

Secretary's Report 2017

As 2017 comes to an end it is time to reflect on the year that has gone by, take stock and make plans for the year ahead. Firstly I want to thank all the hard working members of the club that work tirelessly behind the scenes and are only a phone call away when they are needed, the club and I appreciate what you do and thanks.

While the seniors and juniors failed to get silverware this year, we still retain our status in the respective leagues and championships. Hopefully our Under 20 team will once again do the honours. Good luck to all involved in Ballintubber tomorrow. Our underage structure and amalgamation with Ballinameen is working well and it has meant that all our underage teams are competing at Division two status.

SENIORS:

League:

Our year began with Adrian Donoghue in charge of the senior team under this management we drew with Strokestown and lost to Tulsk.

Our senior management changed and under the new manager of Johnny Maher and his team, Vinny Gleeson & Conor Beirne We had three wins over Roscommon Gales, St Croan's & Western Gales, two draws against St Bridget's, & Kilmore, and two losses to Pdraig Pearses, & Clann Na Gael. This left us in a relegation game with Kilmore in the Orchard Park, luckily we secured a win leaving us to battle in Division 1 for 2018. With 3 and a possible 6 star games in the league in 2018 we will have to pull out all the stops to reach a playoff in this competition.

Hodson Bay Hotel Group Championship:

We had mixed fortunes in the senior championship. Securing wins over St Croan's, Castlerea St Kevin's and Kilmore while we lost to Strokestown & Clann na Gale, leaving us with 6 points and secure for 2018.

Hopefully this year we can achieve more success in the Championship and qualify for the playoffs.

To Johnny and his management team thanks for your hard work and dedication to the lads. To the players, thanks for the time, dedication and effort put in throughout the year. Hopefully 2018 will bring rewards.

JUNIORS

Marty Brady, Liam Butler Noel Carney and Ciaran Gormley took charge of our Juniors, for 2017. They had an extremely successful championship campaign winning 5 of their 6 games, securing a place at the Semi Final. They were defeated by Kilbride in the Semi Final this is an excellent result for our second team. This was a disappointing result as some of the minor were unable to play as they were due to play a championship game the following weekend which was subsequently postponed. This is the disadvantage of our limited numbers.

The Tansey Cup was not as successful for us just securing one win in this competition. Well done and thanks to all involved.

UNDER 20:

Jim McLoughlin, Shane Beirne and Fintan Cregg have taken on our under 20 teas. They are in a county semi-final tomorrow versus St Ciaran's so I hope you will all support them.

The affairs of Bord na nÓg was dealt with by the minor section of our Club at their A.G.M recently. Once again I want to thank Jim Mc Loughlin and Kathleen McCaffrey and all involved for their hard work with the minor board. Jim has decided to call it a day as chairperson, on my own behalf and behalf of all in Elphin GAA I wish to say Thanks Jim for all your hard work over for the past 3 years as Chairman. The amalgamation with Ballinameen will be part of your legacy. We still have to appoint a new chairperson that will carry on the work of the Minor board

We have a large number of people who help out at underage training. Especially those involved in the ABC programme which is the backbone of the club going forward. We have some new trainers involved in this and I think it is very important to nurture these people, provide any training or support they need so they will feel confident to take on roles in the club in a few years. Your time does not go un-noticed, thank you all for your commitment and dedication to our very young footballers. We should try to tap into some more of the young talent in the club to help here. Our coaching officer John Kelly continued to improve the coaching at underage level, and ensure that all coaches are trained to a high standard. Thanks John.

SCÓR

The semi-final of Scór na nÓg took place in Elphin. Our contestants in instrumental music, novelty act and set dancing qualified for the County final. Our quiz team won the county final for the 4th year in a row. Well done to all involved, their trainers & parents. Thanks to Michael and Anne Marie Gunn for their continued involvement at Club level. This is the cultural section of our club, and they continue to keep the home fires burning here.

THE ORCHARD PARK.

Noel Collins as Chairman of the park committee, this year continued his work to ensure the Orchard was maintain to a high standard.

Well done to all involved.

Thanks to Trevor Hunt and the FAS workers who line the pitch every Friday for matches at the weekend and we now have a Tulsa worker who is doing lots of work around the pitch.

To all the ladies who make sandwiches and help out at home games your involvement and help is appreciated, and it helps the clubs reputation for hospitality. We even got a mention from the photographer Andrew Fox in the county final programme for the lovely tea we serve.

To Kevin Farrell Safety Officer, Sean Lenehan, Events Controller, Noel Collins, Martin Beirne and all those who steward thanks for taking these roles and ensuring that all games are run safely and efficiently.

FINANCE.

Every year we struggle to make ends meet. Peter Scott had been doing an excellent job on the accounts each year, but he passed the mantle to Lorcan Hanley who took on the challenge and made a success of it.

Our sponsorship draw is a great success. Of course this does not just happen and we thank the finance committee who collect and organise this.

Thanks to Jim Keane and all the Lotto collectors who work hard at raising money for the club. The economic climate has definitely affected this area, as people don't tend to socialise in the public houses anymore. So we now have to make an effort to target other events that are taking place, especially football matches to maximise our profits. The National Draw is another opportunity to make money for the club, so your support in this draw will be appreciated. We need to make an extra effort this year to sell as many tickets as possible. This is an excellent fund raiser as Croak Park provide the prizes we just have to sell the tickets and lodge the money.

Jim Keane is leaving the role of Lotto Coordinator. Thanks Jim for your work in keeping the finances coming in every week. We wish him a speedy recovery back to full health. Sometimes I feel that people think a lot of these jobs get done by themselves but I realise that it is a great sign of a coordinator if things are running so smoothly. Thanks Jim and all the teams involved.

PRO

Thanks to Colm Beirne for his work as PRO keeping all informed about what is going on in the club. Colm is also leaving his role. The PRO is a role that Colm carried out quietly but very efficiently and it is a role that is extremely important to the club to keep all our members past & present informed about what is happening. Every Sun evening the text arrived re notes for the Hearld.

2018

In 2018 I am looking forward to more success on the playing field, with this layout in the Championship I feel that with commitment, discipline and faith that our senior can go on to win the

County Final. I like to see more involvement of ladies in the club and I don't just mean making tea and sandwiches. I hope that we can reignite the Healthy Living initiative that we had started with the couch to 5k, in the New Year. I would also like to see a more social aspect to the club, where people are mixing and getting to know each other. Any ideas will be gratefully received.

One of our priorities for 2018 I feel should be a five year plan to develop the club, the County Board are willing to work with club to help us to begin this process. I know that there was one completed already, but there has been many changes in the demographics of the club since so we need to reassess where we are going and how best to achieve this. Each member of the club has a contribution to make in this so let's get all our shoulders to the wheel and bring back the glory days of the 1990s when we were one of the leading clubs in Roscommon.

I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to anyone who lost a loved one in 2017. Congratulate those who had happy events over the year. Once again I would like to thank my fellow executive workers for all their help and support over the past year, I'm looking forward to having new people involved and I guaranteed them my support.

To anyone that I may have omitted who works even in a small to contribute to the club I wish to say thanks.

Úna Nic Giolla Luairinn