

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A Chairde Gael

It is a great honour, as Club Secretary, to be presenting this Secretary's Report on the activities of the Club over the past 12 months. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all members to our Annual General Meeting tonight. The goal of my report is to outline the events both on and off the field, and to outline the future vision and aspirations of the club going forward.

Firstly I would like to cover the **Off the Field** achievements of the club over the past 12 months and to outline to all members the continued workload and effort taken on by the elected officers each year. As an elected committee, one of our main goals is to generate income to cover our costs, but this year we also decided to look at ways to reduce our costs as well, to ensure club is financially stable and can use fundraising funds for development projects and not just to cover on going expenses.

For *generating income* for the Club we set about this in the following ways:

Fundraising

Fundraising is a vital component for any club, to not only survive, but to also ensure that we can develop and provide excellent facilities for our players, members and wider community. While Fundraising is increasingly harder to undertake given all the financial burdens on our members and community, the club would like to thank you all for your continued support in our efforts over the past 12 months.

- At the end of last year we had the **Development Draw** which raised around €8,770 profit, while not as good as previous one due to lower ticket sales, it still was highly profitable for club. Thanks to all for selling tickets and supporting this draw and in particular a huge thanks to Pat Clarke for organising this event and encouraging everyone to sell tickets.
- We also ran a **Table Quiz** in January on night of Development Draw in Maguires in Kentstown, which not only was well attended and a great social night for club, but again proved very profitable too, raising around €2,250. I would like to thank our quiz master Sean Mahon for taking the time to compile the questions and helping make the night so successful.
- Our next major fundraising activity was our **Scrap Saturday** which was run in February in conjunction with our main club sponsor **Panda**. This proved to be a huge success for club and raised about €16,000. A huge thanks to Joe & Paul Finnegan and John Battersby for being the principle drivers behind organising this event.
- Our next major fundraising activity was the annual **Golf Classic** which was held in Royal Tara on the 8th July. We had 30 teams and 100 Tee Sponsors, which was down from previous years but still one the most successful among all the clubs. We would like to thank **Devenish Nutrition** for their generous main sponsorship of the event and to all the teams and tee sponsors for your continued support with this event. It was a great day and again was a very profitable €9,500. Again I would like to thank Alan Geraghty for taking on organising this event with help from others, and ensuring that it was a very successful day.

- We were approached by a number of Clothes Recycling companies to undertake a clothes collection to help raise money for the club. We decided to go with **Rehab** as it was a local organisation, employing local people and doing a lot of good with their enterprising activities. So over the summer months of July and August we underwent a Clothes Collection every Saturday morning during the Juvenile training hour. We collected 1.8 tonnes of clothes and raised €560 for the club.
- **Membership** is another main fundraising source and is required to cover the club's team affiliations and insurance to Croke Park. We currently only have 196 Full members which is very low considering half of these are players, and membership collected just about covers the costs for affiliations and insurance. The cost of insurance and affiliations are due to rise annually, so I would strongly encourage you to actively promote club membership with your family, friends and neighbours to help the club cover these costs. It will also be necessary to increase the annual membership for next year to cover the increasing cost of the insurance and affiliations.
- **Lotto** is another main fundraising source and is our regular source of income which is vital to the club. Again we like to see an increase in numbers by buying tickets and I would strongly encourage all members to actively sell more Lotto tickets and not leave it up to the same few every year. If every member sold 5 extra tickets a week or got 5 more yearly white envelopes, it would be a great additional source of income to the club. Surely everyone here could sell 5 more tickets? And it also gives people an opportunity to win money too – just ask Mena Sheridan our latest Jackpot winner of €10,600! A big thanks to all who already support the Lotto draw by either buying tickets or who are actively collecting/selling tickets for the club, without your commitment this would not be a success.

Income from Hall Hire & Gym Membership

During the year, we decided to try to generate income from our facilities and this meant obtaining rental income from hall hire and membership for our new Gym.

- At start of year we met with Basketball club, who in previous year had free access to hall once they paid their club membership, to explain that their membership only covered their insurance and that we would require a nightly rental for use of hall to cover the light and heating costs. We agreed on a figure that suited both clubs and this will generate about €1500 annually.
- We also hire the hall twice a week for the fitness classes run by Mary Sheridan and again this is another valuable source of income.
- We have also hired the hall for other events including Knockcommon School Discos, Elections, South O'Hanlon Road Race.
- Our new Gym opened last December and we currently have about 65 members. This has proved to be a great facility for our members and in particular to the players to help them gain extra strength and fitness throughout the year and to also aid in recovery from injuries. We would hope that membership will increase next year and have already seen an increase in interest over the past few weeks from people looking to join.

Sponsorship

During the year, our main club sponsor has been **Panda**, who have sponsored the club generously over the past 3 years. Our thanks to the Waters family for their continued support

and hopefully we can continue our partnership for the forthcoming year.

The club would also like to thank **Devenish Nutrition** for their generous sponsorship of the Golf Classic. Again thanks to the Brennan family for this support and hopefully we can look forward to further sponsorship of this event next year.

The club would also like to thank all other sponsors, too many to name, who have contributed to the club over the past 12 months and have given much needed support in enabling the club to continue to grow and evolve.

For *reducing costs* for the Club we set about this in the following ways:

Medical Expenses

Our medical expenses last year were over €13,000, and this was an area that we needed to address and monitor more closely. We decided to implement a new Injury Procedure to ensure players made claims on time and treatment could only be received after Insurance Officer was notified. We also decided that first treatment should be paid by player to stop unnecessary trips to Physio and that club would pay for any treatments afterwards that were agreed by Physio and Insurance Officer. We also ensured that the Physio and Physical trainer worked closely together to ensure proper warm ups and training techniques were done to prevent certain injuries that were occurring with players. The Gym has also allowed players to rehabilitate correctly before returning to training/playing. This year our medical expenses for year were €9700, which represented a savings of €3300

Food after Training

Another cost that we looked at reducing was providing Food after Training to the players. This is an important benefit to the players in providing them with food after training to ensure they got adequate nutrition, particularly as a lot of players come directly to training from work/college without getting a proper meal. In previous years we had engaged a caterer to provide this service, so this year we tried reducing costs by asking someone local to provide food to the players. Kathleen Byrne was approached and was willing to provide hot food for the lads as required by the team management at much lower cost than external caterers would have cost.

Sharing Costs with Juvenile & Ladies Club

The Executive decided that we should get assistance on covering our annual cost on maintaining the pitches and facilities, insurance, and running costs of ESB, GAS and Water, as these costs were incurred by all teams that use the club facilities for training and matches. The Executive decided that if both the Juvenile and Ladies clubs would help sell more Lotto tickets (and in particular get regular contributors to the White Envelopes) that this extra income would cover their share of the costs. Members of the Exec met with the officers from the other clubs to outline this proposal and to make them aware of our costs. It was agreed that they would undertake selling Lotto tickets to cover their costs. Unfortunately to date this has not happened and the Exec has now decided that in future each of the other clubs will be charged a set amount each year as a contribution towards the annual costs.

I would like to move on to talk about development and maintenance work throughout the year.

Developments

- In early December last year the club completed the new GYM and it was fully equipped and operational for all players to start pre-season training. This has been a tremendous achievement by the club and has helped improve our overall facilities available to our players and members.
- Our pitch again has been maintained to the highest quality throughout the year by John McBride and is a credit to the club. All visiting teams have commended us on the quality of pitch and the good condition it is always in.
- We have done some minor work on hall in terms of repairs, particularly after the severe cold weather last winter, where we thankfully only had a few minor leaks.
- We also installed a Fop Keypad at Dressing Rooms to allow all team managers access to dressing rooms and toilets for training and matches, without the need for a key.
- We have also had repairs to hall flooring, heating and electrics.
- The ball stop netting behind all goals also needed repair after wind damage, and this was done along with adding some additional wiring to strengthen in future against further windy/stormy weather.
- Plans are underway to complete Dressing Room 4, where work has started last week and we hope to have this open in time for games next Spring.

Social

On the community front the club has been actively involved in providing and participating in social events in the parish.

- At the start of the year we held a **Table Quiz** in Maguire's Kentstown to coincide with our Development Draw. This proved to be a great social night for all those who attended and got the year off to a good start.
- At the start of the year the Juvenile club came up the idea to provide coaching in the 2 **National Schools** and approached Joe Sheridan to undertake this along with mentors from the club. So at least once a month Joe along with these mentors and the school teachers will spend half a day between the 2 schools providing coaching to the children and alternating it among the different age groups. This has proved highly successful for both the club and schools, in getting extra kids down to play with club and also getting the schools to finals in both girls and boys. It has been so successful that the Co.Board have now copied the idea and have rolled this out with other clubs/schools and will pay half the club's costs for the coach. I would like to thank both schools for allowing the club to get involved and to Joe and all the mentors who gave up their time to provide this service on a monthly basis.
- The Yellow Furze National School Parent's Association held a **Summer Fete** in school in May and the club assisted by sponsoring a signed O'Neill's ball from Meath team, as well as having club mentors and players involved in the games and activities run on the day. It proved to be a great day, that the club decided that we should do something similar near end of the Summer.
- We decided to run a **Family Fun Day** on 28th August. The event was organised by a committee mainly from Juvenile club but with members for Adult club and Yellow Furze NS Parent's Association. On the day we ran numerous events and games for all ages, had a TV with live coverage of All-Ireland Semi-Final between Dublin and

Donegal, had coffee and sweet shops, and a BBQ with live music at end of day. This was a great day socially and was a great occasion for the club to have so many families down enjoying themselves from around the parish. Well done to all involved in organising this event and hopefully it will become an annual event on our club calendar for years to come.

- The Club as mentioned above have undertaken 2 Fundraisers this year related to **Recycling** and this is another example of the club's role in the community in offering a valuable community service to our parish while helping the environment, aiding employment and generating income for club at the same time. We plan to continue our arrangement with Rehab in the future and to offer other recycling opportunities to our community.
- On a **Social Media** front we launched a new version of the Club Website which allows users to easily use and upload articles such as stories, fixtures, results and match reports. This ensures our website is up to date and useful to all our members. We also have a new club Facebook page which again allows us to communicate to all our "Friends" and post updates on lotto results, match scores/results and information on events. Our Club Text Service is another valuable way that club can communicate to members and is vital for team managers for communicating with players/parents about games and training.

Now onto the **On the Field** events for the club during the past year:

Senior

The Senior Panel were determined to get over their disappointment of losing the SFC Final and resumed training in early December with a strength and conditioning program in the newly opened Gym. Given the bad weather with snow and ice, it was a credited to see the Gym getting some much use by all the players. The training on the field began on 3rd Jan with great numbers attending. Unfortunately long term injuries to Mark Carey and Andrew Collins and with other players working abroad, meant that Damien had to plan without some of them throughout the year.

Our Senior team began the A league on Feb 20th with a 2 point defeat to Dunboyne in a game that was played in Dunganny due to unplayable pitch here in Seneschalstown. Our next league game was away to Donaghmore/Ashbourne where we got our first win thanks to scoring 4 goals. Unfortunately our A league campaign this year has been pretty poor winning only 2 games (Donaghmore/Ashbourne, Summerhill), drawing 2 games (Blackhall Gaels, Duleek/Bellewstown) and losing 7 games (Dunboyne, Walterstown, O'Mahonys, Dunshaughlin, Skyrne, St. Patricks, Wolfe Tones) and being relegated to Div2. Most of our defeats in the league were only by 1 or 2 points and in games that we were unlucky not to win. I would hope that next year that we place a lot more emphasis on the League and ensure that we are in the position of gaining promotion back to Div1. In years that we have been successful in the championship we have also done very well in the league, so it is important to get that winning culture instilled in the team from start of the year in league games.

In the Feis Cup we were beaten by Carnaross in 1st Round by 2 points on a scoreline of 2-8 to 1-9, with the game coming only 7 days after our championship loss to Nobber. We were probably still suffering from a lack of confidence and missing some key players like David Lyons, Robert Ruddy, Stephen, Joe and Brian Sheridan.

On the championship front we were drawn in Group B along with Dunshaughlin, Rathkenny, Nobber, O'Mahonys and Donaghmore/Ashbourne and would play them in that order. Most

felt that we should be able to win our first 3 games and be qualified for quarter finals by end of May! But unfortunately this wasn't the case.

Our championship campaign began on April 15th with a 4 point defeat to Dunshaughlin on a score line of 1-10 to 0-9. Having lead by 5 points at half-time, we suffered 2 vital injuries to Damien Sheridan and Bryan Clarke just after half-time, along with conceding a goal and having a man sent off disrupted the team and allowed Dunshaughlin to gain momentum and the upperhand to edge out winners by the end.

Our next game was against Rathkenny where we eventually came out on top with a 2 point win over our neighbours. Having been 4 points up with a minute to go we let Rathkenny in to score a goal and reducing the deficit to 1 point before added a point in injury time to secure the win on a score line of 0-10 to 1-5 and getting our first points of the campaign.

Next up was Nobber who had lost their opening 2 games. With Brian Farrell in fine form on that evening, Nobber pulled off a great victory with a 4 point win on a score line of 2-12 to 0-14. This left us needing to win our last 2 games in the group to guarantee qualification to the quarter finals.

Next up was O'Mahonys and this was going to be a very tough game, as O'Mahonys were top of the group after winning all previous 3 games, and with the opportunity to end our championship season early with a win against us. On a damp windy day in Pairc Tailteann we only managed a point in the first half and trailed by 5 points at the break. But a great fight back in the second half where Brian Sheridan scored 8 points (5 from frees) along with keeping O'Mahonys scoreless until injury time where Jake Regan added 2 frees, Seneschalstown earned their second win of the campaign on a score line of 0-10 to 1-5.

This kept our qualification chances alive, and knowing that a win against

Donaghmore\Ashbourne in our final group game, would guarantee us a quarter final spot.

Unfortunately Brian Sheridan went to Chicago for remainder of summer and would be a huge lost to us in this final game. In our final group game we started extremely well against Donaghmore\Ashbourne, scoring 9 points in first half and only for conceding a goal with 2 mins to go to halftime would have led by 6 points going into the interval.

Donaghmore\Ashbourne proved too strong in second half scoring a number of unanswered points and could even afford to miss a penalty before running out winners on a score line of 1-13 to 0-13.

This left us knocked out the competition for another year and brought to an end the tenure of most successful manager that the club has seen to date.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Senior management team for all the commitment and hard work that they have put into the Senior team over the past few years. A lot of this work goes unnoticed or recognised by the wider membership of the club, and it is a great credit to yourselves that you have put some much dedication and time into preparing the team for training and games throughout the year. The club is truly indebted to have people like this give so much time and commitment for the benefit of the players and the supporters. So on behalf of the club I would like you to thank Shane Finnegan, Mickey Dillion, Tommy Finnegan, Brian Barry and Mary Sheridan.

Damien Sheridan has been our Senior Manager for the past 5 years, and he is a man who brings a huge amount of passion and hunger to the team, who has set the high standards and brought this club to a new level. A man who has tirelessly shown a huge commitment to the job which has resulted in the club's most successful period to date, where we have reached 3 SFC finals in 5 years, winning 2 of them, 2 Feis Cups and an A League Final. Our sincere thanks to Damien for all that he has done and achieved for the club. Damien you will be a very hard act to follow! I hope that you enjoy your well-earned rest!

Junior B

Our Junior B team under the guidance of Phonsie Gilsean, Mattie McCabe, Martin McGuirk and Damien Sheridan had a fairly successful year in both League and Championship, and were unlucky not to progress further in the Championship in the Quarter Final against St. Vincents where they just didn't get going on the night. They were drawn in Group A of the Junior B Championship along with Clonard, Dunshaughlin, St. Marys, Gaeil Colmcille, Drumree, St. Pauls and Blackhall Gaels. They won 5 (Blackhall Gaels, Drumree, Dunshaughlin, Gaeil Colmcilles, St. Marys), drew 1 (St. Pauls) and lost 1 (Clonard by 6pts – who eventually won the competition).

In the League they were in Div1 and only played 8 games as final game against Donaghmore\Ashbourne was not been played, winning 4, drawing 1, and losing 3. They had wins against Wolfe Tones, Summerhill, Blackhall Gaels, Duleek/Bellewstown, drew against Simonstown, and lost to O'Mahonys by 7pts, Dunshaughlin by 1 pt, Ratoath by 1 pt. So as you can see they were unlucky in 2 of the defeats by just a single point.

The Junior B squad is a hard squad to manage where they lose players regularly to the Senior team throughout the course of the championship and that makes it harder to have a settled team. Therefore it's great credit to the Management team that they were able to consistently contest and win games in both championship and league. So well done lads, keep up the great work and with a bit of luck next year we can achieve greater success.

Junior D

Our Junior D team under the guidance of Tony McDonnell, Leo Sheridan, and Kevin Clarke had a mixed year in both League and Championship, but the success here is that we have at least 35 players turning up for training and games throughout the year. This team is providing an important level of football to the club, in giving a platform to younger players to play adult football before progressing up to Junior B or Senior, while at the same time giving other players an opportunity to continue playing at a level that they are comfortable with, and keeping a connection with the club. With these numbers the club should seriously consider looking at the possibility of entering a second Junior D team next year even if it was just for League, to ensure that we give these 35 players games and not lose them to other sports.

The Junior D were drawn in Group A for the Junior D Championship along with Dunsany, Donaghmore\Ashbourne, Gaeil Colmcille, Meath Hill and Longwood. They won 2 (Meath Hill and Longwood – both conceded), drew 1 against Dunsany and lost 2 to Donaghmore\Ashbourne and Gaeil Colmcille, missing out on qualification to knockout stages. The fact that we drew with Dunsany who went on to win the Junior D Championship shows that we probably should have progressed further and losing by 1 point to Gaeil Colmcille shows how narrowly we lost out on qualifying.

On the league front the Junior D team were in Div7 but only played 6 games out of 7 due to Kilbride withdrawing. They won 3, drew 1, and lost 2. They had wins against Ballivor, Trim, Dunsany, drew against Moynalty, and lost to Longwood by 7pts, Boardsmill by 1 pt.

I would like to thank the Junior D Management team for all their hard work during the year and providing a vital outlet to players within the club. It's great to see that you have your own training sessions which encourages players to attend and play at a level they are comfortable with. Thanks again to Ted, Leo and Kevin.

U21

Our U21's under the management of Alan Geraghty, Leo Sheridan and Damien Sheridan Jr, prepared the team during the months of September and October with a number training sessions and challenge matches. We were drawn in the A grade against Dunshaughlin, which was going to be a big undertaking given that many of their team were part of their Senior team that were beaten in the SFC final a week earlier. And it proved so on the night that Dunshaughlin were just too strong and the experience of a number of their players playing at Senior level was evident for all to see. The final score was 2-15 to 1-8. On a positive note all the players on the squad are U21 next year and will have gained a lot more experience in the next year to be better equipped for next year's campaign.

New Senior Manager

Our search for a new Senior Manager began in earnest after we were eliminated from the championship in August. Prior to that, the Executive had approached Damien Sheridan to see what his plans were for next year and he indicated that he would be stepping down after his 5 years to allow someone else the opportunity and to freshen things up for the players. Sub – Committee setup to find new Senior Football Manager by Executive. We advertised the job with all local newspapers, websites and social media. All applications were to be submitted by 7th Sept 2011. Sub-Committee met numerous times during the application period to come up with a list of possible candidates. They drew up a list of 35 managers, including those that applied directly, from within club, county and outside the county and narrowed the list down to 15. They then approach the perspective managers to see if they were interested. 7 stated that they were interested and willing to go forward for interviews. Sub-Committee set about defining a list of Interview Questions for all candidates. Sub-Committee Spoke to Liam Keane to ensure that they were asking the “right” questions and to get an understanding of what to look for etc. They arranged interviews over a 3 week period with 2 candidates per night. Interviews were conducted in Navan in a neutral venue to allow privacy to all candidates and each interview was 1.5 hours long. Sub-Committee also solicited feedback from players and members in other clubs that these candidates had previously managed. Sub-Committee came up with a Ratings spreadsheet to help collate all feedback and to allow us to rate all candidates based on Qualifications, Experience, Success, Interviews Questions, Cost and Feedback from other clubs. This technique allowed us to rate candidates individually and against each other. Sub-Committee came up with a Pro & Cons sheet for each Candidate to summarise the feedback gathered during the interviews and fact finding sessions. This information was presented to Executive and discussed at length before a secret ballot to vote on our preferred candidate.

We were delighted to announce that Dermot Smyth was selected and has gratefully accepted the position. Dermot has already met with the players and they have received fitness and conditioning programmes to work on over the next few weeks. Training in earnest will begin in January. We wish Dermot and his team all the best in the forthcoming year.

Dermot will require 2 club selectors to work with him and his trainer Martin Byrne. So if anyone is interested please make yourselves known to the new Executive by end of November. Then Dermot will talk to all interested candidates before deciding on which 2 he wants and they will be ratified by New Executive before January 2012.

Juvenile

Our Juvenile Club have again continued to grow from strength to strength with huge numbers turning up at U6 to U10 levels, and also great numbers of parents getting involved to coach and mentor teams. They have large number of mentors undertaking coaching and first aid/defibrillator courses, which is a great credit to the club and will be a huge benefit to all the children. They also had talks by Colm O'Rourke, Fergal Logan & Peter Canavan organised for coaches, which gave great insights in to how to coach kids. It's great to see the amount of children down training on Saturday morning throughout the year – so keep up the great work. U6 to U10 the teams had numerous challenge matches and blitzes throughout the year using the Go-Game format and this was great for those involved. At U12 level the team got to the championship finals days in Pairc Tailteann but lost narrowly by 4 points to a very strong Duleek/Bellewstown team, and also reach the 7-a-side Final losing to Summerhill. Well done to all involved. At U15 level the lads got to the Div2 Semi-Final where they lost out to eventual winners NaFianna/Longwood.

At U16 level the lads entered the Leinster League and reached the final losing to Blessington from Wicklow. They were pitted in Div1 of the championship against all the strong teams losing games by the thinnest margins. But year ended well in beating St. Vincents to win the Patrick Ward Tournament. Our U17's reached Semi-Final but lost to Ballinlough by a point. Our Minors reached the Semi-Final of the league losing by a point to Moynalty after extra-time, but gained revenge by winning the Div4 Championship against Moynalty by a comfortable margin. Great credit to the players and management team in achieving this great success.

As mentioned already the Juvenile have been instrumental in the School Coaching and Family Fun Day. They also promoted the use of Gumshields and arranged for them to be professionally made and fitted for 75 players across all the clubs.

Ladies

Ladies Club had another successful year on the field. The Ladies Senior team won the double by winning the Championship and Div1 league. The U-19 team are doing really well at moment with 3 wins out of 3 and topping their group and are into the Div3 Semi-Final next week. U-15's reached Final but lost to Simonstown last weekend, U-14 won Shield Final, U-13's have also reached their final which was played yesterday but lost to Dunboyne, and U-11's won Shield Final last weekend. This year the U-14's represented the club and county at the Annual Feile competition in Cork, where they reached the Semi-Final. The Ladies club had 10 representatives on the Meath Senior County panel and also 5 club representatives on the Meath U-14 county panel. It is great to see the club members playing at this level. One of their Senior players, Fiona Mahon was nominated for an All-Ireland Ladies Senior Football All-Star, which were announced at weekend and although Fiona was not successful, we can be very proud that she was nominated among the elite of the country. The Ladies club also had members on the Mercy school panel which won the All-Ireland schools title. These were Ruth Sheridan, Aisling Corcoran, Aimee Gilsenan and Natasha Mullen.

Well done to all involved with the Ladies' club in continuing to achieve these high standards and providing a huge service to the ladies of the community.

Future Vision

As a club we have been financially sound for years ensuring that we spend only within our means. Our development work in recent years was done without burdening debt against the club, but through clever fundraising initiatives and grants. So great credit is due to past Executive committees and hardworking, generous members for achieving this. There are few clubs in the country to be able to claim this and boast the standard of facilities that we have and achieve the success on the field over the past few years, without undertaking some serious debt.

As a club we continue to grow and the numbers turning out for teams at all ages and in all the clubs are fantastic. Across all the clubs we have 25 teams and this is causing a great strain on our pitches to be able to facilitate all these teams for training and matches. This probably highlights one of the major future visions of the club in obtaining more land to create additional pitches to cater for our growing numbers. As we continue to grow as a club and increasing in size of numbers playing, it will be vital that we obtain a second pitch to cater for our playing and training needs. I hope that this something that the new Committee will place a priority in the forthcoming years.

We are also looking at Floodlighting solutions for both our main pitch and training pitch. The GAA have engaged with a company called Shared Access to provide floodlighting solutions free of charge to clubs in return for placing an aerial to boost mobile and broadband signals in that area. The club would also receive an annual rental income from Shared Access for having this aerial on our site. The site is currently being examined by Shared Access and we should know soon if we are applicable to this offer. With the number of teams we currently have, floodlights available on main pitch would allow more games and training sessions to take place.

The Juvenile club are also looking into the possibility of creating a Skills Wall, which would be on the top gable end of the hall and would be enclosed for safety. This Skills Wall would be used by all teams to help improve basic skills and has proved hugely successful in other clubs and schools that have implemented it. They are currently getting plans drawn up and obtaining quotes and also assessing the usability of the Wall among team managers by trialling it on internal walls inside the hall.

One of the worries that we as a Senior Club need to address is the amount of our underage teams playing at too low a grade in Divisions 3, 4 & 5. While I understand the need to ensure players are not dishearten by losing all the time if playing in the higher divisions against the town teams, it is still something that we need to address. Otherwise our players coming through to play Adult football will not be prepared to play at the level required. Other rural clubs like Skryne are able to maintain playing in the higher divisions, so it is something that we should strive to do here if we are to maintain our Senior status in the future. We also need our Junior teams to be playing at higher levels, our Junior B team should be playing at Junior A level to help bridge the gap to Senior. Our Junior B team plays in Division 1 of B League along with other teams in Junior A level and are able to maintain their own against them, so it is not beyond the possibilities. Given how strong the urban teams are becoming, we need this progression at Juvenile and Junior levels in order to not only win championships again at Senior level but to ensure that we remain at Senior level for the future. We need look no further than our neighbours Slane and St.Marys to see how you can quickly descend down through the grades!

Club Mass

I would like to thank Fr. Pat Coyne for celebrating our annual mass for our deceased which

was celebrated in Kentstown yesterday.

Thank You

I would like to thank Liz Sheridan, Chairperson, for the professional manner in which she conducted the business of the Club. Liz has decided to step down as Chair and give the opportunity to someone else to bring new vigour and energy into the committee. Liz's passion, drive, enthusiasm and commitment in this role have been very much appreciated these past 5 years. It is no coincidence that under her leadership we have seen one of the most successful periods for the club both on and off the field. During her office the club has undergone huge development with completion of new pitch and tarmac driveway/parking, extension to clubhouse with new dressing rooms and our new Gym. On the field, the club has also reached 3 Senior Finals, winning 2 of them during this period. Personally Liz has been a great source of advice in my role as Secretary this year and has always been there to take my calls or emails. This help has allowed me the opportunity to grow and develop in my role and I am very appreciative of this – so thank you Liz. And as a small token of our gratitude please accept these flowers on our behalf.

I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow committee members, without whose tireless work and co-operation my job would have been impossible. In particular I would like to thank the following:

- Everyone on the Gate Rota, who ensured that pitch and dressing rooms were ready and money collected for any games played during the year. I would particularly like to thank Declan Kinsella who made himself available for all Gate Rotas throughout the year and acted as great cover for anyone missing. He was always willing to assist when asked and gave up his free time without question. Thanks Declan.
- Grounds committee for all the work done around the pitch and club house to keep it in great shape.
- I would like to thank John Battersby for managing the pitch bookings this year and ensuring that all teams had access to pitches when required. It is not an easy task to juggle the demand on pitches for training and games.
- Our PRO Elaine Battersby for ensuring all match reports were submitted to papers and keeping our website and Facebook page updated on a regular basis.
- On behalf of the club I would like to thank Alan Geraghty for his outstanding work as Insurance Officer. It is a very complex and necessary service, with a huge amount of unseen work involved in pursuing the immense paper trail associated with each claim.
- And finally our Treasurer Pat Clarke deserves our thanks for his conscientious custody of the Club's financial affairs, ensuring money is wisely spent and driving our efforts in obtaining money through his dedication to the weekly lotto.

Sympathies

I would like to extend my sincere sympathy on behalf of the Club, to all officers, players, members and friends who have suffered bereavements during the last year.

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Gordon McGuirk
Secretary
14th November 2011