



Tuairisc Bhliantúil

an Rúnaí

11^ú Eanáir 2018



Tuairisc Bliantúil An Rúnaí 2017

Is mór an phribléid dom Thuairisc Bliantúil a chur ós comhair Chomhdháil Comhairle na Mumhan CLG don bhliain 2017, agus don deireadh uair. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil do gach éinne a raibh páirteach le hobair an Chomhairle í rith 2017.

I am pleased to present my final Annual Report on the activities of the Munster Council during 2017 to Provincial Convention, in compliance with Rules 3.25 (a) and 3.28 of Treoráí Oifigiúil 2017. This Report on the general Provincial activities is concentrated on the Council activities during the 2017 calendar year in broad terms. I will not go into detail where the aspect of the Council work is covered in detail in Sub-Committee reports relating to Council activities elsewhere in this Annual Convention booklet. However the financial references and financial statements contained in the Convention booklet relate to the annual financial accounting period to 31st October 2017. Of course the Provincial Council term is that period between Provincial Conventions i.e. 29th January 2017 to 26th January 2018. As it happens it will be my final report to Provincial Council as I leave the post as Secretary/CEO on 6th May 2018 after a very happy five years plus in this my second term in the position.

OVERVIEW 2017

Provincial Representatives in National Inter-County Competitions:

Overall 2017 can be regarded as a moderately successful year for the counties and clubs of the Province on the field of play.

In **Hurling** it was a modest year in terms of achievement for the counties in the Province with some highlights as follows:

- The recent success of the Provincial representatives in the **Bord Gais Under 21 Hurling Championship** continued with **Luimneach** claiming the title, defeating Gaillimh in the semi-final and Cill Chainnaigh in the Final.
- **Ciarraí** won the All-Ireland Under 21 B Hurling - Richie McElligott Cup title defeating Cill Mhantáin in the Final
- **Corcaigh** won the U17 Special Hurling title and lost narrowly by two points to An Gaillimh in the Minor U18 Hurling Final.
- **Portláirge** contesting the Liam McCarthy All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship Final and three Munster counties contested the All-Ireland senior semi-finals. While Portlairge gave an excellent performance it was the tribesmen's day on the first Sunday in September defeating the Munster men by three points.

In **Football** the Munster Champions, **Ciarraí** won its fourth Electric Ireland Minor All-Ireland Championship in a row which is a unique achievement. **Ciarraí** also retained the All-Ireland Junior Football Championship defeating Liatroim in the semi-final and An Mhí in the final.



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Representatives in National Inter-Club Scene:

It was a mixed season for the following Provincial Club Representatives in the 2016'17 All-Ireland Club Championships:

<i>Iomáint:</i>	<u><i>Shinsir</i></u> <i>Baile Aodha</i>	<u><i>Idirmheánach</i></u> <i>Lios Mór</i>	<u><i>Soisir</i></u> <i>Baile na mBocht</i>
<i>Peil:</i>	<i>Dr Crócaigh</i> <i>Cill Áirne</i>	<i>An Neidín</i>	<i>Gleann Beithe-Gleann</i> <i>Chárthaigh</i>

Baile na mBocht represented the Province with distinction in winning the AIB Bank All-Ireland Junior Club Hurling Championship. The Club accounted for Calraigh/Naomh Iósef in the semi-final and a great Moinchoinn team, by a single point, in a superb Final on 18th February 2017. **Baile Aodha** (An Clár) had an excellent year. The Provincial Club of the Year won its first County Senior Championship, the Provincial Senior Club Hurling title and defeated a highly fancied Naomh Thómais side in an enthralling All-Ireland semi-final before losing to a great Cuala team in the senior club final on St. Patrick's Day. The Intermediate Hurling representative, **Lios Mór** was defeated at the All-Ireland semi-final stage by Áth Eascrach/Fothaine.

The strong performances by Provincial representatives in the **All-Ireland Club Football Championships** continued in 2016'17. **Dr. Crócaigh Cill Áirne**, managed by Clubman and Provincial Games Manager Pat O'Shea, represented their County and Province with distinction. The Killarney Club defeated highly rated opponents Corafinne and Slaughtneill in the All-Ireland Semi-Final and Final respectively winning the AIB Bank All-Ireland Senior Club Football Championship. Fellow Ciarraí Club, **Gleann Beithe-Gleann Chárthaigh**, won the AIB bank All-Ireland Junior Football crown overcoming Cluain Cearbain and An Charraig Naomh Pádraig on the way. The third Provincial representative from Ciarraí, **An Neidín**, were defeated by two points by Naomh Pádraig Cathar Na Mart in the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Football semi-final.

It is hoped that the six Clubs representing the Province in the 2017'18 AIB GAA All-Ireland Club Championships who won their respective championships in November/December 2017 have successful campaigns in the All-Ireland championships just commenced. The Munster representatives are: **Na Piarsaigh (Senior Hurling)**, **Raonúithe Nemo (Senior Football)**, **Ceann Tuirc (Intermediate Hurling)**, **An Ghaeltacht (Intermediate Football)**, **Déaglán Naomhe Ard Mhór (Junior Hurling)** and **Cnoc na Graí (Junior Football)**.

Internal Provincial Championships & Subsidiary Competitions:

The Council organised just seven of the established **Inter-County Championships** in 2017. The championships were: Senior Hurling and Football, Junior Football, Bord Gais Under 21 Hurling, EirGrid Under 21 Football and Electric Ireland Minor Hurling and Football. The Electric Ireland Minor Football and Hurling Championships were played at Under 18 Age-Grade for the last time in 2017. The age-grade for the Minor Championships is changing to Under 17 in 2018 and



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thereafter, for the time being at least. Similarly the 2017 Under 21 Football Championship is the last time at this Age-Grade as it is changed to Under 20 in 2018.

No **Provincial Intermediate Hurling Championship** was played in 2017 as there was only one participant, **Corcaigh**. **The Provincial Council again sensibly decided in November 2017 not to organise a Provincial Intermediate Hurling Championship in 2018, as there is only one entrant.** This circumstance has arisen for two reasons in my opinion. Firstly the strict application by Central Council, a position I fully support, of the criteria governing the admission of “*second-best*” teams into the Intermediate Hurling Championship Grade. **Secondly, and more pertinently in my view, the unequal proportionate distribution of first Club teams between the established senior, intermediate and junior hurling grades within the counties in the Province.** Following the same (correct) logic as employed by Council in the Intermediate Hurling Championship **it is now time to critically consider the termination of the Provincial Junior Football Championship in 2019.** There are only two counties, Corcaigh agus Ciarraí, participating in a Provincial Junior Football Championship (Final) in 2018.

In addition to the seven Provincial Championships five **Subsidiary Competitions** were organised in 2017. Two Special **Provincial Under 17 Football and Hurling Competitions** were run by the Council as part of the national competitions to accommodate players born in 2000. Such players may not have the opportunity to represent their counties in minor age-grade because of the move from Under 18 to Under 17 in 2018. Ciarraí (football) and Corcaigh (hurling) won these “*once-off*” provincial competitions, the latter going on to win the All-Ireland series.

The two established Subsidiary Hurling (**Co-op Superstores.ie Munster Senior Hurling League**) and Football (**McGrath Cup**) Competitions were again run in January 2017. **Corcaigh** won the hurling competition and **Ciarraí** won the football. I wish to acknowledge the financial sponsorship for the provincial hurling league in 2017 by **Dairy Gold** through its retail arm, **Co-Op Superstores**. In particular I acknowledge, on behalf of the Council, the support of its Chief Executive, **Mr. Jim Woulfe**. These pre-season competitions provide a useful platform for the six Munster counties to sharpen up their skills before the national leagues commence. It is hoped that greater support for the Provincial competitions will be forthcoming from all counties going forward. This has not been the case in recent years.

An experimental three-county **U25 Provincial Hurling Competition** was organised in 2017 in place of a failing Provincial Intermediate Hurling Championship. The three participants were: An Clár, Luimneach agus Portlárge. The Competition was won by Luimneach who went on to win the Bord Gais Under 21 Championship with several of the same players.. The concept of this U25 Hurling Competition did not receive the support of all of the counties in the Province, nor indeed was it supported nationally when presented in motion form at Congress. Nonetheless I still firmly believe that the U25 concept is better suited to the present inter-county circumstance of **large senior panels** and **intensive training regimes**. At present many upcoming and fringe players on senior inter-county panels are putting in serious time and effort without any opportunity to actually play inter-county games. **The concept of the U25 Competition is to harvest three, rather than two, inter-county teams from the existing senior and U21 panels.** Contrary to what has been stated in opposition to the U25 Competition concept this will NOT lead to more



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inter-county competition dates or activity as the senior and U25 (reserves) games will be played on the same dates i.e. weekends when club activity is minimal. I acknowledge that the articulation of the concept and the thinking behind it may not have been adequate. I do hope however that it may have a future at some point. It is better tailored to our present reality than the Intermediate and Junior inter-county grades.

AIB Bank Inter-Club Provincial Championships:

The Council organised the six established **AIB Bank Inter-Club Championships** in 2017. These are Senior Hurling and Football, Intermediate Hurling and Football and Junior Hurling and Football. The Provincial Club Champions represent the Province in the national equivalent AIB Bank All-Ireland Club Championship series.

Unfortunately in 2017 Portlárige had no representation in the AIB Bank Provincial Club Senior Football Championships. Last year (2016) there was no intermediate or junior representative from Portlárige. I referred to this in my report last year underlining the ambition that it is better to have representation from all Counties in the Province in these competitions. I also pointed out that it is unfair on Clubs who eventually emerge as County Champions who are too late to compete in Provincial Championships. I recognise that the county's qualification for the Liam McCarthy Final in September was a factor and also that significant dual participation by Clubs poses serious challenges with fixtures. However these challenges can be anticipated and must be managed from the outset. The resolution of this matter ultimately rests with individual Counties through County Bye-Laws, Competition Regulations and improved internal management of fixtures programmes at Divisional and County Committee level.

The **Scoreboard** appended later in my report on Council activities during the year provides full details of all 95 match results for both Provincial inter-county (67 games) and Provincial inter-club (28 games) played during the season under review. This is a useful record of provincial games activity in 2017.

Inter-Provincial Competitions:

There were no Interprovincial Competitions during the year under review. This circumstance arose thanks to the sensible decision by the Connacht Provincial Council not to participate. I hope that other Provincial Councils, including Munster, and the Central Council follow the courageous example of Connacht and put these sentimental, costly and futile competitions aside once and for all.

Provincial Representation in Education Sector Competitions:

A positive achievement at **Post-Primary Schools'** level was the retention in the Province for a fourth successive year of the **Hogan Cup** (Senior Post-Primary All-Ireland Football Championship). This was achieved by the 2016 winners, **St. Brendan's Killarney**, succeeding fellow Kerry post-primary school, Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne (winners in 2014 and 2015). In a well contested Final St. Brendan's overcame the Ulster champions: St. Patrick's Maghera.



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Our Lady's Templemore, Tiobraid Árann won the *Dr. Croke Cup* (Senior Post-Primary All-Ireland Hurling Championship) Final by defeating St. Kieran's Kilkenny in the Final. This is a tremendous achievement for the Tipperary school and indeed for the Province.

To complete an excellent year for the Provincial Post-Primary Schools' **JTB Hospital** won the All Ireland Senior B Hurling competition, **St Augustine's** claimed the All Ireland Senior C Hurling title and **Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne** won the All Ireland Junior football title. St. Colman's Fermoy narrowly lost the Junior Hurling All Ireland final.

This is a credit to the **Provincial Post-Primary Schools' Council** and contributed to greatly by the hard work carried out by its officers and servicing officer. Congratulations to all involved.

At Higher Education level the *Fitzgibbon Cup* was retained in the Province for a second year in a row by current Champions, **Mary Immaculate College**, Luimneach. This is an exceptional achievement as the college only won its first title last year and has a relatively small number of students in the college.

ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE

Provincial Bye-Laws:

Item 8 on the Convention Clár schedules the making of **Provincial Bye-Laws** by Annual Convention. The proposed *Draft* Munster Provincial Bye-Laws for the consideration of Convention follow this Report and appendices. The proposed changes are highlighted in red. One is a technical correction to the Bye-Law in relation to the delegated authority to the Provincial Secretary with regard to the range of circumstances in which the Secretary may seek Clarification from a Referee. This is prompted by a case giving rise to an investigation in 2017. There are also some minor typographical amendments, to correct the text rather than to introduce any change and also an updating of the references to the 2017 version of An Treoraí Oifigiúil. Though not a requirement for Provincial Councils, as it is for County Committees, nonetheless it is best practice to annually update, if required, the Provincial Bye-Laws.

Provincial Council:

For the record the Provincial Council membership since 28th January 2017 was as follows:

Oifigí:

Cathaoirleach:

Diarmuid Ó Suilleabháin (Corcaigh)

Leas Cathaoirleach:

Liam Ó Loineacháin (Luimneach)

Cisteoir:

Piarsas P. Ó Murchú (Corcaigh)

Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí:

Antóin Breathnach (Portláirge)

Príomh-Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin/Rúnaí:

Siomón Ó Maolrunaí (Non-Voting)

Teachtaí ar son Na gCondaethe:

An Clár:

Ciarán Ceitinn agus P S Ó Ceallaigh

Ciarraí:

Cristóir Ó Cillín agus Seosamh Ó Crualaoich



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<u>Corcaigh:</u>	Marc Ó Siocháin agus Diarmuid Mac Gabhann
<u>Luimneach:</u>	Prionnsias Ó Riada agus Pól Ó Foghlú
<u>Portláirge:</u>	Breandán Ó Toibín agus Seán Ó Laoire
<u>Tiobraid Árann:</u>	Gearóid Ó Riain agus Séamus Ó Muineog
<u>Comhairle Réigiúnach Liathróid Láimhe:</u>	Cionnaith Ó Conbhuí (Non-Voting)
<u>Comhairle Ard-Oideachas Na Mumhan:</u>	Cathal Mac Carthaigh (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)

The six constituent Counties in the Province are required to submit to the Council a list of all the affiliated Clubs before March 1st each year. The following reflects the 574 Clubs in each County as per the affiliations submitted in 2017:

<i>Contae:</i>	<i>gCumainn:</i>
An Clár	56
Ciarraí	73
Corcaigh	258
Luimneach	65
Portláirge	50
Tiobraid Árann	72
<i>Total:</i>	574

The Provincial Council held five meetings since the last Convention on 28th January 2017. Significant decisions taken by Council during the past year include:

- Appointing the members of the ***Provincial Management & Finance Committee*** for 2017-2018 arising from changes in officers at the last Provincial Convention.
- Appointment of the ***Munster Provincial Regional Handball Council/Sub-Committee 2017-2018*** as follows:

<u>Cathaoirleach:</u>	Mícheál Ó Conchúir (Luimneach)
<u>Leas Cathaoirleach:</u>	Pádraig Ó Muiris (Corcaigh)
<u>Runaí/Administrator/CCCC:</u>	Donal Ó hAodha (Luimneach)
<u>Cisteoir/Leas Runaí:</u>	Peadar Ó Duinneacha (Corcaigh)
<u>Rúnaí na nÓg:</u>	Brendain Fáilbhe (Ciarraí)
<u>Oifigeach Forbartha:</u>	Padraig Ó Freaghaile (Luimneach)
<u>Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí:</u>	Padraig Mac Coileáin (Tiobraid Árann)
<u>Oifigeach Oilíúna:</u>	Donal Ó hAodha (Luimneach)

- Appointment of ***An Comhairle Chúige Ard-Oideachais Na Mumhan 2017-2018*** as follows:

<u>Cathaoirleach, Council Representative:</u>	Cathal Mac Cárthaigh (CIT)
<u>Rúnaí:</u>	Seosamh Mac Aodhbhuí (UCC)
<u>Cisteoir:</u>	Ciara Uí Criagáin (MICL)
<u>Oifigeach Oilíúna:</u>	Éamonn Ó Gairbhith (UL)



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- Appointment of *An Comhairle Chúige Iar-Bhunscoileanna na Mumhan 2017-2018* as follows:

Cathaoirleach & Ionadaí ar Chomhairle Cúige: Liam Ó Mathúna (Luimneach)

Leas Cathaoirleach: Fiontán Ó Conchúir (Portlairge)

Rúnaí: Colm Ó hAodha (An Clár)

Leas-Runaí: Gearoid Ó Nuanáin (Luimneach)

Cisteoir: Fearghas Ó Riain (Corcaigh)

Servicing Officer: Séan Ó Braonáin

- Appointment of *An Choiste Cúige na mBunscol 2017-2018* as follows:

Cathaoirleach & Ionadaí ar Chomhairle Cúige: Seosamh O Laighin (Luimneach)

Leas Cathaoirleach: Tomas Ó hAinfein (Ciarraí)

Runaí: Cillian O Raghallaigh (Portlairge)

Cisteoir: Mairead Uí Cheallacháin (Corcaigh)

Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí: Aodhan Mac Bhraín (Tiobraid Árann)

Oifigeach Forbartha: An Br. Séamus Ó Duidhíorma (Luimneach)

- Appointment of *An Obair Ghrúpa Scór Cúige 2017-2018* as follows:

Cathaoirleach: Tomás Ó hIarlatha (Ciarraí)

Leas Cathaoirleach: Maighréd Ní Faoláin, (Corcaigh)

Runaí: Jerry Ó Dúda (Corcaigh)

Cisteoir: Séamus Mac Craith (Tiobraid Árann)

Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí: Micheál Mac Conmara (An Clár)

Toscaire Comhairle na Mumhan: Antóin Breathnach,

Ionadaí

Seamús Mac Ionnrachtaigh (An Clár)

Jackie Breathnach (Ciarraí)

Seamús Mac Ionnrachtaigh (Luimneach)

Micheál Ó Riain (Luimneach)

Padraig Mac Gearailt (Portlairge)

- Appointment of Gearóid Ó Riain as replacement Rúnaí of Coiste Chúige Caidreamh Poiblí agus Margáiochta na Mumhan.
- Approval of revised Banking Mandates to reflect changes in officer-ships.
- Approval of the Development Grants Scheme for 2017 as recommended by the Planning & Development Committee
- Receiving Progress Reports from the Chairpersons of the Provincial Sub-Committees.
- Receiving ongoing reports from the County Representatives on the status of the Club Championships in their respective counties as part of the Fixtures Monitoring work
- The alteration of Competition Regulations for all Provincial Inter-County and Inter-Club Competitions. This included making significant alterations to the Senior and Minor Hurling Championships Competition Regulations following the Special Congress decision on the senior championship format for 2018-2020. For the next three-year period the draws and scheduling of the senior and minor hurling championships will be aligned.
- The discontinuance of both the Provincial Intermediate Hurling Championship and the Under 25 Hurling Competition for 2018.



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- Approving recommendations from the Council Planning & Physical Development Sub-Committee for Physical Development Grants in 2017 for Units within the Province and funded by Central and Provincial Council

I wish to pay tribute to a number of members of the outgoing Council who will not be returning after Annual Convention either because their maximum five-year term is ending with the life of this Council or to move on to other things within their County Committee. These include: **Cristóir Ó Cillín** agus **Seosam Ó Crualaoich** (Ciarraí); **Diarmuid Mac Gabhann** (Corcaigh) agus **Seosamh Ó Laighin** (Cumann na mBunscol).

Work of Council Sub-Committees:

Much of the detailed work of the Council is referred to Provincial Council Sub-Committees in accordance with Rule and the Provincial Bye-Laws. In all the Provincial Council appoints **nine statutory Sub-Committees** as prescribed in Rules 3.31 and 3.32 Treoraí Oifigiúil 2017. In addition there are **four** Provincial Sub-Committees one for Handball and the three Educational sector committees as also prescribed in Rule. Four of these sub-committees have **five Work-Groups** dedicated to specific aspects of the sub-committee brief. In addition there are two Provincial **Fixture Analysts** appointed by the Management & Finance Committee of Council.

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. This is the second year of the prescribed three-year term.

The Council received Progress Reports from the Chairpersons of each Committee throughout the year as frequently as deemed necessary by the Council. The annual reports from the various sub-committees and work-groups are included later in this booklet and form part of the report on Council activities for 2017.

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 operate a combined **Management & Finance Committee** and this was again the case in 2017.

The following is the common membership of the Management & Finance Committee:

Cathaoirleach: Diarmuid Ó Suilleabháin **Rúnaí:** Ciarán Ó Lidí (Bhainisteoir Oibríochtaí/Leas POF/Rúnaí).

Oifigí Foirne: Liam Ó Loineacháin (Leas Cathaoirleach), Piaras P. Ó Murchú (Cisteoir), Antóin Breathnach (Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí) agus Siomón Ó Maolrunaí (Príomh-Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin/Rúnaí).



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During the year since Convention the joint Management & Finance Committee met on 9 occasions 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
- Monitoring the Council's Finances on an on-going basis, with particular reference to income and expenditure arising from competitions organised by the Council
- Processing and approving applications and detailed proposals on behalf of County Committees for specific funding under the Budgetary Framework for the ten-year period 2015-2024.
- Recommending Council Budgets for the 2015'16 and 2016'17 financial years to the Council for approval
- Dealing with applications for financial assistance to Provincial 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. This forms a significant and growing element of the Committees work.
- 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
- Appointing two Provincial Fixtures Analysts
- Selection of recipients for the Annual Awards 2017

Club Fixtures Monitoring Committee:

The statutory *Sub-Committee to Monitor County Fixtures Programmes* again operated in 2017 as required by rule. Basically the Club Fixtures Programmes from the six Counties and subsequent amendments thereto were received and circulated to committee members throughout 2017.

I will restate my opinion that there are limitations in the capacity of the Monitoring Sub-Committee structure to deal with its brief. The jurisdiction with regard to the imposition of the Penalties available switches from Provincial to National level once participation by Counties in the Provincial Championships ceases i.e. well before the period when fixture issues generally emerge. In addition I have always felt that the mechanism in Rule addresses the symptoms of the fixture problem rather than some of the underlying causes of fixture dysfunction e.g. non-uniformity of Club Championships structures within the Counties. I believe that the new streamlined senior inter-county fixture schedule arising from the Special Congress decision in September 2017 does provide a framework or basis, if embraced by the counties, to significantly improve the balance between the inter-county and club fixtures.



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This sub-committee in 2017 was again comprised of: Diarmuid Ó Suilleabháin (Cathaoirleach), Siomón Ó Maolrunaí (Príomh-Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin/Rúnaí), Breandán Ó Toibín (Portláirge) and the two Provincial Fixtures Analysts, Éamon Ó Suilleabhain agus Ciarán Ó Lidí.

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-Laws. I will therefore refer to the activities of both of these committees within the text of this Annual Report.

Council officers and one Representative from each County make up the Provincial **Competitions Control Committee**. The Committee deals with the **management of and arrangements for all provincial fixtures** (*within the terms of the various Competition Regulations made by the Full Council*) and **Objections** lodged during the year. The membership during 2017 was as follows:

Cathaoirleach: Diarmuid Ó Suilleabháin **Rúnaí:** Siomón Ó Maolrunaí

Baill den Choiste:

Oifigí den Chomhairle: Liam Ó Loineacháin (Leas Cathaoirleach), Piaras P. Ó Murchú (Cisteoir), Antóin Breathnach (Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí).

Baill den Chomhairle ar son Na gCondaethe: Ciarán Ceitinn (An Clár), Cristóir Ó Cillín (Ciarraí), Marc Ó Siocháin (Corcaigh), Prionnsias Ó Riada (Luimneach), Breandán Ó Toibín (Portláirge) agus Gearóid Ó Riain (Tiobraid Árann).

Provincial Referees' Administrator: Caoimhín Breathnach.

All referee appointments within the jurisdiction of Comhairle Na Mumhan CLG are delegated under Provincial Bye-Law to a **Referees' Appointments Workgroup** comprised of the Council officers and the Provincial Referees' Administrator. At the first meeting of Provincial CCC held on 23rd March 2017 the Committee appointed the members of the Workgroup as follows:

Diarmuid Ó Suilleabháin, Cathaoirleach
Siomón Ó Maolrunaí, Rúnaí
Liam Ó Loineacháin, Leas-Cathaoirleach
Piaras P. Ó Murchú, Cisteoir
Antóin Breathnach, Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí
Caoimhín Breathnach, Provincial Referees' Administrator

Provincial Bye-Laws permit the Provincial Competitions Control Committee to appoint members to carry out certain of its functions to Sub-Committee members. At the first meeting of the Committee held on 23rd March 2017 the committee made the following **appointment or delegation of authority** to the Committee Cathaoirleach and Rúnaí which delegation is recorded in the Minute as follows:



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The Committee formally appointed the Cathaoirleach and Rúnaí to perform certain Committee functions as outlined below in compliance with Rule 7.3 (a) and Provincial Bye-Laws 2 (ii) b) c) and d):

a. Inter County Transfers

The full-time Secretary shall be delegated authority to deal with routine (i.e. Transfer applications where NO Objection is lodged by the County the player is leaving) Transfer applications on behalf of the Committee within the parameters set out in rule.

b. Delegation to full-time Secretary

In accordance with rule 7.3 (a) of Treoraí Oifigiúil 2015 the Council's full-time Secretary is delegated authority to carry out the following functions on behalf of the Competitions Control Committee in relation to Disciplinary Action:

- 1) Making a written Request for Clarification to a Referee where there is ambiguity in his Report relating to an alleged Infraction or where Clarification is sought in writing from a Defending Party with a request for a Hearing.*
- 2) The issue of written notices advising the imposition of penalties for Infractions carrying the penalty of a specified fine in Rule as provided for in rule 7.3 (g) Treoraí Oifigiúil 2015.*
- 3) Preparation of Disciplinary Report(s) in cases of alleged Category I, II, III, IV and V Infractions by Players as disclosed in a Referees Report.*
- 4) Preparation of Disciplinary Report(s) in cases of alleged Category Ia, IIa and IIIa Infractions by Team Officials as disclosed in a Referees Report.*
- 5) Issuing Players who make requests in urgent cases, as referred to in rule, with clarification and direction on the position between meetings of the Competitions Control Committee.*
- 6) Issuing Notice(s) of Disciplinary Action, including appropriate Proposed Penalty, in the prescribed Form arising from cases referred to at 3) and 4) above.*
- 7) Issuing confirmation of the imposition of Penalties to Defending Parties in the prescribed form of Notice in cases where:
 - o The Reply Form in response to the Notice of Disciplinary Action received from the Defending Party confirms acceptance of the Proposed Penalty or*
 - o The Defending Party fails to return a Reply Form within the prescribed three day period.**
- 8) Passing copies of the Notice of Disciplinary Action and Reply Form to the Secretary of the Provincial Hearings Committee in cases where the Defending Party requests a Hearing.*



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The full-time Secretary shall submit a written report on all routine cases dealt with under this delegated authority between meetings to a subsequent meeting of the Competition Control Committee.

In general the Chairperson and full-time Secretary shall represent the Competitions Control Committee and present the evidence contained in Disciplinary Reports to Hearings of the Provincial Hearings Committee. In their absence any other members of the Competitions Control Committee shall represent the Committee and present evidence.

The full Competitions Control Committee (CCC) met on six occasions during 2017'18; a sub-group of the CCC appointed to process a Disciplinary Investigation and resultant Disciplinary Actions on behalf of the CCC met on an additional three occasions. Therefore nine CCC meetings in total were held during the year. Thanks to the Committee all provincial competitions were completed within the 2017 calendar year. The following Table provides a summary analysis of the games and disciplinary activity dealt with by the Committee in Provincial adult and under age competitions during 2017:

<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	4	4		CCCC	CHC
Senior Football Championship	5	5		CCCC	CHC
U/25 Hurling	2	2		2	
Junior Football Championship	3	3		4	
Under 21 Hurling Championship	4	4		2	
Under 21 Football Championship	5	5		12	
Minor Hurling Championship	8	8	1	1	
Minor Football Championship	8	8		4	
U/17 Hurling Championship	5	5		2	
U/17 Football Championship	5	5		3	
Munster Senior Hurling League	11	11	N/A	2	
McGrath Cup	7	7	N/A	2	
Totals:	67	67	1	34	
<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		1	
Club Senior Football	5	4		6	
Club Intermediate Hurling	5	5		0	
Club Intermediate Football	5	5		4	
Club Junior Hurling	5	5		5	
Club Junior Football	5	5		12	
Totals:	29	28		28	
Total Inter-County & Inter-Club:	96	95	1	62	



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No **Objections** were lodged for adjudication by the Committee during the year.

As referred to earlier a comprehensive record of all the provincial playing activities entitled **SCOREBOARD 2017** is appended to this report. This record contains the results of all Council fixtures played throughout the province in 2017.

The draws for the **Provincial Senior Championships** are generally made each year in conjunction with the draws for the other provincial senior championships. The 2018 draws were made on 19th October 2017. The draw for the senior hurling championship, as it turned out, also determined the pairings and schedule for the provincial minor (U17) hurling championship. Following the draws the Provincial Competition Control Committee determined the venues and the fixture schedule for 2018.

The Provincial Competitions Control Committee subsequently conducted the draws for the remaining 2018 inter-county championships (Under 20 Football, Under 21 Hurling, Minor (U17) Football & Hurling, the subsidiary competitions (McGrath Cup Co-opsuperstores Munster Hurling League) and for the senior, intermediate and junior club championships in both codes. Significant discussion took place at CCC level during the year on a proposal from Tiobraid Árann that any All-Ireland finalist from the province receive a Bye directly into the semi-final stage of the Provincial Senior Club Championship in that year in that code. However the recommendation of CCC to Council was to stick with the status-quo and Council followed the recommendation.

The **schedule of all inter-county and inter-club games in 2018** as approved by the Provincial Competitions Control Committee is published later in this report under the title "**Games Programme 2018**".

The committee considered emerging changes, all relevant in 2018, arising from decisions of Congress, Special Congress (30-09-2017) and of the Central Council which carry implications for Provincial fixtures during the coming year. These included:

- The decision of Congress that the Under 20 Football Championships from 2018 onwards are played during the months of June, July and August.
- The decision of Special Congress held on 30th September 2017 that a new structure for the Liam McCarthy Senior Hurling Championship is implemented for the three-year period 2018-2020. This introduces a Provincial Round-Robin system with two Home and two Away venues per county. The Provincial Council subsequently decided to synchronise the senior and minor (U17) hurling championships in terms of Draws and Schedules. This permits the minor games to be played before the senior games with the same pairings.

Provincial Hearings Committee:

The **Provincial Hearings Committee** is comprised of members of the Council and other qualified personnel and deals with all Hearings arising from Provincial Competitions. The committee also



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adjudicates on all 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 Report on the activities of the Provincial Hearings Committee is included later in this booklet. 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 integrity, knowledge and experience available and committed to this important and sometimes difficult work on the Council's behalf.

Other Sub-Committee Reports:

All sub-committees are manned by a group of dedicated voluntary people who work 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 work of many sub-committees and workgroups 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.

GAMES 2017

This was a hugely 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: the Competition Control Committee, the hard working and efficient Referees' Administration Sub-Committee, individual Referees, Linesmen, Sideline Officials, Umpires and Referee Advisors; and all ground staff at large and small venues throughout the province. I wish to thank the six County Treasurers and the many Stile persons for all the help and assistance provided to the Council Treasurer, the Council Operations Manager, Kieran Leddy, the Councils Events Manager, John Brennan, and the Council Ticketing Manager, Mary O'Mahoney in relation to Council fixtures throughout the year.

I wish to record my thanks to the *Match Monitors, Kieran McGann and John Brett*, who diplomatically but firmly supervise the implementation of the Association Organisation and Presentation Regulations for all the Council senior games during the year.

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



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Inter-County Championships:

<u>GRADE:</u>	<u>IOMÁINT:</u>	<u>PEIL:</u>
Senior	Corcaigh	Ciarraí
Junior	-	Ciarraí
Under 21	Luimneach	Ciarraí
Minor	Corcaigh	Ciarraí

Inter-County Subsidiary Competitions:

<u>COMPETITION:</u>	<u>IOMÁINT:</u>	<u>PEIL:</u>
Co-Op superstores (McGrath)	Corcaigh	(Ciarraí)
U25 Hurling	Luimneach	-
U17 Special	Corcaigh	Ciarraí

Inter-Club Championships:

<u>GRADE:</u>	<u>IOMÁINT:</u>	<u>PEIL:</u>
Senior	Na Piarasaigh (Luimneach)	Raonaithe Nemo (Corcaigh)
Intermediate	Ceann Tuirc (Corcaigh)	An Ghaeltacht (Ciarraí)
Junior	Déaglán Naoimhe, Ard Mhór (Portláirge)	Cnoc na Graí (Corcaigh)

SCHOOLS

A key element of the strength of the national Gaelic games over the years is the work carried out by many Teachers in our primary, post-primary 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 **€303,235** as follows to the schools bodies in 2017:

	Annual Grants	Coaching Staff Costs Subvention	Development Grants	Bursaries (Primary Game)	Totals
Third Level	€25,000	€112,000		€35,375	€172,375
Post Primary	€27,000	€26,824			€53,824
Primary	€38,402		€15,348	€23,286	€77,036
Totals	€90,402	€138,824	€15,348	€58,661	€303,235

*Note: Central Council contributed a further €64,000, with €24,000 for Third Level Bursaries and €40,000 to the Post Primary Committee.

**Note: The Gaeltacht Scholarships amounted to €26,575. In addition to this the Council (via its Coaching & Games Development Sub-Committee) engages actively with the education sector at all levels in terms of the ongoing provision of advice and guidance in the coaching and games



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development sphere. It is also inclusive as each provincial education committee holds membership of the Council sub-committee and fully participates. The Council sub-committee also organises an annual *Primary School Teachers Course* in Mary Immaculate College during the summer months each year.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

I will not dwell on the financial aspects of the Council activities during 2016'17 as this is dealt with comprehensively by the Council's Operations Manager and Deputy CEO, Kieran Leddy. Kieran, who is effectively the Council's Financial Controller, has a detailed report on the Council finances later in the booklet. In addition the detailed Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st October 2017 together with the audit certificate from BDO are included in the booklet.

The Council had a very successful year financially in 2017. The benefit of Council financial strength as heretofore is shared with the Club and County Units in the Province by way of significant disbursements streamed via the various grants schemes, details of which are contained in the financial statements for the accounting period.

The Council continued in 2017 into the third year of the implementation of the **ten-year Budgetary Framework 2015-2024** which was approved by Council in January 2015. The implementation of the framework by the Management & Finance Committee continued with distribution of the dedicated budgets to eligible counties mainly involving Assistance for Capital Projects. The details and remaining commitments are provided later in this booklet and in the Financial Statements.

As flagged in all previous reports since the Council approved the Budgetary Framework agreement in January 2015 this substantial expenditure has led to a significant deficit in the financial statements for the current accounting period. The extraordinary financial performance however is underlined by the level of the financial commitments arising from the budget framework 2015-2024 which the Council has funded from cash-flow rather than recourse to the Council reserves. This augers extremely well for the five counties who will benefit in the second five-year tranche of the budget framework funding post framework review in 2019.

ANNUAL AWARDS 2017

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 "Fota Island Resort" in Cork on Saturday, 9th December 2017. It proved to be an extremely enjoyable night. The deserving recipients of the various awards in 2017 were as follows:

Player of the Year Awards:

Senior Hurling:	Marc Ó Colmáin (Corcaigh)
Senior Football:	Séamus Ó Donnchú (Ciarraí)
Handball:	Seán Pól Ó Conchúir (Luimneach)
Camogie:	Pádraigín Ní Duiginn (Ciarraí)



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Ladies Gaelic Football:	Michelle Ní Riain (Portláirge)
Under 21 Hurling:	Aaron Ó Giolláin (Luimneach)
Under 21 Football:	Cillian Ó Spealáin (Ciarraí)
Minor Hurling:	Briain Turnbull (Corcaigh)
Minor Football:	Daithí Ó Clúmháin (Ciarraí)

Distinguished Service Awards:

Manager of the Year:	Ciarán Mac Clochaire (Corcaigh)
Club of the Year:	CLG Ceann Tuirc (Corcaigh)
Hall of Fame (Hurling):	Áistín Mac Floinn (Portláirge)
Hall of Fame (Football):	Séamus Mac Lannchaidh (An Clár)
Distinguished Service to GAA:	Seán Ó Costagáin (Tiobraid Árann)

REFEREES:

At the Annual Awards function the Council recognised the Referees who officiated at the Council inter-county championship finals in 2017 and the Referees who officiated at the inter-club championship finals in 2016. This is small but important 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. The 2016/2017 recipients were:

Inter-County Competitions 2017:

Fearghal Ó hOrgáin (<i>Tiobraid Árann</i>)	Iomáint Shinsir
Pádraig Ó Nialláin (<i>Ros Comáin</i>)	Peil Shinsir
Ruairí Mac Canna (<i>An Clár</i>)	Iomáint Fé 21
Ailín Ó Ciosáin (<i>Portlairge</i>)	Peil Fé 21
Seán Ó Murchú (<i>Luimneach</i>)	Iomáint Na Mionúir Fé 18
Daithí Ó Murnáin (<i>Corcaigh</i>)	Peil Na Mionúir Fé 18
Seán Ó Longargáin (<i>Tiobraid Árann</i>)	Peil Soisir
Caoimhín Mac Siúrtáin (<i>Tiobraid Árann</i>)	Sainchomórtas Iomána Na Mumhan Fé 17
Donnacha Ó Ceallacháin (<i>Luimneach</i>)	Sainchomórtas Peil Na Mumhan Fé 17
Pilib Ó Ceallaigh (<i>Tiobraid Árann</i>)	Sainchomórtas Iomána Fé 25
Pilib Ó Ceallaigh (<i>Tiobraid Árann</i>)	Sraith Sinsir Iomáint Na Mumhan
Ailín Ó Ciosáin (<i>Portlairge</i>)	Corn Mhic Craith

Club Championships 2016:

Seán Ó Murchú (<i>Luimneach</i>)	Iomáint Shinsir Na gClub
Caoimhín Ó Murchú (<i>Corcaigh</i>)	Peil Shinsir Na gClub
Ruairí Mac Canna (<i>An Clár</i>)	Iomáint Idirmheánach Na gClub
Ailín Ó Ciosáin (<i>Portlairge</i>)	Peil Idirmheánach Na gClub
Damian Mac Sionnaigh (<i>An Clár</i>)	Iomáint Soisir Na gClub
Seán Ó Lonergáin (<i>Tiobraid Árann</i>)	Peil Soisir Na gClub



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I also wish to reiterate my recognition of the *Provincial Referees' Administration Committee* who worked extremely hard throughout 2017 and performed most efficiently as in previous years. I recognise in particular the value of their work in terms of developing a pathway for new young inter-county referees' who are introduced at a less challenging level and progressed, where appropriate, to more challenging games. The result of this work was rewarded in 2017 when Fearghal Ó hOrgáin took charge of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final, and performed excellently on that occasion doing his county and the province proud.

The Committee works well in combination with the Provincial CCC Referees' Appointments Workgroup. Its ongoing work on briefing, educating and training all match officials in the Province is invaluable. The communication equipment is always maintained, repaired and replaced as required in the background so that things generally run seamlessly on match days. I wish to pay particular thanks to **Seán Ó Seasnáin (Cathaoirleach)** and **Caoimhín Breathnach (Rúnaí and Provincial Referees' Administrator)** 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.

ASSOCIATION PROGRESS, OPPORTUNITY, CHANGE:

Inter-County Championship Structures:

This year will go down as a year when **significant change** was approved for the inter-county senior championships for an experimental three-year period, 2018-2020. The rule changes necessary to implement the changes from 2018 onwards were approved by the Association at the Annual Congress held on 24th/25th February 2017 and at a Special Congress held on 30th September 2017.

The senior football championship change sees the introduction of a Super 8 round-robin series in place of the current All-Ireland quarter-finals. This was the stimulus for a more radical change in the senior hurling championship. The senior hurling change introduces two Provincial Round-Robin series in both Leinster and Munster in place of the current knock-out provincial championship. The incentive provided of having three counties emerging from both Provincial round-robin series to contest the All-Ireland hurling series will, I believe, be a significant promotional benefit for hurling going forward. This will be complimented by the fairer Home & Away system introduced. While there are challenges with regard to some of our provincial venues the Council and Counties concerned should see this as a stimulus to develop and improve those venues which require upgrading. Pressure is not always a bad thing.

Equally welcome, in my view, is the experimental change for the same three-year period to the **Provincial and All-Ireland Under 21 Hurling Championships**. The inclusion of Galway and Ulster participant(s) in the Leinster Provincial Championship makes sense. It facilitates the progression of the four best counties in this grade to the All-Ireland semi-finals. The Leinster Provincial Council has demonstrated true leadership and a commitment to the overall good of the Association in facilitating this welcome change. I want to acknowledge that. Likewise this change would not have been possible without the co-operation of the Ulster Provincial Council.



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The alteration to the Provincial and **All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship structure**, though perhaps not as radical as the Under 21 change, is welcome and will improve the overall championship.

Opportunities for Improvement – Fixtures:

The **tight timeframe and earlier scheduling** for the inter-county provincial round-robins and All-Ireland series together with the **simultaneous scheduling of the football and hurling senior championships** provide a **concrete platform** to make a good start in resolving the issue of equality and balance between the inter-county and inter-club fixtures. Difficult and contentious problems can only be resolved incrementally. Therefore, and I have referred to this consistently in previous reports, **the County Committees and Clubs need to act positively and show real leadership in developing suitable and appropriate club championship structures within their counties**. These structures must take account of the new inter-county timeframes and improve matters for the clubs. Brave and selfless leadership will generally reap better dividends in the long term than populism.

I would ask the County Committees and particularly the Clubs, who alone ultimately decide the direction County Committees may proceed in, to ensure that the structure of their club championships and leagues, not just the senior championships, are appropriate based on the number of adult “*first-teams*” in their counties. The focus of Clubs should not be on maintaining or achieving senior status in the boardroom with disproportionately large senior championships. Rather the focus should be on a fairer and more equitable distribution of “*first-teams*” across senior, intermediate and junior grades within the counties. The interests of clubs should be paramount and should not be subjugated to the interests of the county or divisions, where they exist, by designing championship structures which take as much account of county and divisional interests as those of the clubs.

County & Provincial Club Championships - Integrity:

Unless the significant disparity in the relative distribution of club “*first-teams*” across the various championship grades (senior, (premier) intermediate and Junior A, B, C etc. in the different counties is resolved by way of a binding consistency or uniformity contained in rule then the issues of fixture scheduling and the integrity of provincial club championships will not be successfully addressed.

I believe the changes agreed democratically at Congress will be very positive for the entire Association going forward. While “*the proof of the pudding is always in the eating*” I am extremely confident that the new Provincial Round-Robin Series in the provincial senior hurling championship will generate positive outcomes for the Province and for the Association generally. More importantly, in my view, it provides a very specific inter-county timeframe which can be used to plot improved inter-club activity within the counties.



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Some of my comments may be somewhat ambiguous for many not directly involved in fixture making. Therefore I repeat hereunder some comments from my annual reports from the last two years:

“The timely completion of county club championships is certainly hampered by inter-county activity. We must also recognise however that timely completion is delayed by the varying timeframes for the completion of internal county club championships. The latter factor is influenced primarily by the internal county championship structure including: the number of clubs participating, the number of chances permitted to participant clubs and the existence, efficiency and range of divisional feeder competitions. At present there is a wide variety of county championship models in place throughout the Association. While variety and local input is positive the consequence is inevitably that county club championships require very different timeframes to complete. In my opinion if the county championships feeding in to the provincial championships are not synchronised or broadly uniform then planning is compromised and progress is only achieved at the pace set by the slowest participant.

In addition I believe that where there are too many clubs permitted into county senior club championships then the intermediate, and in turn, the junior club championships are diminished. Where the county feeder system to provincial club championships is not uniform this also compromises the integrity of the provincial competitions. In my view this is a growing concern which must be addressed.

Broad uniformity in the county championship models employed in all counties should be introduced and this, I believe, would greatly benefit both fixture planning and the integrity of the senior, intermediate and junior club championships. My view is that Rule should prescribe a quota or range of the maximum/minimum numbers of clubs which can be permitted into senior and intermediate county club championships in each county based on the number of clubs participating in each code in that county. Accompanied by definite targets for the optimum number of games each club player should be provided through county club leagues and championships this can systematically improve the provision for club players across the Association.

Such a change can only be implemented incrementally. I believe if put in place such a uniform club championship model will address some of the current challenges faced by the Association with regard to balance and fairness between inter-county and inter-club competitions. The uniform model represents a more complete response to the challenges we are seeking to address.”

It is easy to conclude, based on ongoing popular public commentary, that all of the ills in relation to club fixtures arise from inter-county competition and fixture scheduling. This is not the case. The two Provincial Fixture Analysts have done some excellent analysis on the structures and scheduling of the various county club championships in the past year. This research, aimed at assembling hard data and facts on the subject of county club fixtures, clearly demonstrates that there are other significant factors contributing to the club fixture dilemma we experience. I firmly



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believe that the changes to be implemented in the senior inter-county championship structure and schedule present a valuable impetus for the counties and clubs to make progress in addressing the issue.

Re-developed Páirc Uí Chaoimh

This year saw the necessary and welcome re-development of the iconic Páirc Uí Chaoimh. The new stadium makes a bold and positive statement not just on behalf of Corcaigh but also on behalf of the Province and the Association.

It was unfortunate that the completion of the venue was marginally too late to host the senior and minor provincial finals as planned by the Council. However there was significant compensation when the two All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship quarter-finals, involving three Munster teams, were staged in the impressive re-developed venue.

Centres of Excellence:

Steady progress is being made by counties in the Province with the development of centres of excellence facilitating the preparation of inter-county teams. Last year saw the completion of the Kerry centre of excellence with the help of €1 million in grant funding from the Provincial Council. Clare has already opened its centre of excellence.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

Staffing At Council HQ:

At the outset I wish to state that I will be stepping down as Provincial Secretary/CEO on 6th May 2018. Therefore as stated earlier this is my final report to Annual Convention in my current capacity. I also wish to put on the record that I have enjoyed the last five years in this position since I returned to the Provincial Council on 7th January 2013. It is a great honour to serve your Province in this capacity. I wish the Council, my fellow officers and my successor, whoever that may be, every success going forward.

The Council currently employs eight full-time and one part-time staff. The staff complement during the 2017 was as follows:

“Áras Mumhan”:

CEO/Rúnaí:	Simon Moroney
Operations Manager/Deputy CEO/Leas Rúnaí:	Kieran Leddy
Post-Primary Schools’ Officer/Events Manager:	John Brennan
Communications Officer:	Ed Donnelly
Administrator (Fixtures/Disciplinary/Finance):	Nuala Nealon
Administrator (Tickets/Meetings/Finance):	Mary O’Mahoney
Facilities Manager (<i>Part-Time</i>)	Donal Hayes



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Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney:

Games Manager:

Pat O'Shea

Carriganore, Waterford:

Games Manager:

Joe Carton

I want to publicly record my thanks to all Council staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the Council and to me as CEO throughout 2017.

BUÍOCHAS AGUS SLÁN

This Annual Convention will witness changes in the representation from two of the counties, Ciarraí agus Corcaigh, and also in the representative for Cumann na mBunscol. As stated earlier the departing representatives are: **Cristóir Ó Cillín** agus **Seosam Ó Crualaoich** (Ciarraí); **Diarmuid Mac Gabhann** (Corcaigh) agus **Seosamh Ó Laighin** (Cumann na mBunscol). Míle buíochas díobh as ucht an obair áta deanta ar son an Chomhairle..

In concluding my report I wish to acknowledge and thank the following:

- My fellow Officers on the Council Management & Finance Committee.
- 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 2017.
- 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 officers and members of the various schools' bodies for the ongoing work they do in support of our games in the educational sector.
- To the Referees, Linesmen, Umpires, Sideline officials, Match Monitors, and Advisors for the manner in which they officiated at our games in 2017.
- To the several Stiles persons, Stewards, Grounds men, catering personnel who have helped the Council personnel 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 Gardaí, Health Board personnel, and many others who make our games safe for patrons.
- To all the Players at every grade who provided the core product of the Association in Munster in 2017. 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 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 by the Council during 2017 and to all TV personnel with whom I have had contact in relation to the televising of our games.
- To the Sponsors who provide generous sponsorship to the Council and some of its sub-committees including:
 - Co-Op Superstores.ie



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- M. Donnelly
 - Bord Gais Energy
 - Centra
 - Littlewoods Ireland
 - Eir
 - AIB
 - SuperValu
 - EirGrid
 - Electric Ireland
- To the departing Ard Stiurthóir and Uachtarán and to all the staff in Páirc an Chrócaigh for the co-operation and assistance received during 2017.
 - 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.

Changing of the Guard:

The coming year will see significant changes at national level within the Association. The current Uachtarán, **Aogán Ó Fearghail**, and Ard Stiurthóir, **Páraic Ó Dufaigh**, vacate their senior leadership roles with the Association. Aogán is completing a very successful term as Uachtarán during which significant progress was made, particularly in relation to Inter-County Championship Structures, TV Rights and GPA agreements. His stewardship in the top elected position within the Association has been successful. I wish him well in whatever he chooses to do in the future. Páraic is completing ten years as leader of the Association's professionally employed staff. He has provided courageous and innovative leadership bringing forward important proposals for change not least in the past three years when significant changes to the championship structures were approved democratically. I wish Páraic well in the future. I also wish the incoming Uachtarán, **Seán Ó hÓráin**, well in his challenging role.

Sympathy:

As with every year the Association in Munster has lost many of its members in the six Munster counties over the past twelve months. I will not recall individually all of those we have lost in 2017 lest inadvertent omission causes 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 2017. All will be remembered at the Convention Mass immediately before Convention 2018. Go dtuga Dia suaimhneas sioraí da n-anamnacha go léir.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Mise le meas,

Siomón Ó Maolrunaí,
Rúnaí/Príomh-Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin,
Comhairle Na Mumhan CLG.
12th January 2018