

Chairpersons Address
AGM 2011

The year of 2011 has not been as filled with silverware for this club as previous years have been. This does not mean that as a club we are a failure. I can clearly remember four years ago having a discussion at an executive meeting where I said that it was hardly worth our while entering a Junior D team as we did not have enough players. This past year has proved that we do indeed have three full senior team squads and I would like to thank all those involved with these teams – Managers, Selectors, Trainers, Physio, First Aiders and player insurance officer. If success is measured in the number of adults playing football, then this year was very successful indeed.

Seneschalstown GFC is a voluntary organisation – a place where ordinary people of the area commit their personal time and effort for the good of the community, for the promotion of Gaelic Games and for the development of sport for young people. This club is successful because of their commitment. The most demanding position in the club is that of Club Secretary. Gordon McGuirk has fulfilled this role in his first year with great diligence and dedication. I would like to acknowledge his hard work for our club throughout the past year.

I wish to recognize the work of Pat Clarke in looking after the club purse. He is here every Monday night of the year along with Shay Lyons, to oversee the weekly club Lotto. I would like to thank all those who helped with the annual Golf Classic, the very successful scrap Saturday and the clothes recycling. In these difficult economic times we have had to work harder and be more inventive in how we raise money and our executive were certainly up to the task this year.

I would like to offer our sincere gratitude to all our club sponsors especially Panda Waste, and to the club members who go out and get this very valuable sponsorship for the club.

I would like to express the thanks of the club to those members who work to keep the club grounds in order. Special thanks to Greg Lyons who does such great work on keeping the dressing rooms clean and tidy.

Like all GAA clubs we form part of a wider county, provincial and countrywide network. I would like to extend our thanks to John Battersby for his efforts on our behalf at Co Board.

On the playing field we have much to be proud of. There is no doubt that we have had a very successful five years in this club and this is due in no small way to our senior Coach, Damien Sheridan and his selectors. As Damien has decided to step down as Senior Manager this year I would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thanks to him for his enormous dedication to the club Senior Team over the past five years. There are too few words to express our gratitude for your commitment and vision. We offer you our heartfelt thanks and wish you the very best in the future. I would like to wish Dermot Smyth every success in his new role as our Senior team manager.

Our juvenile club, under the stewardship of chairman, Ian, has had another great year and anyone who visits the club on Saturday mornings, can be in no doubt about the level of commitment of all the mentors in the Juvenile club. The organisation of such a large number of juveniles is a credit to the committee.

In looking to the future there is much to fill us with hope. The underage club is very strong with great player potential coming through to the Senior club for the coming years. We have goals also in relation to continuing the development of the facilities in the club house. This year we got the club gym up and running and we are currently working on the development of the new dressing room.

To have a successful club requires many people with a wide array of talents. Everyone is needed. Last year at the AGM I indicated that we intended to delegate work more widely among all members of the club and especially within the club executive. I am glad to say that this past year has been more successful than previous year on this front. Seneschalstown GFC does not run itself and it requires the dedication of many to keep it running smoothly.

On a personal level I would like to thank the club members for electing me as Chairperson for the past five years. I have enjoyed representing the club. I would like to thank all those who have worked with me over the past 5 years and in particular to the 3 secretaries – Ian, Shane and Gordon. On the executives we had our disagreements and our difference of opinion from time to time but in the end we remember that we are all here for the greater good of the club. I trust that the club will continue to achieve great things in the years to come and I assure the incoming committee of my support and help in the future.