

Tuairisc an Rúnaí.

Is mór an phribléid dom Thuairisc an Rúnaí a chur ós comhair Comhdháil Comhairle na Mumhan don bhliain 2011. Bliain gnóthach a bhí ann, Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil do gach éine a raibh pairteachle hobair an Comhairle I rith 2011. Go raibh mile maith agaibh go leir.

2011 was certainly a year of challenge for all GAA supporters and GAA units as the economic situation in our country deteriorated and many of our players and patrons found themselves either out of work or in financial difficulties not envisaged a couple of years ago. This led to challenges for every strand of our Association from Club level where “Emigration and lack of Finance” threatened their very existence, to County, Provincial and National level where funding and backup provided to our subsidiary units came under pressure. The catchphrase value for money some would say should have no place in a sporting context however we must be prudent and careful in our spending and in our support for development which in the past we would have automatically seen as progressive. However, this prudent approach should in no way diminish our support for projects or new initiatives which are seen as enhancing the development of our games or the experience of our patrons at our venues.

It is not all doom and gloom however, as many of our games were well attended and the quality of skill combined with the spirit in which they were played gave patrons an enjoyable experience. A day out at any sporting occasion gives value for money and particularly at our games where family and group packages are available for all our championship games. Our challenge is to enlighten the public on what is on offer and maybe incentivise further the punter who is prepared to purchase tickets in advance.

Firstly, let us look at the GAA Infrastructure provided in Munster for the running of our Inter-county fixtures. We are unique in that we have four Major Stadia and four other grounds with the ability to host events of 20,000 plus. This is testimony to the foresight and vision of past leaders in our Counties and this Council’s consistent financial support. The question might rightly be asked if those four major stadia are needed today with transport having progressed to give access to all parts of the Province within a reasonable timeframe. Recognised, as our Association’s Second Stadia Semple Stadium Thurles underwent a major revamp with an investment of €18 million provided by Croke Park, this Council and Semple Stadium Committee in the last few years. Gaelic Grounds Limerick also spent €12 million a couple of years ago while Fitzgerald Stadium Killarney completed Phase 1 of their development also. Pairc Uí Chaoimh once the pearl in the crown of GAA stadia now finds itself in serious need of a major upgrade, patron safety and comfort are paramount and with changing patron behaviour in recent years this stadium urgently needs its planned redevelopment to make it fit for purpose and safe for use in our fixture calendar. So, the question might be posed again do we need Pairc Uí Chaoimh. I contend that it is important that Cork the Second City in our State has a GAA Stadium which offers our patrons safety and comfort and sends out a

signal that our Association is vibrant in the City by the Lee. Financially this must not interfere with our other commitments toward games development and promotion however as a Council in infrastructural terms we must recognise that with limited resources, it must be our priority to support Cork in a reasonable way financially to develop a stadium which gives safety and comfort the priority it requires. This does not mean that a stadium facilitating huge attendances is required, no a Stadium with the most up-to-date patron and event management facilities will send out the positive message required. Where does this leave Semple Stadium, Gaelic Grounds and indeed Fitzgerald Stadium in terms of Council funding support, it is my view that the Council must now prioritise and having generously supported other Stadia with the exception of Killarney, these stadia and counties must accept that the Council has limited resources and support this prioritization..

It has long been recognised and acknowledged that there is a massive financial spin off in towns and cities where venues hosting big games are located. While I am no expert in this area I am also aware that this is and should be, of benefit to the local County Board when seeking financial support from the business community in their area. This allied to the 15% field rent, Programme Advertising and Sales is a massive boost for the respective counties, a fact sometimes ignored by those that take issue with us on funding distribution. No other Council or even Croke Park give 15% field rent or allow Programme Revenue to remain with the host venue. We have generously looked after our Major stadia with permission for Term Ticket schemes at a serious cost to this Council a revenue source not allowed by any other Council or unit within the Association. As the economic situation continues to remain precarious we must as a Council examine if we can afford to continue with these schemes. In my view if we continue to allow 15% field rent then we cannot afford to continue with Term Ticket schemes, it must be one or the other.

Over the years this Council has allocated grants to Clare and Waterford toward maintenance and upkeep of their respective County Grounds, I am somehow sceptical that this funding was at all times spent on such projects and I believe that in future before allocating such grants we should work with these counties to decide how these monies are spent and identify what issues or work we want prioritised.

The phenomenon of Centres of Excellence within Counties is now the main driver in all counties. This began with the purchase of Morris Park by Tipperary in 1995 soon followed by Limerick with the purchase of Mick Neville Park. This Council actively supported our Counties with applications to the National Infrastructural and Safety Committee and the Finance Committee for serious funding toward these facilities in all Counties bar Kerry who did not have such a project at the relevant time. It is disappointing for the Council to see one such County publicly berating this Council for not adding to this funding for their particular centre. I would remind the Gaels of all counties that there are six counties within this Province and it is the Council responsibility to attempt to spread our funding support as equitably as possible within the limits at our disposal. As it is Tipperary, who have made this issue public, it is important that the record is set straight and so with the help of Leas Runaí Enda Mc

Guane we have compiled from official records all monies directly and indirectly distributed to Tipperary for Physical development over the last number of years. I think that any fair minded Tipperary GAA Supporter will recognise that this Council has indeed delivered serious financial support to the Premier County. This can be seen on a separate spread sheet which is contained in appendix 1 directly following this report.

Over the last few years I have put forward ideas as I believe it is my responsibility as Runáí/ CEO to do, and this year I will again put forward my views on a few topics which I feel need discussion.

Apart from the funding debate for our Major Grounds which I have dealt with above the following are a few other points which we need to consider.

i) TV Coverage: At National level a Television Deal was done some years ago which also sold the rights to cover our games live. In 2011 a new three year deal was negotiated when it comes up for renewal I believe that this Council should be directly involved in these negotiations. We need to be careful in determining the future of our games so that those patrons who directly support our games by attending them are considered first. Also we need to be able to quantify the exact monetary value of both sponsorship and TV rights for our Munster games. On this issue we are shown on the GAA accounts to receive "Central Council Funding" a term which I have issues with as these are monies generated through Munster GAA games by sponsorship, TV rights etc and on the Coaching and games side of the house through initiatives and actual involvement in our Province.

ii) Clubs: How often do we hear it said that the Club is the foundation stone of the GAA and that it is the most important element in our games development and promotion. Now more than ever before we need to ensure that our clubs are given the supports they so urgently need through coaching supports, club development initiatives and back up advice. From Croke Park and Provincial level a dedicated club support official should be put in place to coordinate this support. At National level we have engaged in many new areas of work all beneficial no doubt but we need a dedicated official who's only task is to coordinate club support across all departments. At Provincial level the time has come I believe to have a Development Officer, elected or selected whose role should be to ensure that this support from full time and voluntary personnel is delivering to our clubs.

iii) G.P.A.: The conclusion of the agreement between the GAA and the GPA was a welcome development and ended a protracted period of poor relations between the Inter-County Players representatives and the Association For it's part the Association has provided a generous financial income stream for the GPA to engage in player welfare issues for Inter-county players. I believe that the most serious player welfare issue currently facing us is the scourge of unemployment and emigration. I believe that the GPA should put a package together for younger players to up-skill and improve their employment possibilities. Maybe this is in train but I have not heard of it.

iv) Finance: With the economic climate in our country continuing to cause difficulties for our members and patrons which in turn has a knock on affect in our gate returns we must look at every item of expenditure and examine ways of enhancing our commercial income. Counties and clubs must appreciate that we cannot at this difficult time

continue to be as generous with grant allocations as we have been in recent times. This year gone past we allocated Club Development Grants and all Ireland Finalist grants far higher than any other Provincial Council. In fact other Councils made no contribution to Club Development grants at all. It is also worth noting that no County make provision for Club Physical Development grants.

v) Emigration: During the year I articulated the view that the time had come for the GAA to look at this serious problem for our clubs and maybe initiate a scheme which would in some way create a buffer which would enhance employment prospects for our players. I believed then and now that the pressure for such an initiative or some other initiative should be driven from our clubs. I am aware of clubs who have lost fifteen to twenty players in the last year alone. This drain on club playing numbers will not only affect participation but also standards and skill levels as not only first team players are leaving but also the substitutes who would have replaced them I was disappointed with the lack of reaction from club level to the debate however I was heartened by the positive response from individual GAA officials and indeed GAA business leaders who asked that even the idea of developing a GAA player unemployment profile register in each county be set up. I still believe that the GAA who has always prided itself in its community base must in some serious way respond to what is the most serious challenge facing communities and clubs at the moment. I may not have the solutions but the problem is clearly there and is not going away any time in the near future.

vi) To receive a concession in any walk of life whether it be, boarding a train, bus or attending an event the claimant must provide photographic proof of entitlement. It is a constant source of difficulty for our gate personnel that a considerable percentage of our patrons continue to arrive without such identification and then become agitated when reminded of these conditions. I have in fact seen patrons who I know to be well short of pension age attempting to avail of this concession, this interferes with our game management and disturbs the normal entry for those entitled to this concession. The GAA some years ago decided to give free entry to our non ticket games to all patrons who had not reached the age of sixteen on the day of the game, this concession is a very generous one as other codes do not engage in such promotion. The difficulty arises again where attempts to claim this concession while not having any age proof card on the young person. It is very difficult for a person on a gate to positively ascertain the exact age of a young patron. Something has to be done to alleviate this problem at our gates.

Munster Senior Championships 2011:

In 2011 we launched our senior championships in the splendid facility of Mallow GAA complex on May 16th This event also saw the launch of our ticket packages for these games the success of which can be measured through the report of Leas Runaí Eanna Mac Dubhann. Clubs and individuals in some counties availed extensively of these packages however patrons in other counties either were not aware of them or showed little or no interest. In 2012 we must directly inform club officials of the benefits of the ticket packages on offer. Our gratitude goes to all players, officials and media who supported this launch.

Referees

At Provincial level we continue to be served well by a bunch of high quality dedicated referees who continually perform their role in a professional manner. Under the spotlight more than any other person, on or off the field they are expected to perform to perfection in every decision. The back up team of linepersons and umpires are also important to ensure the referee has information on what is going on around him.

Ticketing

The GAA invested in, and took on board a new ticketing system for our games in 2011. This created a lot of challenges for this Council at the start of our Senior Championships. In fact there were times when we felt that we were like guinea pigs as the new system was rolled out and issues arose. Ticket Master who had served this Province and indeed the Association well was replaced by Tickets .ie as the official Ticket provider. My Deputy Enda Mc Guane worked hard with the Ticket Office Croke Park and in particular Ronan Murphy to resolve these teething problems and ensure that we could deliver the service our Counties, clubs and most importantly our patrons deserve. Now as we enter season two of this new system I believe that we must ensure that all elements of this system work efficiently as they should. I believe that with the experience of last year behind us that this will be the case. Ticket Master will still have access to our tickets and they will continue to be available through this system

Senior Football.

Sponsors: Ulster Bank: SuperValu: Eircom:

All Ireland champions Cork started their defence at Pairc Uí Chaoimh on May 22nd when the boys of Clare tested their credentials. On the day Cork proved worthy and convincing winners on a score line of Cork 1 goal and 23 points Clare 11 points. The opening minutes saw both teams exchange scores and after eight minutes the score stood at two points apiece, however, after this Cork started to drive on and never looked troubled by a Clare side lacking in experience and guile. The start of the second period saw a short lived Clare revival and three further points on the scoreboard but Cork steadied and in clinical fashion put plenty of distance between them and their opponents.

Kerry Munster champions of 2011 began the defence of their crown at home in Killarney against Tipperary who have in recent years at underage level began to get the upper hand on the kingpins of Munster football. The first half saw a close fought encounter and the home team had only four points to spare at the break. A penalty award to the Kerry early in the second half put light between the teams and from then on though Tipp fought bravely they never came close enough to cause any upset. Tipperary had a goal disallowed in the sixtieth minute and this was followed by a quick Kerry attack and a goal at the other end. The margin of eleven points at the finish did not do justice to the

Tipperary efforts and in reality they showed further improvement on their performances of previous years. Having won the All Ireland Minor title in 2011 and the Munster Fe 21 title in 2010 Tipperary are laying the foundation for success at senior level some time in the near future.

The first semi final Kerry and Limerick at the Gaelic Grounds was played on a Saturday evening. This was a live TV game and unfortunately it did not live up to expectations as a relatively young and inexperienced Limerick side never really threatened the boys from the Kingdom. In the end Kerry had eleven points to spare and eagerly awaited the result from the game the next day with expectancy that they would meet old rivals Cork in the final. Limerick without the services and leadership of John Galvin through injury and others who had chosen in 2011 to concentrate on hurling were always going to struggle against a settled and experienced Kerry outfit and this is what happened on the day. Limerick, to their credit toward the end of the first half did score one goal and three points in a short period however this was not nearly enough to trouble the Kerry men.

The second semi-final saw Cork again play at Pairc Uí Chaoimh with Waterford provide the opposition. A Slick Cork outfit swept away the Decia lads on a score-line of Cork 5 goals and 17points to Waterford 2 goals and 8points. From the fourth minute when the Waterford net shook from a Cork goal this game or any hopes of a close encounter faded faster than the speed of light. Waterford to their credit tried hard throughout but they were just out gunned and outclassed by the All Ireland champions who had too much in the tank for the challengers. The scene was now set for a showdown in Killarney between the All Ireland champions Cork and the Munster champions Kerry.

In the final Kerry exerted early pressure and after sixteen minutes had notched up a six point lead over their rivals. Between that and the break they increased that lead to eight points also shooting eight wides in that period. The second half saw a Cork resurgence with some beautiful points and aided by a converted penalty they showed how they had captured the All Ireland crown the year previous. When, with just three minutes left of normal time and Kerry just one point in front John Miscella hit the upright and the ball skewed wide, one wondered how Kerry had let a nine points lead slip to so narrow a margin and could have been caught. Held scoreless for the first twenty seven minutes of the second half it was only Kerry's hard work ethic and tactical switches which kept them in front of this determined Cork outfit. In the last ten minutes roles were reversed and Cork were held scoreless which determined the final result Kerry 1 goal and 15 points Cork 1 goal and 12 points. A crowd of almost 41,000 attended this game and on a beautiful day in sunny Killarney they witnessed a typical sporting but tough encounter between these two great rivals.

No. of games: 5

Total No of scores: 164

Actual Scores: 16 goals 148 points

Average per game: 3.2 goals 29.5 points

Senior Hurling:

Sponsors: Guinness: Centra: Etihad Airways:

The meeting of Tipperary All Ireland Senior Hurling Champions and Cork in the Munster Senior Hurling Quarter Final for the third year in a row was the main talking point across the GAA world in 2011. Could Cork topple the All Ireland champions at the first hurdle was the question on every hurling followers lips.

Semple Stadium was the venue this time and the game got off to a riveting start with first Cork being denied a goal by a reflex save from Tipp goalkeeper Brendan Cummins and then one minute later Donal O'g' obliged at the other end with an equally impressive defence,. While the early exchanges provided some good scores Tipp seemed to have the cutting edge and when in a three minute spell with Cork behind by two points Tipp struck with clinical precision first with Lar Corbett then Eoin Kelly, these two goals set the home crowd ecstatic on the approach to half time. Incredibly with only a few minutes remaining to the break, there was still time for five more scores three points for Cork and two for Tipp. So Tipp went in with a seven point advantage and for the early part of the second half both teams exchanged points to the forty sixth minute when Cork upped a gear and started to make inroads in the Tipperary lead. Certainly for the next period Cork held the upper hand and by the fifty sixth minute had drawn level with their opponents. But Tipperary had not been crowned All Ireland champions 2010 as a team to lie down and the expected resurgence happened with some excellent scores culminating in a late goal which put paid to any hope of a grand stand finish. Tipperary had shown their metal and Cork had shown heart and promise for the year ahead. Tipperary 3 goals 22 points Cork 23 points.

The first of our Munster Senior Hurling semi-finals took place at Semple Stadium where Waterford, Munster champions in 2011 took on Limerick who had their own issues in 2010. Under the managerial reign of former Cork supremo Donal O'Grady Limerick having shown promise in the league were hoping for further improvement and indeed their loyal followers got plenty to shout for and but for a little bit of misfortune might have got another crack at the Deice boys. The game started with Limerick showing in front and both teams exchanged scores for the first quarter. And at the twenty minute mark Waterford had drawn two points clear following a John Mullane goal. Waterford now started to show their wares and drew six points clear over the next fifteen minutes then a cracking Limerick goal saw the half time score Waterford 1 goal and 9 points Limerick 1 goal and six points. The second half saw Limerick up the pace early on and when Waterford again scored a goal in the forty fourth minute the teams were level again. Over the next period the lead changed on a number of occasions and as we entered the last minute of normal time two Limerick points gave them the edge for time added on. A saved Waterford close in free seemed to point to a surprise Limerick victory but up stepped John Mullane again with another brilliant goal to put Waterford fans into ecstasy and Limerick into the qualifiers. Mind you Limerick could have equalised in those dying seconds but Waterford defended as if their lives depended on it and held out for victory by the narrowest of margins.

The second semi-final saw All Ireland champions Tipperary take on near rivals Clare who had annexed the Under 21 crown in 2010. Tipp, firm favourites were hit by a thunderbolt in the opening minutes as Clare stormed into an early lead and by the eight minute were six points clear of their opponents. Over the next ten minutes scores were exchanged yet the difference remained at six points. Then defensive errors by Clare gave the opening for what is regarded as a lethal Tipperary attack and in a four minute spell they shot three goals courtesy of Eoin Kelly, Patrick Maher and Lar Corbett. Clare regrouped and fought hard to get on level terms but three points separated the teams at the break. In the second half Tipperary showed composure and Clare showed determination but the former gained clear advantage to go into a comfortable eight point lead by the fifty third minute. Clare did reply, however when Sheamus Callinan latched on to a rebound after a wonderful save by the Clare goalkeeper to shake the rigging the game was up for the challengers.

Munster Hurling Final day is always special but this one will be remembered for only one reason, Tipperary's four goal blitz just before half time. Leading up to this game all supporters eagerly awaited the clash of Munster champions 2010 and All Ireland champions 2010. A tough close contest was expected and in the early stages while Tipp took the lead nothing hinted at what was to follow. Indeed with thirty minutes gone Tipp lead by six points and while Waterford were in arrears they were matching Tipp in intensity and endeavour. Then in the thirty second minute Eoin Kelly goaled, followed by a Lar Corbett goal in the thirty fourth minute. Waterford thought things could'ent get worse, but they did, just into added time Tipp struck again with another goal from Seamus Callinan and a minute later another, this time from Corbett again. Last score of the half went to Waterford with a point on the stroke of the whistle however the half time score of Tipp 5 goals and 10 points Waterford 8 points had some Waterford followers and neutrals heading for the hills. Damage limitation was the only hope for the second half and to be fair to Waterford they never gave up and outscored Tipp by six points to five in the first fifteen minutes of the period. Then in the fifty fifth minute goal number six for Tipp followed by another eleven minutes later. Game over, new champions of Munster hurling. Tipperary 7 goals 19 points Waterford 19 points.

Munster Council invested a lot of time, effort and indeed finance to ensure that concerns expressed by patrons at games with large attendances held in recent years at this venue were addressed. Most of these worked well however further work needs to be done if future games are to be held here. Also all changes which must include entry points to stadium and internal shops must be communicated to patrons well in advance of any fixture.

No. of games: 4

Total No of scores: 171

Actual Scores: 21 goals 150 points

Average per game: 5.25 goals 37.5 points

Comhairle Na Mumhan - 2011 Munster Senior Championships

	<u>code</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Attendances.</u>
29/5	Hurling	Semple Stadium	Tipperary V Cork	31,231
12/6	Hurling	Semple Stadium	Limerick V Waterford	15,650
19/6	Hurling	Gaelic Grounds	Clare V Tipperary	16,700
10/7	Hurling Final	Pairc Uí Chaoimh	Tipperary V Waterford	30,240
			Total	93,821
			Average over four games	23,455
			Comparable average figure 2010	24,046
16/5	<i>Football</i>			
22/5	<i>Football</i>	<i>PaircUí Chaoimh</i>	<i>Cork V Clare</i>	4,186
22/5	<i>Football</i>	<i>Killarney</i>	<i>Kerry V Tipperary</i>	9,500
4/6	<i>Football</i>	<i>Gaelic Grounds</i>	<i>Kerry V Limerick</i>	6,100
5/6	<i>Football</i>	<i>PaircUí Chaoimh</i>	<i>Cork V Waterford</i>	3,365
3/7	<i>Football</i>	<i>Killarney</i>	<i>Kerry V Cork</i>	40,892
			Total	64,043
			Average over five games	12,808
			<u>Comparable averageFigure 2010</u>	15,697

Bord Gáis Fé 21 Hurling Championship.

The 2011 under 21 Hurling championship began at Semple Stadium on June 1st where Tipperary hosted Waterford in the Quarter final. This Waterford side came up short on the night and Tipperary came out on top on a score line of Tipperary 4 goals 12 points Waterford 1 goal 16 points.

Next on the agenda was the meeting of Tipperary and Cork also at Semple Stadium on July 15th. Tipperary fresh from winning the Munster Senior Hurling title and their under 21s having easily dispatched Waterford in the quarter final were favourites but Cork are never easily written off and so it proved on the evening. Having been defeated in extra time by Tipperary in the two previous years Cork were determined to make amends and quickly set a hectic pace with some brilliant early scores. After nine minutes Cork led by 1goal 7 points to a solitary point for the home team. For the remainder of the opening half Tipperary recovered and at the break Cork led by 2 goals and 10 points to Tipperary 1 goal and 12 points a cracker of a second half was in prospect. Mid way through the second half the teams were level and both sets of supporters had plenty to cheer about as excellent scores were notched up by both teams. In the final quarter Cork out scored their opposition by 1 goal and 7 points to 3 points and a thrilling encounter came to a close. Corks ability to score goals, four in total gave them the edge in this games and with forty five scores in total for both teams no wonder this competition has such interest for supporters.

The second semi final saw Clare, Provincial Champions in 2010, take on Limerick in Ennis on the 26th of July. Limerick though underdogs were not overawed by their opposition and a goal in the second minute gave them the ideal start. After ten minutes

they had increased the lead to six points and were playing fluently all over the pitch. Over the next period Clare got on top and then three well taken points from Limerick senior Kevin Downes helped Limerick to a 1 goal 10 points to 6 points for Clare at the break. On the resumption Clare got off to a flying start and within minutes had notched up a goal and two points to leave only two points between the sides. Gradually Limerick began to take over and scoring easier than their opposition they put over some fine scores from all angles. Clare fought bravely to the finish however they could not match the Shannonsiders and the final score read Limerick 2 goals 19 points Clare 1 goal 15 points. Following the two semi finals the meeting of a free scoring Cork and a balanced and sharp Limerick outfit was eagerly awaited in both counties and this game was fixed for the Gaelic Grounds a week later.

A beautiful sunny evening, a good crowd with plenty to cheer about, and excellent hurling skills on display is what every hurling fan thinks about. This game provided it all. Locked level at the end of normal time it took two periods of ten minutes each to separate these gifted and determined hurlers who gave of their all with pride and passion for their county jersey. Limerick started at a blistering pace and had hit the rigging after nineteen seconds. Cork however came into the game and spectacular fielding from dual player Aidan Walsh became the springboard for Corks impressive resurgence and half time lead of Cork 12 points Limerick 1 goal 7 points. Limerick started the second period as they did the first and within a short time had added two goals and three points to their tally. A Cork goal in the forty eight minute sparked a revival and with time running out and two points adrift of the Shannon-siders a home victory looked right on the cards however two late points from Cork forward Jamie Coughlan brought the sides to extra time and more thrills to whet the appetite. Extra time was just as pulsating as the earlier edition and with free flowing hurling and great individual skill on display patrons certainly got value for money in this hectic encounter. In the end Limerick's ability to hit the rigging was the difference and the final score line of Limerick 4 goals 20 points Cork 1 goal 27 points brought the curtain down on the hurling " Game of the Year" in this Province.

No. of games: 4

Total No. Of scores: 167

Actual Scores: 18 goals 149 points

Average per game: 4.5 goals and 37.25 points

Date	Code	Venue	Teams	Attendances
1/6	Hurling	Semple Stadium	Tipperary V Waterford	4,392
15/7/6	Hurling	Semple Stadium	Cork V Tipperary	3,732
26/7	Hurling	Cusack Park	Clare V Limerick	5,890
3/8	Hurling Final	Gaelic Grounds	Limerick V Cork	6,196
			Total	20,210
			Average over four games	5,052
			Comparable average figure 2010	5,954

Cadburys Fé 21 Football Championship:

In 2011 The Council switched the Fé 21 Football championship from weekend games to mid week and this proved popular with our patrons. The competition started on March 9th with Limerick taking on Clare at the Gaelic Grounds and Waterford facing Tipperary in Dungarvan, The Clare v Limerick game was nip and tuck throughout but with time almost up Clare held a five point advantage. A late limerick rally saw the scores level and extra time ensued. In extra time, Limerick did what was needed and came out on top on a score line Limerick 2 goals 11 points Clare 15 points.

The other quarter final saw Tipperary enter this competition as Munster champions from 2010. They showed no mercy for the Waterford boys as they always held the upper hand and never really seemed stretched by the opposition throughout the game. At half time the score line of Tipperary 1 goal 7 points Waterford 1 goal 3 points. The second half saw the Tipp boys extend their dominance and run out easy winners Tipperary 1 goal 14 points Waterford 1 goal 4 points.

The semi-final pairings of Cork and Tipperary in Pairc Uí Rinn and Limerick and Kerry in the Gaelic Grounds were played on 23rd of March. In the first game Tipperary, Munster champions the previous year struggled to keep pace with a classy Cork outfit. In the first half only two well taken goals by Tipperary kept them in touch and the half time score of Cork 10 points Tipperary 2 goals 1 point told it's own story. The second half was all Cork and they strode to an easy victory Cork 21 points Tipperary 2 goals 3 points.

The second semi-final played on the same night saw Limerick put it up to Kerry for the first half only to fade to the undoubted might and class of the Kerry boys after the resumption. At Half time only two points separated the sides on a score line of Kerry 1 goal 6 points Limerick 1 goal 4 points. The second half was all Kerry and they strode to an easy victory Kerry 3 goals 15 points Limerick 2 goals 6 points. The final was now a meeting of great football rivals Kerry and Cork and while in recent years Cork have had the dominant position in this grade Kerry looked to have an outfit to trouble them.

The final played in Pairc Uí Rinn certainly turned out not as expected but a runaway victory for the home team. From the off Cork posted their intentions with a score line of 2 goals 4 points within the first ten minutes to a single Kerry point. This dominance continued as Cork showed their opponents a clean pair of heels on many occasions and notched up some fine scores to lead at the break by sixteen points. Any hopes of a Kerry fight back were dashed as Cork continued to hold their tight grip on the game and ran out easy winners on a score line of Cork 2 goals 24 points Kerry 8 points.

No. of games: 5

Total No of scores: 134

Actual Scores: 13 goals 121 points

Average per game: 2.6 goals and 24.2 points

Attendances Fé 21 Football:

Date	Code	Venue	Teams	Attendances.
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9/3	Football	Dún Garbháin	Tiobraid Árann V Portláirge	585
9/3	Football	Páirc na nGael	Luimneach V An Clár	784
23/3	Football	Páirc Uí Rinn	Tiobraid Árann V Corcaigh	2,138
23/3	Football	Páirc na nGael	Ciarraí V Luimneach	1,242
6/4	Football Final	Páirc Uí Rinn	Ciarraí V Corcaigh	4,500
			Total	9,249
			Average over five games	1,849
			Comparable average figure 2010	1,332

Minor Hurling and Football Championships.

Our Minor Hurling and Football championships 2011 were run under the same format as the years previous with the losers in the quarter final getting a second chance through a losers group. Games in both Hurling and Football were competitive and provided great entertainment for the loyal followers.

I must again to register my displeasure with the timescale allowed under rule for us to run these competitions especially as it comes at a time of year where most of these players are preparing for the most serious exams of their lives.

The Minor Football championship kicked off on the 13th April with the three preliminary rounds Limerick V Tipperary, Cork V Clare Kerry V Waterford. Tipperary travelled to Kilmallock to play the locals and on the night they showed their superiority scoring more easily and their defence holding the upper hand. In the end the difference of seven points could have been much worse however Limerick could in the opening half have had a few majors but for plucky and stout defending by the Tipperary lads. Final score line Tipperary 1 goal 13 points Limerick 9 points.

Cork took on Clare at Pairc Uí Rinn and did not get it all their own way from a spirited Clare outfit who kept in touch throughout the game In the end the two goals one in each half were the difference between the teams. Cork 2 goals 10 points Clare 11 points. Kerry hosted Waterford in Tralee and this contest never really got going as the locals dominated from the outset and despite shooting some bad wides ran out easy winners Kerry 4 goals 16 points Waterford 6 points.

In the first of the playoffs Clare overcame Waterford and then accounted for Limerick to make the semi final pairings of Cork V Clare Tipperary v Kerry.

Cork travelled to Ennis to play Clare and having met in the preliminary round in Cork where Clare put up a spirited performance and having progressed through the back door one might have expected a closer contest. However Cork were clinical throughout and put Clare to the sword from early on and held a five point lead at the break despite playing against a stiff breeze. This began with a blistering goal after just seconds of the start and laid the foundation for the victory which was always inevitable after such a start. Final score Cork 1 goal 16 points Clare 6 points. The second semi final played at Semple saw Kerry start off in blistering fashion and had three goals and four points on the board within sixteen minutes and the home team could only manage two points. By half time Kerry still held a ten point lead and the locals could be forgiven for their belief that the game was beyond redemption. But not the Tipp players or management as the

second half unfolded Tipperary struck back with vengeance Drawing level on the fifty eight minute mark through two good goals and a number of well taken points the teams looked set for extra time but there were further twists and points were exchanged by both sides before Tipperary scored the winner well into time added on.

The final played in Killarney had Tipperary pitted against Cork a pairing which had not met in this decider since 1995. Also Tipperary had suffered defeats in three of the last five Provincial deciders at this grade so they needed to step up a notch to make their mark. While Cork had the better of the early exchanges Tipperary never faltered and aided by a goal in the fifteenth minute they never let Cork out of their sights. Three late Tipperary points meant parity at the break Cork 1 goal 7 points Tipperary 1 goal 7 points. This late rally spurred Tipperary and the second half was truly theirs. They went on to claim a famous victory all the more remarkable when you consider that ten of these lads are eligible in 2012. Of course we must not forget that this team went on to win the All Ireland title and give heart to the huge efforts being put into football in this hurling heartland.

No. of games: 8

Total No of scores: 264

Actual Scores: 32.230

Average per game: 4 goals and 28.75 points

The Minor Hurling championship began on April 27th with games in Walsh Park, Austin Stack Park and the Gaelic Grounds. Tipperary travelled to Waterford, Cork to Limerick and Clare to Tralee. The Tipperary Waterford game billed as the tie of the round produced a see saw battle with Waterford producing the best of the hurling early on and Tipperary clawing back score by score until just before the break when a Waterford goal put daylight between the teams at the interval. Half time score Waterford 1 goal 9 points Tipperary 7 points. From the start of the second half Waterford showed their serious intentions building on that first half lead to go nine points ahead. Tipperary do not die easily and slowly but clinically fought their way back into the game to enter the final minutes just one point in arrears. But Waterford recovered their nerve and rallied shooting over two points and a goal to finish Waterford 2 goals 16 points Tipperary 1 goal 13 points.

Cork having travelled to Pairc na nGael to face Limerick were expected to triumph but one had reckoned without the inevitable spin off of Harty success for Ard Scoil Rís and its influence on the players. On the night Limerick outshone Cork in every department and ran out deserving winners Limerick 2 Goals 14 points Cork 12 points.

The third quarter final had Clare travel to Tralee and this game unfortunately turned out to be a one sided affair with the locals no match for the Bannermen. Clare 6 goals 24 points Kerry 1 goal 8 points.

Cork overcame Kerry in the first playoff but Kerry showed tremendous improvement from their first outing. Then Cork faced old rivals Tipperary for a place in the semi finals. This game played at Semple saw a much slicker Tipperary outfit out gun their rivals to claim that semi final place. Tipperary 2 goals 16 points Cork 1 goal 9 points.

Tipperary now faced Clare and Waterford were pitted against Limerick. The Clare v Tipp game played at Semple saw early exchanges of scores and while Clare were dominating they were unable to shake off the home side which were determined to get a result. However early in the second half Clare simply put Tipp to the sword and they failed to score from the thirty sixth minute to the fifty fourth minute. During that time Clare shot over 1 goal and five points to take complete command of this fixture. A late goal for Tipperary put some gloss on the final score line Clare 3 goals 13 points Tipperary 1 goal 12 points.

Walsh Park was the setting for our second semi final between the local lads and their rivals Limerick. Rarely if ever has this venue seen such an enthralling intense and exciting dual at this level. Both teams gave everything, left nothing on the field but sweat and tears and real enjoyment to Hurling fans privileged to have witnessed this spectacle. At the off Waterford started with astonishing pace and shot into a commanding lead of twelve points (which included three goals) within ten minutes Limerick to their credit got to the task and started to claw back that huge deficit. While they were still nine points adrift at the interval they showed dominance in the second quarter of the game. Half Time Waterford 3 goals 7 points Limerick 1 goal 4 points. On the resumption Limerick showed further improvement and gradually eat into that Waterford lead so that with fifteen minutes remaining there was only a three point margin between the sides. Waterford again rallied however Limerick quickly struck back and within a short period equalled and then led by three points with five minutes remaining. Waterford again showed character and steadied to score three points and take this game to extra time. In the first period of extra time it became apparent that the home side had some ammunition left in the tank and that the visitors tired from their exertions to come back into the game. In that period Waterford scored five unanswered points and this sealed their victory and a place in the final against Clare for a repeat of the 2010 decider when Clare had prevailed on the day.

The final played as a curtain raiser to the senior final between Tipperary and Waterford had the expectance to be a close fought skilful encounter however Clare from the outset were always that bit better and one wondered if the exertions from the semi final just two weeks previous had a tiring effect on the Waterford lads. Not taking anything away from the performance of the Clare boys who started like a rocket and had chalked up twelve points by twenty minutes. Playing as a team and working hard they simply left Waterford in their wake at this point. While Waterford did enjoy some scores the interval was reached with Clare on top by seven points. Clare 14 points Waterford 1 goal 4 points. Early in the second half Clare broke through for a goal and the signs for Waterford were ominous from then on. Near the finish they did tack on some nice points and a goal in the fifty sixth minute to give some gloss to the score line. Clare 1 goal 20 points Waterford 3 goals 9 points.

It is disappointing that a decision was taken not to have a sponsor for these competitions. Maybe this is something the Provincial Councils could be allowed within their Provinces as it would allow for the I believe enhance the competition and generate much needed revenue in these challenging times.

No. of games: 8

Total No of scores: 189

Actual Scores: 23 goals 167 points

Average per game: 2.87 goals 20.87 7 points

Underage attendances 2011

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total attendance</u>	<u>No of games</u>	<u>Average attendance</u>	<u>averages 2010</u>
Under 21 Football	9249	5	1849	1332
Under 21 Hurling	20,210	4	5,052	5,954
Minor Hurling *	13,663	7	1,951	2,034
Minor Football*	5,729	7	818	1,375

* Does not include finals.

Intermediate Hurling and Junior Football.

Again last year our Junior Football and Intermediate Hurling Championships provided a curtain raiser to our Senior Championship competitions, I am aware that our counties have different views about the continuance of these competitions. Certainly their survival in their present format is not a runner long term as it now stands only a couple of Counties play Intermediate and Junior Players in these competitions. The consequences for this Council are serious if we do not have a game to stage prior to our major fixtures. Some counties use these competitions for developmental purposes and it is the Council view that this is the road these competitions should take however counties from other Provinces have a very different approach, It is likely that what will happen is that further restrictions will be put on eligibility which will not suit most of our counties causing them to withdraw and leaving this Council with further logistical issues. In 2011 Both the Intermediate Hurling and Junior Football All Ireland Titles were won by teams from this Province, Clare Hurling, Cork Football. In our own Provincial championships Cork defeated Tipperary at Quarter final stage of the Hurling and were beaten by Clare subsequently in the semi-final. At the other side of the draw Limerick accounted for Waterford. In the final played in Ennis Clare overcame the Limerick challenge in what was a lively entertaining encounter. In Junior football Cork easily beat off the challenge of Clare and Kerry likewise with Tipperary. The semi-finals were no better with both counties progressing without difficulty against Waterford and Limerick respectively. The final played at Pairc Uí Chaoimh saw Cork emerge victorious by two points in front of a small home crowd. While home and away is a very important ingredient for this Council in the running of our competitions I would ask that for these less well attended games that a more practical approach be taken by counties when choosing a venue for games where a single game is being staged. The attendance at the 2010 Junior Football Final bears out the importance of this approach.

Intermediate Hurling

No. of games: 4

Total No of scores: 125

<u>Actual Scores:</u>	14-111 points
<u>Average per game:</u>	3:5 goals and 27:75 points
<u>Junior Football</u>	
<u>No. of games:</u>	5
<u>Total No of scores:</u>	119
<u>Actual Scores:</u>	11-108 points
<u>Average per game:</u>	2.2 goals and 21.6 points

Waterford Crystal and Mc Grath Cup competitions.

Last year I commented on the non participation of Limerick in the Waterford Crystal competition and it would be remiss of me if I didn't voice the same displeasure at the Kerry decision not to participate in this year's Mc Grath Cup. This year we had the spectacle of our Mc Grath Cup champions not competing to retain their crown while at the same time playing a number of challenge games during that period. This was a little bit ironic as it is only a couple of years ago that both Kerry and Cork insisted that they be allowed participate in this competition as at that time it was being run for the benefit of the four perceived weaker counties. We can only conclude that Kerry were either not happy with the opposition provided by this competition or the fact that they were only guaranteed one game if beaten in first round was the deciding factor. Maybe we should consider running these competitions on a league basis with a four team three division format and at least one round mid week under lights. This works successfully in other Provinces or maybe it is time to scrap these competitions altogether. I accept that it is the prerogative of any county to not enter these competitions however this Council over many years has supported all counties financially in a generous manner and the champions not participating was a disappointing blow.

In 2011 Kerry won the Mc Grath Cup and Waterford won the Waterford Crystal Competition. At time of writing this year the Mc Grath Cup has concluded and the Waterford Crystal Competition has just commenced. In the Mc Grath cup Cork overcame the opposition of Clare and CIT to contest the final against Tipperary who had earlier accounted for LIT Waterford IT and UCC. The final played in the Sportsground Clonmel was an entertaining affair and Cork emerged victorious for the first trophy of the year in the Province. The Waterford Crystal competition started late this year to meet the wishes of the Counties as the closed season gave them no time to put a squad together. This however caused difficulties for the Colleges as Fitzgibbon Cup schedules ran parallel with this competition. As a result we had the spectacle of one college not competing and another putting out a team which bore no resemblance to the team it subsequently fielded in the Fitzgibbon competition. This cannot continue and we must revisit this competition in 2013 and decide whether to revert back to an earlier start or look at whether it is feasible any longer to have third level institution take part.

AIB Munster GAA Club Championships:

Our 2010 Munster Club champions fared well at National Level with three Clubs annexing All Ireland titles. Ballymartle won the Intermedaite Hurling Meelin the Junior

Hurling and St Marys Cahersiveen won the Junior Football All Ireland. The 2011 championships at Provincial level provided great entertainment plenty of excitement and plenty of skilful play on display. Senior Football again saw the emergence of some of the traditionally strong clubs from their county championship Kerry Dr Crokes, Clare Kilmurry Ibricane, Limerick Monaleen, Waterford Ballinacourty, Tipperary Moyle Rovers and Cork UCC. This gave promise to a close fought competition and this in the main proved correct, In the quarter finals Dr Crokes easily overcame Ballinacourty while UCC scraped home against Monaleen. The semi finals saw Dr Crokes advance after a tight and competitive game against Kilmurry-Ibrickane and UCC overcome Moyle Rovers.

The final played at Fitzgerald stadium which was a magnanimous gesture by UCC to play in Killarney saw Dr Crokes emerge victorious and once again qualify for the All Ireland stage of this competition.

The club senior hurling was just as competitive with Drom & Inch representing Tipperary Na Piarasaigh representing Limerick Ballygunner Waterford, Crusheen Clare, and Carrigtwohill Cork. In the quarter final Ballygunner overcame Drom & Inch to face Na Piarasaigh Limerick who had just won their first county title. For long periods of this game both sides got their noses in front but in the second half Na Piarasaigh proved to have too much firepower for the Waterford lads. In the other semi Crusheen who had retained their county crown accounted for Carrigtwohill and now they faced the Limerick boys in the final. Neither club had previously claimed this prize so a lot was at stake for both sets of supporters as they wished their teams on for the honour and glory. On the day Na Piarasaigh prevailed to record an historic victory and so go on to represent their Club, County and the Province at National level.

The intermediate campaigns in hurling and football always provide tremendous enthusiasm and interest and 2011 was no exception. Effin of Limerick who won the Munster Junior Hurling championship in 2010 went on to win the Limerick Intermediate Hurling championship in 2011. They continued their success with wins over Dunhill Waterford and Aherlow Tipperary in the quarter and semi-finals respectively. In the other half of the draw Ballyduff Kerry defeated Courcey Rovers Cork and Eire Og Ennis in the semi-final. In the final played at Newcastle west in front of a huge crowd Effin recorded a famous victory following on their junior success the year previous.

In Intermediate football Mountcollins won the Limerick Intermediate football championship at their first attempt having graduated from the Junior ranks the year previous. However the lost out to Mullinahone of Tipperary at Quarter final stage. Milltown Castlemaine Kerry defeated Clonegad Clare in the other Quarter final. Mullinahone defeated Dungarvan in the semi-final while Milltown Castlemaine overcame Newmarket Cork . In the final Milltown Castlemaine proved too good for their rivals and ran out easy winners.

In junior hurling Charleville Cork overcame the challenge of Kenmare in the Quarter final and went on to defeat Rockwell Rovers in the semi-final. Cappamore Limerick beat Ballinameela Waterford in their semi-final and in the final Charleville proved too strong for the Cappamore lads.

The Junior football championship began on a Friday night under lights at the Gaelic Grounds Kildangan defeated St Marys Sean Finns in the quarter finals. Dromad Pearses of Kerry overcame Meelick of Clare in the other quarter final. The semi-finals

saw Dromid Pearses and Kildangan progress to the finals at the expense of Kanturk and Naomh Mhuire/Sliabh gCua respectively. In the Final the Kerry boys went on to triumph and capture the title.

Inter County/ Inter Club Championships 2011.

Roll of Honour 2011.

Grade	Team
Inter- County Senior Hurling	Tipperary
Inter- County Senior Football	Kerry
Inter- County Intermediate Hurling	Clare
Inter- County Junior Football	Cork
Inter- County Fé 21 Football	Cork
Inter- County Fé 21 Hurling	Limerick
Inter- County Minor Hurling	Clare
Inter- County Minor Football	Tipperary
Waterford Crystal Cup 2011	Waterford
Waterford Crystal Cup 2012	<u>Not yet completed</u>
Mc Grath Cup 2011	Kerry
Mc Grath Cup 2012	Cork
Inter -Club Senior Hurling	Na Piarasigh (Limerick)
Inter –Club Senior Football	Dr Crokes
Inter –Club Intermediate Hurling	Effin
Inter –Club Intermediate Football	Milltown Castelmaine
Inter –Club Junior Hurling	Charleville
Inter-Club Junior Football	Dromid Pearses

Inter County Championship Final Referees.

Iomáint Shinsir	Brian Gavin
Peil Shinsir:	David Coldrick
Iomáint Idirmheanach.	Cathal Mc Allister
Peil Shoisir :	Keith O Brien
Iomáint Fé 21:	Pat Casey
Peil Fé 21:	Derek O Mahoney
Iomáint na Mionúr	Jer O Connell
Peil na Mionúr	Pádraig O Sullivan
Corn Mhic Craith (2011)	Conor Lane
Corn Mhic Craith (2012)	Pádraig O Sullivan
Waterford Crystal Cup (2011)	Michael O Connor
Waterford Crystal Cup (2012)	N/A

Club Championships

Iomáint Shinsir na gClub:	Cathal Mc Allister
Peil Shinsir na gClub:	Rory Hickey
Iomáint Idirmheanach na gClub	Michael Wadding

Peil Idirmheanach na gClub
Iomáint Shóisir na gClub:
Peil Shóisir na gClub

Maurice Condon
Fergal Horgan
Richard Moloney

Discipline

The area of Discipline we continued to improve in 2011. Thankfully the message seems to be getting through in this Province that our games are there to be played with heart and skill and not illegal aggressive type of play which would harm the game and turn off the public.

Hearings and appeals from club level however seem to peak as county championships draw toward their conclusion. There seems to be a lack of understanding in our clubs that following a hearing the only grounds for an appeal is one for breach of rule be the relevant Hearings committee. On this subject I feel duty bound to remind County Hearings committees and indeed county Officers that at all times decisions must be made in accordance with the rule book and never on sentiment or given the beck with moral justification.

Annual Awards.

This year we again had Bord Gais as sponsors of our Annual Awards and I would like to thank them for their continued interest and support. The Malton Hotel Killarney hosted the night and once again it was a thoroughly enjoyable and social function. The hotel provided an excellent meal for this function and most of those present enjoyed this hospitality into the early hours. This year we changed the format and style of our night and this met with genuine approval from those present. Terrible weather conditions affected some of those travelling but those who braved the elements were treated to a night to remember. To the many worthy Award recipients, we salute you and thank you for your positive contribution to our games and our Association.

Playing Awards

Minor Hurler of the Year:	Tony Kelly (Clare)
Minor Footballer of the Year:	TJ Ryan (Tipperary)
Under 21 Hurler of the Year:	Aidan Walsh (Cork)
Under 21 Footballer of the Year:	Kieran Sheehan (Cork)
Intermediate Hurler of the Year:	Patrick Kelly (Clare)
Junior Footballer of the Year:	Andrew O' Sullivan (Cork)
Camogie Player of the Year:	Jill Horan (Tipperary)
Ladies Gaelic Footballer of the Year:	Deirdre O' Reilly (Cork)
Handballer of the Year:	Caitriona Casey (Cork)
Senior Footballer of the Year:	Declan O' Sullivan (Kerry)
Senior Hurler of the Year:	Lar Corbett (Tipperary)

Distinguished Service Awards

Coaching & Schools GAA:	Willie Dowling (Kerry)
Media Award:	Michael Scanlon (Cork)
Refereeing Award:	Eddie Cunningham (Waterford)
Special Merit Award:	Jerry Ring (Tipperary)

Distinguished Service to the GAA	Gerry Bennis (Limerick)
Club of the Year:	Na Piarsaigh (Limerick)
Manager of the Year:	David Power (Tipperary)
Hall of Fame (Football):	Paudie Lynch (Kerry)
Hall of Fame (Hurling):	Gerald Mc Carthy (Cork)

Concession entry to our games

The lack of understanding of the concessions which allow subsidised entry to our games still causes problems at our gates. Student concessions are only available to those students who produce a valid current student ID with a cessation date and a proper photograph displayed. In 2011 this side of our concession package improved greatly with the introduction of scanning equipment provided by WIT. We are thankful to them for their help with this and it also assists bona fide students with entry to our games. In the case of the OAP concession this is only available where the person has photographic identification with age proof to show the official on gate duty. Difficulties arise when we allow one person through because they look the age and then stop someone who does not look the age. So please do not take offence when asked for this identification as none is intended. The greatest difficulties arise with the under 16 free entry to non ticket games. This concession is only for young persons who are under the age of sixteen on the day of the game. This is a very difficult concession to manage and we are entitled to look for proof of age. .Enda Mc Guane Leas Runaí has identify suitable age cards and a list of such cards are on our website.

Managing our Games:

We are committed to ensuring safety and convenience for our patrons while at the same time training our match day personnel to the highest possible standard. This process began in 2009 with a FETAC accredited course for our Stewards in Cork. At this point I am delighted to report that we have to date almost 500 stewards trained to Level 5 FETAC award and hopefully before the end of this year that will have increased again with a much needed course in the Cork region. The Club and County Grounds Safety Committee are to be commended for their role in this training. Stewarding has improved but we recognise that it has room for further improvement. The challenge still facing us is to put together an accredited course for Safety Officers and Event Controllers.

Council Sub Committees.

The importance of our sub committee structure can be seen from the chart included below on the implementation of our Strategic Plan. In future I intent to refer to this Plan as The Munster Action Plan as we continue to achieve our targets move forward in the Province. We must acknowledge and thank the voluntary GAA Officials who serve on these sub committees without any fanfare or recognition. See appendix 2 for details.

Club Child Development Programme. (Club Nursery Programme).

Last year we commenced our Programme “ Club Child Developemnt Programme” otherwise known as the Club Nursery Programme. Currently we are measuring it’s success so it is not possible to report on it’s progress. I believe that this is an important initiative and it is vital that both our full time staff and the clubs make it work to its maximum potential.

NACB

Our partnership with the North American County Board GAA took on a much wider brief in 2011 when we commenced working with them on a new Action Plan covering all areas of activity for the next five years at least. Over the last couple of years a huge volume of work has been done in the Coaching and Games and Referee areas. The challenge now is to make that work transfer into local expertise where within the NACB area local expertise can sustain the up-skilling of future coaches and referees. There is no doubting the commitment and resolve of the Officers of the NACB what must be determined is the approach of both clubs and Divisions to the long term development of the GAA within their areas. The constant push for more permits and sanctions will only undermine the development of our games in this area and valuable work done to date will have been wasted unless a long term approach is adopted at local level over there. Shortly we are committed to doing a workshop with all these stakeholders as part of the final stage of putting together their Strategic Action Plan then we will know the seriousness of the challenges ahead. Munster GAA is totally committed to this partnership delivering long term sustainability and growth of the GAA in North America the NACB are also, the question remains are the Divisions and clubs looking that far ahead.

Schools

The role of our schools at all levels is critical to the success of developing and promoting our games and Association. The dedicated GAA minded Teachers who hold this front line are to be commended for their dedication and work.

Any successful club will have a positive role within their local Primary school. The Primary Game which is a very important part of our Senior championship programme continues to capture the imagination of young boys and girls who dream of wearing their county jersey one day. It is important that we continue to provide this opportunity to them as this is the platform on which we can inspire very young players to train harder, get more proficient in the skills of our games and as stated previously aspire to becoming the star of the future. It is important however that these games while having a competitive edge as all games played by children will have, do not exceed their remit by becoming too competitive. We thank The Star Newspaper for their continued sponsorship of this important promotion.

At Second level we continue to enjoy great games. The challenge here is to involve more students especially when they enter 1st year and the clubs have an important role here by identifying players for teachers and also if possible setting up a support club form the catchment area to assist the teachers when ever required. There is a role for the Second Level Development Officers here and during 2012 I intend to ask our Provincial Games Managers to examine the possibility of pilot projects in this area.

At third level we have great GAA colleges within the Province. We have Third Level GAA Development Officers in our colleges and my worry which I articulated last year have not been allayed since so instead of developing structures around the GAA activity

in the colleges and concentrating on getting maximum playing involvement from students we have allowed these officers become effectively full time secretaries within the College system. We need to look again at their role, assist them to develop good structures around the GAA activity in the college, and point them in the direction of maximizing involvement for students in our activities. Some work has been done but a lot more needs to be followed up on.

New HQ.

The building work on our new HQ is now at full pace and should be completed by May of this year. This development will allow the Council and more particularly the Council sub committees to function more professionally It will enhance administration activity and give a more public and positive image for the Council. It will also allow us to stage small GAA functions currently being facilitated in Hotels. A good example of this is the plan to host a GAA exhibition on the GAA collection of former Cathaoirleach P.S.Ó Riain later this year or early next year. It will also bring the GAA family of Associations within the Province closer and allow for greater cooperation.

Ladies Football / Camogie / Handball.

Munster GAA continues to have has a good relationship with our sister Associations and with handball which serves the GAA community well. This will be further enhanced this year when our new Headquarters will house the offices of all three Associations. Last year Munster GAA have financially supported a Coaching and Development initiative by the Ladies Football having previously supported a three year project for Camogie.. Camogie, Ladies Football and Handball have through active participation in our Coaching and Games Development Committee have an opportunity to participate in policy and initiatives aimed at improving our games promotion and development in all our Associations. Cooperation at every level is important for our Associations so as to provide the best available expertise and guidance to our units. This I believe is happening and we must continue to strengthen our links and work closely to identify how we all achieve our goals The “1 Club Project” at National level which is headed up by our Chairman Sean Walsh has made significant progress and will in the long run lead to a more cohesive approach at club level where it matters most.

Development Grants

Club Grants have been an important aspect of support for our clubs for many years. In 2011 the level of development dropped off significantly reflective of the financial situation in our Country at the moment. The time is right for us to review the grant allocation system and insist that any club receiving a Development Grant fulfills certain criteria on the playing fields thus ensuring that our young players are being properly catered for.

Urban Challenges/ Rural Depopulation

The Urban challenge of delivering games participation initiatives to more young boys continues to be our greatest issue in our Urban areas. The connection between involvement at school level and link to the clubs is one area however I believe that our rules and County byelaws are probably a bigger impediment to achieving greater participation and involvement than anything else I know that some of these byelaws

were enacted to protect smaller clubs from "Poaching" by the bigger clubs but now these same bye laws are used by some of the bigger clubs to hold on to players who are now surplus to requirements even at sixteen years of age. Surely someone somewhere can come up with a wording for a rule change that can alter this practice while still protecting smaller from the scourge of their best players being poached by the more successful ones.

Rural Depopulation is now a serious challenge for our Association in all our counties. This threatens the very existence of some of our clubs and must as a matter of urgency be faced and solutions found within counties. This can primarily be rectified by meaningful smaller sided competitions for these areas. What must not happen is that other clubs use these small sided games to get away with neglect of their own catchment area by being allowed enter these competitions. At National level maybe a new rule to regulate these competitions I am open to views of more enlightened persons than I but a solution must be found. My compliments to Kerry for their recent publication of a study in this area.

Council Officers:

This Council is well served by the Officers elected to lead this Province. Under the leadership of Sean Walsh this Council goes through its business in a proper and professional manner always mindful of the needs of our Counties and Clubs. We enter the last year of his chairmanship and I am sure he will continue to serve this Province with the same qualities as here to fore.

Robert Frost through his leadership in Coaching and Games is one of the busiest Officers on the Council and gives of his time with regularity and sometimes at short notice. It is sometimes forgotten that these Officers are working for the Council on a voluntary basis

Last year we lost though rule two great Officers namely Jim Forbes and Michael Power, while they are a serious loss in terms of work and advice their replacements have settled into their roles without a fuss and have performed excellently for this Council. Michael Fitzgerald who had served as treasurer in Limerick works well with our Financial Controller Enda and this teamwork serves the Council well. Ed Donnelly who also served as PRO in Tipperary has brought this position to a new level in terms of his interaction with the media through "Press Packs" which he produces prior to all our games.

To all of you, I say thanks.

Financial Matters:

As I did in previous years I will leave the financial report to my Deputy Enda Mc Guane and our Cisteoir Michael Fitzgerald .

Financially this Council is in good stead however there is no room to become complacent. From our accounts you will see that revenue ie gate receipts are down again in 2011. While we managed to retain in as far as possible the number of patrons attending our games special packages and concessions combined with having no replay in 2011 significantly reduced our gate income. We need to be ever vigilant toward our cost base and to this end we intend to examine identified match day costs such as food and medical cover and put in place a tender process where it is possible to

do so. The main point from the financial report is that having changed year end to 31st October which means for 2011 we are reporting on a 10 month period rather than a 12 month time span. While this affects some items listed it makes it difficult in some areas to make comparisons with the year previous.

The key to success financially going forward is to constantly review our cost base and invest wisely. To this end you will note that in 2011 with wise investment this Council increased Financial income by 89%.

Enda and Michael have highlighted revenue issues which I feel are very important to restate here as Clubs and Counties need to ensure that they are revenue compliant.

Croke Park Staff:

I would like to put on record my thanks to Paraic Duffy and his Croke Park team for the backup and assistance given to staff and members of this Council during the year. It is important that at all levels of our Association we work together to achieve our best results. Paraic has put much time into meeting and listening to Provincial and County Officials and this will pay rich dividends in time to come.

Uachtarán agus Uachtarán Tofa.

Congress in April this year sees the end of Criostóir Ó Cuana as Uachtarán CLG. His tenure has been marked by advances in the promotion and development of our Games and Association. Having formerly served as Cathaoirleach to this Council we were all aware of the positive contribution Christy would make to our great Association. We also know that your experience knowledge and wisdom will not be lost to our Association as you will continue to serve in some capacity and at some level within it.

To Christy and probably more importantly Ann we wish you both every happiness, good health and success for the future.

Enter, Liam Ó Neill as Uachtarán following Congress, I want to assure Liam of our full cooperation and support as he takes over the leadership of our Association in these challenging times. Having known Liam for many years I am certain that he is well up to the task and will bring many good qualities to his leadership role.

Other Provinces:

In recent times meetings have taken place between the Secretaries of the Provincial Councils. These meetings have been very useful and informative as we face many challenges common to all of us. Also we regularly meet Ard Stiúrtóir Páraic Ó Dufaigh which provides a platform for discussion on policy and governance matters. These initiatives are a welcome and useful exercise which will provide benefit for the Association at all levels.

Sympathy.

As with every year The Association in the Province has lost many of its members over the past twelve months. On Behalf of the Council I wish to convey the sympathy and

condolences to all bereaved relatives and friends of those who passed away during 2011. Go dtuga Dia snaimhneas siorai da n-anamnacha do léir.

Buíochas.

In concluding my report I wish to thank the following:

- My fellow Officers on the Council Management Committee and particularly the Cathaoirleach Sean Breathnach.
- The members of the Council and the members of all the Council sub-committees for the assistance and co-operation which I received from them throughout 2011.
- To the County Officers in the six County Committees in Munster and particularly the County Secretaries and Treasurers with whom I have most contact and dealings in the course of our work.
- To the Referees, Linesmen, Fourth officials, Umpires and Assessors for the manner in which they officiated at our games in 2011.
- To the officers and members of the schools bodies for the ongoing work they do in support of our games in the various levels of schools.
- To the Event Controllers, Safety Officers, and Chief Stewards in our stadia.
- To the several Stilesmen, Stewards, Groundsmen, Catering personnel who have helped us during the year in ensuring that access to our games, at whatever level, is safe and efficient. Also to the Event Controllers in the major venues and to the Gardai, Health Board personnel, and many others who make our games safe for patrons.
- To all the Players at every grade who provided the entertainment though their efforts and dedication. The popularity of the games for the patrons attending the games and for those watching or listening to media coverage is testament to the level of excellence you have achieved in your chosen sport and the commitment and passion you have shown for our games and Association..
- To the media personnel, national and local, for the excellent coverage which our games receive at every level throughout the year. A particular word of thanks to RTE and TV 3 and TG4 for the TV fees received during 2010 and to all RTE and TV 3 and TG4 personnel with whom I have had direct contact in relation to the televising or broadcasting our games.
- To the Sponsors who provide generous sponsorship to the Council and some of its sub-committees including:
 - Ulster Bank/Supervalu / Eircom
 - Guinness/Centra /Eithead Airlines
 - The Star Newspaper
 - AIB Bank plc
 - Waterford Crystal
 - Bord Gais
 - Cadburys
 - Martin Donnelly

- To the Uachtarán, Ard Stiurthóir and all the staff in Páirc an Chrócaigh for the co-operation and assistance received during 2010
- I want to acknowledge the contribution made to the work of the Council by all of my colleagues on the staff of Comhairle na Mumhan: Enda, Kathleen, Nuala, Joey and Pat. This year also we had a student on placement Annie and my thanks to her for her commitment and work..
- Also, not forgetting the lady placed by Croke Park in our Office to serve the Counties with the new Ticketing system, Mary has become a well known face throughout the Province as she also plays an important part in the running of our games.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Mise le meas,
Padraig Mac Gearailt
CEO / Runaí
Comhairle na Mumhan CLG.

Seemple Stadium, Thurles

<u>Rent of Field</u>		<u>Grant Aid</u>	<u>Term Tickets Costs</u>	Dr Morris Park	Comment	Club Grants	<u>Gross PA</u>
Year	Amount	Amount	Amount				Total
Pre 1997		€423,520.00		€75,000.00			
1997	€ 98,485.96	€16,000.00		€30,000.00		€27,700.00	€172,185.96
1998	€ 307,058.06	€ 35,000.00		€10,000.00		€45,000.00	€397,058.06
1999	€ 195,279.01	€ 15,000.00		€10,800.00		€40,550.00	€261,629.01
2000	€ 205,087.22	€ 53,000.00		€850.00		€98,350.00	€357,287.22
2001	€ 12,674.60	€15,000.00		€0.00		€91,950.00	€119,624.60
2002	€ 159,315.00	€ 205,000.00		€2,000.00		€102,545.00	€468,860.00
2003	€340,000.00	€ 200,000.00		€4,000.00		€102,340.00	€646,340.00
2004	€ 221,201.00	€ 121,500.00		€0.00		€116,620.00	€459,321.00
2005	€ 187,905.00	€12,378.00	€ 96,000.00	€11,000.00	Floodlights	€169,328.00	€476,611.00
2006	€ 343,437.00	€ 283,225.00	€ 128,000.00	€13,458.00	Floodlights	€267,422.00	€1,035,542.00
2007	€ 421,323.23	€ 875,383.00	€ 88,000.00	€0.00		€243,183.00	€1,627,889.23
2008	€ 107,984.60	€ 600,000.00	€ 22,530.00	€0.00		€214,398.00	€944,912.60
2009	€ 384,762.46	€ -	€ 145,135.00	€0.00		€181,509.00	€711,406.46
2010	€ 241,362.51	€ 350,000.00	€93,720.00	€0.00		€245,695.00	€930,777.51
2011	139,633.47	€0.00	€90,510.00	€0.00		€127,134.00	€357,277.47
Total	€3,365,509.12	€3,205,006.00	€663,895.00	€157,108.00		€1,565,289.00	€8,966,722.12

N.B The term tickets cost figure takes into account money due to the Council.

Also as they are Physical Development Grants only they do not include other grants paid to Tipperary include €25,000 provided to the Clubs in Carrick on Suir to restore Davin Park to full GAA ownership.

Appendix 2: Provincial Strategic Plan.

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

• ACTION	• YEAR	• STATUS
• Every County to have a Five Year Plan	• 2010	• Four counties
• Pilot Spectator Satisfaction Index	• 2010	• Complete
• Raise awareness of leader/local authority development plans	• 2010	• Workshop by end of 2012 Enda/Pat Fitz
• Three Year Rolling Commercial Plan in place	• 2009	• Work in Progress, Ready for 2012
• Bring all counties accounts in line with national year-end	• 2011	• Complete
• 100% compliance with audit, reporting and budgetary process	• 2011	• 100% Compliance but no National Policy
• All counties to have consolidated accounts for all sub committees	• 2011	• Work in Progress
• Integrate club accounts into national process	• 2011	• Dependant on National – not achievable
• Plan in place to build voluntary expertise in the area of Financial Excellence	• 2011	• In progress, need to formalise
• Set up training and support programmes for County Treasurers	• 2011	• Complete
• Streamline funding relationships between provinces and counties	• 2011	• Complete
• All communication with council members & sub-committees through email	• 2011	• Complete
• Develop a plan for Marketing the Munster Brand - Marketing	• 2011	• In progress
• Review the Council Structures by the end of this year	• 2011	• 2012 Action

PLANNING AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

• ACTION	• YEAR	• STATUS
• Complete a Database on Club Vesting Documents	• 2010	• Complete but no work done on it
• Every Club to update its trustees	• 2011	• In Progress but slow
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•

COACHING AND GAMES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

• ACTION	• YEAR	• STATUS
• Support the successful amalgamation at 2 nd level	• 2009	• Work in Progress
• Introduce Recreational Blitzes to all 3 rd Level Colleges by end of 2010	• 2010	• Work in Progress
• Sample Urban Development Projects in place	• 2010	• Complete
• Pilot 'Have – a go' day in two clubs per county	• 2011	• Complete
• Club/School link established in all areas	• 2011	• Complete
• Clubs and schools to achieve their coaching targets as per county plans	• 2011	• Complete
• Adequate number of Coach Education Tutors in all regions	• 2011	• Complete
• Code of Best Practice in place for all units	• 2011	• Complete
• Go Games Model in place in every club and school	• 2011	• Complete
• Plan for roll out of 'Code of Best Practice' integrated into County Plans	• 2011	• Complete
• Respect initiative in place up to Under 14	• 2011	• Complete
• Roll out of Club Child Development Programme in 40% of clubs	• 2011	• 10% completed, 30% in 2012
• Pilot Centres of Excellence in certain Urban Areas	• 2011	• Work in Progress
• Set up Development Squads in Urban Areas	• 2011	• Work in Progress
• County Plans to cater for Urban/Rural Development	• 2011	• Complete
• Urban Initiatives in place to attract new members	• 2011	• Work in Progress
• Urban Team in place to oversee targets and replicate best practice	• 2011	• Complete
• Urban Development Projects in place in all areas	• 2011	• In Progress (Clonmel, Ennis, Tramore)
• Munster Leagues. Look at the prospect of running an Urban League	• 2011	• Work in Progress
• Provincial Urban Committee to set targets by Convention 2012	• 2011	• Work in Progress – Meeting to be arranged
• Look at linking clubs (where possible) with Post Primary Schools	• 2011	• Work in Progress

PR AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

• ACTION	• YEAR	• STATUS
• Develop workshops and focus groups for feedback on Prov Strategy	• 2009	• Work in Progress
• Develop a Provincial Communications Plan	• 2009	• In Progress Need to get comm. working
• Launch Communications Toolkits to all counties	• 2010	• Complete
• Twice yearly reviews and feedback forums at provincial and county	• 2011	• Did not happen – talk to Ed Donnelly
• All clubs using GAA email solution	• 2011	• Complete
• Communications Monitoring included at planning at provincial and county	• 2011	• Work in Progress
• Every county & club linked into National Intranet Website	• 2011	• No National Intranet
• Every County PRO to complete National Training	• 2011	• Complete
• 25% of clubs to complete communications workshops	• 2011	• Did not happen
• Provide feedback through online surveys	• 2011	• Complete
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•

CULTURAL AND SCÓR COMMITTEE ACTIONS

• ACTION	• YEAR	• STATUS
• Clubs to advise parents of Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme	• 2009	• Complete
• Identify cultural material for Cúl Camps	• 2009	• Did not happen
• Develop materials for parents introducing to the GAA	• 2010	• Did not happen
• Distribute material for parents to clubs	• 2010	• Did not happen
• Training programme in place for Cultural Officers	• 2010	• Complete
• All clubs to appoint Oifigeach Gaeilge/Cultúr by the end of 2010	• 2010	• Complete
• Develop Provincial Scor initiative to increase links with newcomers	• 2011	• Work in Progress
• 50% of clubs to have 'As Gaeilge' section on their	• 2011	• Didn't happen, no template, club

website		sites vary
• Hold workshops to promote Website Template as Gaeilge	• 2011	• Work in Progress , end of 2012
• Scór na bPaistí confined to Primary Schools	• 2011	• Complete
• 'As Gaeilge' section added to provincial website	• 2011	• Complete
•	•	•
•	•	•

CLUB AND COUNTY SUPPORT COMMITTEE

• ACTION	• YEAR	• STATUS
• Feedback from club officers completed twice yearly	• 2009	• Under Review
• Hold Pilot Workshops 'attracting and retaining the best' in all counties	• 2010	• Part of Club Officer Training
• Organise a seminar on Volunteerism by the end of 2010	• 2010	• Did not happen
• Planning Guidelines in place in every club	• 2011	• Work in Progress
• 50% of Clubs to have a five-year plan	• 2011	• 10% have plan
• 'One Year Volunteer Commitment Scheme' in place in 50% of clubs	• 2011	• Work in Progress
• Online membership system in operation for all clubs	• 2011	• Complete
• Promotion Package for One Year Volunteer Commitment in place in all counties	• 2011	• Work in Progress
• Club Officer training in place for all roles	• 2011	• Complete
• 50% of Club and County Officers to have completed training in inclusion	• 2011	• Not rolled out Nationally
• Membership Card rolled out at Provincial Level	• 2011	• Complete
• Organise a Provincial Seminar on Fundraising & Financial Management	• 2011	• Work in Progress
• Provide templates for completion of Funding Applications	• 2011	• Complete
• All clubs to have alcohol and substance abuse policy in place	• 2011	• Complete
• Club Maith rolled out and piloted in all counties	• 2011	• Work in Progress
• Club Maith 20% accredited clubs in place in each urban centre	• 2011	• Did not happen
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•

CLUB AND COUNTY GROUNDS SAFETY COMMITTEE

• ACTION	• YEAR	• STATUS
• All Munster Stewards FETAC accredited by end of 2011	• 2011	• 95% complete leading the way here
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•

REFEREES ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

• ACTION	• YEAR	• STATUS
• Deliver Referee Young Whistler Courses in all counties	• 2010	• Complete (Go Games Referees)
• Develop further assessment and monitoring of referees with emphasis on career pathway and new referees	• 2011	• Complete
• Counties to hold Training Programme for Umpires bi-annually	• 2011	• Achieved Provincially not county
• County to hold seminar for Club Referees in line with national policy	• 2011	• Complete
•	•	•
•	•	•