



Secretary's Report to the 2021 AGM

A Chara,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your continued membership of the club. It is so true that a club is nothing without its members and the impact it has on the local community. Hopefully those of you who are reading this will also be in attendance at the AGM on Saturday the 27th of November in the clubrooms.

Similar to 2020, 2021 was another challenging year for the club, and our community, as the ramifications and fallouts from COVID-19 continued to play a significant role in everyday life. Hopefully we are now seeing the worst of this behind us and can look forward to a more open and prosperous 2022 in terms of the overall health of the community.

As I mentioned in last year's report increasing our presence in the local community is still an ambition of the executive committee and something we are hoping to advance into 2022 and beyond. It is something we did touch on during 2021, for example playing our role in the food delivery service to the most vulnerable in the community, and we are actively looking for opportunities to help out wherever, and however, we can.

In terms of fundraising, COVID-19 again had a huge impact on the fundraising activities of the club, no more so than the income derived from the shops on big match days. Losing out on the Ulster final was another blow to the club and our efforts will be redoubled to ensure we are the venue of choice for these matches going forward. But work remains ongoing behind the scenes in order to bring the stadium up to modern standards.

There were however some success stories on this front during 2021. Our long-running relationship with Clones Credit Union as our main sponsor ended at the end of last season and we are delighted to partner with Evans & McNally SuperValu as our senior sponsors, and also Steel Solutions as our U15 and U17 sponsors. We look forward to working with both going forward.

A special mention to Brendan and all the staff at the Credit Union for their tremendous support over the years. We look forward to continuing this partnership over the coming years. Please check out all our sponsors and partners at our newly launched club website <https://clones.gaa.ie/>

To aid in the development of a club gym, the senior players led from the front and raised c€6,700 through the sale of the National Club Draw tickets at the beginning of the year. The wheels have now been set in motion for these works to commence following delays due to COVID. In addition, the initiative for



assisting local businesses with their advertising, while also creating and fostering relationships with new sponsors, through the erection of advertising hoarding signs at the Peace Link has commenced. There has been great uptake in this to date, with more sponsors in the pipeline, so this will be an additional revenue stream for the club, and also allow us to work with the businesses in our local community to advance their own causes. Again we would ask that all members support those businesses and individuals who generously support our club.

However, the major success story for the year was undoubtedly the commencement of our annual club golf classic. Ably driven by our treasurer Frankie Dolan, PRO Ciaran Mulhall and Georgie Pugh, the classic was a phenomenal success on its first outing, particularly taking into account that it was held the same weekend as the Ulster final in which Monaghan were playing in.

A total of 34 teams took part in the event, and we received extremely generous sponsorship from a large number of individuals and businesses which I have included in the appendix to this report. There are a number of individuals who put in significant work to make this event a success and I know Frankie will be doing so when reading through the Treasurer's report on AGM night but their efforts are duly noted and much appreciated. Also a massive thank you to Clones Golf club for the use of their facilities on the day – I think we can all agree it was in tip-top shape and testament to the work that goes on out there.

From a club perspective it was great to get through our full cohort of games on both the men and ladies' side of the club. There was further cause for celebration with the U15 and U17 boy's teams bringing home silverware to the club which is testament to the hard work being put in by them and their coaches. This will hopefully yield further silverware as the lad's progress through the ranks to senior level!

Unfortunately the senior team fell at the final hurdle in the Junior Football League final for the third consecutive time. In an exciting game, which could have went either way, the gap that opened up before the second half water break was just too much to make up on the day. In another fragmented year the team was disrupted by a number of injuries and unavailability of players, but there were also a lot of positives to take from the year, including the introduction of a number of younger players at both Reserve level and being integrated into the Senior team. The key now is to make sure all the lads look forward to next season and come back with the focus to get over the line as the talent is undoubtedly there.

Many thanks to the management team of Colum, Gerry and Barry for all the hard work and dedication they gave since resumption of football back in May. It



was unfortunate that all the hard work given by the whole group of players and management did not get the reward it deserved but we go again next year.

Closing thoughts

It is extremely important to continue to stress our sincere thanks to all those within the club who give up their time to carry out their roles within the club. These jobs are all voluntary in nature and command a significant amount of work, all of which is for the benefit of the club. The club are always open to having new people with fresh ideas involved in any capacity so if this is something you, or someone you know, may be interested in then please contact a committee member who would be happy to chat through options with you.

The overall structures within the club will also be revisited and enhanced in the year ahead with the formation of a number of club sub-committees to aid in the advancement of the club.

To our sponsors – again, a massive thank you for your continued support. Without this the club would not be able to function as effectively as it does so our sincere gratitude for your ongoing and continued support.

On a final note we take a moment to think of all those in our local community who have sadly passed on in the last 12 months. There were a number of individuals with close ties to the club who will be sadly missed. From a senior team perspective, the loss of beloved kit man and club stalwart Martin “Coach” Connolly was a significant one. The dedication he gave to the club over many, many years will take some beating! To all, Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

Is mise le meas,

Dean O’Conchúir

Rúnaí, CLG Cluain Eois



Team Reports prepared by Team Management

Senior Team

Ultimately a disappointing end to a season that at 1 point looked very promising. The year got off to a testing start with several players opting out of the season between retirement and travel. This seemed to be the theme for the season ahead as others opted out for differing reasons throughout the campaign. This, coupled with injuries to key personnel, led to some testing time in the build up to some games.

Barry McLoughlin was added to the coaching set up at the beginning of the season and with that brought a wealth of experience and knowledge, which, hopefully, players can take with them going forward.

League campaign got off to a winning start with a depleted team winning away to Aghabog. Next up was a poor defeat to Rockcorry having got off to a good start. We bounced back with 2 high scoring wins at home to Drumhowan and away to Currin to leave us top of the group and gaining a home semi-final.

The league was then parked up as championship kicked in. Again we started brightly with a home win against Drumhowan which came at a cost as we lost Hugh to a season ending injury, as well as a few other casualties. However, we got through the next game, away to Aghabog, relatively comfortable to leave us qualified for the knockout stages.

Next up was a home tie v's Sean's which, after a bright start to the game, was a tough loss. Our final fixture wasn't played with Rockcorry already eliminated and failed to field a team for the game. This, along with Sean's defeat in their last game, left us again top of the group and into a quarter final v's Oram. A very poor performance led to a heavy defeat. Although it has to be said we were very unfortunate when, with injuries already to several key men, we lost Darragh minutes before throw in, and then Cameron after 15 minutes to injury.

We regrouped the following weekend and began preparing for the league semi-final v's Rockcorry. The lads put in a very solid performance here and won easily in the end to set up a league final with Toome. As we all know we came up short here. After a promising 1st quarter, Toome began to take over and by the last water break we had left ourselves a lot to do. The boys fought valiantly but ultimately just had too much to claw back and lost out by 4. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the club for their backing all year, it was greatly appreciated.

Player of the Year: Darren Freeman

Team Management: Colum Monahan, Gerry Reihill and Barry McLoughlin



Under 17

Having won the u15 Division 2 League in 2019 these boys earned their shot at Minor Division 1 football for 2021. Division 1 consisted of 8 teams Castleblayney, Carrickmacross, Magheracloone, Scotstown, Clontibret, Monaghan Harps, Killanny and ourselves.

With Covid there was no pre-season in terms of challenge matches as we only got 5 days' notice before the first League game and this was the same date on which teams were allowed to return to playing games.

The league was played off first on a single game basis, with the top 4 competing for the Cup and the bottom 4 competing for the Shield. We started off with a great comeback draw away to Scotstown. We then had narrow losses all by less than 5 points to Magheracloone, Killanny and Blaney followed by wins against Monaghan Harps and Clontibret and a narrow defeat to Carrick. The narrow defeat to Carrick meant we finished 5th and a point outside the top 4 so we were now into a Shield semi v Clontibret. From these run of games and the fact we were close to winning nearly all of them we knew we weren't far away and were actually learning and progressing steadily through each performance.

It was the next run of 5 games where the boys really started to hit peak form and show everyone what they are capable of. We beat Clontibret in a home semi in a tight game coming out on top by 5pts. On to the final v Killanny in Ballybay. Killanny had beaten us earlier in the league so the boys were extra motivated going into this game. The performance matched the motivation as the boys put on a bit of an exhibition both defensively and offensively and from start to finish they were excellent. Defensively tight and aggressive and kicking some great scores at the end of well worked attacks, running out in the end on a score line of 3-15 to 0-7 and taking the Division 1 League Shield trophy home.

This performance gave the boys great confidence heading into the Championship where we met Cremartin in the preliminary round at the Peace Link. We ran out 3 point winners in a game where we had to really dig deep in the final minutes. In the Quarter Final we met Killanny in Cloghan. We knew it wasn't going to be as easy as the final as Killanny are much better than they showed that day and so it proved. This game was one way then the other for 55 - 60mins both teams playing some great stuff, it built to an exciting finish with our lads rallying in the closing stages to score 1-2 without reply and showing great composure and resilience to win by 5pts. Confidence was really building now heading into a home semi-final v Castleblayney. From the League semi-final v Clontibret until now the boys had built momentum and also quite a following and the crowd and atmosphere in St. Tiernachs Park v Blaney was something i personally had never experienced as a coach. What they



were treated to was a serious game of football and probably one of the best games for excitement seen there in a long time. A game both teams threatened to win on numerous occasions but where both teams just wouldn't give up and role over. There was some brilliant football played by both sides and the level was very high. Through sheer determination and refusal to give in the boys found themselves a point up well into injury time at the end of extra time but with the referee somehow finding even more minutes Blaney struck with a superb last kick to send it to a replay. A draw was definitely a fair result, although i would like to buy that referee a new watch! Heading to the replay and after a gruelling game we recovered as best we could in between but we had a few injuries to key players that probably proved decisive in the end. Blaney got a great start on us and in fairness they were very ruthless with their chances. By half time they were 13pts ahead but in fairness to the boys they stuck at it and brought it back to 6pts but we just left ourselves too much to do this time and Blaney kicked again to finish convincing and deserving winners. They went on to hammer Scotstown in the Final leaving us to forever wonder what might have been if we had won the first day as I believe we would have beaten Scotstown as well.

All in all a fantastic year in Division 1 for these boys and when they look back on it there always be the 'what if' had we got over Blaney the first day but the experience they have gained playing at that level and nearly every game going right to the wire it can only stand them in good stead. The Shield victory is the first Cup won at that level in nearly 30 years and along with the Championship run it shows the teams coming after them that winning and competing strongly here is possible if you put the work in. They can be very proud.

Congratulations to the County players on our panel. Last year we had 4 who made the Minor squad. We have 4 doing Minor trials at the minute and we have 5 lads on the u15 squad which will be next year's u16s.

Thank You

The Club:

For supplying us with everything thing we need each and every year.

Liam:

For having the pitches well prepared and ready to go at all times.

Ciaran Mulhall:

For videoing our games which proved vital for preparing for games.

Cormac and Steel Solutions:

For sponsoring the class new jerseys.



Evergreen Care:
For sponsoring lovely tracksuits.

Marissa:
For all your help as Covid Officer and helping make sure our pitches are a safe environment for the boys.

Joanne:
For all you do, as you know we would be literally lost without you.

Parents:
Thank you so much for your support, not only this year but every year. In the years to come the boys will look back at all you do for them, running them here there and everywhere and supporting them every step of the way.

Backroom Team.
We built a great wee backroom team this year with Mousey and James Mealiff coming in along with David, Kieransy and myself.

David who helps out with goalkeepers, helping me set up sessions and who is also a great ear for me to bounce ideas off at home as he won't be long telling me if an idea i have is stupid or not but you need that for sure!

Mousey who not only is a great physio he also had great advice and great experience that he shared with the boys throughout the year. A great man to have on the line.

James Mealiff, who was hands on on the training pitch where we split a lot of sessions between himself and myself. James probably doesn't realise yet how talented he is at the coaching, he showed the boys some super stuff which was clear to see in the different games we played.

Kieransy is the manager and that's what he does, he manages, organises, and gets his messages across one to one and in a very good way. He deserves so much credit for this group of lads as he has been with them from day one and i know he will be the proudest man in the club as the boys step up to Senior.

Last and most importantly the players:
What can I say about this bunch other than they are a special group. To have had the opportunity of being involved with them from Primary School to u17 has been a real honour. A bunch of players with so much potential, they have treated us to some of the best days, competing at two Feiles, going from Division 3 to Division 1, winning silverware and coming so close to the biggest prize they have shown the



groups coming after what is possible if you put consistent effort in. Their attitude day after day and night after night is what has got them to this level. You probably have to be involved with them to know what I mean by their attitude. They are respectful, they help at club functions, they support the Senior team, there is no messing at sessions and they hate losing, there is just hunger to get better and go higher and to do their best for Clones and they enjoy the craic together at the right moments and developed a tight bond. Better even than on the pitch they are just an amazing bunch of kids with many different types of character in the group and are a real credit to each of their families. Thanks for everything boys.

Over the years we have tried to create an environment for these boys that they could enjoy and develop in, 'Did we get everything right?' 'definitely not', but as we say to the boys when you make mistakes don't panic, recognise them and use them to learn, the same goes for coaches! Over the next 3 years many of these lads will filter towards our Senior panel and as a club we need to do our best to keep them together, look after them on and off the pitch and make sure that their development doesn't stop here and that we aren't looking back in years to come and saying these boys peaked at juvenile level, what happened to them?! They still have so much to learn, so much to achieve and they will want to kick on, some of them are already asking when does Senior training start next year! Believe in them, back them and they won't let you down! Cluain Eois Abú.

Player of the Year

There are many boys we could have given this award to after the great year we had and the effort everyone put in, it was truly remarkable to see all boys giving everything!

We decided this is a player with one of the best attitudes we have ever seen, not only does he never miss a session he is there 30 - 40mins before every session practicing his catching and kicking and sets an example. Playing at Full Back or Centre Half Back he was trusted with marking the other team's top scorer and he has annoyed many a forward this year not only with his defensive skills but also his driving runs from deep, passing ability and comfort on the ball. A fantastic year capped off by making the County Minor Panel for 2022 and making his debut at Full Back today v Armagh in a challenge match keeping his man scoreless. U17 Player of the Year is Shane Freeman.

Team management – James Kierans, Adrian Alford, Micheál Treanor, David Alford and James Mealiff



Under 15

It was great to get a full season in with this group this year. We were entered in Division 2 this year and with such a small squad we had to go down the age groups to help make up the numbers. Thankfully the league was 13 a side and we managed to get a full squad of 17 players to start the year.

The league took centre stage first and with a lot of quality players in this group we expected to be able to compete with what was going to be coming up against us.

This proved the case and with 4 wins against Magheracloone, Corduff, Latton and Inniskeen and 2 losses against Carrickmacross and away to Killanny we finished the group in 2nd position. This gave us a Semi Final against Inniskeen away and in fairness after a tricky start we settled and went on to win by 6 points. This left us with a League final against Carrickmacross in Corduff. Unfortunately, it wasn't a day we would like to remember fondly, and it just wasn't our day. To get to the Cup final was definite progress on the same group from 2 years previously.

The Championship was next and again we were drawn away to Inniskeen on a Saturday morning at 11am. This seemed to have the lads disoriented as it took a full 13 mins to get on the scoreboard. At this stage it was a chasing game but in fairness to the boys they got back to within touching distance, but they couldn't get across the line.

We were then into the shield and another away fixture to Latton yielded a better result. This left us with a Shield Final against Magheracloone and the final was fixed for Corduff but this time we managed to get the game changed for a 3pm throw in. On the day we had a few niggles and we decided to leave our Captain Jamie McCaughey on the bench to see how we could go without him.

We conceded a couple of goals in the first half leaving us trailing by 3 points at half time. Jamie was brought in and the whole team seemed to settle into the job at hand and bar the first 5 mins they held Magheracloone scoreless for the rest of the half.

To finish the year with some silverware is always a bonus but this group deserved it for all the effort that they put in throughout the year.

Many thanks to the club, parents and especially Fintan Kelly and Darragh McDermott who put the lads through their paces all year. Every player got plenty of game time and because of that you could see the improvement in a lot of the younger guys.

Team management - Ciaran Mulhall, Colin McCaughey, Fintan Kelly and Darragh McDermott



Under 13

The 2021 U13 Team had a squad of 13 for an 11 a side tournament in Division 3. The League started slowly with two loses against Latton and Aghabog and forced to concede our third game against Corduff due to lack of numbers. After the re-start in July we recorded wins against Inniskeen, Drumhowen, Oram and Killeevan to finish joint third in the division. The three teams were drawn out for 3rd, 4th and 5th place and we drew 3rd and were drawn against Latton which ended in a defeat.

Our Championship ended with a loss to Killeevan. The team trained and performed well throughout the season but the lack of numbers and average age of the team meant we struggled against the bigger squads and larger teams. There are 9 of the boys still eligible for U13 next year and hopefully the current year will set them up for the year ahead.

Player of the Year: Oisin Cosgrove

Team management – Cormac McElvaney and Darren Cosgrove

Under 11

Our U-11s had a great season. We trained twice weekly and had great numbers in attendance. Our zone for the Development league saw us playing games against Currin, Seans, Aghabog, Tyholland, Emyvale and Eire Óg. We had super turnouts for games from the players and a big thanks to the parents who transported the players and were also present in large numbers.

We played some great football in the games and the boys improved noticeably as the season progressed. We were invited to take part in Emyvale's annual blitz in September and the boys acquitted themselves well. The season wrapped up with the Connolly Cup match in late October. Many thanks to Joanne for all her support and assistance, as usual. Without doubt, the future is bright for Clones with this super group. They are a pleasure to coach and we had a very enjoyable year.

Team management – Dónal Quigley, Larry Butler and Fabian Beggan

Under 9

Clones U9s began the year as a small group of boys who were eager to learn the basics of the game of football but blossomed into great players. After a slow start due to covid restrictions easing we had a smaller group but towards the last few weeks it was evident that the boys had been talking to their friends at school and



recruited a few extra lads who also learned ample skills and enjoyed the trainings and blitzes immensely. It was great to see how their skills had taken a huge step which also brought on their love for the sport aswell. After some feisty trainings and some great laughs, our coaches are proud to say the boys are more than ready to take it to the next level and play in competitive games with the U11s whilst some of our younger lads will be advancing even more again with U9s next year. We'd like to give our thanks to the parents who were bringing them in and out the road for trainings and blitzes and to the club for having the pitch available at our call. A successful year all round, let's hope for even more next year.

Team management - Matthew Reihill, Lorcan Horgan and Ross Adamson

Under 7

U7s were taken on this year by Darragh and John Holland, they had brilliant numbers of Boys and Girls. Just a half hour slot on Thursday evening and worked out perfectly.

Lots of little skills learned along with attending 7 Blitz' around the county, huge thanks to all our parents for the early Saturday morning trips.

With such good numbers the lads needed lots of help so special thanks to Rian Kierans, Micheál Treanor, Paul Connolly and James McManus.



Appendix - Golf Classic Sponsors

Main Sponsors

O'Harte Transport	Alpha Tanks
Liptons, Clones	Creighton Hotel

Other Sponsors

Annie McGinns Bar, Newbliss	Mark The Barber
Avenue Pharmacy	Martins Foodstore, Newbliss
Barry, Cunningham, Henderson Solicitors	McCaughey Fuels
Carafinn Farm Foods	McCaughey Roofing & Cladding
Ciaran Kelly	McDaid Pharmacy
Colm Connolly	McKennas Supermarket, Buncrana
Colm McMahon	McQuaid Opticians
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Councillor Seamus Coyle	Melvin Brogan
Craftstudio Architects	Monaghan Seminary
Cuil Darach	Morgan McManus Solicitors
Cunningham Commercials	Packie Willies
Darren Rooney	Paraic Geoghegan Butcher
Diamond Bikes	Prunty Contracts
Fitzpatrick Fuels & Hardware	Shane Bonner
Freeman Plaster Mouldings	Tom Kelly
KC Tyres	Tower Bar
KR Hire	



Teams Entered (main contact name included below)

Adamson's Bar	Kevin McCusker
Alpha Tanks	Leo Rooney
Brian O'Harte - Roost Bar	Martin Carey
Chris Cadden	Michael Connolly
Clones Golf Club Team	Noel Maguire
Colin McCaughey - Fab Excel	Padraig Connolly - CGC Captain
Damien McGorman	Paragon Bar
Darragh Graham	Pat McCabe
Dean O'Connor	Patrick McCarville - Creighton Hotel
Eddie Sherry	Paul Fagan
Eire Óg GFC	Rockcory GFC
Feldhues GmbH	Rosita McCabe
Frankie Dolan	Seamus McQuaid - McQuaid Auto-Parts
Gabriel Fee	Shane Bonner
Gerard Kelly	Simon O'Connell
James Connolly	Tommy O'Harte
Kevin Hickey	Tony Morgan – Lipton's

Advertising Sign Sponsors – Peace Link

As noted above, the first batch of signs have been produced by our manufacturer and will be up at the Peace Link facility before the new season commences. Our sincere thanks to those businesses listed below for joining us in this initiative, and we will be reaching out to other interested parties on this in the coming weeks and months. If this is something you are interested please contact Dean at secretary.clones.monaghan@gaa.ie

Adamson's Bar	Hickeys Pharmacy
Ann McGarry & Co. Solicitors	KR Hire
Avenue Pharmacy	Morgan McManus Solicitors
Clones Tech	McCaughey Fuels
Feldhues GmbH	