



## **An Clár – 2022 AGM**

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### **Adoption of Standing Orders**

- The proposer of a motion, or an amendment thereto, may speak for five minutes but no longer.
- A person speaking to a motion / issue must not exceed three minutes.
- The proposer of a motion or amendment may speak a second time for five minutes before a vote is taken, but no other member may speak a second time to the same motion, issue or amendment
- The Chairman shall, at any time he considers that a matter has been sufficiently discussed, call on a proposer to reply, after which a vote must be taken.
- A member may, with the consent of the Chairman, move that the question now be put", after which when the proposer has spoken, a vote be taken if applicable.

Any motion seeking additions or amendments to the Constitution or Rules must have a majority equal to two-thirds of those present, and able to vote - i.e., current paid members for 2022.



## **CLG Cluain Eois AGM Minutes – 2021**

### **Adoption of standing orders and Report of last year's AGM**

Adoption of standing orders and minutes from 2020 AGM were read and accepted. Proposed by James Kierans and seconded by Cian O'Connor.

### **Secretary' Report**

With reports circulated prior to AGM night, including an in-depth Secretary's and team reports document, Dean O'Connor gave a brief overview of 2021 and how the club performed both on and off the pitch. These reports are also still available on the club website if anyone would like to review same. Marie O'Neill provided an overview as ladies' secretary of their year which highlighted how they are continuing to go from strength to strength. The adoption of these report's was proposed by James Kierans and seconded by Fintan Cunningham.

### **Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Financial Statements**

Frankie Dolan provided a robust update on the club's financial performance for the 12-month period to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. The club were thankfully back in profit following the loss of c€5,000 from 2020. This was driven primarily through club fundraising, particularly the commencement of the annual club golf classic and the national club draw tickets which was noted as being major successes for the year. Frankie wished Ciaran Kelly well as he takes up the position of treasurer in 2022 and thanked all the executive, both past and present, for their help and guidance since he assumed office as treasurer. The adoption of the report was proposed by Marissa Quigley and seconded by Ciaran Kelly.

### **Chairman's Address**

Colin McCaughey gave a warm welcome to all in attendance and noted it was great to be back meeting in person. He provided a recap of the year gone past, noting the work being down both at team level, and the ongoing works being completed to future proof St. Tiarnach's Park as the stadium of choice for inter-county games going forward.

### **Election of Officer's**

1. Treasurer – Ciaran Kelly was the sole candidate was nominated for the role of treasurer, having been nominated by Frankie Dolan and seconded by Dean O'Connor. Frankie was again thanked for his immense contribution during his tenure as treasurer.
2. PRO – Marissa Quigley was the sole candidate was nominated for the role of treasurer, having been nominated by James Kierans and seconded by Colin McCaughey. The club sincerely thanked Ciaran Mulhall for his contribution during his tenure as PRO.



### **Appointment of County Board Delegate**

Liam Doherty was the sole nomination for the role of county board delegate having been proposed by Terry Lennon and seconded by Michael Fox prior to the AGM. The club wished Liam well as he continues to be our representative at the county board meetings.

### **Motions**

There were no motions submitted for consideration at the AGM.

### **Adoption of the revised GAA Club Constitution**

The requirement for the adoption of the revised version of the GAA club constitution was presented with material changes noted following communication by the GAA Operations Manager and cascaded by Monaghan GAA Secretary to clubs on 22/09/2021. This was proposed by Marissa Quigley and seconded by James Kierans. Colin McCaughey and Dean O'Connor then signed the document in their role as Chairperson and Secretary respectively.

### **Any Other Business**

- Tom Kelly noted that it was very disappointing that some players were made unavailable by senior management direction for selection for the Reserve football championship due to there being a senior league game a couple of days later. This sentiment was shared by Niall Nolan who said that players would be looking forward to playing games having trained hard all year.
- Finbarr Dunwoody noted that Teresa Reihill was stepping away from training the ladies and thanked her for her dedication and skill over the past couple of years which has seen the girls improve significantly.
- Orla Reilly thanked the executive on behalf of the ladies for their openness and willingness to support the girls which has led to them really taking off.

### **Players of the Year**

- **Seniors** – Darren Freeman
- **Reserves** – Simon O'Connell
- **U17** – Shane Freeman
- **U15** – Nathan McGovern
- **U13** – Oisin Cosgrove
- **U12 Girls** – Ava McDermott
- **U14 Girls** – Sabhdh Bonner and Sophia O'Harte

**\*\* End of Meeting\*\***



## **Secretary's Report to the 2022 AGM**

### **Welcome**

A Chara,

First of all, it is a great privilege to be presenting this Secretary's report on behalf of the club for 2022, and I would like to thank you, on behalf of the club, for your continued membership to our club. As repeated last year, 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 reading this can be in attendance at the AGM on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of November in the clubrooms at St. Tiarnach's Park.

### **Overview of the year**

Well, what a year!! Not since 1995 have our teams secured four trophies for our club and what a way to do it! In all, the club contested eight finals, across both the men and ladies' side of the club, which is testament to the work being done at all levels of the club, both on and off the field, to make this a reality. Hearty congratulations to all team members and mentors as 2022 will undoubtedly be remembered as a year where the club experienced almost unprecedented levels of success, and hopefully it won't be too long until we experience these days again. A comprehensive summation of each team year is detailed in the appendices of this report.

The success of our senior team in reclaiming the Junior Football Championship after a 27-year hiatus will undoubtedly be remembered as the greatest achievement in 2022, but equally the success of our Senior Reserve team, U17 team and U13 team in bringing home silverware were momentous occasions and will be celebrated in equal measure. Thankfully the year is not quite over yet, with the prospect of more silverware available as our senior team and management kick off our Ulster Junior Football Championship on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November v's Drumlane in St. Tiarnach's Park – what a momentous occasion to be playing our first ever Ulster club game at our home ground! The very best of luck to the lads from all the Esxecutive Committee and we hope that our supporters can once again be the 16<sup>th</sup> man on the field for the occasion and play their part in helping the lads over the line.

The growth of our ladies' teams is also cause for celebration, and a massive thank you on behalf of the club executive to those who have led out the ladies' side of the club, including members of their executive, coaches and of course, the parents of all players who have really bought in to the vision of the potential that our girls have. Having reached their first final this year there is no doubt that this will start to bear fruit in the coming years in terms of silverware. Their success will be further developed in Marie's summary below. Also, the success of the Gaelic 4 Mothers and Others has transformed the landscape of the club and it is incredible to see the level of buy-in and support they have both given and received in such a small space of time – long may this continue and thank you to all involved in getting this initiative off the ground, with Linda McDonald working closely with us on the executive to ensure that everything and everyone is looked after appropriately. Thank you to you all.

Also, a special congratulations to our caretaker and Co. Board delegate Liam Doherty Sr on being the club's recipient of the Monaghan Volunteer Recognition Scheme – a very small token of our appreciation for all the work Liam does on behalf of the club so thank you Liam.



## **Fundraising**

2022 has proven to be a very successful year from a fundraising perspective, in no small part due to the generosity of our main club sponsors, as well as the many local businesses and individuals who provided much appreciated support. The club held several events which were incredibly successful including our breakfast morning on JFC final day, the G4MO coffee and ladies' mornings, our second annual golf classic, and of course our sponsorship receipts from all team sponsors. The club is eternally grateful for all the support received and we hope to build on these relationships in the years to come.

The second edition of our annual golf classic was a roaring success and built on the great work that was completed for our inaugural event in 2021. A massive thank you to our classic co-ordinator Frankie Dolan for leading out on this, and to Ciaran Mulhall and all the other volunteers who assisted in both the run-up to the event, and on the day itself.

A total of 29 teams took part in the event, and we received extremely generous sponsorship from many individuals and businesses which I have included in the appendix to this report, with a full listing of prize winners and sponsors available on the club website at the following link <https://clones.gaa.ie/2022/09/27/2022-golf-classic/>.

Sincere thanks must go to our main sponsors for this event – KR Hire, Alpha Tanks, The Creighton Hotel and Lipton's, and our raffle sponsors Newtricity Ltd (Peter Cunningham and Stephen McKenna) for their very generous support for this event, and to Clones Golf Club for use of their facilities on the day. Thank you.

## **Club Development**

The club have also been proactive in our steps to embrace the role that the digital world now plays in the functioning of all sporting organisations, including across all social media channels so a massive thank you to our PRO Marissa Quigley, ladies PRO Orla Reilly and James Kierans for ensuring all updates from matches are included on the Twitter platform. Having introduced our club website (<https://clones.gaa.ie/>) in 2021, we have been engaged with an application developer to build out a bespoke club app to ensure many facets of the club can be accessed only a thumbprint away. These include:

- Up-to-date club notes and news every week.
- Functionality for team management to engage with their teams.
- Membership options to be added to allow for easier renewal of membership.
- Inclusion of a link to the club lotto draw to allow seamless access to play.

As functionality of the app develops, we hope to deliver a lot more to ensure our member base are kept up to date with everything that is going on in the club. Hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to download these at either the Google Play or Apple store.



## **St Tiarnach's Park**

Off the field the club has been equally busy. Having secured funding in the latest application round of the Sports Capital Programme, the club will be advancing with our development plans towards the end of 2022 and into 2023, with the hope that all works will be completed next year.

In addition, the club, in conjunction with Monaghan GAA and Ulster GAA, have recently been awarded €200,000 under the GAA County Capital Infrastructure Grants scheme to assist in the necessary upgrades to seating in the Gerry Arthur stand. The success of both applications will further our aim to future proof the stadium and make it a destination of choice for large inter-county games.

Similarly, the club was also successful in obtaining a grant under the Department of Rural and Community Development CLÁR scheme for €50,000. A massive thank you on behalf of the club to Ciaran Mulhall who completed the application, and to all involved in the Sports Capital Programme and GAA County Capital Infrastructure Grants application processes. The formation of a Field Development Committee comprising members of Clones GFC, Monaghan GAA and Ulster GAA will continue to work towards completing all the necessary upgrades and enhancements required in terms of improved facilities and health and safety requirements to ensure that the stadium continues to be a main stay for inter-county matches. There is much work to be done!

To this end it was with delight that the club, and town, returned as the hosts of the Ulster Senior Football Championship finals for both the men's and ladies' competition. The buzz and excitement that is created at the stadium is hard to replicate at any other ground and is testament to the work that is done across all our community to put Clones on the map.

In all, we held 3 matches in the men's Senior Football Championship, including Monaghan's victory over Down, the semi-final where Donegal defeated Cavan, and the final where Derry bridged a 24-year gap to reclaim the Anglo Celt cup in their extra time victory over Donegal. This also coincided with hosting two Monaghan national league games (v's Mayo and Dublin), with the latter being the victory that secured Division 1 status for 2023 and condemn "the Dubs" to Division 2 next year, and the qualifier knock-out round where Armagh defeated Donegal to avenge their previous loss in the Ulster Championship.

It goes without saying that hosting these events would not be possible without the unerring support that is received from across the local community. The level of volunteerism and assistance in preparation and management of these big days is extremely important, and very much appreciated, and something we hope can continue for many years to come. The club are well aware we are an outlier in the ask we place on our club members and members of the community on an annual basis, but the significant personal contribution made by all of those people does not go unnoticed and something we truly acknowledge and appreciate.



## **Closing thoughts and thanks**

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, including coaches, members of the Executive Committee, groundskeepers, Lotto sellers, those who provide assistance on match days – the list could go on and on, and it really does take an army! All of these roles are voluntary in nature and command a significant amount of work, all of which is for the benefit of our club

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

To Adi, Sarto, Colm and the senior panel – having been around the group for much of the year I have seen the work and sacrifice that has been put in to make the dream of winning the JFC a reality. No stone was left unturned by the lads, and the win in Aughnamullen was a culmination of all the hard work that was put in since January – hopefully we're not finished yet! Also, to James, Niall, Tom and the Reserve panel – we had full belief this year that there was a trophy there for the taking and thankfully we got over the line on the day. It was an honour for me to receive the cup on behalf of the management and panel. Congratulations and thank you lads.

From my own perspective, I would just like to note my thanks to all those who I have worked closely with over the past four years in my role as secretary, both within and outside our club. The guidance and support given by many people has very much appreciated.

In particular, a massive thank you to our Chairman Colin McCaughey who leads from the front in everything that the club does and puts in commitment well beyond the boundaries required by a club Chairman. To treasurer's, both past and present, Frankie Dolan and Ciaran Kelly for their support with anything we needed from a financial perspective, our vice-chairperson and "go-to" person for everything juvenile related Joanne Reihill, Tom Kelly in his role as Insurance Officer and Registrar, our PRO's Marissa, Orla and, before them, Ciaran Mulhall for enhancing the profile of the club within our community, James Kierans for his role as Children's officer and generally being a sounding board to bounce ideas off, and everybody else I've had the pleasure of working with over the past number of years. We have a great committee in place, and I have no doubt that everyone involved will continue to drive this club forward to where we all want it to be. The very best of luck to whomever succeeds me in the role, and no doubt they will bring their own fresh ideas which will contribute to the further success of our club. It has been a privilege to perform this role for the club.

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, and they and their family are very much in our thoughts. To all, Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

Is mise le meas,

Dean O'Conchúir, Rúnaí CLG Cluain Eois



## Ladies Committee Secretary Report

A Chara,

I am delighted to provide this report on behalf of the Ladies Committee to this AGM. The Committee's main goal for 2022 was to continue to build on the foundations laid over the past three years. The numbers of girls playing football had grown quickly but the key challenge was going to be maintaining the momentum. Between 50%-60% of girls under age 20 will drop out of sporting activities and with ten girls aging out from Under 14's in 2022, it was agreed that fielding an Under 16 team had to be a priority. It would be a challenge but it was fully supported by the Executive and Sponsor alike. The Under 16 team would go on to gain three new players and play in a Shield Final proving the challenge was worth it.

Overall, juvenile girls membership grew by 10% and we now have 5 underage teams – Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 who compete competitively and Under 8 and Under 10 who play under the non-competitive Go Games Model.

The club was successful in its application to participate in the LGFA Gaelic 4 Teens programme. This programme is designed to give clubs, committees and coaches the resources they need to retain girls in the 13-17 age bracket. The programme consisted of a series of webinars, a Football Festival Day at the GAA National Development Centre in Abbottstown and a Club visit by G4T ambassadors – Niamh Kindlon and Laura McEneaney. This was a fantastic programme and it was interesting to hear how other clubs were dealing with the same issues.

The club also hosted an inaugural Festival of Football Day on 17th September. We invited 7 local clubs (from both North and South) to participate in a Tournament Competition for Under 14's. It was a successful day on many fronts although not in silverware as Roslea Shamrocks lifted the Shield on the day. The club hope to make this an annual event – the attraction of playing in St Tiarnach's Park was very strong with more clubs than we could cater for looking to take part.

The big success story for 2022 is the formation of the Gaelic 4 Mothers & Others Team. This came about from a conversation between a few mothers at an Under 14 game and the determination of Linda McDonald. G4M&O offers the opportunity to get a bit of exercise in a non-competitive setting with an emphasis on social. It is open to all women over 25 of all footballing ability and none! With over 60 women signed up, that Senior Team might be closer than we thought!

I would like to acknowledge the work of my fellow committee members and coaches. Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless. I would also like to thank all our Club Sponsors but in particular our new U16 Team Sponsor – Fintan Cunningham, Cunningham Construction. Your support is so important. Lastly, to the taxi drivers, kit washers and first-aiders aka "parents" – you are the first important step in getting your child onto the football field.

So what for 2023? The Committee are keen to consolidate on what has been achieved so far and to ensure that football continues to thrive. We would be delighted to welcome in new volunteers to help us achieve this. In the words of Steve Jobs – "Great things are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people."

Is mise le meas,

Marie Uí Néill Secretary, Ladies Committee

***If she can't see it, she can't be it***





## **Team Reports prepared by Team Management**

### **Clones Seniors 2022 (Managers Report)**

When trying to write a report for the 2022 season, where do I begin?!

An amazing year with the ultimate goal of getting promoted back to Intermediate was reached and to top it off with the clubs first Championship title in 27 years, it was truly an amazing journey. As this was written the journey is still going and we have the heads down working hard getting ready to compete in an Ulster Club competition.

#### League Run

We began training in February with the plan of going back to basics, trying to integrate the young players into the panel without putting any pressure on them, working on getting a style of play that suited us, trying to play as a team and trying to peak at the right time of the year. Right from the start the buy in and effort the players put in was second to none. We felt we trained well over preseason and began our preparation for the season with 3 challenge games against 3 Intermediate teams and very early on we could see that we had a strong panel with a good mixture of youth and experience. 3 good wins boosted confidence but more importantly everyone was getting playing time and minutes in the legs in preparation for the competitive season. The introduction of the six young lads to the panel was a major boost and their impact could be seen right from the off.

We began the League at home to Currin, a good win here was followed by a draw away to Drumhowan and a 4pt home defeat to many people's favourites Killanny in a game we could have won. We responded well with a narrow win away to Scotstown where we were down to the bare bone's numbers wise. This win was followed by a disappointing 1pt loss to Eire Og where we totally dominated but were nowhere near clinical enough in front of the posts. It was from this Eire Og defeat that we learned a lot, we regrouped, went to work and from here we went on quite an amazing unbeaten run of 13 games leading us to the Championship Final, winning 12 and drawing 1. Good wins in the League over Oram, Killeevan, Aghabog and Rockcorry followed which resulted in us finishing 3rd in the League table behind Killanny and Drumhowan. Finishing 3rd meant we had to play a Quarter Final at home to 6th place Scotstown with the winner playing away to Drumhowan in the Semi Final. Scotstown who were a much-improved team this year proved tricky early on, getting men behind the ball and making things awkward but as the lads had done throughout the year they stayed calm, figured the situation out and in the end ran out convincing winners. On to Drumhowan in the Semi Final in a game where we were asked plenty of questions. Taking the lead from early in the game we controlled the contest for the majority but with 15mins to go and 7pts up Drumhowan rallied and hit their 'purple patch', 5 unanswered points from them brought it back to a 2pt game. With the game in the melting pot the boys held firm, didn't crumble and showed great mental strength to finish strong, kicking 2 fantastic points to see the game out as 4pt winners. A League Final place secured and something to look forward to, the only disappointing thing was it wouldn't be until 3 months later. Mind boggling to say the least! The League run to this point was fantastic for us, so much learning, experiences we could fall back on as a reference point, a lot of players getting game time with the panel getting stronger and a lot of good momentum and improvements gained leading us into the Championship.



## Championship Run

From here we then moved on to our Championship campaign. This consisted of 2 groups of 5 teams which saw us on the tougher side of the draw with Killanny, Drumhowan, Currin and Killeevan. We began with a comprehensive win away to Killeevan followed by a great team performance and 6pt win at home to Currin. Drumhowan away was next and in a game played in terrible conditions the boys put in a battling performance to grind out a deserved 6-point win. This game in these conditions was of great value in terms of learning how to cope in these conditions for further down the line. We had now booked our place in the knockout stages with a game to spare. This game was against Killanny at home. A game with both teams already through to the Quarter Finals probably proved to be the most entertaining of the whole competition. An exciting end to end game that finished in a draw at 2-13 apiece. It was now onto the Quarter Finals where Rockcorry awaited. We had gained great momentum in the group stages and it was in these knockout stages that the lads really started to hit their peak. Against Rockcorry we played some brilliant free flowing football and showed a pleasing ruthless streak in our first 'do or die' game of the year. Right from the throw in some really well worked team scores saw us run out comfortable winners notching up 5-16 in the process with 10 different scorers. It was now on to the Semi Final stage where Drumhowan awaited, this was our fourth meeting of the year and there was a huge prize at stake. Not only a place in the Championship Final but we knew that if other results were to be as expected that a win here would guarantee us our ultimate goal of getting back to Intermediate. With this at stake it certainly brought with it some nerves. This was evident in the opening 15mins of the game where Drumhowan raced into a 0-5 to 0-2 lead. The lads didn't panic however and swiftly found their feet, working hard to get back into the game and heading in at halftime with a 3 point lead we knew what we had to do in the 2nd half. With the wind at our backs the lads played some great football, defending brilliantly and kicking some fantastic scores, running out comfortable winners in the end on a score line of 1-18 to 1-11. With word coming through that Killanny had beaten Scotstown in the other semi we now knew we had hit our number one target of getting promotion back to Intermediate after 7 years. The scenes in the dressing room after were magic and something I thought couldn't be beaten.... I was wrong!!

## Championship Final

Having gained promotion and with our feet firmly on the ground our attention quickly turned to the Final and our next target of trying to bring some silverware back to the Club. The lads trained unbelievably well in the weeks leading up to the Final. Add to this the build up around the town through the schools, the club getting bunting and flags up, local businesses putting signs of good luck up and then the Breakfast Morning it really set it up towards what was promising to be an exciting conclusion. All this being said we still had work to do and Killanny, the Championship favourites from the beginning of the year awaited us in Aughnamullen. A tough task and a team we had played twice and hadn't beaten but the boys were ready. A game played in horrendous conditions we had to use all our experience and learnings gathered throughout the year. A game of 'cat and mouse' in the early stages, adding to that the terrible playing conditions it always meant it wasn't going to be a high scoring game like our previous encounters. Having the advantage of the wind in the first half we would like to have been a bit more ahead, but we had to settle for a 0-3 to 0-2 cushion at the interval. Heading back out with the conditions deteriorating even more the boys knew what they had to do..... They had to dog it out and fight for everything, try take chances when they arose and had to manage the game well in certain moments and boy did they do that.... The second half followed the same pattern for the first 15mins, with scores at a premium and both teams defending really well. They scored, we scored was the way it was going



until they struck for a few points in a row to edge themselves 0-6 to 0-5 ahead with the clock ticking down.

Again, great credit to the lads here they did not panic, they patiently kept looking for openings, fought for every breaking ball and alas we got the bit of luck we deserved. A speculative shot from 'Man of The Match' David Freeman dropped in front of the Killanny keeper, and the ball bounced off the slippery surface and into the net. We had now got the foothold we needed and next came the game management. From the resulting kickout the lads kept possession for a full 6mins, every player on the team touching the ball numerous times and with no openings arising for scores the clock was ticking away and with it Killanny's energy and hope... We eventually worked the ball inside their 13m line and in trying to work a score Killanny conceded a 45. Fabian Beggan stepped up and against the strong wind he effortlessly sailed the ball over the black spot, at this point the noise from our large support was deafening and now all we needed was the final whistle. The final 4 minutes were again controlled very well by the lads, and then it came.... the noise we were waiting for all year.... The sound of the final whistle in a Championship Final where we were the winners! The scenes from the moment that final whistle blew until we left the Aughnamullen grounds were something I, or I am sure a lot of the lads, have never experienced before in sport. Pure happiness with family and friends, club members young and old, a short time shared, photos taken, and memories made that will last a lifetime. This is one of the reasons why we do it, in the hope of getting rare moments like this. As I said before I thought the Semi Final dressing room couldn't be beaten, how wrong I was!! The Final dressing room with music playing and club legend Gerry Reihill in attendance was simply indescribable. The 27-year wait was over, and Clones were Championship winners again. As Cameron said in his brilliant speech, 'Up The Town'.

### League Final

We now had only one week to prepare for the League Final and another shot at some history, a chance to do the 'Double'. The boys put in two good training sessions during the week but with the emotion, excitement and celebrations of what they had achieved it was always going to be a tough ask. In a game where we needed a good start to have any hope, we just never got anything going. Killanny were ruthless, took their chances and it was all but over after 15mins and in the end Killanny took an easy and deserved win. Well done to Killanny.

Looking back, we can have no excuses and no complaints and although it would have been amazing to do the double the Junior county season ended up with the best team in the Championship winning the Championship and the best team in the League winning the League.

### Congratulations

There are some people I would like to congratulate:

To all our County Team representatives throughout all our age grades, we now have too many to name which is great!! It is a credit to all your hard work and dedication that you have put in over the years. Keep up the good work.

To the players and coaches of St. Tiarnachs Primary School, our u-13s, our u-17s and our Reserves on your well-deserved wins this year. We certainly fed off these wins as a group. Well done.

Also, to all our other coaches and players throughout the club who may not have won trophies this year but are putting serious work in. I believe a club or a team's success can't be gauged on



trophies alone, it's a lot to do with bringing players through. There is no transfer system in the GAA, the only way to make our teams better is to try to develop our youth as best we can. You can see that in our Senior panel at the minute with the difference the young players are making and that is a collective effort from all our coaches.

To Alexia with our Ladies teams and coaches and to the Gaelic 4 Mothers and Others members. What you have achieved in a relatively short space of time is fantastic, so a big well done to you all.

### Thank You's

It is important to myself that I thank everyone who has helped out throughout the year and if I forget anyone I can only apologise.

I would like to thank the club for giving us the opportunity to coach the team this year, for having the faith in us that we could do the job and for taking the chance on 3 lads in their mid-30's.

I want to thank Ciaran Mulhall for all his help videoing our games so we could analyse ourselves and the opposition in preparation for training and games. Unbelievably valuable to our season.

To my mother Eileen for washing the jerseys and bibs all year, never an easy job especially with white tops!!

To Marissa who has done first aid all year and to Leigha who has been our physio this year. To both of you, your help is massive and the main reason we have had such a good injury record this year. It is greatly appreciated by management and players.

To the lads who have done ball boys and water boys for us all year Shane Freeman, Eoghan McFarland, Jamie McCaughey, Michael McCaughey and Marc Maguire. It has been a massive help at both training and games. Thank you, boys. A special mention here to Shane Freeman who was at the very first training session of the year and has hardly missed a training or game since...

To James Kierans who has been a constant source of advice for me throughout the year right from the beginning. Someone I have worked closely with over the years, who I respect massively and a person who is so passionate about everything to do with our club.

To our main sponsors Bernard & SuperValu who have been a serious help all year providing us with our Jerseys, fruit for each game and a whole lot more throughout the year. The Creighton Hotel, The Coffee Box and Avenue Pharmacy who have sponsored tops. Thank you.

To Ross Adamson who sponsored Goalkeeper sessions throughout the year which has been of massive benefit to us. Thank You.

To Ross Mealiff, Paul Moore, Marc McAdam, Tom Kelly, Bernard McNally and Stevie Adamson who generously donated towards the celebrations. And anyone else who did so unknown to me. Thank you all very much.

To our family, friends and supporters, we cannot do this without you. It is you who helps get us over the line. It is you who gives us our support when the going gets tough and it is you who we owe so much too. Thank you for all your patience and support throughout the year it doesn't go unnoticed.

Again, to our Club, the support and help given throughout the year has been second to none. Anything we have asked for it has been given. So much help has been given in so many different



ways. To Tom, Collie, Finty, Niall, Gerry, John, Ciaran and others for doing the line and umpire at games along with teas and coffees at Championship games. To Liam for having our pitches in great condition and always ready. Frankie for organising and running our Golf Classic. Joanne, Marissa and James for helping with food after sessions/games, club functions. Joe for doing MC at home games. We are blessed with an amazing 'Top Table' of Ciaran Kelly (Treasurer), Dean O'Connor (Secretary) and Colin McCaughey (Chairman). Ciaran and Dean, I can't thank you enough for all the help, every email, every call nothing was too big, and everything was done, two very professional men. A special mention to Collie our Chairman, someone who gave 20 years plus service as a Senior player, a current coach and the leader of our Club, the time you give is unbelievable and you are someone I personally look up to massively. Our Club is in very safe hands.

An incredible amount of credit for our success this year is down to the two lads I am lucky to have on the line with me, Sarto and Colm. Two Clones men through and through, lads with young family's who have given up so much time and I'm sure sacrificed a lot of family time in the process. Their ideas, knowledge of the game and their ability to say the right thing at the right time has been a massive help to the lads and myself. The respect they have from the group is massive. We communicate every day, thrash out a lot of ideas on various things and it would simply not be possible or would not be the same experience without you two. Thanks for everything lads. I also have to give a mention to Finty Kelly here....at the beginning of the year before Colm had time to come on board Finty was a great help to myself and Sarto, taking parts of sessions, helping with planning, helping on the line when he couldn't play due to County, very much appreciated Finty, Top Man.

To Cameron our Captain. We decided at the beginning of the year to give Cameron the responsibility of being our Captain and what an amazing job he has done. At only 23 he has taken to it like a duck to water. Attitude, honesty and no amount of ability he has led by example throughout. A link to the players for management and a person all the lads look up to. With all the build up to the final Cameron had a lot of things he had to deal with, media, interviews, photos, all the while having to concentrate on his own preparation and his own performance. What a job he did and to top it off with a great performance in the Final and an amazing winning speech that will be replayed for years to come. That's how it's done.... Well done Cam.

Finally, to the group of people who are the real reason we have won the Championship and gotten the club back to Intermediate.... The Players, all 38 of them.... Where do I start here!! Without players there are no games, there is no winning and there are no trophies.... The effort, attitude, respect and honesty shown this year has been incredible. From day one from the very first meeting you have been incredible, incredibly enjoyable to work with and a fantastic support to us as a management team. The competition at training (30 plus night on night) and the way you have pushed each other on and picked each other up has been a joy to watch. Football really is a 'Squad Game' now. The way you have reacted to both wins and losses throughout the year shows the mental strength you have developed and without this you could not improve, and you could not have won. No excuses offered by any player just learn and try to improve, this was so evident as the year progressed. You are a credit to yourselves, your family, friends, the club and the town. Top players and what's better a special bunch of people who I am extremely proud of. We know there are many improvements to make both as coaches and players but the fact you are willing to make them, that is the attitude it takes. Our club and everyone involved should be very proud of this bunch of people. Thank you actually doesn't seem enough lads!



### Personal Note

Just to finish on a personal note.... I told the lads at the beginning of the year that this was not a steppingstone or a job to boost my CV.... For myself in coaching this is the single most important and by a million miles the best job I could ever have. To have the opportunity at Senior Level to coach my own club, to coach young lads I have been fortunate to coach at all age grades and the rest of the lads who I have had the pleasure to play with has been an unbelievably enjoyable experience and they have made it that. To have had the opportunity to win with my own club and to see how much it means to everyone is a buzz that could never be replaced.

I am so proud of this bunch of players and so proud of this club and never more so than being able as a group to bring the Championship Trophy to our close friend and Club Legend Martin 'Coach' Connolly's grave. I would have swapped places with Coach in a heartbeat just for him to experience all that went on after the final whistle, I can only imagine what his reaction would have been. I am also happy that Luke, Matthew and James got to bring the trophy to their grandfather Frank McCabe before he sadly passed away, another Gentleman and amazing supporter of our Club. Indeed, all our great club people who have sadly passed away were very much in the thoughts in the lead up to and aftermath of the Final.

The road to winning is never straight and many people over many years (too many to mention) are just as much a part of this as ourselves, but even when success or winning is achieved it doesn't have to be the end of something. With the boost of this Championship win, with this group of players and all the young ones to follow, I have no doubt they will kick on and this will only be a 'New Beginning' for them and for Clones GFC.

Thank you all... Love you all...

Cluain Eois Abu.

Adi.



## **Reserves report**

The reserve team had a full squad to delve from with a terrific 28 players getting game time this year. We started the season in clones with our first game against Toome. Excellent team and individual performances got us over the line with a 7 point win. We kept the winning streak at home continuing as we had a convincing win over Doohamlet on a score line of 8:16 to 2:10. We then travelled to Sean Mc Dermotts where we picked up another win with a brilliant team performance. This left us with two games left in the league; Aghabog away and at home and we took the win in both. It was disappointing that we had four walkovers throughout the season, nevertheless we finished our league campaign undefeated and with a final to look forward to.

We started the championship with a tough game against Carrickmacross. We fought hard and it went right to the wire, Carrick managed to push ahead in extra time and we lost out by narrow margins in the end despite a fantastic team performance.

We regrouped as there was business left unfinished still. We went on to play Toome in the league final and sure the rest is history!

On behalf of the management, we'd like to thank each player who wore the jersey this year, everyone gave a tremendous effort that couldn't be faulted. I'd like to personally thank James and Tom for all of their help throughout the year, it's been greatly appreciated. The reserve player of the year is Ryan Nolan.

## **Under 17 Report**

What a great group of lads we had this year. The year started off with the Spring League, which with our small squad a big challenge, as we didn't have the lads that were on the county minor panel. The upside was that the other lads were getting game time which is always a plus.

We entered Division 1 with great expectations but unfortunately, we got hit with a tsunami of injuries and that left us in a situation that after giving Carrickmacross a run for their money at home and subsequently losing heavily to Castleblaney we were left with no choice but to concede the final 2 games in the league.

All credit to the remaining lads that they went training every week even though we had only around 8 lads on average each night. The break between the league and the start of the championship allowed us to get boys back from injury and the increase in numbers at training started to reap dividends. We were asked if we wanted to drop to Division 2 for Championship and at that stage with so many lads out injured, we reluctantly agreed to enter the Division 2 Championship. The group got up to the levels that we wanted, and we tackled the Championship head on. The boys at this stage were flying and breezed through the group stage with good wins over Donaghmoyne, Aghabog and Killanny. This left us with a Semi Final meeting with Magheracloone at home. The lads put in a great display, and we won easily in the end.

The final beckoned and the opposition was Aughnamullan. The game was played in Aghabog and the weather gods were not kind to us at all. It was a horrible day, and it favoured the opposition as we couldn't get our normal fast running game going. To be fair to both teams they battled away and from going in level at half time we had a great 3rd quarter that put daylight between us. The lads worked their socks off right to the final whistle and got their just reward in the end.





To finish the year with a Division 2 Championship title is fantastic and totally deserved. A big thank you to the lads for turning up night after night at training injured or not. A huge thank you to Fintan Kelly and Darragh McDermott for keeping the lad's going night after night at training. Lastly a massive thank you to the parents and the club for looking after this group of lads all year.

Player of the year: There were any number of lads in the running for player of the year, but in the end, we have given it to Jamie McCaughey who cemented the Number 6 jersey as his own with numerous fantastic displays throughout the year.

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

### **Under 15 Report**

The 2022 U15 Team had 3 U15 players and 5 U14 players for an 11 a side tournament in Division 3. The decision was made to amalgamate with Killeevan Sarsfields to ensure that we were had sufficient numbers to compete.

The League started slowly as we had a number of the older players injured. We had one win in the first four games. However, with the a full squad and senior players back to fitness our best game of the season was against the unbeaten Rockcorry when we won out with a 3 point win in a tense game. The second half of the season started out with a win against neighbours Aghabog but lost the next two games.

In the Shield Semi-final we were drawn against Drumhowan who had beaten us previously on two occasions, however we came out on top with a convincing 13-point win. The final against Killanny didn't go our way where we lost out by 7 points.

Overall, the season was mixed however the amalgamation was successful as the players and coaches gelled well and the parents on either side had no issues with training or games being player on either venues. There was some great improvements in many of the players. We couldn't agree on the player of the year as we had 3 boys that trained hard all year, had a fantastic attitude and led by example, we asked the Killeevan coaches for their opinion having worked with the boys all year and the deciding vote went to Darragh McElvaney.





## Under 13 Report

Clontarf U-13 panel have had a very successful year. We began in a spring League group containing Emyvale, Killeevan and Tyholland. Unfortunately, mainly due to unavailability of players for various reasons we didn't perform to our best. We also realised that we needed to work very hard if we were to do ourselves justice and be competitive in the league and championship competitions.

We began to train in earnest for the beginning of the league. The boys were beginning to click, and we put in some very impressive performances. Victories over Killanny, Corduff, Eire Óg and Latton were particularly memorable. We won all 7 league games and qualified for the final where we met Éire Óg. On a blistering hot day in Aghabog we were not at our best and, disappointingly, were caught out by a team we had beaten earlier in the season.

The championship offered us a chance of redemption and we were determined that we would leave no stone unturned in our preparation. We ramped up the training and Gerry put a big emphasis on the players' strength and conditioning. The boys embraced the work, and we were a different animal when the championship commenced. We qualified for a semi-final with a great win away to Sean McDermotts on a very wet day. The semi-final v Corduff was a classic as the boys battled back from the concession of 2 goals either side of half time to take the victory by four points in a game that built to a tense finish.

We now found ourselves in the championship final where our opponents would be a strong Aghabog outfit. In a thrilling match played in Smithborough, Clontarf fell 4 points behind with 10 minutes remaining. But, when the character of the team was tested the boys stood up. We rallied and scored 2 crucial late goals which saw us ahead by a single point at the final whistle.

This victory was just rewards for this group of players. They trained particularly hard for the championship and every player contributed at different stages over the campaign. These boys were a credit to their families and club. We had a thoroughly enjoyable season working with them. There can be no doubt that many of these players will continue to represent the club with distinction through the grades into adult football. A special word of thanks to Joanne and the committee, who catered for our every need and we are indebted to Karol and Enda of KR Hire who sponsored us pre-match shirts and crewnecks for the championship. Player of The Year: Donncha Quigley.

Team management: Donal Quigley, Larry Butler, Fabian Beggan and Gerry Reihill

For the record, the panel was:

Christian McGarry, Brendan Sheerin, Ciarán McCaughey, Donncha Quigley, Finian Murphy, Paddy McDonald, Matthew McCaughey, Conal Cosgrove, Finn Connolly, Conor Butler, Eoin McElvaney, Orran Clerkin, Ewan Connolly, Daragh McKenna, Diarmuid Quigley, Adam Dunwoody, Martin Mulhall, Dylan McDermott, Jay McDonald-McCormick, Lewis McGorman



## **Under 11 Report**

U11s began the season in April with the Spring League playing 6 games, the last one played in Cloughan. This gave the lads a chance to get used to each other as a team. Then in August the Summer Development League started and they had 6 games in this with each week centred on a particular skill. This really brought the lads on, along with several challenge games throughout the season too. The final of the summer League was against Rockcorry in Rockcorry and it was a great exciting game which we came away as winners. The lads all put on a great performance with Diarmuid Quigley picking up the Skills award on the day. Many thanks Myles and Matthew for helping with the lads and Donal for standing in when needed. Luke Reihill

## **Under 9 Report**

Our Under 9's had a very enjoyable year of football with over twenty lads learning and developing their skills throughout the year. With a mix of the 'older' U9's from last year blended with some younger new recruits to Gaelic football, this group bonded as a team culminating with a great experience for the lads (but very wet) at the halftime game of the Junior Championship Final.

It was a year of progression for this group with emphasis put on the core skills of football at the weekly training sessions. These skills were put to the test in the bi-weekly series of U9 Farney Go Games Blitzes starting in April and finishing in October with over 13 blitzes throughout the year. These blitzes allowed the boys to show off their skills and compete very strongly against their U9 counterparts from other clubs. They even had a taste of inter county experience with a few challenge games against Ballyhaise.

With the progression of some of these guys into the U11 grade next year and the continuation of the younger lads at the U9 grade, the footballing development and enthusiasm of this group of players bodes very well for the future of the club.

The coaches would like to thank the group of guys for the years' work as well as the parents of the kids for arranging to have them at the training sessions and the many blitzes across the county. We would also like to thank Joanne for her assistance with this group.

Team Management: Lorcán Horgan, Mark McCaughey, Brendan Gilleece, James McManus

## **Under 7 Report**

The Under 7s have had a very busy year. Coaching sessions started on 12<sup>th</sup> February and we have had sessions every week that weather allowed. There was also a program of 11 blitzes, which took place every second Saturday over the summer months. We hosted 3 and also visited

Seans, Rockcorry, Currin and Eire Og. Over 45 kids would have attended at least 1 session over the year and we would have regularly had 30 during the summer. Thankfully, we had a lot of coaches available for this group. Darragh and John Holland, Paul Connolly, Michael Treanor, Paddy (Roe) McKenna, Sarto Quigley, James McManus, James Sherry and Joanne Reihill were all involved. It has been very gratifying to see the improvements the kids have made throughout the year. Given the great interest shown by the kids and the coaches, we hope to see this age group continue to flourish over the next few years.



## **Ladies' Team Reports**

### **U8 & U10**

2022 was another successful year in the development of young female players for our Club. We welcomed new players to the GAA community both from Irish and other cultural backgrounds. Coaching staff included experienced Gaels in Darragh Graham as well first-time coaches Alexia Bonner and Nuala Cunningham. Throughout the year, coaches were ably assisted by playing members of the U14 & U16 teams. As with the Go Games model, we both attended and hosted blitzes, giving the girls' opportunity to shine against other clubs. They gained valuable experience as well as having great fun in the process. Our goal for 2023 is to continue to introduce new players to football as well as the development of our existing players to ensure the continued growth of ladies football in our club for future.

### **U12**

The Under 12's started off the year in a tough Round Robin group with teams that mostly ended up in Division 1. After a few tough defeats, we were put into our divisions and then we started to play the League Proper. The competitive football gave the girls the confidence to push on and we had good wins over Carrickmacross, Aughnamullen and Eire Og. We made the semi-finals and were up against Eire Og who we knew pretty well having played them in challenges and competitively earlier in the year. Each time we played them before, they were never more than a couple of points between us. Unfortunately on the day we had a poor first half. We came back well in the second half but fell short at the final whistle.

We have plenty of talent in this group and myself and Brian get a great buzz watching these girls develop as footballers as we have had them since Under 8's. Our player of the year was between 2 fantastic talents – Leanna Cunningham and Olivia Graham. In the end we could only pick one and we have selected Olivia Graham. Olivia was always put on the opposition's best player and her ability to block the ball is something Adrian Alford should go and witness. I would just like to thank Brian for helping manage the girls. Also thanks to Nuala and Marie for helping out throughout the year and to all the Mums and Dads who bring their girls to all the trainings and matches.

### **U14**

The under 14s ladies had a full complement of players with generally 3 subs on average at each game, 2- 3 being drawn from the under 12s when needed. We had a great start with wins against Corduff and Tyholland, beaten narrowly after, in one of the best games of the season, by Killeevan. Under 14s finished just outside the qualifications, being beaten well by Eire Og in Smithborough. The Championship saw the team impressively beat Eire Og in a nail-biting game at St Tiarnachs, one of the best games of the season, going right to the wire. Another great game to show the ability of the team and the transformation of the players. The season was drawn to an early conclusion with a late defeat to Aghabog by the narrowest of margins. The attitude of the players was fantastic this year. Their development was amplified through a physical Literacy Programme in the Peacelink signed up to by players and parents over the year. The Long Term Athlete Development Programme was instrumental in the players progress and fitness. The player of the year was hard fought for, with Sarah McCaughey being awarded the honour. Sarah showed great scoring prowess when needed, took some hard knocks and



showed great resolve to play on. She took on a lot of responsibility during games, trained hard and always with positive attitude. The most improved player was Casey McCaughey, development great skill and energy, one to watch in the future

## **U16**

Seeing as this was the first U16 team the club has had in 20 years there was a good bit of debate whether we could field a strong enough team that would be fit to compete. But we needn't have worried about that. Our first league game of the year was against Sean McDermotts. It was a hard fought game which we lost by 3 points. Our second league game was against St Brigids (which is made up from Ballybay, Doohamlet and Drumhowan) and they proved way too strong as we were well beaten. Third league match took place in the Peace Link against Magheracloone which were a very strong team and we got beat by 3 points. Our 4th league game took place again Donaghmoyne in Donaghmoyne where we lost by 4 points. Our 5th league game was again Eire Og in St Tiarnachs park. Another hard fought game but Clones were the victors by 8 points.

We headed to Aughnamullen for the last league game and got well beat. The same result went for the first round of our championship where we faced Aughnamullen for the second time. We were then knocked out of the championship and into the shield. We played Donaghmoyne in the semi-final of the shield in St Tiarnachs park where every girl on the team played their heart out and Clones won by 18 points - a serious game of football. That left us in the Final of shield and the way the shield worked out we ended up meeting Donaghmoyne back in the final. A dirty wet day and a lot of pulling and dragging by bigger, stronger girls, we lost the final by 6 points.

All and all the girls really improved throughout the year and played well as a team I think the future is bright for Clones LGFA.

Player of the year which was a very hard decision to make is being given to Ella Kierans.

Management; Finian O' Hart, Linda McDonald and Janelle McGovern

## **Gaelic 4 Mothers & Others (G4M&O)**

Clones G4M&O was formed in June 2022 by Linda McDonald with 60 affiliated members. We started training on 27th June and continue to do so twice a week. We competed in challenge games, one being in St Tiernach's Park which was a great success. We are now doing our winter training which involves a run/walk of Carn Lane and playing on 3G pitch at The Peace Link. We also held a coffee morning fundraiser. Many thanks to all involved. Huge thanks to our jersey sponsor Connected Health. We are so proud of all our players who make it all so worthwhile. It's all about playing football with fun and laughter. Lastly, thank you to the Executive for all their continued support.

# Clones St. Tiarnach's GFC Second Annual Golf Classic

In addition to our main sponsors noted below, the club would like to thank the following individuals / businesses for their much-appreciated support for our second annual golf classic. Please support those who support the efforts of our club!

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Colm Connolly, Ciaran Kelly, Simon Douglas & Jonathan Douglas	K.C. Tyres	Sammy Mealiff
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