



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

Is mór an phribléid dom Thuairisc Bliantúil a chur ós comhair Chomhdháil Comhairle na Mumhan CLG don bhliain 2014. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil do gach éinne a raibh páirteach le hobair an Chomhairle í rith 2014.

I am pleased to present the Annual Report to Annual Convention on the activities of the Munster Council during 2014. In this Report on the activities of the Council I will concentrate on the Council activities during the year in broad terms. I will not go into detail where the aspect of the Council work is covered in some detail in other reports contained in this Annual Convention booklet.

OVERVIEW 2014

Representatives in National Inter-County Scene:

Overall 2014 will be regarded as a successful year for the Council both on and off the field. Munster Champions, Kerry won both the senior and minor All-Ireland Championships. Their epic semi-final battle with Mayo will live long in the memory. They were somewhat fortunate to snatch a draw at the death in Croke Park in the first game and had to win in extra time in the replay staged in an atmosphere packed Gaelic Grounds, Limerick. Kerry will take great heart from their deserved victories in both the Provincial and All-Ireland Minor Championships following on from the winning of both the Corn Uí Mhuirí (Senior Post-Primary Provincial Championship and Hogan Cup (Senior Post-Primary All-Ireland Championship) by Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne. These victories at this level bode well for the future. Cork did play extremely well in the All-Ireland quarter-final and were unlucky not to at least earn extra time against Mayo following a mixed performance. Clare were extremely unlucky not to advance further in the Qualifiers losing out at the death to Kildare in a game they should have won. The recent significant advances being made by Tipperary at under-age level is beginning to bring dividends at senior level and assisted them in a prolonged run in the Qualifiers.

In hurling while last year's achievement of bringing all four All-Ireland Hurling Championships to the Province was not repeated nonetheless the Counties from the Province acquitted themselves well during the year. Tipperary won their way through to the All-Ireland Final against Kilkenny and the team was only inches away from winning the title against their old rivals, Kilkenny, in the third drawn Final in a row. Tipperary did not repeat their energetic performance of the first day in the replay but still acquitting themselves well in a tightly contested game and though second best Tipperary could have won had some breaks went their way.

The province again had three teams in the All-Ireland senior hurling semi-finals with two Munster teams, Cork and Tipperary, contesting one semi-final the latter winning easily over Munster Champions, Cork. Limerick can be regarded as the unlucky Munster team in 2014 as they relinquished their Provincial senior title to Cork and were most unlucky not to get through to the All-Ireland final in a titanic struggle against eventual Champions, Kilkenny. Kilkenny had to call on their considerable experience to earn a narrow victory. Limerick will be well fancied coming into the 2015 season.



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

Three All-Ireland hurling titles did come to the Province and congratulations are due to Cork for winning the Intermediate All-Ireland, to Clare on winning their third All-Ireland and Provincial Under 21 titles in a row in fine style and to Kerry for winning a three in a row All-Ireland minor title. Limerick minor hurlers won their second successive Provincial title and were unlucky not to take the All-Ireland title against Kilkenny who performed better than the Munster team on the day in the final.

Representatives in National Inter-Club Scene:

It was a disappointing season for the following Provincial Club Representatives in the 2013'14 All-Ireland Club Championships:

<i>Iomáint:</i>	<i><u>Shinsir</u></i> <i>Na Piarsaigh</i>	<i><u>Idirmheánach</u></i> <i>Eochail</i>	<i><u>Soisir</u></i> <i>Baile na Sagart</i>
<i>Peil:</i>	<i>Dr. Crócaigh</i>	<i>Fanáithe na Claide</i>	<i>Chill</i>

Though they acquitted themselves well only the Junior Hurling Representative reached the All-Ireland decider.

Internal Provincial Competitions:

Within the Province the activity in the senior hurling championship again caught the imagination of the public throughout the country with the quality and excitement of the five games played. A replay was required to separate Cork and Waterford in the quarter-final with Cork winning rather easily in the replay. Limerick demonstrated the qualities that won them the Munster senior crown in 2013 when disposing of Tipperary in the semi-final, played in Thurles. Cork, in a repeat of the 2013 All-Ireland Final, accounted for Clare in the other semi-final. The end result was that the same pairing emerged once again in the Final but on this occasion Cork turned the tables on Limerick in a pulsating final played in Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

The Under 21 Hurling Championship witnessed a tremendous renaissance similar to that created when Limerick last went on their three-in-a-row of Provincial and All-Ireland successes. In 2014 it was their neighbours, Clare, who enlivened the championship charging to their own three-in-a-row at provincial and national level. Only four Counties have managed this feat at this level all from the Province: Cork, Tipperary, Limerick and Clare.

This year's Minor Hurling Championship was a replica of last year's competition. Both Limerick and Waterford again proved the strongest in the Province and again it took a replay to separate them in the Final, Limerick yet again taking the honours. Both Counties will accept that they could have done better in the All-Ireland Minor series.

The senior football Championship was run under the controversial seeded draw system but failed to really catch fire in 2014 with Kerry dominant, particularly in the Munster Final in Páirc Uí Chaoimh when they surprisingly overpowered and underperforming Cork team. Thankfully the Provincial Champions dominance carried right through the All-Ireland series. The two semi-



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

finals between Clare and Kerry and Cork and Tipperary were competitive with only four and two point margins respectively.

Cork has dominated the Under 21 Provincial Championship and did so again in 2014. The competition was reasonably competitive with Tipperary continuing to indicate promise for the future.

The minor football championship was quite competitive but predictably produced a Kerry/Cork Final. This was a marvellous game and full credit to both teams presented the highlight of the day on Munster Football Final day in Páirc Uí Chaoimh in early July.

Provincial Teams - Inter-Provincial Competitions:

The province competed in both *M. Donnelly Interprovincial Competitions* but lost to Connacht in both semi-finals. In the hurling semi-final played in Ballinasloe on 9th February 2014 the score was Connacht 1-18 Munster 0-16. In the football semi-final played on 16th February 2014 the score was Connacht 3-19 Munster 2-16. The Council thanks is due to the management teams and to players who represented the Province in 2014 as follows:

2014: M. Donnelly Hurling Semi-Final: Connacht 1-18 Munster 0-16

Team: Anthony Nash (Cork); Tom Condon (Limerick), Richie McCarthy (Limerick), Noel Connors (Waterford); Brendan Bugler (Clare), Michael Walsh (Waterford), Padraic Maher (Tipperary); Wayne McNamara (Limerick – Captain), Brendan Maher (Tipperary); Daniel Kearney (Cork), Noel McGrath (Tipperary), Stephen Molumphy (Waterford); Graeme Mulcahy (Limerick), Pat Horgan (Cork), Colin Ryan (Clare)

Subs: Michael Cahill (Tipperary) for McCarthy (HT), Shane Walsh (Waterford) for Mulcahy (51), Domhnall O'Donovan (Clare) for Condon (53), Pat Donnellan (Clare) for Bugler (59), Lorcan McLoughlin (Cork) for Horgan (66). John Conlon (Clare), Patrick Kelly (Clare), Paul Browne (Limerick), Gavin O'Mahoney (Limerick), James Ryan (Limerick)

Hurling Manager: Liam Sheedy (Tiobraid Árann) Council Liaison Officer: Nuala Nealon
Selectors: Jamesie O'Connor (An Clár) and Stephen Frampton (Portlárige)

2014: M. Donnelly Football Semi-Final: Connacht 3-19 Munster 2-16

Team: Brendan Kealy (Kerry); Marc Ó Sé (Kerry, Captain) , Mark Griffin (Kerry), Brian McGuire (Kerry); Jonathan Lyne (Kerry) , Aidan O'Mahoney (Kerry), Kevin O'Driscoll (Cork); Ruari Deane (Cork), David Moran (Kerry); Paul Kerrigan (Cork), Mark Collins (Cork), Donnacha Walsh (Kerry); Daniel Goulding (Cork), Donncha O'Connor (Cork), Brian Hurley (Cork)

Subs: John O'Rourke (Cork) for Lyne (35 mins), Barry John Keane (Kerry) for Deane (45 mins), Brian O'Driscoll (Cork) for Walsh (53 mins), Michael Geaney for K O'Driscoll (59 mins), Ken O'Halloran (Cork) for Kealy (60 mins), John McLoughlin (Cork) for Ó Sé (63 mins), James Loughrey (Cork), Peter Crowley (Kerry), Shane Enright (Kerry), Anthony Maher (Kerry),

Football Manager: Ger O'Sullivan (Corcaigh); Selector: Ger O'Keeffe (Ciarraí)
Council Liaison Officer: Pat O'Shea



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

Finance:

The Council, thanks mainly to increased attendance in the Senior and Under 21 hurling, had a successful year financially. The benefit of this financial strength was shared with the units in the province by significant disbursements to the counties and clubs in the province via the various grants schemes, details of which are contained in the financial statements for the period.

ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE

Provincial Bye-Laws:

Item 10 on the Convention agenda schedules the making of Provincial Bye-Laws by Convention. The changes to the Provincial Bye-Laws approved at the last Convention are minor and are required to update the delegations to the Secretary of the Provincial Competitions Control Committee arising from the introduction of the Black Cards in football competitions, an extension of the current delegation to include the new Category V (formerly Category IV) Infractions and Category Ia, IIa and IIIa Infractions by Team Officials for practical efficiency purposes. Significantly also the change involves the incorporation of the existing Provincial Post-Primary Schools' Bye-Laws into the Provincial Bye-Laws (draft Bye-Law 6) in order to give them formal status within the Province.

Provincial Council:

For the record the Council membership since last Convention was as follows:

Oifigí:

<u>Cathaoirleach:</u>	Roibeard an tSeaca
<u>Leas Cathaoirleach:</u>	Diarmuid Ó Suilleabháin
<u>Cisteoir:</u>	Antóin Breathnach
<u>Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí:</u>	Gearóid Ó Riain
<u>Príomh-Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin/Rúnaí:</u>	Siomón Ó Maolrunaí (Non-Voting)
<u>Bhainisteoir Oibríochtaí:</u>	Ciarán Ó Lidí (Non-Voting)
<u>Uachtarán Oinigh:</u>	Teidí Ó Suilleabháin (Non-Voting)

Teachtaí ar son na gCondaeth:

<u>An Clár:</u>	Seán Ó Suilleabháin agus Tomás Ó Dubháin
<u>Ciarráí:</u>	Cristóir Ó Cillín agus Seosamh Ó Cruaioich
<u>Corcaigh:</u>	Risteard Ó Murchú agus Roibeard Ó Riain
<u>Luimneach:</u>	Micheál Ó Suilleabháin agus Donncha Mac Thomáis
<u>Portláirge:</u>	Pádraig Ó Floinn agus Breandán Ó Toibín
<u>Tiobraid Árann:</u>	P S Ó Meachair agus Seán Ó Costagáin

<u>Comhairle Réigiúnach Liathróid Láimhe:</u>	Antóin Ó hAodha (Non-Voting)
<u>Comhairle Ard-Oideachas Na Mumhan:</u>	Seán Ó Corcráin (Non-Voting)
<u>Comhairle Iar-Bhunscoileanna Na Mumhan:</u>	Liam Ó Mathuna (Non-Voting)
<u>Coiste Bhunscoileanna Na Mumhan:</u>	Seosamh Ó Laighin (Non-Voting)



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

The Council received the list of affiliated Clubs from the six constituent Counties in the Province earlier in the year. However a significant reappraisal of the actual number of Clubs throughout the Association was conducted on behalf of Central Council during 2014. The following is the official count of Clubs arising from the research, which relied mainly on the subscriptions by Units into the Association Players Injury Scheme:

<i>Contae:</i>	<i>gCumainn:</i>
An Clár	52
Ciarraí	71
Corcaigh	155
Luimneach	69
Portláirge	51
Tiobraid Árann	71

The Council met on eight occasions since the last Convention on 24th January 2014. Significant decisions taken by Council during the past year include:

- Approval of a Council Budget for 2014 on the recommendation of the Management & Finance Committee
- The making/alteration of Competition Regulations for all Provincial Inter-County and Inter-Club Competitions (sixteen competitions in total) including an alteration to the senior football competition regulation
- Approving arrangements for the appointment of a permanent Post-Primary Schools' & Events Manager
- Approving arrangements for the recruitment and appointment of a temporary Social Media Co-Ordinator
- Approving a recommendation from the Finance & Management Committees that the Council produce the match programmes for all games under its control and an associated profit sharing arrangement with the six Counties.
- Receiving reports from the County Representatives on the status of the Club Championships in their respective counties
- Approving recommendations from the Council Planning & Physical Development Sub-Committee for Physical Development Grants for Units within the Province funded by Central and Provincial Council
- Receiving Progress Reports from the Chairpersons of the various Council Sub-Committees
- The submission of a motion to Annual Congress 2014 seeking a Rule change to rationalise the frequency in which the Chairpersons of the Council Sub-Committees report to Council
- Approving a ten-year Budgetary Framework 2015 -2024 on the recommendation of the Finance Committee in order to adequately manage the financial implications of



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

contributing to the Páirc Uí Chaoimh re-development project while maintaining stable Council finances

The three most important developments during 2014, in my view, were the decisions to implement a ten-year Budgetary Framework 2015 – 2024, to produce our own match programmes in house and to alter the senior football Championship Competition Regulation.

The recommendation from the Finance Committee in relation to the ten-year ***Budgetary Framework 2015 – 2024*** was considered by Council in January 2015. The detail of the agreement between the Council and its six constituent Counties on a Budgetary Framework 2015 – 2024 which specifically makes provision for the substantial expenditure on Major County Grounds Developments during that period is contained later in the Finance Committee section of the report.

The decision in relation to the ***match programmes*** is a welcome one for the Council but also for the six Counties. Although the new system only applied to the production of some of the match programmes for the senior games in 2014 nonetheless it was financially productive for the Council and for the Counties. More importantly there is significant scope for additional surpluses once the Council produce all the match programmes in 2015 and focus is applied to developing the advertising and corporate opportunities which the programmes offer. The reason that the system worked well during 2014 thanks to the Social Media Co-Ordinator who managed the change and to the team of contributors he assembled. Recognition is also due to the previous programme editors for the excellent publications produced over many years for Council games. The fair distribution of the profit from the publications is shared with the six Counties on the basis of one-third equally between the six Counties; one-third between the Counties on the basis of the surpluses generated from the games individual Counties participated in and the final third goes to the Council. The change is in place indefinitely with provision for a review after five years operation of the new system.

The most contentious decision by the Council in 2013 was the decision to alter the Competition Regulation governing the ***Provincial Senior Football Championship*** voting for a seeded draw. The Council decided to again alter the Competition Regulation by confining the seeding for the previous year's Finalists to the quarter finals. In effect this means that the four Counties that do not qualify for the Final in any year will be drawn against each other in the following year's quarter-finals. However there is an open draw for the semi-finals involving the Finalists from the previous year and the quarter-finals winners. In the draw for the 2015 Championship the Finalists from 2014 (Kerry and Cork) were drawn in separate Semi-Finals in an Open Draw.

An ***Induction & Strategic Review Seminar*** was organised and conducted for members of the Council on 19th April 2014 in Council HQ. The seminar was well attended and worthwhile. The template will be used again and particularly for new members of the Council in 2015.

I wish to pay tribute to ***eight members of the Council whose five-year term on the Council ends*** at Convention for all their commitment and valuable contributions to the Council during their terms. The outgoing members are: Seán Ó Suilleabháin (An Clár), Tomás Ó Dubháin (An Clár),



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

Risteard Ó Murchú (Corcaigh), Roibeard Ó Riain (Corcaigh), Donncha Mac Thomáis (Luimneach), Micheál Ó Suilleabháin (Luimneach), Pádraig Ó Floinn (Portláirge) agus P S Ó Meachair (Tiobraid Árann). Because of the departure of so many (two-thirds) of the County Representatives on Council the incoming Council will be very different.

Work of Council Sub-Committees:

Some of the work of the Council is referred to sub-committees in accordance with Rule and Provincial Bye-Laws. Consequently when reporting on the activities of the Council it is necessary to state that the work of the Council is assisted by an extensive sub-committee structure. The various sub-committees operate on the basis of specific Terms of Reference approved by the Council, with Committee members serving three-year terms coinciding with the tenure of the Provincial Chairperson. The Council received Progress Reports from the Chairpersons of each Committee throughout the year as frequently as deemed necessary by the Council. The Council is sponsoring a motion for Annual Congress 2015 seeking a necessary adjustment to the frequency with which these Progress Reports are required under Rule. At present Progress Reports are required at every Council meeting which is clearly impractical.

Management & Finance Committee:

The management of the affairs within the Provincial Jurisdiction is the responsibility of the **Management Committee** between Provincial Council meetings. The **Finance Committee** is responsible for all Financial Matters referred to it by the Provincial Council. The Munster Council traditionally operated a combined **Management & Finance Committee** up until 2013. However the Council operated separate Management and Finance Committees, albeit with common membership, during 2014. A Council motion to amend rule to allow Provincial Councils to appoint a joint Management & Finance Committee. The Bye-Laws on Convention agenda for approval contain a proposal to exercise this option in Munster.

The following is the common membership of the Management and the Finance Committees:

Cathaoirleach: Roibeard an tSeaca **Rúnaí:** Ciarán Ó Lidí (Bhainisteoir Oibríochtaí/Leas POF/Rúnaí).

Oifigí Foirne: Diarmuid Ó Suilleabháin (Leas Cathaoirleach), Antóin Breathnach (Cisteoir), Gearóid Ó Riain (Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí) agus Siomón Ó Maolrunaí (Príomh-Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin/Rúnaí).

During the year since Convention the joint Management & Finance Committee met on 10 and 9 occasions respectively as business required.

The key business of the Management & Finance Committee during the year included:

- Dealing with routine matters arising for decision between Council meetings
- Processing one Disciplinary case not arising from competitions and games



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

- Recommendations on the appointment on a permanent basis of the Provincial Post Primary Schools' Officer/Events Manager and the appointment for the first time, on a temporary basis, of a Provincial Social Media Co-Ordinator
- Approval, strictly for one year only, of an application for permission from Provincial Post-Primary Schools' Council to alter the Post-Primary Schools' Competition Structure for two competitions
- Recommending a Council Budget for 2014 to the Full Council for approval
- Dealing with applications for financial assistance to Council
- Dealing with applications for Borrowing Approvals, meeting applicant Units and making recommendations to the National Finance & Management Committee on behalf of the Council as appropriate
- Dealing with applications from Units within the Province for permission to purchase/lease/dispose of real property, meeting applicant Unit representatives and making recommendations to the National Finance & Management Committee on behalf of Council as appropriate
- Selection of recipients for the Annual Awards 2014
- Formulating a system for the distribution of match programme profit between the Council and the six constituent Counties and recommending this new system to Council
- Making a recommendation to Council in relation to a Budgetary Framework for the ten-year period 2015-2024 in the context of a substantial Major County Grounds Development Grant to Cork County Committee towards the re-development of Páirc Uí Chaoimh

Budgetary Framework 2015 - 2024:

Undoubtedly the **most significant recommendation** made by the Management & Finance Committees during the year was in relation to the ten-year Budgetary Framework. The recommendation covers the use of €6.25 million on Major County Grounds Developments and County Debt redemptions in the Province during that time. The Council approved this agreement with the six Counties. It is worth documenting the structure and arrangements involved in this important recommendation as follows:

Overall Approach to Budgetary Framework:

The significant cost and scale of the Project to re-develop Páirc Uí Chaoimh, with an estimated cost of €70m, and the level of expectation for grant funding required a planned approach by the Council. The Plan approved needed to be equitable for all counties demanded prudent and realistic management of the finances of both the Council and its constituent Counties. It was imperative that the Plan provided financial stability for the Association in the Province by ensuring wise investment and return from the significant funds to be expended within the Province in the ten-year period.

The level of funding sought for the re-development inevitably required that the Council planned a stable departure from the existing budgetary model, the fundamental principle of which was that no annual deficits were reported. Adherence to this key principle in the past was made possible because all financial commitments were funded primarily from cash flow. In rare cases where



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

significant contributions towards large scale major County Ground projects could not be afforded from cash-flow available meeting these commitments was planned on a multi-annual basis. To properly manage this change a 10 year budgetary framework/plan was necessary as the Council would:

- *Experience significant depletion of the Council's accumulated reserves.*
- *Suffer a major reduction in income from commercial returns from interest earned on investments or savings arising from this depletion.*
- *Be still required to meet the fixed costs of running the Council including increased contractual staff and HQ costs.*
- *Had no guarantee that gate receipt revenue will remain buoyant going forward.*

The contribution towards the funding of the redevelopment of Páirc Uí Chaoimh had therefore to be agreed within the framework of a broader Council ten-year Budgetary Plan.

The underlying approach taken in drafting the proposed Plan was to isolate significant change to the budget line concerned i.e. the Category 5 Major County Grounds Development budget. Consequently the two key elements of the proposed Plan are: A ten-year budgetary period for Cork County Committee and Two five-year budgetary periods for the other five Munster Counties covering the Council's maximum budget/expenditure for all Major County Grounds Developments – Category 5 Projects in this ten-year period. The existing annual budget for this expenditure is €300K. That level of budget is clearly inadequate to meet the level of expectation for the Cork re-development project plus the other capital projects for Major County Grounds in the other five Counties currently in planning or emerging in that ten-year budgetary period.

The Council's strategic objective was to plan all major County Ground Developments in the Province on a multi-annual (ten-year) basis with provision for reviews at the end of the initial five-year budgetary period for the five Counties other than Cork. This should enable the Council to manage cash-flow and to bring greater coherence to the planning and funding of major projects within the Province.

This approach should also generate the benefit of bringing greater discipline to the initiation, planning and funding of significant Major County Grounds Developments within the Counties.

It was deemed essential that the implementation and management (including decision making) of the process for the ten-year period should be formally referred and delegated by Council under Rule 3.32 (B) (ix) to the Council's Finance Committee. The Committee would then proceed in the context of ongoing consultation with the relevant Counties.

The context in which the Provincial Councils operate in the area of County Ground Development is set out in Rule 3.30 (m) of the Official Guide i.e. to "recommend County Grounds Development to Central Council".



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

However the Munster Council has a proud record of providing substantial development grant assistance to all six Counties in the Province in the area of Major County Ground Development. The proposed Plan is aimed at continuing this practice on the back of continued prudent and realistic management of the Council finances and a consensus approach with the six constituent Counties. It was also vital that in addition to continuing with generous funding to Counties in this area of Major County Grounds Development that the Council also planned to continue to substantially supplementing the significant Central Council annual Club Development grants for the Clubs in the Province as it has in the past. The Plan, it is hoped, provides for this important objective too.

The proposed Plan provides that funding to cover the additional budgetary requirement arising from the Cork Project and the emerging Major County Grounds Developments (Category 5) in the other five Counties during the initial five-year period must come from the Council's accumulated reserves, supplemented, where possible, from available cash flow resources and savings in other areas.

Alternative Funding Approaches Considered:

The only alternatives identified to using the Council Reserves were to either borrow to fund the cost OR to significantly cut Council expenditure in other budget areas or a combination of both.

The borrowing option made no commercial sense as the cost of the borrowings would be far greater than the interest earned from the retained accumulated reserves and revenues from the capital assets would accrue primarily to the Counties, not the Council.

The second alternative considered was to reduce expenditure by looking at savings under other budget lines e.g. Club Development Grants (€450K annual budget at present); Coaching & Games Development staffing costs and/or cost of Projects; cut Administration Staff; cut HQ expense; Special Grants etc. This was deemed an extremely limited option; not solely because of existing statutory and other contractual obligations impeding such a strategy but more importantly because it would remove resources from the core business of the Association i.e. the games. However in order to minimise the depletion in reserves and to maximise the available cash flow certain reductions in expenditure will be achieved during the implementation of the ten-year Plan e.g. in the Special Grants budget.

Specific 2015 – 2024 Budgetary Framework Proposal:

The specific proposal drafted was that the Council additional budgetary requirement for both the Cork Project (covering a ten-year period) and the emerging funding requirements in the other five Counties for the first of the two five-year period plans for Major County Grounds (Category 5) Development Grants would be funded from the Council's accumulated reserves, supplemented by cash-flow where possible. The objective was to achieve consensus with the six counties to such a specific proposal. The following are the particulars of the proposal or implementation details:

Implementation & Governance:

- 1. The provisions of the agreement with the constituent Counties in the Province is contingent on a prudent level of financial reserves, the level to be determined on an*



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

ongoing basis by the Council Finance Committee, being retained and available to the Council to meet normal ongoing and unforeseen commitments.

It is a further condition of the agreement with the constituent Counties in the Province that all approved Development Grants shall be withheld or subject to deductions from payment in any circumstance where there are monies outstanding to the Council from a County Committee.

2. *In the interests of equity and the prudent planning and funding of Major County Grounds Developments in the Province for the coming ten-year period the Council Finance Committee, on behalf of the Council, shall implement and manage the budget for Category 5 Major County Grounds Development Grants in two five-year component periods as follows:*

Cork Development Grant Specifics:

3. *The maximum Category 5 Development Grant funding to Cork County Committee for the ten-year Plan period including the contribution towards the re-development of Páirc Uí Chaoimh from Munster Council will be a gross €3.75m to be paid on submission of the required support documentation etc. for Major County Grounds (Category 5) Development Grants.*
4. *This funding will be phased over a maximum three-year period or such shorter period as cash flow permits. It will commence once the Cork County Committee investment in, plus the Central Council contribution towards, the re-development project are both fully expended/subscribed.*
5. *The Grant will be fully funded from the Council reserves or from cash flow where possible or a combination of both.*
6. *No Term Tickets will be sought by Cork County Committee nor approved by Munster Council to fund the re- development project.*
7. *Munster Council will permit, for a maximum ten-year period, the inclusion of a pre-approved quota of tickets for games in Competitions under its control in any “Premium” or “Club” Ticket Package product which may be promoted and sold by Cork County Committee to fund the re-development project.*
8. *In this regard the Munster Council will facilitate this possible Ticket Package product offering by making available, at ongoing face value, a quota of designated seats in the Premium and Lower Levels of the proposed New Stand for games in Competitions under its control. This will be done solely on the basis of a seat designation quota and template pre-approved by the Munster Council CEO/Operations Manager. The quota shall not exceed the total number of seats sold via the Ticket Package.*
9. *Cork County Committee will guarantee annual payment for all seats so designated and approved at ongoing face value cost, as determined annually on an ongoing basis by the Council Finance Committee. For **senior championship games** under the control of the Council the payment will cover all seats sold not just seats used for particular games. For games in **other competitions (Subsidiary Competitions, Intermediate, Junior, Under 21 & Minor)** under the control of the Council the payment will be restricted to tickets used.*



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

10. *Field Rent payable to Cork County Committee by the Munster Council for games under its control played in the re-developed Páirc Uí Chaoimh will be paid annually net of the gross cumulative cost, at ongoing face value rates, of all seats made available to facilitate the “Premium” or “Club” Ticket Package product which may be sold by Cork County Committee.*
11. *Cork County Committee undertook not to seek any similar or varied facility for Ticket Package products for games under the control of Munster Council played in the re-developed Páirc Uí Chaoimh for at least a further ten-year period after the ten-year period of the facility referred to above. Adherence to this commitment by Cork County Committee shall not preclude the negotiation and implementation of another agreement between the parties on the basis of the approved current Term Tickets Policy of the Council.*
12. *No other Munster Council funding will be made available to Cork County Committee in respect of Category 5 Major County Grounds Developments for the duration of the ten-year period.*
13. *In the event that the eventual project costs exceed current projections (€70m) any excess will not be borne or shared in any way by Munster Council.*
14. *In the event that the eventual project cost is less than currently projected (€70m) the Munster Council’s Major County Grounds Development Grant (maximum €3.75m for 10 years) will be reduced pro-rata i.e. by 5% of the gross saving.*
15. *If any such saving only crystallises after the advance of all of the Munster Council Grant then the reduction due to the Council will be recouped by way of deductions from any Field Rents due to Cork County Committee in the three years following completion of the project.*
16. *It is a condition of the agreement that Cork County Committee shall keep Munster Council fully informed on all aspects of the re-development project including tender amounts, timelines, certifications for payments due to contractor and sub-contractors, amounts drawn down from funding sources etc.*

Category 5 Budget for Other Five Counties 2015-2019:

17. *In the first five-year budgetary period the agreed maximum level of funding per County in the other five Counties: Clare, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford; for all Major County Grounds (Category 5) Developments shall be €0.5m i.e. maximum budget of €2.5m. The following extended uses/projects by County Committees shall comprise the eligibility criteria for drawdown of funding from the five-year Budget:*

- *Major County Grounds Development Projects meeting the criteria for Category 5 Development Grant funding.*
- *County Centres of Excellence Projects.*
- *Redemption or part redemption, via Munster Council, of existing or current County Committee borrowings.*
- *Collateral Mechanism(s) for County Committees to alleviate cash-flow difficulties experienced on an annual basis.*
- *Combination(s) of the above approved uses/projects.*



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

Responsibility for the processing and approval/refusal of formal County proposals for funding for projects/loan redemptions/Cash-Flow Collateral Mechanisms shall be referred by Council with the necessary delegated authority to make decisions to the Council's Finance Committee for the ten-year budgetary framework period.

Grants Scheme/Guidelines Amendment:

18. *The Council Development Grants Scheme/Guidelines (and Provincial Bye-Laws, if necessary) will be amended to reflect the detail of the consensus agreement in respect of Category 5 Major County Grounds Development Grant.*

Budgetary Strategy Review:

19. *In the final year of the first five-year period for Category 5 Major County Grounds Development Grants a Review will be conducted by the Council's Finance Committee, in consultation with the Council and its Planning & Development Committee. The Review will analyse: a) the effectiveness of the multi-annual budgetary strategy and b) emerging needs in this area in the five counties. The Review will inform the Council budgetary strategy for the second five-year period in the context of lower Council base reserve levels.*

Impact of Framework Proposals on Council Financial Statements 2015-2019:

The clear implication of the agreement is that it will inevitably lead to the reporting of (potentially) substantial deficits in the Council's annual financial statements over the next five years.

There are concerns and misgivings at the prospect of depleting the Council reserves, the product of prudent financial management over the last few decades by the Council and its staff. However it is also accepted that while the stability generated by such solid reserves is welcome and reassuring it is not, and should not be, a fundamental aim or objective of the Council to accumulate substantial reserves.

The creation of an environment that facilitates the growth and development of the games in the Province and all that that entails must be the fundamental and key driving force for the Council's strategies and actions. Part of the environment necessary to grow and develop the games must be progressive capital developments throughout the Province enabled by a prudent yet progressive Budgetary Framework over the next ten-years

The agreement made with all six Counties at Council level and the implementation of the Plan in a consensual manner will minimise the risks posed to stable finances at Council level.

The above agreement was unanimously approved by the Council at a meeting on 15th January 2015.



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

Club Fixtures Monitoring Committee:

The statutory *Sub-Committee to Monitor County Fixtures Programmes* was more proactive in 2014. The Club Fixtures Plans from the six Counties were analysed early in 2014. The sub-committee is comprised of: Roibeard an tSeaca (Cathaoirleach), Siomón Ó Maolrunaí (Príomh-Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin/Rúnaí), Risteard Ó Murchú (Corcaigh) and the two Provincial Fixtures Planners, Liam Ó Conchúir and Ciarán Ó Lidí. It is hoped to build on the experiences gained in 2014 in the coming year.

Competitions Control Committee:

Two of the Council sub-committees, the **Provincial Competitions Control Committee (CCC)** and the **Provincial Hearings Committee**, operate on the basis of prescribed roles and procedures in General Rule and Provincial Bye-Law. I include a report on their activities hereunder.

The *Competitions Control Committee* is composed of the Council officers and Representatives from each county and deals with the arrangements for all provincial fixtures (within the terms of Competition Regulations made by the Full Council) and Objections lodged during the year. The membership during 2014 was as follows:

Cathaoirleach: Roibeard an tSeaca **Rúnaí:** Siomón Ó Maolrunaí

Baill den Choiste:

Oifigí den Chomhairle: Diarmuid Ó Suilleabháin (Leas Cathaoirleach), Antóin Breathnach (Cisteoir), Gearóid Ó Riain (Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí).

Baill den Chomhairle ar son na gCondaethe: Seán Ó Suilleabháin (An Clár), Cristóir Ó Cillín (Ciarraí), Risteard Ó Murchú (Corcaigh), Micheál Ó Suilleabháin (Luimneach), Breandán Ó Toibín (Portláirge) agus Seán Ó Costagáin (Tiobraid Árann).

Provincial Referees' Administrator: Liam de Baróid.

All referee appointments within the jurisdiction of Comhairle Na Mumhan CLG are delegated under Provincial Bye-Law to a *Referee Appointment Workgroup* comprised of the Council officers and the Provincial Referee Administrator.

The Competitions Control Committee met on six occasions during 2014 and thanks to the committee all competitions were completed within the calendar year. While this was the case a disappointing feature of the Club Championships was that there was no Tipperary Club in the Provincial Club Championships in the senior and intermediate and intermediate hurling grades and no Clare Club in the Provincial Club Junior Hurling Championship in 2014. The former absence became the subject of a Claim to the Disputes Resolution Authority by the Club who won the intermediate hurling County championship but fortunately the Claim was dismissed by the DRA. The final of the *West Munster Hurling League* managed by the Coaching & Games Development Committee has yet to be played as one of the finalists progressed to the Intermediate Club Hurling Championship Final played in late November 2014. This fixture will be processed in February 2015.

The following Table gives an analysis of the games and disciplinary activity dealt with by the committee in minor and adult competitions during the year:



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

<i>Inter-County Competitions:</i>	<i>Games Fixed:</i>	<i>Games Played:</i>	<i>Including Replays:</i>	<i>Disciplinary Cases:</i>	<i>Hearings:</i>
Senior Hurling Championship	5	5	1	N/A	N/A
Senior Football Championship	6	6	1	N/A	N/A
Intermediate Hurling Championship	5	5		4	0
Junior Football Championship	5	5		1	
Under 21 Hurling Championship	4	4		4	1
Under 21 Football Championship	5	5			
Minor Hurling Championship	9	9	1	4	
Minor Football Championship	8	8		5	
Waterford Crystal Cup	10	10			
McGrath Cup (<i>Only 2 Counties</i>)	7	7		7	
Totals:	64	64	3	25	1
<i>Inter-Club Competitions:</i>	<i>Games Fixed:</i>	<i>Games Played:</i>	<i>Replays:</i>	<i>Disciplinary Cases:</i>	<i>Hearings:</i>
Club Senior Hurling	4	4		2	1
Club Senior Football	5	4		7	
Club Intermediate Hurling	5	4		1	
Club Intermediate Football	5	4		4	
Club Junior Hurling	5	4		3	
Club Junior Football	5	5		12	
West Munster Hurling League	15	6		7	
Totals:	44	31		36	1
Total Inter-County & Inter-Club:	108	95	3	61	2

The committee also proposed penalties in four cases arising from the Under 16 football competition organised and managed by the Coaching & Games Development Committee. It also proposed penalties in six cases arising from a minor challenge game.

No **Objections** required processing by the committee during the year.

A comprehensive record of all the provincial playing activities entitled **SCOREBOARD 2014** is appended to this report containing the results of all Council fixtures played throughout the province in 2014.

The draws for the **Provincial Senior Championships** are made each year in conjunction with the draws for the other provincial senior championships. These draws were made in early October. The draws for the two senior championships also determine the pairings for the provincial intermediate hurling and junior football championships. Following the draws the Provincial Competition Control Committee determined the venues and the fixture schedule for 2015.



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

The Provincial Competitions Control Committee made the draws for the remaining 2015 inter-county championships (Under 21 and Minor), the subsidiary competitions (McGrath Cup and Waterford Crystal Cup) and for the senior, intermediate and junior club championships in both codes. The *schedule of all inter-county and inter-club games in 2015* as completed by Provincial Competitions Control Committee is published later in this report.

Provincial Hearings Committee:

The *Provincial Hearings Committee* is comprised of members of the Council and others qualified personnel and deals with all Hearings arising from Provincial Competitions and Appeals lodged against decisions of County Committees in Munster. Members of the Provincial Management and Competitions Control Committee may not serve on the Provincial Hearings Committee.

The membership during 2014 was as follows:

Cathaoirleach: Donncha Mac Thomáis (Luimneach)

Rúnaí: Liam Ó Conchúir (Ciarraí)

Baill den Chomhairle ar son na gCondaethe: Tomás Ó Dubháin (An Clár), Seosamh Ó Cruaíoch (Ciarraí), Roibeard Ó Riain (Corcaigh), Padraig Ó Floinn (Portláirge) agus P S Ó Meachair (Tiobraid Árann).

Baill eile ar son na gCondaethe: Séamus de Náis (An Clár), Dónal de hÓr (Corcaigh), Liam Ó Leannacháin (Luimneach), Tomás Ó hAonghusa (Portláirge) agus Barra Ó Briain (Tiobraid Árann).

The following is the Report to Convention from the Provincial Hearings Committee Secretary, Liam Ó Conchúir (Ciarraí)

Functions:

As set out in Rial 3.33 (A) (iii) Treoraí Ofigiúil 2014 and Provincial Bye Laws

The members of the Hearings Committee have a clear knowledge of the rules and their powers under the rules. The members of this committee have volunteered to do this, at times, very difficult and challenging job on behalf of the Council.

5 members of the Hearings Committee, Denis Holmes, Tom Downes, Pat Flynn, Bob Ryan and PJ Maher retire as members of the Council at Convention. All of them have made valuable contributions to the committee during their term as members of the Council. A special thanks to the Chairman, Denis Holmes who has been exceptionally committed to this very important role for the past two years. Thanks also to Ger Hickey (An Clár) who served for 5 years on the Committee up to last year's Annual Convention.

The Committee held 10 meetings during the year. It processed 12 appeals against decisions of County Committees or their Sub Committees and 9 requests for personal hearings relating to the Enforcement of Rules arising from matters under the Jurisdiction of the Provincial Council.



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

The nature of this committee requires arrangements for its meetings are given at very short notice in order to accommodate players and clubs who have lodged appeals or have requested a personal hearing. The members of the committee get very short notice of meetings and their cooperation and dedication is something that deserves the highest commendation.

A very well attended seminar on the role of Competitions Control Committees was organised by Waterford Rúnaí, Tim O’Keeffe and was given by Simon Moroney and Willie O’Connor in Lawlor’s Hotel, Dungarvan. A seminar on the Role of Hearings Committees organised by Limerick Rúnaí, Mike O’Riordan was given by Willie O’Connor at Áras Mumhan. The feedback from these seminars was very positive and even though many of those attending have good experience in the operation of the rules they were none the less found to be very useful and informative.

Willie O’Connor
Rúnaí Coiste Eisteachta

I wish to acknowledge the hard work of the Committee, and particularly the hard working Chairperson, Donncha Mac Thomáis, and Secretary, Liam Ó Conchúir. The Council is extremely fortunate to have committee officers of such experience and integrity available and committed to the work of the Council.

In addition to the eleven “statutory” sub-committees required under Rule the Provincial Council has five Workgroups to work in areas which the Council and Sub-Committees see as also requiring a dedicated Workgroup comprised of personnel with particular expertise in the particular area. These additional five Workgroups are:

Club & County Support Workgroup
Club & County Grounds Health & Safety Workgroup
Urban Development Workgroup
Football Development Workgroup
Hurling Development Workgroup

All sub-committees are manned by a group of dedicated voluntary people who work tirelessly on behalf of the Council. I wish to acknowledge the immense efforts and personal sacrifice, in terms of time and energy, made by these people on the Councils work. In particular I wish to thank the officers of these sub-committees on whom a greater burden of responsibility falls. I recognise fully that without these unpaid volunteers the work of the Council would seriously suffer. **Reports on the membership and work of each general sub-committee and workgroup are included later in the booklet** and give a sense of the range of work being carried out on the Councils behalf by the many personnel involved. Go raibh mile maith agaibh arís.



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

GAMES 2014

This was a successful year for the Council in terms of games activity. This is the core work and key focus of the Council. The details are recorded earlier in this report in the section dealing with the work of the Provincial Competitions Control Committee.

I wish to thank all involved for this: including the Competition Control Committee, the hard working and efficient Referees' Administration Sub-Committee, individual Referees, Linesmen, Sideline Officials, Umpires and Assessors; and all ground staff at large and small venues throughout the province. I wish to thank the six County Treasures and the many Stile persons for all the help and assistance provided to the Council Treasurer and the Council Operations Manager, Kieran Leddy, in relation to Council fixtures throughout the year. I also want to acknowledge the hard and effective work of the Monitor, Kieran Mc Gann, and his team at the major inter-county games during the year.

I do not propose to go into any detail about the individual competitions and the individual winners and losers as everyone is well acquainted with this material already. However I do wish to record the congratulations of the Council to the winners of all sixteen provincial competitions and particularly to the winners of the fourteen Munster Championships as follows:

Inter-County Championships:

<u>GRADE:</u>	<u>IOMÁINT:</u>	<u>PEIL:</u>
Senior	Corcaigh	Ciarraí
Intermediate/ (Junior)	Corcaigh	(Ciarraí)
Under 21	An Clár	Corcaigh
Minor	Luimneach (<i>after Replay</i>)	Ciarraí

Inter-County Subsidiary Competitions:

<u>COMPETITION:</u>	<u>IOMÁINT:</u>	<u>PEIL:</u>
Waterford Crystal (McGrath) Cups	Tiobraid Árann	(Corcaigh)

Inter-Club Championships:

<u>GRADE:</u>	<u>IOMÁINT:</u>	<u>PEIL:</u>
Senior	Cill Mochollóg (Luimneach)	Aibhistín de Staic (Ciarraí)
Intermediate	Ceapeach Chuinn (Portláirge)	Ard Fhearta (Ciarraí)
Junior	Ma Dheilge (Portláirge)	Brosnach (Ciarraí)

The performance of Ciarraí and its Clubs in 2014; winning three of the four provincial inter-county football championships, winning the All-Ireland senior and minor titles and three of its Clubs winning all three provincial inter-club football championships; is deserving of particular recognition.



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

SCHOOLS

A key element of the strength of the national games over the years is the work carried out by many Teachers in our primary, secondary and third level schools in promoting the skills of the games with our youth. On behalf of the Council I wish to acknowledge the ongoing contribution to our games by the teaching profession. The Council seeks to make this task easier in the schools and directly contributed **€342,089** as follows to the schools bodies in 2014:

<i>Level:</i>	<i>Annual Grants:</i>	<i>Staff Costs Subvention:</i>	<i>Development Grants:</i>	<i>Bursaries: (PrimaryGame)</i>	<i>Totals:</i>
Third Level	€25,000	€112,000		€46,600	€183,600
Post Primary	€47,000	<u>€29,600</u>			€76,600
Primary	<u>€42,700</u>		<u>13,687</u>	<u>25,502</u>	<u>€81,889</u>
<i>Totals:</i>	<i>€114,700</i>	<i>€141,600</i>	<i>€13,687</i>	<i>€72,102</i>	<i>€342,089</i>

In addition to this the Council via the Coaching & Games Development Sub-Committee organises an annual **Primary School Teachers Course** in Mary Immaculate College during the Summer months each year.

My report last year referred to developments in the Post-Primary Schools' sector and this year I wish to pay a particular tribute to the **Post-Primary Schools' Council** for their hard work over the past two years. I am glad to record the confirmation on a permanent basis the full-time Provincial Post Primary Schools' Officer, John Brennan. I mention earlier in my report that it is proposed to Convention that the existing Bye-Laws of the Provincial Post-Primary Schools' Council be fully incorporated, as Bye-Law 6, into the Provincial Bye-Laws. I referred earlier to an approval by Council, strictly for one year only, of an application from the Provincial Post-Primary Schools' Council under Rule 6.44 for permission to alter the Post-Primary Schools' Competition Structure for two competitions. This application referred to permission to allow an amalgamation of schools in two competitions for experimental purposes. The Council approval was given on the basis that it applied for one-year only, the 2014' 15 season.

ANNUAL AWARDS 2014

The Munster Council Annual GAA Awards Night has become a well established and important function in the social calendar each year. The presentation function was held in the "Dromoland Castle Hotel" in Newmarket-on-Fergus on Saturday, 13th December 2014 and it was an extremely enjoyable night. The deserving recipients of the various awards in 2014 are as follows:

Player of the Year Awards:

Senior Hurling:	Patrick Horgan (Corcaigh)
Senior Football:	James O Donoghue (Ciarraí)
Handball:	Mullins Brothers (Luimneach)



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

Camogie:	Jennifer O Leary (Corcaigh)
Ladies Gaelic Football:	Angela Walsh (Corcaigh)
Intermediate Hurling:	John Cronin (Corcaigh)
Junior Football:	Gavin O Grady (Ciarraí)
Under 21 Hurling:	Seadna Morey (An Clár)
Under 21 Football:	Alan Cadogan (Corcaigh)
Minor Hurling:	Tom Morrissey (Luimneach)
Minor Football:	Matthew Flaherty (Ciarraí)

Distinguished Service Awards:

Manager of the Year:	Éamonn Fitzmaurice (Ciarraí)
Club of the Year:	CLG Creatlach (An Clár)
Refereeing:	Shane Hourigan R.I.P. (Luimneach)
Service in Education:	John Lenihan (UL & An Clár)
Media Award:	Mac Dara Mac Donncha (Portláirge)
Special Merit Award:	Diorai Mac Gabhann (Corcaigh)
Hall of Fame (Football):	Jim Wall (Portláirge)
Hall of Fame (Hurling):	Liam Devaney (Tiobraid Árann)

REFEREES:

The Council also honoured the Referees who officiated at the Council championship finals in 2014 at the Annual Awards function. This is small recognition for the training which these Referees undertake throughout the year in order to be right for the many games they officiate at during the season. I wish to pay tribute to all the Referees in the province for the essential job they carry out week in week out for the Association. The Referees are honoured in this way as representatives of all Referees and are as follows:

Inter-County Competitions 2014:

Brian Ó Gaibhín (<i>Uibh Fhailí</i>)	Iomáint Shinsir
Cormac Ó Raghallaigh (<i>An Mhí</i>)	Peil Shinsir
Deaglán Ó Drisceoil (<i>Luimneach</i>)	Iomáint Idirmheánach
Deirc Ó Mathúna (<i>Tiobraid Árann</i>)	Peil Soisir
Fearghal Ó hOrgáin (<i>Tiobraid Árann</i>)	Iomáint Fé 21
Pádraig Ó Suilleabháin (<i>Ciarraí</i>)	Peil Fé 21
Seán Mac Cormaic (<i>Tiobraid Árann</i>)	Iomáint na Mionúir
Risteard Ó Maoldomhnaigh (<i>Luimneach</i>)	Peil na Mionúir
Seán Ó Seasnáin (<i>Corcaigh</i>)	Corn Waterford Crystal
Deirc Ó Mathúna (<i>Tiobraid Árann</i>)	Corn Mhic Craith

Club Championships 2014:

Fearghal Ó hOrgáin (<i>Tiobraid Árann</i>)	Iomáint Shinsir na gClub
Conchúir Ó Laighin (<i>Corcaigh</i>)	Peil Shinsir na gClub
Diarmuid Ó Ciarbháin (<i>Corcaigh</i>)	Iomáint Idirmheánach na gClub
Ruairí Ó hÍcí (<i>An Clár</i>)	Peil Idirmheánach na gClub



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

Seán Ó Murchú (*Luimneach*)
Alan Ó Ciosáin (*Portláirge*)

Iomáint Soisir na gClub
Peil Soisir na gClub

I also wish to mention the Referees Sub-Committee who worked extremely hard throughout 2014 and performed most efficiently. I wish to pay particular thanks to Kevin Walsh and Willie Barrett for their excellent work and commitment throughout the past year. The Council is extremely fortunate to have officers of this calibre managing the refereeing affairs in the province.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

I will not dwell on the financial aspects of the Council activities during 2014 as this is dealt with comprehensively by the Council's Operations Manager, Kieran Leddy. Kieran, who is the Council's Financial Controller, has a detailed report on the Council finances later in the booklet. In addition the Financial Reports for the Year Ended 31st October 2014 audited by BDO are included in the booklet. It is therefore sufficient to acknowledge that the Council finances are in good shape and in steady hands going forward.

GENERAL ISSUES

Staffing At Council HQ:

Two changes occurred in the staffing area during the year. The Council confirmed the appointment of John Brennan as the ***Post-Primary Schools'/Events Manager*** on a permanent basis. The Council appointed former PRO, Ed Donnelly as the ***Provincial Social Media Co-Ordinator*** during the year. In addition to managing the Council website, social media platform, Council publications and Events and IT infrastructure Ed also manages the in-house production of the match programmes as part of his duties. It is hoped to finalise the long-term position in the communications area in 2015. I will be continuing as CEO/Rúnaí myself for another year until Convention in January 2016 with a contract option to continue beyond that point for a further three years to January 2019.

The Council currently employs eight full-time staff as follows:

Council HQ – Castletroy:

CEO/Rúnaí:	Simon Moroney
Operations Manager/Deputy CEO/Leas Rúnaí:	Kieran Leddy
Post-Primary Schools' Officer/Events Manager:	John Brennan
Social Media Co-Ordinator:	Ed Donnelly
Administrator (Fixtures/Disciplinary/Finance):	Nuala Nealon
Administrator (Tickets/Meetings/Finance):	Mary O'Mahoney

Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney:

Games Manager:	Pat O'Shea
----------------	------------

Carriganore, Waterford:

Games Manager:	Joe Carton
----------------	------------



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

I want to publicly record my thanks to all Council staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment throughout 2014.

HQ Premises:

Significant development during the year in relation to the Council HQ saw the disposal of the original, and first permanent, Council HQ in Rhebogue in August 2014. The Council entered a Lease agreement with Limerick County Committee during the year under which the Council has let a portion of the new HQ to Limerick County Committee. This is a mutually beneficial arrangement and is working very well to date.

Sympathy

As with every year the Association in Munster has lost many of its members over the past twelve months in the six Munster counties. I will not recall individually all of those we have sadly lost in 2014 in case I would omit someone and cause offence. On behalf of the Council I wish to convey the sympathy and condolences to all the bereaved relatives and friends of those who passed on during 2014. Go dtuga Dia suaimhneas sioraí da n-anamnacha do léir.

BUÍOCHAS

In concluding my report I wish to thank the following:

- My fellow Officers on the Council Management & Finance Committees.
- 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 2014.
- To the County Officers in the six County Boards 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 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 Referees, Linesmen, Sideline officials, Match Monitor, Umpires and Assessors for the manner in which they officiated at our games in 2014.
- To the several Stiles persons, Stewards, Grounds men, catering personnel who have helped me 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 central product of the Association in Munster in 2013 as in every other year. 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.
- 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, SKY and TG4 for the TV fees received during 2013 and to all TV personnel with whom I have had contact in relation to the televising of our games.



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2014

- To the Sponsors who provide generous sponsorship to the Council and some of its sub-committees including:
 - Shannon Airport
 - M. Donnelly
 - Etihad
 - Centra
 - Liberty Insurance
 - Eircom
 - GAAGO
 - SuperValu
 - Bord Gais Energy
 - Cadbury
 - Electric Ireland
- To the Uachtarán, Ard Stiurthóir and all the staff in Páirc an Chrócaigh for the co-operation and assistance received during 2014
- Finally 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: Kieran, John, Ed, Nuala, Mary, Joe and Pat.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Mise le meas,

Siomón Ó Maolrunaí,
Rúnaí/Príomh-Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin,
Comhairle na Mumhan CLG.
16th January 2015