was to fill the trophy cabinet in the club. It is the Club's responsibility to nurture our players. We are knocking on the door but we need to go one better. We are the largest rural club in Down and we should be measuring success with titles. We need to aim to win!

He mentioned the success of Camogie Club - we are one club in many senses apart from administration.

The door is open if the Camogs wants to fully come on board - we will continue to work with and support you.

The work starts here with the Executive.

To conclude we will need serious help. He concluded by saying if someone called him to make a complaint please ensure he/she had a solution to problem. Paudie was wished the Executive and all Clonduff Members all the best for the incoming Year.

Motions to AGM:

Motion 1: In light of spiralling costs of player welfare, I propose on behalf of Clonduff Club that membership should increase as follows:

Adult playing membership: from £40 to £50; Adult non-playing/student from £20 to £30; Juvenile membership from £15 to £20 – Proposed by Lorraine Bloomfield, Seconded by Johnny McPolin.

Following brief outline of reasons for increase the Motion was unanimously agreed.

Motion 2: The current Executive Structure was introduced a few years ago to assist in streamlining the monthly meetings. However, as some members feel disconnected from the Executive's operations, I am recommending that we increase the Executive Committee to around 30 people.

This would work in that subcommittee reports would be sent to Anita or Níamh rather than going round everyone. Proposed by Pádraig Matthews; Seconded by Marie Walls
There was discussion around this view and whilst not all members agreed this was the right way to get more people to become involved the motion was carried on a Majority Vote.

A few members expressed their disappointment that a large number of people had left the meeting as soon as the elections were over.

As the AGM concluded Pádraig asked the new Executive to remain for a brief meeting to sort out suitable evening/night for meetings and for people to air their ideas for the future.

Signed: Dated:
(Cathaoirleach)