

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2010

The highlight for us all in 2010 was undoubtedly the 'Down Journey' which brought a new sense of excitement and expectation that has been missing in the County for a long time. Thanks to everyone involved, particularly the Clonduff lads on the panel – Aidan, Jason and Darren.

On the Club front, there were many and varied successes reflecting the inclusive nature of the Clonduff Structures. Clonduff fielded teams in the four field sports and was well represented in Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsear and successfully competed in the Handball leagues. County titles were achieved in Senior Camogie (separate report), Adult Hurling, U15 Óg Spoirt Football, U14 Football, Set Dancing, Novelty Act, Senior, Junior and Juvenile Handball. Our young people represented the Club at National Congress (Youth Delegate and Entertainment), National Youth Forum and the Down Fundraising ventures, and almost eighty of our young people were involved in the successes of their respective educational establishments with Cathal Murray at the helm in St Colman's, Mark Copeland in SRC, Lorraine Maginn in St Mark's and Ryan McShane in University of Liverpool. There are up on a dozen former Clonduff players expounding the skills of Gaelic Games at varying levels to other clubs.

One of the most disappointing aspects in Clonduff life was our inability to provide meaningful games for the young girls who wanted to play Ladies Football – the U12 games were scheduled for the same day as the U12 Camogie and the U16 team was entered in the highest league and in their first round games found themselves totally demoralized and the team was withdrawn.

RÉITEORÍ (REFEREES)

Paddy Branagan qualified as Hurling Referee. Paddy is the Club's second active Hurling Referee following in the footsteps of Eddie Clancy who qualified last year. There are three Football referees - Ciarán Branagan (Paddy's brother), John Francis Murray and Ben (Gerard) Brennan; four Camogie referees - Eileen Hamill, Guinevra McGilligan, Deborah Kearney and Noreen Tumilty and one active Ladies Football referee - Paula Cairns along with numerous 'Young Whistlers' in all Codes who regularly take charge of in-house juvenile games and tournaments!

Ciarán Branagan was linesman in the Ulster Senior football Final 2010 and in the All Ireland Minor football Semi Final and participated in the Kilmacud Sevens Competition for the first time. He also refereed RTE's 'Celebrity Bainisteoir' which aired on Sunday 31st October.

Jerry Quinn is Chairman of the County Referees Administration Sub Committee and John Anthony Gribben was involved in Referee Administration on the Ladies Board. The Club wishes to say a big thank you to these people without whose services there would be no games.

PEIL (FOOTBALL)

Senior, Seconds, Thirds and Minor Footballers all trained together – thanks to Paul Lambe, Noel Fitzpatrick and Paddy Brown, the constant figures on all management teams.

FOIRANN SINSEAR PEIL (SENIOR FOOTBALL TEAM)

Before the season got under way some members of the Press were tipping our Senior Footballers for relegation but perhaps that was the spur they needed to survive in the reduced League format. The Championship did not go their way but they reached the semi final League play-off and they won the Lahm Dearg and County Feis Sevens titles, the latter securing a 'free' place in the All Ireland Kilmacud Competition though they were unable to successfully defend their title. At very short notice a second team had the opportunity to play in Kilmacud at no additional cost.

Thanks to the management team of Paul Lambe, Noel Fitzpatrick and Paddy Brown; team trainers Ivan McQuaid and Gareth Thornton, Administrator Tommy Kelly and Team Nurse Paula Brown

FOIREANN DHÁ (PREMIER RESERVE TEAM)

Following a poor run of results in the League due to a number of very narrow defeats the Seconds

finished second from bottom but may yet avoid relegation if the teams at the top of Div 2 do not wish to go up to Div 1.

Thanks to Maurice Brown and Hugh Grant who looked after the Seconds.

FOIREANN TRIUR (THIRDS [RESERVE] TEAM)

A mainly very young Thirds team competed in the South Down Reserve League and enjoyed some good successes in preparation for the move up to Seconds or Senior Football in the near future.

Thanks to Thomas Murnin for taking charge of the team.

PEIL U20 (U20 FOOTBALL)

This was initially to be U21 but just as the competition is about to start clubs have been informed that it is U20 and for the Down winner will become U21 when they move into the Ulster Club competition. The format for 2010 has changed – there are four teams in a group with each team playing the other – three games each. The winners of the four groups will go into the Semi Finals.

Thanks to Paul Lambe, Noel Fitzpatrick and Paddy Brown.

PEIL MIONÚR (MINOR FOOTBALL)

The minor team competed in the South Down League Division 1 and whilst they played some great football the results didn't go their way often by the narrowest of margins and they finished in the lower part of the League. The story was very different in the All county League – they won all their League games to set up a League Final with County Champions Kilcoo. Clonduff were simply outstanding in the second half of the final and turned a two point half time deficit into a seven point win. Thanks to the management of Paul Lambe, Noel Fitzpatrick, Paddy Brown and Artie Noel McConville.

IOMANA SINSEAR (SENIOR HURLING)

Clonduff secured their first County Junior title since 2002 and played in the Ulster Club Championship where they succumbed in the first round to the Donegal Senior Champions. Such was the interest in Hurling that over 40 players registered and a Seconds team was formed that played in the Armagh Div 2 League in which they finished third.

Thanks to the management of Gerry Coughlin and Stephen Burns and medical assistant Noleen Cairns. Thanks to Gerry and Stephen for the Hurling report. (See separate report)

NA FÓIRNE ÓIGE (YOUTH)

The Youth Committee is responsible for activities for the younger members of Clonduff from Under 16 down. The big development on the Juvenile front was the FUNdamentals programme initiated by Assistant Youth Officer Paddy McConville for U6s. He was assisted by other qualified coaches and parents. A large number of Clonduff coaches and potential coaches attended the 'Gaelic Start' workshop in October and Clonduff has been selected to run a Winter Indoor Programme, which will take place in the INF on Tuesday nights commencing November.

The Youth Officer Teresa Carr will present the Youth report. The Club thanks the sub-committee for their work during the year and Teresa for the Report. (See separate report)

PEIL na Mban (LADIES FOOTBALL)

The Senior Ladies got their League season off to a bad start but had re-grouped by the fourth game and brought off a string of excellent results to finish the League in the Top Three. The Championship had been postponed and was re-scheduled for the day before the Senior Camogie Final. Following intervention by Club Officers the quarter final took place two days after the Camogie Final with the Semi Final to be played four days later. Clonduff lost the semi final which was the third intense game within six days for more than half the team – the dual players.

Thanks to the management of John Anthony Gribben, Brian McGreevy; trainers Aoibheann Downey and Ryan McShane and medical assistant Noleen Cairns.

LIATHRÓID LÁIMHE (HANDBALL)

In October Clonduff retained their Down Senior League, having earlier won the County Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Doubles Titles with the Doubles pairing reaching the Ulster Final. Sean McNally won the All Ireland Masters One Wall Title in Sligo and is the current Ulster Champion in 60x30 Silver Masters Singles and Doubles with Brian Havern. He was also the runner up in the All Ireland 40x20 All Ireland Silver Masters A. He was also honored with a Provincial Masters All Star award at Croke Park.

Clonduff also entered a second team in the Down League and they played very well picking up experience with every game.

The Juvenile scene in Clonduff continues to flourish with up to twenty boys regularly playing handball weekly, picking up two County titles – U 14 Singles and U16 Doubles.

Thanks to Senior players Des McNeill, Paul Shields and Colin Shields for coaching the juveniles and to Colin for the Report. (See Separate Report)

TUAIRISCIGH SCOR (SCÓR REPORT)

In keeping with aims and ideal of the GAA, Clonduff competed in most disciplines at Junior and Adult Level and won the trophy for the Best Participating Down Club and picked up three County titles in 2010 – Scór na nÓg Quiz, Scór Sinsir Set Dancing and Novelty Act.

Our Scór musicians, The Murray Family were prominent where Traditional Music was required in Down, entertaining at National Congress in Newcastle, Down Fundraising events and the Down Post Match Banquet. Scór singer, Christina McConville was always ready and willing to sing Amhrán na bhFiann at Championship games and other events throughout the County.

The Set Dancers auditioned for and secured a place in the TG4 Dancing Talent Show ‘An Jig Gig’ which aired in October.

Clonduff Club hosted two All County Language/Cultural events during 2010. In February there was the first ever All County Irish Language Quiz and in April County Scór Celebration Party came to our Club as it was the turn of a South Down Club to host it. Thanks to all involved in the organizing of both events and particularly Joseph Farrell for ‘calling’ the Sets-Céilí that concluded the Celebration evening.

AN PHÁIRC (FIELD)

Heartiest congratulations to P J and his Grounds Staff on being responsible for Clonduff picking up yet another ‘Best Kept’ County Grounds Awards.

Team mentors generally adhered to using the back field for training when it was available and to the Pitch Schedule but as the new field will not be useable until the latter part of next season it is imperative that all teams be represented at the monthly fixtures meetings to ensure that all teams have their own space and time without encroachment by others.

Despite our own busy schedule we still managed to host some championship and a number of schools games.

FORBAIRT (DEVELOPMENT)

The new pitch is now in place but there is still a lot of work to be done and Development is always a ‘work in progress’. With Government funding about to dry up this sub-committee will be looking at new and novel fund-raising ideas. Clonduff owes a debt of gratitude to the Development sub-committee who has worked tirelessly for the last couple of years and on behalf of us all I say a big ‘Thank You’.

Three years ago Clonduff achieved a Platinum Award in the Club Maíth Pilot Scheme and we must once again update the portfolio as there will be no funding from any source for any Club that does not have a current Club Maíth Award.

CUMANN CAIDRIMH (SOCIAL CLUB)

The Social Club was busy during the past year, initiating and hosting a number of memorable events. I would, however, appeal to all club members to make full use of this great community facility for all

their family functions. The revenue generated by the Social Club is vital and adds greatly to the club's much needed financial demands. Thanks to the sub-committee, particularly Sheenagh McConville and Sean Milligan for their hard work during the year and for the Report. (See separate report)

DISCIPLÍN (DISCIPLINE)

It gives me great pleasure to report on the Discipline of players during 2010. There wasn't one red card on the domestic scene in Football, Hurling or Ladies Football. One player received a straight red card and another two yellows in the Ulster Football League and the same statistics in the Ulster Hurling Club quarter final; none of the Ladies Footballers were red-carded. This is as it should always be but there is no room for complacency. Great credit must go to the mentors for instilling this Code of Behaviour in the players.

It grieves me though to report that whilst attending juvenile matches some of the mentors not only verbally abused the referee but also the players on the pitch. Whatever happened to the 'Give Respect, Get Respect' initiative championed by our National President Christy Cooney which advocates the rights, dignity and worth of each child in our teams and to encourage parents and supporters to do the same with regard to the players and match officials. We in Clonduff must seriously look at this aspect of our Club activities.

STAIR (HISTORY)

The History sub-committee is to be congratulated on securing a grant, with some constraints, for completing the Townlands Project.

TUAIRISCIGH CAMÓGAÍOCHT (CAMOGIE REPORT)

The Camogie Club will present their report and answer any questions arising. Thanks to Maura Quinn, Guinevra McGilligan and all the Camogie mentors for their co-operation over the past year.

CUNTAS AIRGID (FINANCE)

The Treasurer's report will be circulated to members and questions answered if they arise. Thanks to the Lotto sellers and the checkers who attend every Monday night. The Finance sub-committee, who has done Trojan work to date, is open to further suggestions for fundraising. A big thank you to our treasurer, Marie Walls for not only for the Annual Report but also for the detailed monthly reports.

COMHTHÁTHU (INTEGRATION)

Clonduff has been operating a system of partial Integration for the last five or six years but the structures within the National Boards have not made this totally feasible. However Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Christy Cooney, Uachtarán Chumann Camógíochta Joan O'Flynn and Uachtarán, Cumann Peile Gael na mBan Pat Quill have committed to developing a 'One Club Model' to oversee the organisation and promotion of all Gaelic Games under single administrative units at club level and this was the theme of Christy Cooney's opening address at the recent Ulster Conference in Armagh.

Uachtarán stated that the next logical step is to try and formalise the co-operation between the codes at club. He felt that as the vast majority of people, both within and outside the Association, view all the Gaelic Disciplines as being members of the same family and this plan will further strengthen that perception ensuring that we remain the "most inclusive, community-based sporting organisation in the country."

The President confirmed that Munster Council Chairman Seán Walsh will chair a committee responsible for the development of a framework that will assist in the roll out of the 'One Club Model'. Unfortunately the remit of the committee is focussed at supporting a 'single club unit' at club level only – the Associations will continue to have separate administrative structures at County, Provincial and National levels whilst continuing to maintain high levels of co-operation. The new

committee will commence work immediately and will be expected to complete the first phase of its work by February 2011.

Personally I feel that the Clonduff Model would benefit immensely from such co-operation to eliminate the necessity of dual players playing three intense championship games within the space of six days. We should also be looking for ways of ensuring 'total equality' for all our Gaels across the spectrum of the 'Gaelic Family'. The 'One Club' ideal means that we should all be working for the greater good of everyone in Clonduff.

COMHGHAIRDEAS (CONGRATULATIONS) To

The Down Senior Footballers on giving us such a great summer

Fionnuala Carr on winning her All Star

Our Senior Camogie team on winning the County Championship and League

The Senior Hurlers on winning the Junior Championship

The Senior Footballers on winning the County and Lahm Dearg Sevens and confounding critics on reaching the playoffs of the League

The Minor Footballers on winning the All County League title

The U 14 and U16 Hurlers on winning their respective Leagues

The U14 Footballers on winning the County and South Down Championship Shields

The U11 Footballers on retaining the South Down League

All the Juvenile teams in all field sports who won tournaments and members of which were selected as 'Players of the Tournament'

Shane Milligan, Rían Branagan, Conor Brown, Sean McNally, Paul Shields, Eddie Clancy, Colin Shields and Des McNeill on winning their respective County Handball titles

The new referees – one hurling and three Camogie - within the Club as well as the established ones

To all the Scór participants, particularly the three County title winners

To all Club members who represented their County as Players, Managers, Selectors or Administrators.

To the 80+ members who represented their school, college or university as players, mentors or administrators

Our young people who attended the National Youth Forum or the National Congress

.

BUÍOCHAS (THANKS) To:

On behalf of Clonduff GAC I would like to thank the very many players and volunteers involved in the Club:

The players of all codes who gave so much of their time to train and play for the Club

The mentors who freely gave their time to their teams and whose co-operation made my job much more feasible

The Club sponsors and all who helped financially

The Lotto sellers and checkers and the Pub owners for hosting the Club Lotto

The Clonduff Post for publishing fixtures, reports and club adverts

Jerry Quinn for sending the club notes to the local press

The Spar Hilltown for all the photocopying throughout the year

The Primary and Secondary schools for their continuing support of Gaelic Games

To all the sandwich and tea makers, those who 'manned' the Burger Bar, kitchen and bar

Goretta and Noleen Cairns for running the shop at field and other events

Mary McGreevy for the League programmes

The Gate Collectors, lines people and umpires and those who washed Jerseys

The Youth Club and Fr Cushenan for the joint All Ireland ticket draw

The organizers of the Annual Awards Night and the Youth Awards night

The helpers during the Club Tournaments and the Boley Fair weekend

All who helped with the minutes of meetings during the year

Everybody who donated their time, effort, expertise, money, money's worth or other commitment, to help keep the Club run smoothly

Personally I would like to thank the outgoing Chairman and other Committee members for their co-operation and commitment over the years and wish the new committee a successful and rewarding year in office.

COMHBHRÓN (SYMPATHY)

On behalf of the Club I would like to express my sincere sympathy to the Gaels of Clonduff who suffered bereavements during the year.

DEIREADH (CONCLUSION)

We did have disappointments throughout the year but these were far outweighed by the successes. Whilst we did collect a number of trophies during 2010, success isn't always measured on these terms. Success is the number of young, and not so young people we can keep within our ranks; it is the encouraging of all to be the best they can be whether that is as a player, a mentor or an administrator; it is the provision of the best facilities we are capable of providing; it is the adoption of a Code of Best Behaviour at all levels and it is a positive attitude emanating right throughout the Club.

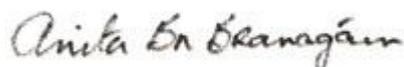
For 2011 it is my dearest wishes are that our Senior Footballers can translate their League and Minor successes into senior Championship success next year. Hopefully the Senior Camogs will go one better and secure their first Ulster title; The Senior Ladies Footballers will continue their rebuilding and help secure the foundations at juvenile level and that our Hurlers will go from strength to strength at Intermediate level and the Handballers can convert their domestic dominance to provincial and national honours.

I believe we will see Ulster and All Ireland success for our Scór competitors – it is no less than their time and efforts deserve. In my Report last year I wished for the young musicians and actors to be nurtured and this has come to fruition – in the 2011 Scór na nÓg competitions which are now underway we have over sixty youngsters participating and among these have been three Instrumental Music groups and a Novelty Act. With particular reference to the musicians we have to acknowledge the part our local Primary School has played.

On the development front with the provision of a new field, I look forward to being able to give everyone the time slot they want, but you just need to be patient for one more year. The club has a 'wish list' for future projects and it is imperative that all Clonduff's adult players in all codes row in behind all fund-raising initiatives, particularly the Clonduff GAC Support Scheme – you are the ones our young people look up to so give them the leadership they deserve. We dearly need our adult players to support the Standing Order Scheme in order to meet the target of providing the facilities our players and members deserve. I look forward to reporting next year that we have raised enough finance to tarmac and landscape the current development and provide the proposed gym. We know that personal finances are under strain at the present time but a favourite saying of our President Dean Davis is that 'a dripping tap wears away a stone'. To translate that to the Club if lots of people make small contributions anything can be achieved! Somewhere not too far down the line a sports hall and ball wall should be much more than a pipe dream!

Clonduff was selected as one of two Down Clubs to pilot the Social Initiative targeting the older men in our community and championed by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese who feels that our more mature men are somewhat shy about joining groups. She feels that the GAA Club is the ideal vehicle for targeting the socially isolated in Irish Society particularly in rural areas. Two members of our committee have committed to getting the local initiative up and running. Hopefully in next year's Report, the secretary will be highlighting the progress made.

Is mise le meas



An Rúnai

Cumann Chluain Daimh