

CUMANN

D. Mac Eochaidh



LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

Coiste Thír Eoghain

AN CHOMHDHÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 1998 (2)

hosted by

Clann Na nGael

Dé Domhnaigh, 13 Nollaig, 1998

ar 1.00 i.n.



ORDUITHE SEASAIMH DON CHOMHDHÁIL

(STANDING ORDERS FOR CONVENTION)

In order that the proceedings of the Convention be carried out without delay, the following Standing Orders will be observed:

1. The Proposer of a Resolution or of an Amendment thereto may speak for five minutes, but not more than five minutes.
2. A Delegate speaking to a Resolution or an Amendment must not exceed three minutes.
3. The Proposer of a Resolution or of an Amendment may speak a second time for three minutes before a vote is taken, but no other Delegate may speak a second time to the same Resolution or Amendment.
4. The Chairman may, at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed, call on the Proposer for a reply, and when that has been given a vote must be taken.
5. A Delegate may, with the consent of the Chairman, move ‘that the question be now put’, after which, when the Proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
6. Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on the Clár, except by the consent of a majority equal to two-thirds of those present and voting.

CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

COISTE THÍR EOGHAIN

A Chara

Tionólfár an Chomhdháil Bhliantúil de Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Contae Thír Eoghain in Achadh Breac, Dé Domhnaigh 13 Nollaig 1998 ag tosnu ar 1.00 i.n.

Mise, le fíor-mheas

Damhnaic Mac Eochaidh

Rúnaí

CLÁR

1. Miontuairiscí na Chomhdhála deireadh (Eanáir 1998).
2. Ag éirí as na miontuairiscí.
3. Fáilte.
4. Amhrán na bhFiann.
5. Glacadh de hOrduithe Seasaimh.
6. Tuarascála na bPáirceanna - An Ómaigh
Oileán a'Ghuail
Dún Geanainn
7. Tuarascáil an Rúnaí.
8. An Cuntas Airgeadais.
9. Oráid an Chathaoirligh.
10. Togchán an Choiste don bhliain 1999.
11. Na Rúin.
12. Dúnadh na Chomhdhála.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CHOMHDHALA 1998 (1)

An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil de Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Contae Thír Eoghain was held in the new Social Centre of Doire Treasc, Fir an Chnoic on Sunday 18th January, 1998. Cathaoirleach Pól Ó Dubhrósa presided and the following members of an Coiste Chontae were in attendance:

Uinseann Ó Beig, Gearóid Ó Brolcháin, Proinnsias Mac Cathmhaoil, Peadar Ó Cinneide, Séamas Ó Corráin, Séamas Mac Giolla Phádraig, Breandán Ó hEarcáin, Aine Nic Eochaidh, Séamas Mac Domhnaill, Cuthbert Ó Donnaile, Séamas Ó Treasaigh, and Damhnaic Mac Eochaidh.

Delegates from the Clubs were present as follows:

CLUB	DELEGATES	
Achadh Lú	Martin O'Neill	Plunkett Donnelly
Achadh Uí Arain	Charlie Moss	Sean Harvey
Ard Bó	Seamus Ó Cuinn	Ciarán Ó Doibhilinn
An Eochair	B McGirr	Seamus McCaughey
An Bearach	Gerry Owens	Pat McCartan
An Bruachaile	Seamus O'Neill	Seán Ó Coinne
An Brocach	Seamus O'Neill	S Harrington
An Charraig Mhór	Micheál Ó Ceallaigh	Micheál Mac Giolla Cheara
Caisleán na Deirge		
Clann na nGael	Geraldine O'Neill	Seamus Kearney
An Clochar	Eoghan Mac Dhónaill	Jimmy Barkey
Cluain Eo	Seosamh Mac Caba	Malachy Duffin
Oileán a'Ghuail	Uinseann Ó Doibhilinn	Pádraig Doibhilinn
An Cora Criche	P. Mac Giolla Phádraig	Damian Ó hAimhri
Doire Lochain	Ignatius Taggart	Brian Robinson
Doire Treasc	Malachy O'Hanlon	Malachy Fitzgerald
Domhnach Mór	Art McRory	Sean Cush
An Dreagais	Fergus McCrossan	Michael Donnelly
An Droim Mhór	Eoghan Mac Taidhg	Eugene McGuigan
Droim Caoin	Sean Donnelly	Patrick McCrossan
Droim Ratha	Patrick Mullin	Dermot O'Kane
Dún Geanainn	Oliver McHugh	Seán Mac Giolla
Eadan na dTorc	Aidan Currie	Liam Mac Niallais
An Eaglais	Cathal Daly	Sean Donaghy
E. R. Uí Néill	Johnny Dooher	Donal McCay
Aireagal Chiaráin	Gerard McCann	Eamann Ó Maolain
Eascair	Joe Marlow	Brian Hackett
Fionntamhnach	Sean McCarroll	Aidan McCarney
An Gallbhaile	M McCaughey	Patsy Murphy
Gleann Eallaigh	Colm Nicholas	Damian Carolan
An Goirtín	Gabriel Trainor	Pádraig McConnell
An Caisleán Glas	Peadar Ó Treasaigh	Pádraig Mac Diarmaid
Cill Dhreasa		
Cill Íseal	Brendan O'Neill	Brendan Holland
Coill an Chlochair	Donal Magee	Anthony Connolly

CLUB	DELEGATES	
Cill na mBán	John O'Hagan	Niall O'Hagan
Loch Mhic Ruairí	Seán Ó Donnaile	
Baile na Móna	Pat O'Neill	Tomás Mac Uilín
An Maigh	Mary Daly	Frankie Duffy
An Baile Nua	Críostóir Mac Seoin	Stiofán Mac Conmidhe
An Ómaigh	Pádraig Ó Doibhilin	Liam Mac Craith
Cabhán a'Chaoirtainn	M J Harvey	
An Charraig	Patrick McGurk	Anthony Mullan
An Chraobh	Declan Laverty	Kevin Coyle
An Srath Bán	Aodhán Ó hEarcáin	Pádraig Ó Murchú
An Taite Riabhach	Catherine Darcy	M Darcy
Trí Leac	Diarmaid Mac Eochaidh	Johnny Corry
Urnaí	Tom Bogle	Aodhán Ó Laingin
An Charraig Mhór (H)	Séamus Mac Giolla Chatáin	Pluinceid Mac Giolla Chatáin
Dún Geanainn (H)	Tomás Ó Comhaltain	Eamann Ó Doibhilinn
Coill an Chlochair (H)	Mick Brennan	Mary Meenan
Naomh Colmcille (H)	Proinnsias Mac Cana	
An Ómaigh (H)	Micheál Mac Cearnaigh	Sean Quinn
Na Seamroga (H)	Martin McCanny	Aidan Farrell
An Ceapach (Y)	Marietta Meenan	
Naomh Mhuire (Y)		

1. Amhrán na bhFiann was played by members of Derrytresk GFC at the commencement of an Chomhdháil Bhliantúil.

2. Minutes of the 1997 Convention were adopted on the proposal of P. Devlin, seconded by J. McElhatton.

3. Matters Arising - None.

3. Fáilte.

3.1 Rev Fr. McRory C.C. led delegates in prayer for deceased members and for the success of Convention.

3.2 Packie O'Neill, Club Cathaoirleach welcomed delegates to Derrytresk to what was he hoped the first of many conventions that the club would host. He paid tribute to the clubs of Tyrone for their support when Derrytresk was undertaking the development of this new Social Centre. He urged other clubs contemplating development work to proceed and make progress with it. In conclusion Mr O'Neill wished delegate a successful day's deliberations and urged all clubs to fully support the decisions taken at convention.

4. Standing Orders were adopted on the proposal of A. Ó hEarcáin, seconded by M. Darcy.

5. Secretary's Report.

5.1 J. Dooher wondered how the allocation of 156 All-Ireland tickets to the County Committee could be justified. The Rúnaí stated that the members of the Committee

had encountered serious demand for tickets due to the involvement of the Minor team in the final.

5.2 B. Holland raised a query on the restrictions on the use of the GAA corporate logo and why this was the case. The Cathaoirleach stated that this was his opinion and that the matter would be checked out with the authorities at national level.

5.3 On the topic of the £20M grant received by Croke Park for further development, B. Ó hEarcáin congratulated the leadership of the Association on its achievement in negotiating this significant amount without any strings attached. D. McCaughey extended gratitude to the Irish Government for this contribution also.

5.4 S. Kearney who was critical of the fact that the Tír Eoghain Yearbook was on sale in shops before Clubs received it, was informed that the Yearbook had been available to all Clubs on a Thursday night in Carrickmore, prior to it going into shops the following Monday; only five Clubs had bothered to collect their quotas on this night.

5.5 A. Ó hEarcáin, speaking on the Players' Injury Scheme drew delegates attention to the fact that a player from the Sigerson's Club had his injury claim held up due to the referee failing to return his report of the game; it was agreed that this unsatisfactory situation should not have occurred and that it would be brought to the attention of Bórd na Réiteoirí.

5.6 Speaking on the Youth Officer's Report S. Mac Domhnaill informed delegates that a new Youth Workgroup had been set up which was currently seeking recommendations from clubs and other interested parties.

5.7 Referring to his Referees' Report P. Mac Cathmhaoil indicated that there was a problem at U-12 level where referees who had been nominated by clubs were not available or had no intention of refereeing; he asked clubs not to make such nominations, because it only created confusion and it would in fact be possible to cover all games at this level with those referees who were willing to officiate.

5.8 P. McConnell expressed the opinion that young referees should not be given youth matches only to referee because this was where indiscipline started, and such games required strong, experienced officials. He thought there was sufficient quantity but not enough quality referees; bigger clubs should be able to provide 5 or 6 referees compared with smaller clubs who provide 2 referees. Mentors at under-age games were creating many of the problems.

5.9 J. Gill thought that indiscipline at committee level should be tackled also, and cited the example of disciplinary decisions being leaked to the press before clubs were aware of them.

5.10 On Coaching and Development S. Mac Domhnaill appealed to clubs to make use of their own people who had undertaken Coaching Courses. He also accepted that there were special difficulties encountered in the organisation of the Summer Camp for hurling and agreed with J. McElhatton that under-age fixtures in hurling should not clash with the Summer Camp.

5.11 S. Mac Giolla Phádraig warned delegates that because of the large numbers making application for language scholarships his Coiste would probably have to introduce some competitiveness in the selection procedure; this would reduce numbers but those being successful would receive enhanced, realistic grants.

5.12 M. Kelly requested that the Irish version of his club's name - An Charraig Mhór - be used at all times.

5.13 Special tribute was paid by A. Nic Eochaidh to Doire Treasc on entering all 8 categories in Scór. She further informed convention that the Clogher Novelty Act had progressed to the All-Ireland Final in Scór na nÓg.

5.14 In a query on the Grounds Report E. McConnell wondered why the county had not considered the possibility of developing one training facility for county teams, as had been done in Derry. U. Ó Beig responded that this option had been given careful consideration but was ruled out in favour of the development of four existing Club facilities; these would provide greater value for money and they would also not involve the county in massive borrowings which would be required to purchase and develop a green-field site.

Responding to a further query from P. McCartan concerning the county grounds it was explained that this was also a matter of finances, mainly; at present the maximum grant-aid that could be obtained from outside agencies was of the order of £50 000 while the cost of erecting a covered stand at Healy Park would be approximately £500 000.

5.15 M. Conway made a visual presentation on behalf of the Millennium Committee in which he urged all Clubs to make a genuine effort to increase their annual subscription to £500. He invited all clubs to submit written outlines, before the end of February, of how the Fund should be spent; Clubs would all be given the opportunity to make application for funding when the distribution would begin.

5.16 The Tuarascáil an Rúnaí was adopted on the proposal of E. McConnell, seconded by P. Devlin.

6. County Grounds' Accounts and Balance Sheets.

6.1 Copies for Healy Park, Omagh, O'Neill Park, Dungannon and Fr. Campbell Park, Coalisland were distributed to delegates.

6.2 Total receipts for Healy Park amounted to £19,474.00 with outgoings of £31,243.37. The Cisteoir explained that VAT had not been included on this Account since it would be recovered through Comhairle Uladh. Uinseann Ó Beig stated that he was awaiting the outcome of a VAT test case.

6.3 Those for Fr. Campbell Park indicated income of £4,391.00 with expenses of £15,143.15 for 1997.

6.4 The accounts for O'Neill Park showed an income of £6,488.81 with an expenditure of £11,279.89

6.5 These were adopted on the proposal of M. Harvey, seconded by J. McCabe.

7. Treasurer's Report

7.1 The Income and Expenditure account for the year showed an operating deficit of £7,194; a detailed breakdown of both categories was provided to delegates by the Cisteoir. He pointed out that the County's Accounts were being presented in the new format required by Croke Park and in order to provide additional information to delegates the Schedules were visually displayed.

7.2 The closing balance at 31-10-97 amounted to £297,028 which this year included £131,177 of fixed assets almost all of which was invested in ground development.

7.3 The Millennium Fund had increased from £74,371 to £157,079 over the last financial year; Cisteoir pointed out that this Fund was being used to offset bank charges on other overdrawn accounts, and when it began to be distributed new / additional sources of income would be required to reduce the growing deficit.

7.4 The Cathaoirleach reminded delegates that Club Treasurers had suggested, at a special meeting in November, that rather than organising a county-wide draw it might be easier to for each Club to pay an additional £1.00 per registered member which would raise £6,500. Also, by not making a payout from the Championships to clubs the county would benefit by approximately £12,000.

S. Kearney considered the membership registration of many Clubs to be unrealistically low and by seeking a further £1.00 per member payment might mean other Clubs would reduce their total membership.

B. Holland suggested that the membership fee for each Club should be set at £20 with 25% of this being paid to the County Committee to help reduce the deficit.

S. Ó Treasaigh felt that if the membership fee payment was increased by another pound, the Club membership could be given higher priority in the criteria being used for the allocation of tickets in all-ticket games.

A. Ó hEarcáin stated that a membership fee of £20 was much too high and that a more appropriate means of reducing the deficit would be to seek sponsorship for the leagues and championships within the county as had been agreed at last year's convention. He also thought that greater emphasis could be placed on reaching the knock-out stages of the national leagues which would bring in greater revenue.

7.5 On expenses of county teams, the Cisteoir informed B. Holland that success and progress in the championships leads to operating losses, and, he stated in response to L. McGrath that while a flight to Kerry for the senior footballers was slightly more expensive than travelling by coach and staying overnight, there were other important advantages to be gained by the team and management.

S. Donaghy was told that approximately £3,000 was attributed to medical expenses and £7,000 to physiotherapy expenses by the senior football team. On a related point L. McGrath was informed that where significant medical expenses would be incurred by a player a decision, whether to proceed, was taken by the Committee after consultation with the team's medical officer

7.6 In conclusion the Cisteoir expressed his gratitude to the members of the Committee, the gatemen and stewards with whom he had worked during the year, the Millennium sub-committee, the Finance sub-committee, the county sponsors and the accountants.

7.7 The Report was adopted on the proposal of D. McCaughey, seconded by J. Gill.

8. Oráid an Chathaoirligh

Pól Ó Dubhrósa

On your behalf, and that of Cumann Coiste Thír Eoghain, I thank our hosts Doiretreasc Fir an Chnoic for so willingly allowing us to use their magnificent new premises to-day. That these premises exist is testimony to the pride of place that the Gaelic Athletic Association holds in the hearts of the people of Derrytresk. I have long been an admirer of this fine club and I say, without fear of contradiction, that nowhere in Tyrone is there a stronger community involvement. Buiochas.

Once again 1997 was a year of ups and downs for the Association in Tyrone. We started on a high with the promotion of our hurlers to Division 3 of the National Hurling League, plumbed the depths with tragic deaths and indiscipline in the

summer and eventually ended on a high again with the performances of our Minors in Dublin and our Seniors in the National League.

As in 1996 our Senior Hurlers did us proud going through the League unbeaten and, in so doing, enhancing the reputation of Tyrone hurling in Ulster. They very nearly made it a unique double but lost to a highly motivated Monaghan team before a massive crowd on a very warm day in Clones. It is fair to say that Tyrone were disappointing on the day. Some people have questioned the wisdom of agreeing to play the game in Clones. It is a matter of opinion. The County Board did not take the decision lightly. It was felt that it was a great opportunity for our players to display their skills on a large stage. The Manager and players agreed. That it did not work out does not mean the decision was wrong. It was a great occasion and I have no doubt that the experience will stand our players in good stead in the coming years. I warmly thank Brendan Harkin, James McElhatton and every member of the squad for their efforts. We are proud of them.

Indiscipline in our games once more reared its ugly head. We had several shameful incidents and these must be condemned by all right thinking Gaels. As I said last year the primary responsibility for discipline lies with the player and if an individual cannot control himself on the football field then he should not be on it. If he does not recognise this failing then those associated with the team should not pick him because he will eventually bring the club into disrepute and cause frustration to officials. No Chairman or Secretary wants the hassle of attending disciplinary meetings when their time could be put to more productive and rewarding use elsewhere. Having said that, I am optimistic about the future. Talking to officials at various social functions I am encouraged by their apparent determination to deal with this cancer in our games. Next year I want to be able to congratulate all clubs on their disciplinary records.

Pride of place this year must go to our Minor Footballers. Over the past three years we had become accustomed to being involved in Ulster Finals in Clones. When the Seniors fell this year the void was filled by the Minors. To the day I die I will never forget that game in Parnell Park and the intense pride I felt in being Chairman of a county that could produce a team of that calibre. This was football as it should be played. No need for rule changes here. All credit too to an excellent Kerry team.

The death of Paul McGirr brought sport into perspective in the most cruel way. Paul is dead but his memory will live on for generations. Each one of us who knew Paul will have his or her own treasured memory of him. Mine is of Paul standing on an immaculate St Enda's pitch on that sunny Saturday morning before the Armagh game complaining of a sore leg. It was probably nerves. Little did we know what was to come. The scene that greeted Gerard Bradley, Sean Quinn and myself at the Tyrone County Hospital on the following night will never be erased from our memories.

To this day, I marvel at the fortitude and generosity of spirit of Rita and Francie and their family. No recriminations. No words of blame - only encouragement. Good people, Great people. Remember them all in your Prayers.

As if on a mission the Minors went back to Croke Park. They gave their everything but it was not to be. They left the pitch with their heads held high. We were proud of them and their positive attitude right through the campaign. I know

there was a feeling amongst the players that they had let Paul down and I was at pains to reassure them that he too was proud of them. Those generous, loyal Gaels who turned out to meet them in Aughnacloy the following night finally convinced them that they had let nobody down, least of all Paul.

No words of praise would be too lavish for this group. Their performances on the field and their dignity in the face of incredible adversity is a matter of great pride to all in Tyrone. I thank each and every one of the squad and congratulate their parents. I thank Mickey Harte, Fr. Gerard McAleer and Martin McElkennon for their outstanding performances and for bringing their own individual talents to the several traumatic situations. Never has a management team been so tested. It would be churlish of me not to thank the Laois Minor team and their officials. Theirs was a great display and there was never a hint of triumphalism in their celebrations. In private they sympathised with us and were almost apologetic for having beaten us. A great team, we will follow their progress with interest.

It was not a particularly good year for our Senior Footballers. The relatively early exit from the championship may have been a blessing in disguise after the strenuous efforts of the previous three years. We look forward to better times ahead. I thank all concerned especially Danny Ball, Anthony Gallagher, Francis Martin and Sean Canavan.

I thank also our U-21 team especially Sean O'Kane, Pat McGivern and Francis Mulgrew. A lot of effort was put in, and with a bit of luck, this team could have gone a long way.

I congratulate St Patrick's Academy on winning both the McRory and Hogan Cups and the County Vocational Team on winning the Ulster Title. Having had to travel to Cork, the Vocationals failed narrowly to win the All-Ireland after an excellent display. The success of these two teams together with that of the Minors augurs well for the future of Tyrone football.

The level of development of facilities at club level is a matter of great pride. I congratulate Cookstown, Derrytresk, Dromore and Killyman on the recent official openings of new facilities. I am aware that Aghaloo, Brockagh, Clonoe, Donaghmore, Dregish, Eglish, Eoghan Rua, Errigal Ciaran, Killeeshil, Moortown, Moy, Pomeroy, Rock and Strabane will officially open this year. Several are providing covered accommodation for supporters and this is to be encouraged.

At Provincial level I think it is time for the Ulster Council to meet the counties to discuss the development of county grounds. The cost of complying with Health and Safety Standards is now almost prohibitive and the question must be asked is it worth incurring that level of expenditure to facilitate one championship game every second year? Would it be more rational for a county to develop a ground to cater just for its own domestic needs? There would appear to be little point in providing facilities for twenty thousand spectators if games are going to be transferred to Clones.

For years we have talked about opening a G.A.A. office in Tyrone. With the advent of computers, fax machines and a quadrupling of the Secretary's workload it is no longer fair to expect the Secretary and his family to house this equipment in their home and to put up with the level of disruption.

I ask the incoming Board to make the setting up of this office a priority. I suggest that it be sited centrally and not attached to any club for obvious reasons. There should also be a paid part time member of staff.

In March of this year Tyrone will participate in the G.A.A. National Leadership and Administration Programme for Club Officers. Initially ten clubs will be selected to take part in this programme which is designed to enable Cumann Lúthchleas Gael to achieve its full potential and meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. We are living in an era where voluntary organisations increasingly need to adopt a professional approach to their operations in order to compete for and attract the youth of to-day.

The aim of this programme is to improve and advance the efficient management of G.A.A. clubs with a view to achieving the aims of C.L.G. as outlined in Treoraí Oifigiúil 1997. The objective of the programme is to provide club officers with the opportunity to:-

- 1) Be effective team leaders through acquiring and employing vital leadership skills.
- 2) Be effective members of the club management team.
- 3) Understand the Role of the club in the local community
- 4) Understand the Role of the key officers and club committees.
- 5) Understand the obligations of the club with regard to the Club Constitution and Declaration of Trust.
- 6) Understand and promote the aims and distinctive ethos of the Association.

I feel this is a very worthwhile exercise and I hope all clubs will be given an opportunity to participate over the next eighteen months. Three persons per club can be accommodated.

I congratulate the members of the Referees Board on their trojan efforts in recent years in the recruitment and training of Referees. This Board is the envy of Ulster. I am greatly encouraged by the number of good young Referees coming through. I make no secret of the fact that I consider Referees to be the single most important grouping in our county. Without them there would be no games. I am mortified and ashamed that a number of these generous men were assaulted last season. I apologise to them and their families. I promise to do everything in my power to see this does not happen in future and I ask them to assist me by providing clear factual reports.

I am very pleased to see the ever increasing number of ladies attending the monthly G.A.C. meetings and the number that have been elected so far this year to the club committees. It is a very welcome trend and must be encouraged. Women bring their own talents to committees and very often provide a different perspective to a situation. Ample evidence of this is provided by our own Anna McCaughey.

I congratulate The Tyrone Ladies Association on their expansion and successes over the past three years and pledge our support for them. I also congratulate the County Camogie Committee and pledge our support for them too.

Much has been written about the tragic events in the county in the past year, and I do not wish to dwell on them. However, I would like to express my own personal sympathy and that of the Board to the Hackett Family of Eskra, Lagan Family of Kildress, Hughes Family of Killeeshil and the McGeary Family of Galbally. The massive attendances of Gaels at the wakes and funerals of these young men was testimony to the esteem which they and their families were, and are, held within

their Parishes and county. 1997 also saw the death of Jackie Taggart - a legend in his own lifetime. I had never seen Jackie in such good form as he was on the night of the 1956 Team Re-union. I am glad we got the opportunity to honour the great man before he died. We send our sincere sympathy to his wife Betsy and family.

I congratulate Eithne McCord and her STAG committee on the enormous effort they have put into the campaign to retain acute services at the South Tyrone Area Hospital. It is vital that this campaign succeeds and I ask each club to do everything possible to ensure that it does.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the County Board for their work throughout the year - often in difficult circumstances. To Cuthbert, Dominic and Gerard I say a special word of thanks. I never fail to be amazed at Cuthbert's energy. No Chairman ever had a better Vice-Chairman. Gerard continues to improve our systems and I have total confidence in his ability. He guards every penny as if it was his own. As always Dominic was reliability and efficiency personified. I sometimes wonder if we fully appreciate him. I don't know how he finds time for the day job. Ways must be found to reduce his work load. To you, the clubs, I say Go Raibh Míle Maith Agaibh for your help and co-operation. I feel the Association overall is in good shape in Tyrone and with your continued support it will, undoubtedly, go from strength to strength.

9. Motion 4

In order to deal with this motion Standing Orders were suspended on the proposal of A. Ó hEarcáin, seconded by J. Corry.

The motion as listed was formally proposed by P. McConnell and seconded by P. J. McDermott.

J. Dooher, speaking against the motion, said that attending Convention and selecting delegates to attend Provincial Convention and Annual Congress was an important display of the democracy of the Association which extended down to Club level and it should not be done away with.

E. McConnell queried whether Rule 71 had been changed.

S. Ó Treasaigh explained the background to the motion and the changes that had been agreed at the Special Congress, all of which was intended to make Annual Congress more meaningful and beneficial to the delegates in attendance.

P. McCartan agreed that if Clubs and the membership would get more benefit from Congress by selecting delegates then the motion should be passed. He went on to say that if the power of selection were granted to the County Executive they would probably choose the same representation that the delegates would elect.

Decision: The motion was passed.

10. Election of Officers - 1998

10.1 P. Ó Dubhrósa and D. Mac Eochaidh were proposed as Cathaoirleach and Rúnaí for the election of officers, respectively, by P. Mullan seconded by P. Devlin.

10.2 Voting strength was enumerated as 109.

10.3

Cathaoirleach:	Pól Ó Dubhrósa	(Unopposed)
Leas-Cathaoirleach:	Cuthbert Ó Donnaile	(80 votes -Elected)
	Seán Ó Cuinn	(28 votes - Eliminated)
Rúnaí:	Damhnaic Mac Eochaidh	(Unopposed)
Leas-Rúnaí:	Proinnsias Mac Cathmhaoil	(Unopposed)
Cisteoir:	Gearóid Ó Brolcháin	(Unopposed)
Ball Árd Chomhairle:	Séamas Ó Treasaigh	(Unopposed)
Baill Chomhairle Uladh:	Uinseann Ó Beig	(70 votes – 1 st Count; 86 votes - Elected)
	Séamas Ó Corrain	(56 votes – 1 st Count; 67 votes - Elected)
	Liam Mac Craith	(47 votes – 1 st Count; 53 votes - Eliminated)
	Pádraig Mac Artain	(45 votes - Eliminated)
Oifigeach na nÓg:	Séamas Mac Domhnaill	(Unopposed)
Oifigeach na Gaeilge:	Séamas Mac Giolla Phádraig	(Unopposed)
Baill an Choiste:	Breandán Ó hEarcáin	(Unopposed)
	Aine Nic Eochaidh	(Unopposed)
Teachtaí Chomhdháil Uladh:	To be selected	
Teachtaí Chomhdháil Naisiúnta:	To be selected	
Teachta Faoi-21:	Caitríona Ní Dhorchai	(63 votes - Elected)
	Proinnsias Mac Cana	(23 votes - Eliminated)
	Seosamh Ó Ceallaigh	(14 votes - Eliminated)

11. Na Rúin

11.1 **Motion 1** was proposed by S. Ó Treasaigh who said that it was being brought forward to correct an irregularity in the membership of the County Executive. According to Rules 48 and 49 the only people who can sit on the County Committee are those elected at County Convention and who have been nominated by clubs. In response to a query from B. Holland he stated that if this motion was passed it would mean that the Chairman of the GAC would not be elected at the AGM of the GAC, but his term of office would be the same as that of the County Committee.

11.1.2 The motion was seconded by J. McCabe.

11.1.3 In reply to a query from E. McConnell the Cathaoirleach stated that there was not a necessity to quote Rule 48 since the change being proposed only applied to the quoted Bye-law.

11.1.4 There were no speakers against the motion.

11.1.5 **Decision:** The motion was passed.

11.2.1 In proposing **Motion 2** E. McConnell said that we should put in place the same procedures that apply at all other levels of the Association - viz. a three year term of office as a maximum for all chairmen. Doing so would bring in new blood and new flair; those who stay around too long become stale. Speaking from his own experience at Club and County administration he stated that there was always somebody to come along who could do just as good a job. Passing the motion would do away with the notion that the GAC was a closed shop.

11.2.2 The motion was seconded by GAC Chairman, P. Ó Cinneide

11.2.3 There were no speakers against the motion.

11.2.4 **Decision:** The motion was passed.

11.3.1 **Motion 3** was proposed by E. McConnell after the Cathaoirleach indicated that he would allow it although there was some doubt as to the wording of Para. (c). Mr McConnell could not understand what anyone had to fear from the election of PRO; he considered the Rúnaí should be a full-time post or at least have part-time assistance, but that it was not possible to marry this position with that of the PRO. He thought the job of a PRO was unique and required special qualities. More high profile publicity was required especially from the sponsorship viewpoint and we wanted to modernise and revitalise our Association. We will not succeed unless we communicate properly; we should have nothing to hide and we should have no secrets. By electing a PRO we could offload a lot of work being done by County Board officers who already have enough.

11.3.2 The motion was seconded by J. Barkey.

11.3.3 In opposing the motion S. Ó Treasaigh referred to the clause in Rule 48 'as otherwise provided in County Bye-Laws' which was taken into account in our Bye-Law 2 allowed us not to elect a PRO. He went on to give the opinion that PR is being taken care of effectively with the present set up in Tír Eoghain where it is shared among many individuals; county teams generate their own PR, and all sub-committees have access to the media with their information and publicity; the communications sub-committee was another means of dealing with PR. One elected person could not hope to replace or undertake all of these. The Rúnaí has available all information from sub-committees and higher units of the Association and in consultation with the Cathaoirleach can make proper informed decisions. He thought that good PR was not about making a high profile for the officer.

11.3.4 G. Ó Broilcháin also spoke against the motion pointing out that an elected PRO would not be free to make statements on behalf of the Executive without consultation with the Cathaoirleach and / or the Rúnaí; he also stated that the PRO could not infringe Rule 12 i.e. he could not obtain payment from the media for his publicity and he warned delegates that they should not confuse communication and publicity, as in the proposal.

11.3.5 P. McCartan speaking in favour of the motion stated that if it were passed there was nothing to stop an individual already elected to the Committee also standing for the post of PRO, and that at the present time it was his opinion that the Rúnaí should be the person elected to that position.

11.3.6 In summarising E. McConnell said that in the diary of GAA events which he had kept during the past year there were many which had not been given any publicity and one example concerning Scór was quoted. He felt that the NFL match programmes prepared by the Communications sub-committee, of which he was a member, were a disgrace being just an A4 page folded over. He thought that change should be something not to be afraid of, and if we were not prepared to accept changes we would forever have someone like Jimmy Treacy on the Committee. Concluding he said that he had been assured by Danny Murphy (Leas-Uachtaráin Chomhairle Uladh) with whom he had discussed the motion that it was totally in order.

11.3.7 **Decision:** The motion was defeated.

11.4.1 In proposing **Motion 5** M. Kelly said that this topic had arisen following a meeting of all Clubs toward the end of last year; there was some opinion that such a body would ensure that all disciplinary matters were treated in the same fashion.

11.4.2 M. Kerr seconded the motion and pointed out that while the motion did not indicate the constitution of the new body there would be representation on it from the County Executive, the GAC, the Referees and the Clubs.

11.4.3 P. McCartan and J. Dooher suggested that the motion needed much more clarification before it could be properly considered.

11.4.4 B. Ó hEarcáin recommended that further consideration be given to the concept and having taken into account the views of the Clubs it might come forward again to next year's convention with greater detail.

11.4.5 **Decision:** The motion was not put.

11.5.1E. McConnell proposed **Motion 6** stating that the future of the GAA lay in our youth and without the youth there was no future. He thought the youth needed a voice. This motion would provide it if passed and it would also be helpful to coaching, to the new youth workgroup and to the county team managers at youth level.

11.5.2 J. Barkey seconded the motion.

11.5.3 J. Dooher and P. McCartan questioned the proposer on what the role and function of the Youth Committee might be since this was stated in the motion.

11.5.4 S. McDonald agreed with the sentiments of the motion but did not like its wording. He queried if Club Youth Officers would attend such a Committee, and if not there was no enforcement procedure. He did not think it would be possible to meet every two months because there were so many other meetings to attend and he was of the opinion that youth would not be represented on it.

11.5.5 In summarising E. McConnell said that we should want to do everything we can for our youth and that there should be much greater contact with everybody involved with the youth and youth teams.

11.5.6 **Decision:** The motion was lost.

11.6.1 The Cathaoirleach pointed out to An Chraobh that a similar motion to **Motion 7** was passed at the previous Convention and was currently under consideration by a Work-Group at Croke Park

11.6.2 **Decision:** The motion was withdrawn.

11.7.1 Proposing **Motion 8** J. Dooher said that while he was still active in his Club he was not able to keep track of all the changes and events going on in the Association at every level. Passing this motion would keep everyone at Club level fully up to date.

11.7.2 D. McCay seconded the motion.

11.7.3 The Cathaoirleach pointed out to that the kind of information which was being sought was brought to the attention of and reported to Club delegates at the monthly meeting, and, if this was not getting back into the Clubs then the problem lay with the delegates who attended monthly meetings. He also stated that similar schemes had been attempted in the past using 'Nuacht' but these were not distributed by delegates within their Clubs, and were considered as a waste of money.

11.7.4 Responding J. Dooher thought it was feasible to have such information posted out to every Club on a regular basis and his costings of the plan indicated that it would be feasible.

11.7.5 **Decision:** The recommendation was passed.

11.8.1 J. Dooher proposed **Motion 9** saying that the Association could become more pro-active on this issue especially at Culture sub-committee level. He thought that

young people were now not familiar with townland names and he volunteered to be available to work in this area if the recommendation was passed.

11.8.2 The motion was seconded by S. Quinn.

11.8.3 The Cathaoirleach suggested that if the proposer provided a suitable programme to enhance the use of townland names, the Association would fully support it.

11.8.4 B. Ó hEarcáin asked that all Clubs submit the townland names when forwarding addresses of Chairmen and Secretaries for the 1998 Láimh-Leabhar.

11.8.5 There were no speakers against the recommendation.

11.8.6 **Decision:** The recommendation was accepted.

11.9.1 **Motion 10** was proposed by J. Dooher and seconded by D. McCay.

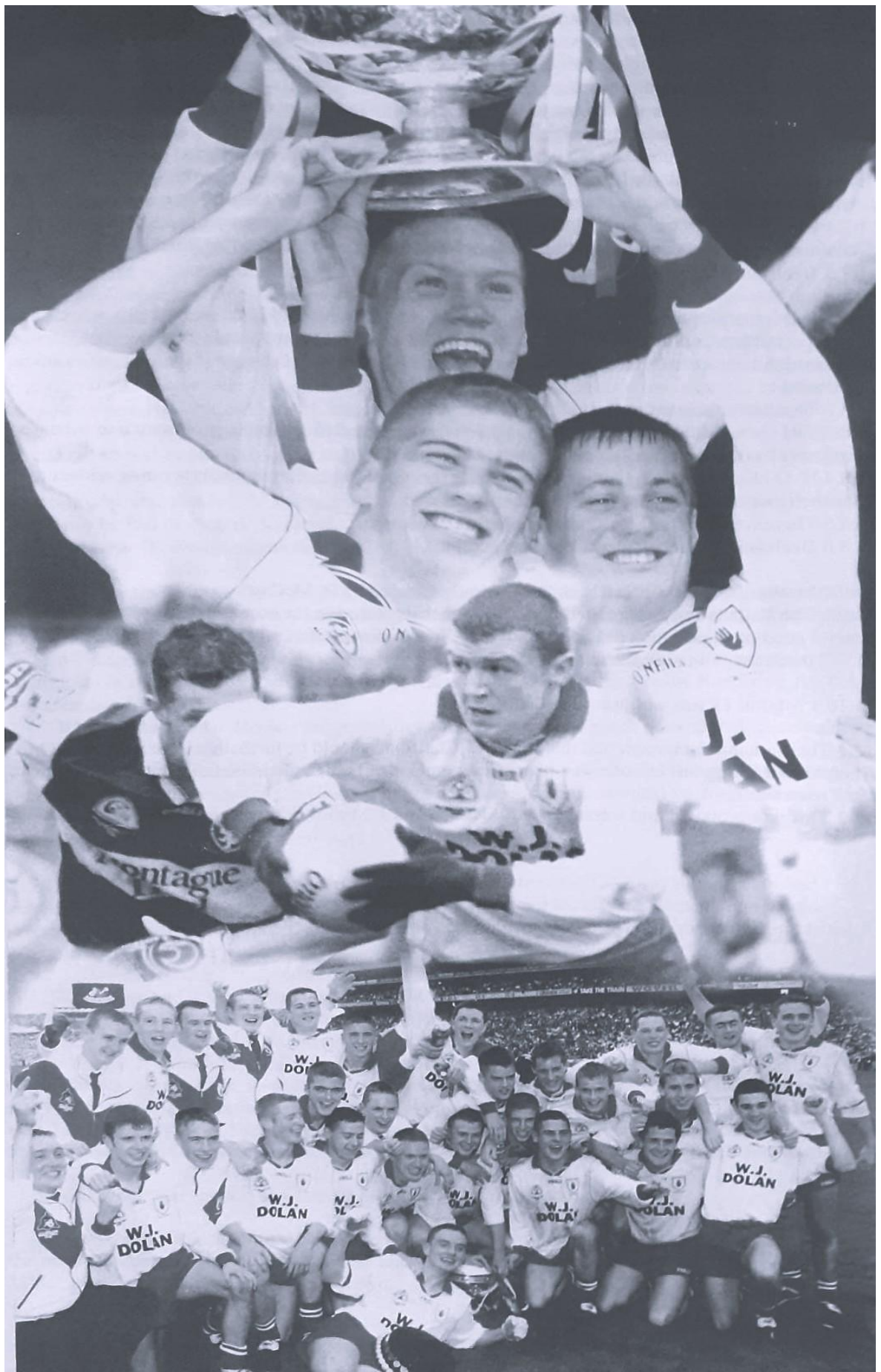
11.9.2 The Cathaoirleach suggested that what was being asked in the recommendation was the general good practice which did go on and that it was important that all sub-committees adhered to it.

11.9.3 **Decision:** The recommendation was accepted.

11.10.1 **Motion 11** was withdrawn by D. Lavery.

12.1 The Cathaoirleach requested that the GAC Chairman should be formally elected at An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil in order that his position on Coiste Thír Eoghain be fully in accordance with the Treoraí Oifigiúl.

12.2 This was proposed and seconded by J. McCabe and J. Marlowe; it was unanimously agreed.



TUARASCÁIL AN RÚNAÍ

A Chairde

Cé gur bliain í 1998 a bhí ina cuid suntais ag Cumann Lúthchleas Gael i dTír Eoghain, ba bhliain í fosta nuair a thit scáth doilbh dorcha an bháis ar an dá phobal in iarthar an chontae. Níorbh fhiú mórán cúrsaí spóirt sa chontae a bheith rathúil nuair a chuim-nítear ar bhuamáil thragóideach na hÓmaí a tharraing bás 29 duine gan urchóid agus a mhill saol na gcéadta eile le créachta uafásacha ar an 15ú lá de Lúnasa.

Mar sin féin ní raibh Tír Eoghain gan rath sa bhliain 1998. Choimeád na mionúir Craobh Uladh agus níor stad siad go raibh Craobh na hÉireann acu - den cheathrú huair, féin dúinne. Lean seo baint Chraobh na hÉireann san earrach in éadán Uibh Fháilí i gcomórtas na nGairmscoileanna.

Tháinig rath agus bláth ar Árd Bó ag leibhéal an chlub nuair a bhian siad Craobh Chontae na Sinsear den seachtú huair. Lena chois sin, ghnóthaigh Cumann Éire Óg, an Charraig Mhór ceannas an chontae san iománaíocht athuair, i ndiaidh bearna de 9 mbliana. Chinntigh siad a n-áit féin sa Táin trí Sciath Uladh a bhaint do na hEoghanaigh den chéad uair riamh.

Go ginearálta ní mó ná sásúil a bhí cúrsaí iomána i mbliana. Ina choinne sin tá géariomáíocht ann i gcónaí i sraithchomórtais na peile aosá - a bhuíochas sin ar an réamhullmhúchán atáthar a dhéanamh don léig nuachruthaithe atá ar na bacáin.

Success continued on the cultural front with three representatives participating in the Ulster final of Scór na nÓg, and Clochar progressing to the All-Ireland final in the Novelty Act. At senior level six Clubs reached the Ulster final, but surprisingly, there were no titles.

Another Tír Eoghain participant in an Ulster final in 1998 was the top referee, Jim Curran, who was appointed to take charge of the Doire / Dún na nGall senior football decider. Not only was this a major personal achievement for Jim but it also provided due recognition for all of this county's referees and the work which they perform.

While the upgrading of Club facilities and the physical development of grounds continued at a relentless pace in the year ended, Club development has also progressed in a highly satisfactory manner, particularly in north-west Tyrone with Clann na nGael. This Club, which formed from the amalgamation of Cumann Naomh Pádraig, Dún na Manach and Cumann Uí Chonaill, Achadh Breac in 1995 has stormed through the adult leagues and championships in the past two years, and is now located in the top senior grade. Such progress is worthy of the highest praise.

In offering congratulations to Clann na nGael and its supportive community, I also thank the Committee of the Club for extending an invitation to the GAA in Tír Eoghain to gather here for an Chomhdháil Bhliantúil, for the second time in thirteen years.

I pay particular tribute to the Cathaoirleach, Seamus Mac Cearnaigh and the Rúnaí, Maire Ní Dhuchair for all the preparatory work that they have undertaken for this gathering, and also for their high level of co-operation and help.

We wish the Club every success for the incoming year as they move into senior status and trust that their achievements, of the previous two years, are matched both on and off the field as they progress into the next millennium.

CLUB AFFAIRS

FOOTBALL

The playing season for Clubs commenced on Sunday, 15th February with a McElduff Cup game between Dromore and Errigal Ciaran, and the all-county leagues began six weeks later, when the final NFL games had been completed. Club Championships were postponed by one week due to the preliminary round replay of the Ulster minor championship, and took off on the last weekend in May.

All adult championships were completed with the final of the senior competition in mid-September while the leagues were almost finished by mid-November. The full details of all leagues, and other football and hurling competitions were reported on and considered by the convention of Coiste Riaracháin na gCluichí at the beginning of December; here, consideration of adult championships is the main subject.

The championships of 1998 were highly successful in many aspects, most notably in good attendances, in satisfactory financial returns, and in having a 54 match programme completed within a tight timeframe, while, at the same time not interfering with the preparations of the successful minor team. Many games were particularly exciting, close and intense contests, reflected in the fact that there were no less than eight drawn games at senior and intermediate levels and one in the junior semifinals.

On the debit side it was disappointing that there were not more games with a higher standard of play, particularly in the senior championship. While the overall disciplinary standards had improved from the previous year, in that the number of more serious incidents had decreased, the number of players who incurred suspension arising from championship games was exactly the same as in 1997. However, it was most pleasing to note that in all the senior hurling championship games played in Tír Eoghain, not a single player was sent off or suspended in 1998. For this significant feature we must apportion the credit where it is due – with the clubs, their players and their managers – and let us hope that such a favourable trend continues.

In the Junior grade, an Caisleán Glas progressed with relative ease to the county final having accounted for Eisceach, Droim Ratha and then Cill na mBán. In the other half of the draw an Charraig swept aside the challenge of Eochair in round one, to emerge victorious against Taite Riabhach by a single point in the quarterfinal; then a replay was required to overcome an Chraobh. The final was played in Pomeroy as curtain-raiser to the senior final, and, while the football was always competitive and of a good standard, both teams found scores hard to come by. In the end an Caisleán Glas clung onto a one point lead to collect their second Junior championship in six years.

In 1997 Clann na nGael had stormed through the Junior championship and the Division 3 league; in 1998 the Intermediate championship held no fears for this amalgamated side from Aughabrack and Dunamanagh. There was an easy first round success against Fionntamhnach followed by a much tougher one-point victory over Dún Geannain and then a local derby win against an Sráth Bán. Their final opponents, an Mháigh, found the going much more difficult at each stage; they enjoyed a one-point victory against Doire Locháin in the opening game and then required replays to overcome the challenges of an Baile Nua and Loch Mhic Ruairí. In the opening half of the final, both defences were in control and the forward divisions of each team

lacked any fluency, although Clann na nGael came strong, with the aid of a gusting wind, to lead by five points to no score. In the second half an Mháigh strove determinedly but were unable to close the gap sufficiently to prevent Clann na nGael from achieving their second championship in successive years.

At Senior level, Árd Bó were held to a draw in their opening encounter with Droim Caoin, but having made amends in the replay, which they won by six points, they marched on to the final with two 2-point victories, against an Charraig Mhór and an Corr Críochach. An Omaigh came through to the final in a fairly similar manner, drawing with Éadán na dTorc in round one, and then eliminating Trí Leac and Domhnach Mór in the subsequent stages. The final returned to the refurbished Plunkett Park in Pomeroy, after a gap of eleven years, where the splendid, new stand – completed to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the opening of the ground - was a most welcome facility on a damp evening. The opening half belonged totally to an Omaigh, who were dominant in all sectors, and seemed to have at least one hand on the Cup when they lead by 5 points to 1 point, and with Árd Bó reduced to fourteen players. A major turnaround occurred in the second half however, when Árd Bó, in a period of twenty minutes, outscored an Omaigh by 0-09 to 0-01. This effectively secured the O'Neill Cup for the loughshore team, to bring their championship tally to seven.

While the tradition in Tír Eoghain has been to fix the Senior and Minor championship finals together, it became impossible to do so this year due to the involvement of so many players with the county team. The delayed U-18 finals in grades 1 and 2 could not be accommodated until the second Sunday in November, when Árd Bó defeated Cluain Eo in the top grade and Cill Íseal proved too strong for Domhnach Mór in the secondary competition. So, both Senior and Minor championship titles made their way to the loughshore Club, to be followed, later, by a Grade 2 U-16 title – a fine achievement indeed.

The Jubilee team honoured on County Final day was the star-studded winners of three-in-a-row from 1958-60 – Cluain Eo, Cumann Uí Raithile. Following their introduction to the 6 000 strong crowd in Pomeroy, each member of the teams received a small presentation from the Cathaoirleach, Pól Ó Dubhrósa.

In concluding here, I extend congratulations to the Árd Bó senior team on its success in Tír Eoghain; having drawn at home with the Aontroim winners, St John's, in the first round of the Ulster Championship, it was disappointing that they should be eliminated from the competition, through, lack of fortune and experience, on the return journey to Belfast. Congratulations is offered to Clann na nGael on their major success in securing the Intermediate title, at the first attempt, and to an Caisleán Glas on winning the Junior championship.

I pay tribute to all our match officials who participated throughout the championship and particularly to the finals' referees, namely, John Kerlin (Junior), Pat O'Neill (Intermediate) and Martin Kolbohm (Senior). Our gratitude is due, also, to the many clubs that made their facilities and grounds available for hosting championship games, especially Carrickmore and Pomeroy which catered for the three major finals in 1998. Assisting these host Clubs, at the championship fixtures, there was a large and dependable team of stewards from other Clubs, selling tickets and collecting gate monies; these men are deserving of recognition and our sincere appreciation for the difficult, essential work that they undertake, and which prevents them spectating at the games. And finally, it is fitting to offer thanks to the marching bands, and their mentors, from Augher / Clogher and from Pomeroy (newly re-formed) which provided the musical dimension to the Intermediate and Senior finals, respectively.

HURLING

In my report to last year's Convention it was suggested that the hurling senior championship was in need of some attention due to the major differences in standards between the newer Clubs and some of the longer established ones. Unfortunately this matter has not yet been addressed and we have seen the imbalances prominently reflected in the scorelines from the championship quarter-finals and semifinals this year again; here, one stronger team had a margin of victory of 23 points, and another weaker team, which had a bye to the semifinal was defeated by 31 points. Such humiliation of the weaker teams does nothing for the standing of the game in their Clubs and most probably has a negative effect on any promotional and developmental work being undertaken.

With a small base of only six teams it is difficult to contemplate two separate grades and a knock-out competition being feasible, but perhaps the three weakest teams could be grouped together to compete in a round-robin draw, from which the winning team would progress to the semifinal stage of the championship, alongside the three stronger teams. While this idea might not be in keeping with a traditional championship it should overcome the problem of the heavy defeats for two or possibly three teams. It would also provide the three weakest teams with, at least, two championship games and this alone should give their preparations a boost. If teams tied for the winning position, playoffs would take place, with the advantage of providing even more games. Selection of the three weaker teams could be decided by consideration of the previous year's playing record in league and / or championship.

As stated in the introduction, the 1998 senior hurling championship was remarkable for the exceptionally high level of good discipline and sportsmanship displayed by all participating teams, and this must be strongly welcomed. The overall standard of skills exhibited, especially in the latter stages of the competition, was exceptionally high and for this we commend the players and their coaches.

In the two quarterfinals played at Rock on July 10th there was a facile victory for an Omaigh over Naomh Colmcille, while an Charraig Mhór had three points to spare against last year's champions, Dún Geanainn. At semifinal stage Coill an Chlochair easily disposed of the threat posed by na Seamrogai in, what turned out to be a totally one-sided game, and an Charraig Mhór eventually overcame the challenge from an Omaigh, who found it difficult to recapture their free-scoring style of the quarterfinal. The county final took place on Friday, 7th August in Healy Park between Coill an Chlochair, seeking their fourth title of the nineties, and an Charraig Mhór which had been without the Benburb Cup since 1989. The opening half was a relatively dour struggle with both defences being in total control and to such effect that only one point from each side was scored from play. The second half burst into life with the only goal of the game, inside thirty seconds, which increased the lead for an Charraig Mhór to four points. While Coill an Chlochair continued, determinedly, to reduce the deficit, with some fine long-range scores there was never enough fluency in their approach play to pose a threat that could not be dealt with. An Charraig Mhór had the final score of the game, in injury time, to win by two points. This was their first championship in nine years, and it brought their title tally to thirteen.

I pay tribute to the small, but effective, band of match officials who ensured that our hurling championship progressed in a highly satisfactory manner and I compliment, in

particular, referee Sean Quinn on his management of the senior final. Thanks is also due to those Clubs which accommodated the hurling championship fixtures in the past year – Killyclogher, Rock and Omagh.

In congratulating an Charraig Mhór on winning the 1998 Tír Eoghain championship title, it is most pleasing to record that they also made history at provincial level by becoming the first team from this county to win the Ulster Shield. This remarkable record was achieved with a very easy home victory against the Cavan champions, Mullahoran on a scoreline of 4-19 to 1-04, followed by a two-point defeat of title-holders Keady, in the final at Armagh.

Having thus qualified for the semifinal of the Ulster championship, the Éire Óg side were again drawn at home to meet the Aontroim representatives, Ballycastle. While the home team performed creditably in the opening half, the opposition were so superior that they ran out comfortable winners scoring a total of 5-15 while conceding one goal and seven points. However, this significant success demonstrates the continuing improvement that has been accomplished in Tír Eoghain hurling, and while it may be a small achievement in the overall grand scale, all improvement will only build up in small steady steps.

LIOSTA NA LAOCH

IOMÁNA

Competition Winner

<i>Sinsear</i>	Éire Óg, An Charraig Mhór
<i>Fé-21</i>	Eoghan Ruadh, Dún Geanainn
<i>Mionúir</i>	Éire Óg, An Charraig Mhór
<i>Fé-16</i>	Éire Óg, An Charraig Mhór
<i>Fé-14</i>	Na Seamroga
<i>Féile na nGael</i>	Na Seamroga

Runner-up

Naomh Mhuire, Coill an Chlochair
Naomh Éanna, An Ómaigh
Naomh Mhuire, Coill an Chlochair
Na Seamroga
Éire Óg, An Charraig Mhór
Eoghan Ruadh, Dún Geanainn

PEIL

Competition Winner

<i>Sinsear</i>	C. Uí Dhonnabháin Rossa, Ard Bó
<i>Idirmheanach</i>	Clann na nGael
<i>Soisear</i>	Naomh Pádraig, An Caisleán Glas
<i>U-21</i>	

Runner-up

Naomh Éanna, An Ómaigh
Tír na nÓg, An Mhaigh
Naomh Pádraig, An Charraig

<i>Mionúir (1)</i>	C. Uí Dhonnabháin Rossa, Ard Bó
<i>Mionúir (2)</i>	Naomh Mhuire, Cill Íseal
<i>Mionúir (3)</i>	Naomh Mhic Artáin, Eochar

C. Uí Rathaille, Cluain Eo
Naomh Pádraig, Domhnach Mór
Eoghain Rua, Bruach Áille

<i>Fé-16 (1)</i>	Naomh Damhnait, An Droim Mhór
<i>Fé-16 (2)</i>	C. Uí Dhonnabháin Rossa, Ard Bó
<i>Fé-16 (3)</i>	Naomh Mhic Artáin, Trí Leac

An Chorra Chríochach
Tír na nÓg, An Maigh
Na Cláirseacha, An Chraobh

<i>Fé-14 (1)</i>	An Ceapach
<i>Fé-14 (2)</i>	Naomh Mhuire, Cill Íseal
<i>Fé-14 (3)</i>	Na Sáirsealaigh, Droim Ratha

Naomh Damhnait, An Droim Mhór
Na Píarsaigh, Fionntamhnach
Eoghain Rua, Bruach Áille

<i>Corn S. Uí</i>	Naomh Mhuire, Cill Íseal
<i>Doibhlinn</i>	

Uilf Tóin, Cill Dhreasa

<i>Corn F. Uí Néill</i>	Craobh Rua, Bearach
<i>Corn S. Mhic</i>	Naomh Mhuire, Cill na mBán

Naomh Treasa, Loch Mhic Ruairí
Na hEiméidí, Eisceach

<i>Oireachtaigh</i>	
<i>Corn M. Mhic</i>	Naomh Pádraig, Domhnach Mór
<i>Giolla Dhuibh</i>	

Na Raithile, Cluain Eo



**Ard Bó, Uí Dhonnabháin Rossa
County Senior Champions - 1998**



**An Caisleán Glas, Naomh Pádraig
County Junior Champions - 1998**

INTER-COUNTY AFFAIRS

In last year's report to Convention, consideration was given to the very busy fixtures' programme prepared by Comhairle Uladh and Coiste Riaracháin na gCluichí at national level, for county teams. This is an issue to which attention is drawn yet again, because of the serious impact that it has on Club affairs.

In a 15 week period commencing on 15th February, Tír Eoghain was involved in 28 fixtures in league and championship with teams ranging from U-18s, through U-21 level and into seniors, in both football and hurling. Twelve Sundays were required to accommodate these games. Now, since county team managers do not wish to see the players which they have selected, involved in competitive fixtures on the preceding Saturday, there is a major difficulty in attempting to organise a meaningful league programme in the Spring. Add in the second and third level education competitions – all of which impose severe demands on players, at this time, and it is readily seen how the Club becomes the major victim. Cup competitions have been used, with varying degrees of success at the start of the season, but they have assisted in delaying the commencement of the league, as well as posing problems in drawing to a conclusion. Since each vested interest can argue, with much justification, that its competition can only be played at this particular time of the year there seems to be little means of resolution of the difficulties involved.

The best way forward might be to arrange a major portion of league fixtures on one of the mid-week evenings that Clubs generally use for their training purposes, thereby allowing the training to be switched to the weekend. The league fixtures should be rigidly adhered to and should be participated in by all Clubs without their players who are in county panels at that time, and who are being provided with regular games / activity anyway. It is vitally important that there is a planned regular programme of competitive games for every player who has a desire to play; interest must be maintained throughout the league for every player, and with the regularity of games the overall standard, which is now in steep decline, might tend to improve again.

HURLING

SENIOR TEAM

National League 1998

Having won promotion to Division 3 of the NFL at the end of the 1997 season, many observers predicted that it would be a short-lived gain for the hurlers of Tír Eoghain. Many expected they would be the whipping-boys and that they would be relegated immediately at the season's end. However, they did not take into account the spirit, ambition and pride of this Senior team and its management. By the end of the 1998 campaign, and despite being unable to field a full-strength at any stage, it had established itself as a team that was not going to be easily shifted and was deserving of great respect from its opponents.

In the opening home game Tír Eoghain probably showed too much respect, and were somewhat in awe of the opposition – An Mhí – to the extent that the game had almost been lost by halftime. In the second half Tír Eoghain outscored their opponents (1-05 to 0-07) but had left themselves with too large a gap to close down, and ended up losing by a margin of 11 points. In round 2, Cill Dara travelled to Omagh expecting to collect a pair of league points but were taken by surprise; at the halfway mark the sides were level but when the final whistle sounded Tír Eoghain had forged ahead into a deserved 4 point lead, after a fully committed performance.

The next opposition was provided by the reigning Ulster champions, An Dún. In a most entertaining and exciting match, played in Ballykinlar, Tír Eoghain displayed many fine skills and touches that were on a par of those of their more illustrious opponents and at halftime found themselves only four points behind. Unfortunately, as the second half progressed the visitors were unable to maintain their momentum and the more experienced Ards men established a comfortable win. Back to Omagh again in round four and a visit from yet another Leinster team. This time An Lú travelled in hope but departed empty-handed having been defeated on a scoreline of 1-11 to 2-06. This was probably one of the poorer performances from Tír Eoghain, brought about by a number of factors including, the loss of top scorer Eamon Devlin to the US, and the poor weather and ground surface conditions on the day. However, this victory was of major significance because it had secured a position in Division 3 for a further season.

The next game against league leaders Iar-Mhí had always been regarded as the toughest to be faced, and so it transpired. Here, Tír Eoghain were totally outclassed in every department and lost by a record margin, in Mullingar. For the final game, Tír Eoghain travelled with a weakened side to Ruislip to take on the home side, Londain. While there was nothing at stake, in terms of promotion or relegation, for either county, it was disappointing to suffer another defeat, although this time the margin was much lower.

So Tír Eoghain completed their Division 3 league programme with a highly-creditable four points and occupied fourth position in the table behind Westmeath, Down and London.

At the end of the year the whole league format came under intense scrutiny and finally, it was decided that the 33 participating counties should be split up in a more irregular manner; now the top teams are classified as Division 1A (with 7 teams) and Division 1B (8 teams). The rest are grouped in Divisions 2 and 3, each of which has 9 teams.

For the forthcoming season, Tír Eoghain will be classified as Division 2 along with Doire, Muineachán, Cill Mhantáin, Cill Dara, Ros Comáin, Iar Mhí, An Mhí and Londain. While it might be over-optimistic to expect to win this Division, there is no doubt that Tír Eoghain can consolidate its status in the new set-up and, realistically, should aim for a mid-table position again in 1999.

Junior Championship

In the first round of the Ulster Championship Tír Eoghain were drawn at home against Fear Manach. Here, the performance was mediocre, particularly in the first half and at the interval the deficit was two points. Scores came at a faster rate at the start of the second half and within three minutes the home side had edged ahead. Fear Manach continued to fight back but then a late rally from Tír Eoghain was sufficient to move them through to an Ulster semi-final.

This game was also played in Healy Park and took on many of the characteristics of previous games with a less than convincing first half followed by an excellent second period. Tír Eoghain opened the scoring but gradually fell away behind until the margin in favour of Dún na nGall was a massive 12 points; even at the halfway stage it had only been reduced to eleven.

In the second half there was a total transformation, with the home county scoring a massive 3-06 and thereby closing the gap to the minimum. However, try as they might, it was not possible to get that much-needed score to win or at least draw the game, and then finally, in injury time the visitors managed a further point to win by two.

This defeat ended not only the championship for 1998, but it also ended the senior inter-county season of 1998. The season which started on Sunday 8th March concluded on Sunday 7th May – exactly 3 months later; two games were played in March and in April, three in May and one in June. A 3 month season is not satisfactory.

This could hardly be considered the best way to promote or develop hurling, at county level, in a ‘weak’ county. There should be some opportunity afforded for competitive hurling to be played in the best summer months of the year; if players can only participate in the Winter and Spring, when weather and ground conditions are generally poor, the chances of their performances and skills improving are very slim. Our present championship discriminates severely in favour of the ‘strong’ and successful counties, which can enjoy Summer hurling, in all its glory, on perfectly smooth pitches, and with clement, warm weather.

It is questionable if this issue has been addressed to the extent that it should have been, by the Hurling Development Committee at national level that was established in 1994 to examine the crisis in the game.

The 1998 Championship team and scorers were:

Martin Ward (Shane O’Neill’s), Martin Hegarty (Killiclogher), Ciaran McKenny (Omagh), Shay O’Neill (Dún Geannain), George Byrne (Naomh Colmcille), Eamon Hughes (Carrickmore), Kevin Cunningham (Omagh), Damian McCallion (Killiclogher) (0-02), Vinny Owens (Killiclogher), Tommy Colton (Dungannon) (0-03), Padraig Devlin (Dungannon) (0-06), Mickey McErlean (Dungannon), Peter Kerr (Carrickmore) (1-02), Terry McCann (Killiclogher) (0-01), Paul Lavery (Dungannon) (2-2), Brian McIntosh (Dungannon) (0-04), Declan Molloy (Dungannon).

Other members of the panel were: Pádraig Hughes (Carrickmore), Eamon Devlin (Dungannon), Sean Bradley (Killiclogher), Terry McGowan (Omagh), Eamon Rodgers (Omagh), Barry O’Neill (Killiclogher), Mark Kelly (Killiclogher), Liam Kelly (Dungannon), Eoghan McKenna (Killiclogher) and Adrian Slane (Carrickmore).

Management: **Brendan Harkin**

U-21 Championship

This championship never got underway for Tír Eoghain in 1998. Drawn to play Muineachán in Clones, Tír Eoghain had an understanding with their opponents that the game should be postponed. However, Muineachán decided to revert to the original fixture on the day before the game with the consequence that many of our U-21 team

were not available. Subsequently, although neither team fielded the game was awarded to the opposition.

Minor Team

At the end of the 1997 playing season Coiste Tír Eoghain convened a special meeting for all hurling Clubs in the county to establish whether there was interest in, and support for inter-county youth competition. The Clubs which attended – Dún Geannain, Coill an Chlochair and Na Seamrogaí expressed a keen desire for county teams to be prepared and selected for the competitions of 1998. Subsequently, managers chosen from these Clubs were appointed to take charge of the two youth teams, viz. Barry O'Neill (U-18) and Eamon O'Connor, Martin McCanny and Aidan Farrell (U-16).

A minor hurling team was entered for participation in the Ulster League and the Special Competition organised by Páirc an Chrócaigh, which would have provided a useful programme, with a minimum of eight competitive games. Due to a catalogue of errors, including confusion over venues, severe communication problems at almost every level, lack of interest and lack of co-operation, only three fixtures were played. Of these Tír Eoghain won a single game.

U-16 Team

At U-16 level, Tír Eoghain lost its first game against Árd Mhacha in Dungannon but then bounced back with an away victory in Ballybofey. In the third and final fixture of the Special competition, Tír Eoghain were awarded the points, since Fear Manach were unable to field, but nevertheless, they failed to qualify for the semifinals due to the first round defeat.

Overall then, 1998 could only be regarded as one of the most disappointing years at under age level for hurling; matters will only improve when Clubs and their players demonstrate a greater enthusiasm for the game, and when selfish interests are set aside for the good of the county. In a similar follow-up meeting, organised in October 1998, only four of our six hurling clubs were available to attend – An Omaigh, Coill an Chlochair, An Charraig Mhór and Na Seamrogaí. It is anticipated that the youth managers for 1999 will be appointed from this group; solutions to difficult issues will only come from the enthusiasts within the county, and to seek personnel from further afield is only an admission of defeat.

In conclusion, our thanks is expressed to all the managers of Tír Eoghain hurling teams and especially to Breandán Ó hEarcáin (Senior) and to Eamon O'Connor and Martin McCanny (U-16) for the work they have undertaken and the major efforts made to prepare, coach and field teams during 1998.

SCÓR CLÁR - 1998

An Sraith Náisiúnta – Roinn 3

Márta 08	Tír Eoghain	1-07	An Mhí	3-12	at Omagh
Márta 29	Tír Eoghain	2-08	Cill Dara	0-10	at Omagh
Aibreán 05	Tír Eoghain	1-07	An Dún	2-20	at Ballykinlar
Aibreán 19	Tír Eoghain	1-11	An Lú	2-06	at Omagh
Bealtaine 03	Tír Eoghain	0-02	Iar-Mhí	8-25	at Mullingar
Bealtaine 09	Tír Eoghain	1-05	Londain	2-15	at Ruislip

Craobh na Sóisear

Bealtaine 24	Tír Eoghain	0-12	Fear Manach	1-07	at Omagh
Meitheamh 07	Tír Eoghain	3-08	Dún na nGall	1-17	at Omagh

Achomhaireacht

	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>Lost</u>
<u>Faoi-16</u>	<u>2 of 3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Mionúr</u>	<u>3 of 8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Faoi-21</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Sinnsear</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>



**‘A Cup Each’
Fr Gerard McAleer and Mickey Harte
with the All-Ireland and Ulster Championships’ Trophies**

FOOTBALL

SENIOR TEAM

National League 1997-8

At the end of 1997 Tír Eoghain were lying in second spot in Section C of the National League having suffered a home defeat against Leinster champions - Uibh Fhailí - at Dungannon. With three wins secured in the opening games it seemed there was every possibility of a quick return to Division 1 football. The initial fixture of 1998 was a repeat of the previous year - a lengthy trip to Killarney - to face the All-Ireland and NFL champions. The outcome however was not a repeat. In 1997 Tír Eoghain lost by nine points, but this time around they emerged victorious by a margin of three points. The foundations for this famous and historic victory were laid in the first half, with the home county being curtailed to two points while Tír Eoghain scored 1-07.

In Round 6 Tír Eoghain were hosts to Atha Cliath in Dungannon; this was a non-event with the home side failing to score a point from play. Two frees were converted in the first half and in the second period Tír Eoghain mustered a goal and a third pointed free to go down by four points to the Dubs. Following this debacle in Dungannon, there was a further opportunity at home, in the final round, to secure Division One status for the 1999 season and also to participate in the quarter-finals of the League. After a shaky start Tír Eoghain began to play some stylish football and edged ahead against Muineachán just as half-time approached. On the re-start this lead was stretched further, until the old malaise set in yet again; the visitors were allowed back into the game and after converting a penalty midway through the second half they became totally dominant in all sectors. Finishing with a single point defeat, interest in the NFL was over for another year. Another year of unfulfilled promise with three away victories and three defeats at home. Another opportunity to participate in the knock-out stages of a national competition had been tossed away, when it had seemed easier, almost, to qualify.

National League 1998-9

As has almost become customary now the whole NFL format was changed again for the new season. Promotion and relegation did not take place at the end of last season on the basis that counties had expected when participating in the 1997-8 league. Instead, newly-adopted proposals allowed for an 8-team Division 1A and an 8-team Division 1B, with the counties selected for each on the basis of finishing positions in the previous season's league, together with some geographical criterion being applied. Divisions 2A and 2B were comprised of 9 and 8 teams respectively, selected in a similar manner.

It has been further proposed that, eventually, only those teams in Division 1 will be eligible to compete for the NFL title while those in Division 2 will compete for a secondary national league trophy. The justification for this being that a greater number of counties will have an opportunity to win a 'national' title in the years ahead. While this might be a noble sentiment it is highly questionable if winning such a title will be very meaningful to the 'weaker' county, such as Ciarraí in the forthcoming season's league!

For the record, Tír Eoghain will be participating in the top grade – Division 1A – together with Árd Mhacha, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Gaillimh, Corcaigh, Uibh Fhailí and Baile Átha Cliath.

McKenna Cup

The first round fixture in this competition was notable for the fact that new experimental rules were being trialled; these included the involvement of two referees and two umpires rather than four; the increase of substitutes allowed from three to five, suspension for personal fouls being for the duration of the match, and the acceptance of lifting the ball off the ground. Following some initial confusion, players and officials adapted quite well, but spectators found it difficult to follow at times.

Both Tír Eoghain and Dún na nGall experimented with team selections, also, in round 1, and while the game was interesting and entertaining there was little to be learned from the home team's two-point victory.

In the semifinal Tír Eoghain travelled to Newry and earned a worthwhile draw with An Dún, but then failed to capitalise on this result a fortnight later in Omagh, going out of the competition by a margin of three points.

Championship

Tír Eoghain had the unenviable distinction of being the first team eliminated from the Ulster Championship in 1998.

Although drawn at home in a preliminary round fixture, Tír Eoghain were installed as underdogs against An Dún, due in the main to the disappointing national league performance, but also on account of the fact that four players were making their championship debut.

Played in very hot conditions the home side produced one of their better displays of the seasons and at the end of the first period led by a single point. The lead was stretched to five points only five minutes into the second half and it appeared that an upset was certainly on. But then Down's old hands began to assert themselves and the sides were level with 15 minutes remaining. An Dún finished strongly and edged into the lead as the game entered the final phase, while Tír Eoghain struggled and failed to close the gap.

The senior Championship team for 1998 was: **Finbar McConnell (Capt.) (Newtownstewart), Paul Devlin (Moortown), Fergal Logan (Stewartstown), Fay Devlin (Ardboe), Sean McLaughlin (Drumquin), Colin Holmes (Moy), Terry McKenna (Beragh), Jody Gormley (Trillick), Davitt McElroy (An Charraig Mhór), Brian Dooher (Clann na nGael) (0-01), Adrian Cush (Donaghmore) (1-03), Stephen Lawn (Moortown) (1-01), Ciaran Loughran (An Charraig Mhór), Eoin Gormley (Errigal Ciaran) (0-02), Gerard Cavlan (Dungannon), Ciaran McBride (Omagh), Brian McGuckin (Edendork).**

Other panel members who participated in McKenna Cup and NFL in 1998 were: **Chris Lawn (Moortown), Damian Teague (Clonoe), Pascal Canavan (Errigal Ciaran), Peter Canavan (Errigal Ciaran), Sean Corr (Clonoe), Barry Eccles (Omagh), Brian Meenan (Killyclogher), Paul McLaughlin (Drumquin), Fergal Coyle (Cookstown), Matt McGleenan (Eglis), Stephen McCarron (Aghaloo), Sean Teague (Greencastle), Vinny Owens (Killyclogher), Gareth McGirr (Omagh), Peter Campbell (Coalisland), Seamus McCallan (An Charraig Mhór), Damian Gormley (Trillick).**

Management: **Danny Ball, Anthony Gallagher, Sean Canavan, Enda Kilpatrick**

U-21 Team

The first round of the championship was a reversal of that of 1998 with Tír Eoghain travelling to Casement Park, Belfast. After only two minutes of this game Tír Eoghain were reduced to fourteen players and the home side took advantage of their superior numbers to lead at half-time by a single point. In the second period, Tír Eoghain increased their work rate and eased into a comfortable lead only to be pulled back to a single point as the final whistle sounded.

The quarter-final was played in Fr. Campbell Park, Coalisland where Ard Mhacha were the visitors. In the opening twenty minutes there was nothing between the teams but then a strong Ard Mhacha team found their form and surged into an eight point lead as the interval approached. This young Tír Eoghain side fought back with determination throughout the second period but were always second best against a superior and more physical team. At the final whistle there was a seven point margin of victory.

The players who represented Tír Eoghain in the U-21 championship in 1998 were:

Stephen McCarron (Aghaloo), Ciaran Gourley (Rock), Vivian Teague (Coalisland), Jim Eastwood (Cookstown), Cormac McGinley (Errigal Ciaran), Brian Meenan (Capt.) (Killyclogher), Declan McCrossan (E. R. Uí Néill), Kevin Hughes (Killeeshil), Jarlath Quinn (Pomeroy), Martin Early (Brackaville) (1-06), Barry Eccles (Omagh), Brian McGuckin (Edendork) (0-06), Colm McCullagh (Dromore) (0-04), Richard Thornton (Coalisland), Sean Douglas (Aghaloo) (0-03), Ciaran O'Hagan (Brackaville), Paul McGurk (Cookstown), Conal Martin (Eglish), Cormac McAnallen (Eglish) (0-01), Michael Coleman (Ardboe), Joe Campbell (Dromore), Michael Rea (Derrytresk).

Management: **Sean O'Kane, Pat McGivern, Francie Mulgrew, John L Corr.**

Minor Team

1998 was the year when Tír Eoghain swept all before them in winning the Ulster Minor League, the Ulster Minor Championship and the All-Ireland Minor Championship. They did so in fine style without losing a single game. Their excellent sportsmanship, high level of skills and impeccable discipline - displayed in every encounter - endeared this minor team to Gaelic games supporters and scribes, not just in Ulster but right across the country.

Their outstanding achievements commenced with the Ulster League on 14th March and concluded with the successful All-Ireland Finals on 27th September. In section B of the league there were four home wins against An Dún, Aontroim, Árd Mhacha and An Mhí, with An Lú failing to field, which brought Tír Eoghain through to the Ulster Final. This game, played in Ballybofey, against old rivals Doire resulted in a five point victory and a second League title in four years.

The defence of the Ulster Championship title began rather shakily in Healy Park where Tír Eoghain were drawn against An Dún in a preliminary encounter. This game ebbed and flowed with An Dún racing into a three point lead before Tír Eoghain opened their account; the visitors then surged ahead by seven points, but by half-time the sides were level; the second period continued in similar fashion with Tír Eoghain again coming from behind to take a 3 point lead, but eventually needing an injury time point to snatch a draw.

In the replay a week later, in Newry, Tír Eoghain cruised to a comprehensive six point victory thanks to a strong cohesive defence, a powerful midfield partnership and some sharp score-taking.

The first round fixture played in Clones against Árd Mhacha was effectively over as a contest well before half-time. With an awesome display of forceful football in the opening twenty minutes Tír Eoghain had rushed into a 14-point lead against the wind. In the second half the game was more evenly balanced with each team notching up a further six points to leave the final score 2-15 to 0-09.

The Ulster semi-final was a repeat of the earlier League final against Doire. A similar result followed. With Tír Eoghain in total command at midfield and the defence in their usual mean mood, the side led by four points at the break and at the finish were five points in front.

As in 1997, Tír Eoghain met Aontroim in the Ulster final in Clones, and again the outcome was the same. Tír Eoghain led from the start with yet another outstanding team performance, particularly in the first half when they scored 2-06 and conceded only a single goal. In the second half it was difficult to keep up the momentum, but the eventual winners were never really threatened at any stage, adding a further 2 goals and 3 points, thereby collecting their sixteenth Ulster Championship.

Following a five week break Tír Eoghain faced the Connacht champions – Liatroim. For this game Tír Eoghain were installed as hot favourites, even though they had suffered a number of injuries since the Ulster final. Under the guidance and coaxing of inspirational captain McAnallen, they came through with some comfort, winning by eleven points. While Tír Eoghain scored 1-14 they shot over twenty wides – indicating their vastly higher percentage of possession throughout the hour.

The All-Ireland final was another repeat – in that the same two teams participated as in 1997, and in that both teams displayed how well Gaelic football can be played. Now, Laois were attempting to record their third consecutive All-Ireland victory, and Tír Eoghain were delighted to be back in the final, to have the opportunity to make amends for the previous year's defeat. As in so many of their earlier games Tír Eoghain won the first half by manufacturing many great scores and they won the second half by resolute, assured and determined defending in all areas of the field.

Two excellent goals in the opening quarter laid the foundations for the Ulster champions' victory; six marvellous points were added to these, while Laois had only managed five points by the interval. In the second half Tír Eoghain added a further five points and, by effective and disciplined defending, they forced their opponents to seek scores from further afield. The final scoreboard read: Tír Eoghain 2-11 Laois 0-11 which meant that the Tom Markham Cup was going back to Tyrone, for only the fourth time, after a gap of twenty-five years.

Following the presentation of the Cup by GAA Patron, Dr Dermot Clifford and then an excellent captain's speech by Cormac McAnallen, the new All-Ireland champions were given a guard of honour along the Canal End by the team they had just defeated. Laois had shown their greatness in victory in 1996 and 1997, and now it shone like a beacon in the wake of defeat in 1998. We applaud these outstanding, worthy, young sportsmen.

The successful Tír Eoghain panel and their championship scores were: **Pascal McConnell (Newtownstewart), Gavin Devlin (Ardboe), Michael McGee (Loughmacrory), Fran Loughran (Kildress), Ciaran Meenagh (0-01) (Loughmacrory), Darren O'Hanlon (Errigal Ciaran), Peter O'Neill (0-03) (Gortin), Cormac McAnallen (1-15) (Capt.) (Eglis), Kevin Hughes (0-07) (Killeeshil), Gavin Wylie (2-04) (Ardboe), Eoin Mulligan (1-10) (Cookstown),**

Stephen O'Neill (2-05) (Clann na nGael), Aiden Lynch (1-23) (Castlederg), Enda McGinley (2-05) (Errigal Ciaran), Ryan O'Neill (1-04) (Clonoe), Damian Kelly (0-02) (Kildress), Philip Jordan (Moy), Ryan Mellon (0-02) (Moy), Brian McGuigan (0-02) (Ardboe), Martin Hughes (1-03) (Clonoe), Michael Quinn (Ardboe), Kevin Coary (Derrylaughan), Fergal Donnelly (Trillick), John McMahon (Lissan), Emmett McNally (Cookstown), Terry McDermott (Greencastle), Jarlath Daly (Augher), John Devlin (Stewartstown), Raymond Ward (Loughmacrory)

Management: Mickey Harte, Fr Gerard McAleer

In congratulating all 29 members of the Tír Eoghain panel on their magnificent successes in 1998 we must pay tribute to each and everyone of these talented young men who represented their county with distinction; their successes were hard-earned and resulted from the highest level of commitment, lengthy training and self-discipline over a period of at least ten months.

We congratulate the management team led by Mickey Harte and Fr Gerard McAleer on their All-Ireland Minor success; we thank them sincerely for what they have achieved – not only in 1998 but right throughout their eight year tenure. They have experienced disappointments as well as triumphs and at the end of each season they have analysed what went wrong or needed to be improved upon, and they have always built upon their successes. Such a professional approach is deserving of the highest credit and also of the topmost prize, and thankfully both have been attained this year. We thank both men for their time and effort – provided in abundance – to the youth footballers in Tyrone. Their influence will have an immeasurable impact on the players and the Clubs in this county for many years to come.

We thank the players' Clubs and their schools – both primary and secondary – and the games' teachers who nurtured, coached and encouraged these players in their younger days; all of these made a major contribution to the All-Ireland success of 1998 and all are fully justified in the sense of pride that they now experience.

Gratitude is also expressed to the clubs, which made available their grounds and other facilities for training and practice sessions throughout the season, particularly Omagh and Pomeroy, and to the CBS in Omagh.

Finally, a special word of thanks to our many sponsors whose financial support, and other contributions, were greatly appreciated during the preparations of this successful campaign.

In concluding this section on the many enjoyable and memorable exploits of the U-18 team I must make reference to the hugely successful 'homecoming' to Aughnacloy on the Monday evening after the All-Ireland final. This was an event which was superbly planned and organised and which totally surpassed all expectations. Credit for this goes to the Aghaloo Club under the guidance of Cuthbert Donnelly who attended to all arrangements and left nothing to chance. Its successfulness, together with the massive attendance of so many delighted fans and supporters, brought home to the minor players, for the first time, the enormity of their great achievement.

PLAYERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

We pay tribute, also, to all players at U-21 and Senior level who represented Tír Eoghain with distinction in league and championships, during 1998. Particularly, we note the major contribution made by senior county players Finbar McConnell, Paul Devlin, Chris Lawn and Gerard Cavlan to the Ulster team which won the Railway Cup during February and March. They participated in three memorable games against Connacht (2) and Leinster, all of which went to extra time. In congratulating all four, a special mention must be made of the Ulster captain who inspired the team and led by example on every occasion – Errigal Ciaran's Peter Canavan.

His successes continued in the latter part of the year when, firstly, he was selected for the Ireland team to participate in the International Rules series against Australia, and then was appointed team vice-captain. Here, he was ably supported by Finbar McConnell, who also played in both games, together with Gerard Cavlan and Eoin Gormley. We congratulate all four players on their selection for our country and the success achieved in winning the Series.

MANAGERS

Our managers at Senior and U-21 level, Danny Ball and Sean O'Kane respectively, deserve our gratitude for the work, time and effort devoted to our county teams in 1998. While they may not have enjoyed the same success as their minor counterparts, this year, there is no doubt that the same kind of commitment was required in training, coaching and preparation for league, championship and other cup competitions. We thank their many assistants, background workers and car drivers who performed so many onerous duties, away from the limelight.

In noting the success of the Ulster Railway Cup team it is appropriate to record the invaluable contribution made by assistant manager, Art McRory.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Tír Eoghain has always produced high quality teams which participate in the Vocational Schools' competitions, and 1998 was one of those exceptional years when these teams swept aside all opposition at almost every level of participation.

In March Tír Eoghain won their 12th Ulster Bank intercounty Vocational Schools title after a replay against Dún na nGall in Celtic Park. Having retained the Provincial crown, they went on to fulfil their ambition of taking the All-Ireland championship. This was achieved through a tough semi-final encounter against Corcaigh in Mount Mellick, which went to extra time, followed by a comfortable victory over Uibh Fhailí in the final played as curtain-raiser to the Doire / Uibh Fhailí NFL final.

The U-18 All-Ireland Vocational School's title also came to the county when it was won by Holy Trinity College, Cookstown after a replay in Clones against Davitt College from Castlebar Co. Mayo. Indeed, a special word of congratulations must be extended to the Cookstown school on their historic successes in winning a second Ulster title during the past year, at U-16 level. St Joseph's Coalisland made it a complete sweep for the county when they defeated St Mary's Limavady in the Ulster U-14 final, also after a replay.

All players are commended on their remarkable achievements, and the teams' teachers deserve the highest credit for the coaching work which they undertake, mostly as extra-curricular responsibilities, with our youth.



Clann na nGael

County Intermediate Champions - 1998

SCÓR CLÁR - 1998

An Sraith Náisiúnta 1997-8 Roinn C

Feabhra 15	Tír Eoghain 1-09	Ciarraí 1-06	at Killarney
Márta 01	Tír Eoghain 1-03	Atha Cliath 1-07	at Dungannon
Márta 15	Tír Eoghain 0-11	Muineachán 2-06	at Omagh

Corn Mhic Chionnaoith

Márta 08	Tír Eoghain 1-11	Dún na nGall 1-09	at Omagh
Márta 29	Tír Eoghain 1-09	An Dún 1-09	at Newry
Aibreán 12	Tír Eoghain 0-14	An Dún 3-08	at Omagh

Craobh na Sinnsear

Bealtaine 17	Tír Eoghain 2-07	An Dún 0-15	at Omagh
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Craobh U-21

Feabhra 28	Tír Eoghain 0-14	Aontroim 2-07	at Belfast
Márta 14	Tír Eoghain 1-06	Ard Mhacha 1-13	at Coalisland

Faoi-18

Lég

Márta 14	Tír Eoghain 2-12	An Dún 3-06	at Killyman
Márta 21	Tír Eoghain 1-16	Aontroim 1-03	at Coalisland
Márta 28	Tír Eoghain 4-14	Ard Mhacha 1-09	at Dungannon
Aibreán 04	Tír Eoghain 2-15	An Mhí 3-05	at Dromore
Aibreán 11	Tír Eoghain w/o	An Lú w/d	at Coalisland
Bealtaine 02	Tír Eoghain 2-07	Doire 0-08	at Ballybofey
(League Final)			

An Chraobh

Bealtaine 17	Tír Eoghain 2-10	An Dún 1-13	at Omagh
Bealtaine 24	Tír Eoghain 0-12	An Dún 0-06	at Newry
Meitheamh 14	Tír Eoghain 2-15	Ard Mhacha 0-09	at Clones
Meitheamh 28	Tír Eoghain 0-15	Doire 0-10	at Clones
Iúil 19	Tír Eoghain 4-09	Aontroim 2-02	at Clones
Lúnasa 23	Tír Eoghain 1-14	Liatroim 1-03	at Croke Park
Meán Fomhair 27	Tír Eoghain 2-11	Laois 0-11	at Croke Park

Achomhaireacht

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
Mionúr	12	12	0	0
Faoi-21	2	1	0	1
Sinnsear	7	2	1	4



Ulster and All-Ireland Minor Football Champions – 1998

Back row (l-r): Fr Gerard McAleer (Manager), Mickey Quinn, John McMahon, Enda McGinley, Aiden Lynch, Ryan O'Neill, Peter O'Neill, John Devlin, Pascal McConnell, Gavin Devlin, Raymond Ward, Eoin Mulligan, Kevin Hughes, Terry McDermott, Mickey Harte (Manager).

Middle row (l-r): Gavin Wylie, Brian McGuigan, Martin Hughes, Emmett McNally, Mickey McGee, Fran Loughran, Cormac McAnallen (Capt.), Stephen O'Neill, Jarlath Daly, Darren O'Hanlon, Ciaran Meenagh.

Front row (l-r): Ryan Mellon, Kevin Coary, Philip Jordan, Damian Kelly, Fergal Donnelly

ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

As in 1997 we continue to experience a trickle of claims under Public Liability Insurance, and as in previous years, it is noted that these can refer back some considerable time. The claims submitted this year relate to alleged accidents in 1998, 1997 and 1996. Since there is such a delay in having claims investigated, it cannot be stressed sufficiently, how important it is that detailed information relating to any accident is recorded, in writing, by the Club. Over a period of a couple of years there will generally be changes in a Club's officers and committee membership, with the result that information and details concerning an incident, that seem indisputable at the time, can develop much variation in a short time span. Even where there is no change in a Club's officers it is important that information is not just consigned to memory, alone.

Clubs must continue to ensure there is a high management level of risk reduction at all its property. It is also imperative that outside bodies which are granted the use of G.A.A. facilities have current liability insurances in place, which are appropriately extended to fully indemnify the Clubs and the Association, for the duration of their usage of the G.A.A. property in question. Indeed, Clubs are strongly urged not to allow access to their property until a third-party indemnity agreement has been formally entered, and the insurance requirements are in place.

PROPERTY INSURANCE

A major new facility which became operative in 1998 was the Property Insurance Scheme. This was developed at national level by the Croke Park office and has been arranged and administered by *Coyle | Hamilton with Church and General*. This most welcome development, together with the Public Liability and the Employers' Liability insurances, provides every unit of the Association with a most extensive range of cover, at premium levels which are highly attractive and most competitive.

The Property Insurance Scheme which became effective on 1st July 1998 is mandatory for all units and it provides 'All Risks' cover, including fire, lightning, explosion, storm damage, escape of water, glass breakage, theft and subsidence on buildings. Reinstatement costs of buildings and contents are covered, as well as loss of revenue and loss of money. The overall contribution charged to Tír Eoghain has been set at 44% of the premium required for PLI, and this has been divided up among all Clubs in the county.

PLAYERS' INJURY SCHEME

This review of the Players' Injury Scheme deals with the eleven month period ending on 31st October, necessitated by the earlier date of an Chomhdháil Bhliantúil. During this time there has been a further welcome decrease, of almost 15%, in the number of claims submitted by players, although this would be partially attributable to the shorter timescale being analysed. Fifty-seven of these have resulted in successful pay-outs to the injured players while the other 25% still remain to be processed or have not been proceeded with for a variety of reasons.

While it is pleasing to record that the number of claims has dropped since last year, the benefits paid out to the injured claimants has risen further in 1998, by approximately 4%. These figures reflect the serious type of injury which necessitates a longer period off work, to facilitate treatment and recovery. Twelve claimants received payments of £1 000, or greater, for loss of earnings due to limb injuries in the past year, and a further thirteen received in excess of £500 for their similar injuries. The total amount paid to claimants up to the end of October was £42 140, while the total premium paid by the Association in Tír Eoghain into this scheme in 1998 amounted to £29460, resulting in a not inconsiderable deficit of £12 680. A detailed breakdown of the claims and payments under the Players' Injury Scheme is provided on the following page .

PLAYERS' INJURY SCHEME - 1998 (Dec. '97 - Oct. '98)

CLUB	Adult	Youth	Premium	No. of	Claims	Amount
	Teams	Teams	Paid (£)	Claims	Paid	Paid (£)
County Teams	4	3	660	8	5	1782.12
Achadh Lú	3	5	600	0	0	
Achadh Uí Arain	3	6	600	0	0	
Árd Bó	3	6	600	1	0	
An Eochair	3	4	600	2	1	195.00
An Bearach	3	6	600	3	3	1480.00
An Bruachaile	3	4	600	0	0	
An Brocach	2	4	480	0	0	
An Charraig Mhór	3	7	600	3	2	869.89
Caisleán na Deirge	3	6	600	3	2	900.00
Clann na nGael	3	4	600	0	0	
An Clochar	2	4	480	1	1	500.00
Cluain Eo	3	6	600	1	1	600.00
Oileán a'Ghuail	3	6	600	1	1	400.00
An Cora Criche	3	6	600	0	0	
Doire Lochain	3	6	600	5	5	5000.00
Doire Treasc	2	2	360	3	3	4461.25
Domhnach Mór	3	6	600	1	1	990.00
An Dreagais	2	3	420	0	0	
An Droim Mhór	3	4	600	2	1	1200.00
Droim Caoin	3	5	600	5	3	2860.08
Droim Ratha	2	4	480	1	1	700.00
Dún Geanainn	3	6	600	1	1	1000.00
Éadan na dTorc	2	0	480	1	0	
An Eaglais	3	6	600	1	1	480.00
E. R. Uí Néill	3	6	600	1	1	83.08
Aireagal Chiarán	3	4	600	4	4	2738.00
Eascair	3	3	540	0	0	
Fionntamhnach	3	4	600	0	0	
An Gallbhaile	3	6	600	4	2	1700.00
Gleann Éallaigh	2	3	420	0	0	

CLUB	Adult	Youth	Premium	No. of	Claims	Amount
	Teams	Teams	Paid (£)	Claims	Paid	Paid (£)
An Caisleán Glas	3	5	600	1	1	400.00
Cill Dreas	3	6	600	0	0	
Cill Íseal	2	5	480	2	2	1100.00
Coill an Chlochair	5	9	840	2	1	500.00
Cill na mBán	2	0	240	0	0	
Loch Mhic Ruairí	2	6	480	0	0	
Baile na Móna	3	4	600	0	0	
An Mhaigh	3	5	600	0	0	
An Baile Nua	2	6	480	0	0	
An Ómaigh	5	8	840	1	0	
Cabhán a'Chaoirtainn	3	5	600	2	2	1100.00
An Charraig	2	6	480	0	0	
An Chraobh	2	4	480	2	2	300.00
An Srath Bán	2	7	480	0	0	
An Taite Riabhach	3	5	600	0	0	
Trí Leac	3	4	600	3	1	200.00
Urnaí	3	4	600	1	1	261.90
An Charraig Mhór (H)	2	4	480	0	0	
Dún Geanainn (H)	2	6	480	4	4	6600.00
Coill an Chlochair (H)	0	0	0	0	0	
An Omaigh (H)	0	0	0	0	0	
Na Seamróga (H)	2	2	360	1	0	
Naomh Colmcille (H)	1	3	300	2	1	320.00
Ceapach (Y)	0	0	0	0	0	
Naomh Mhuire (Y)	1	8	120	0	0	
TOTALS	146	131	29460	76	57	42140.56

TICKETS

1998 was very similar to the previous year for the administration of championship match tickets, due in the main, to the successful campaign of the county minor team. Because Tír Eoghain was involved in the preliminary round of the Ulster Championship – drawn at home to play an Dún – the pre-sold tickets were required from 17th May right through until All-Ireland football final day, at the end of September. All the games, after the preliminary round, in which Tír Eoghain featured were played in St Tiernach's Park Clones or in Croke Park, and for each of these tickets were either necessary or available.

The allocations of tickets provided to Tír Eoghain for the Ulster Championship were similar to those in previous years. For several of these fixtures some Clubs did not take up their allocations, or having done so, made returns prior to match-day. It was disappointing to note that there was an overall reduction in the number of tickets provided to Tír Eoghain for the 1998 All-Ireland football finals. One hundred and nine fewer Stand tickets and two hundred and nineteen less Terrace tickets were provided, presumably because of the participation of the highly supported Cill Dara in the senior final. The main effect of this was that every Club in Tír

Eoghain received one Stand ticket less than in 1997.

The number of tickets allocated to Clubs for all-ticket games, such as the preliminary round of the Ulster championship, the Ulster final and the All-Ireland final, was based in part on the membership of the Clubs. The intent to adopt this procedure had been signalled at an Chomhdháil Bhliantúil last January, and it appeared to operate satisfactorily. Generally, because of the relatively small allocation of Stand tickets, these were distributed equally among all Clubs; the Terrace tickets were then allocated on a direct proportionality to the membership of the Club; finally, when additional tickets were made available to the county, they were shared in an equitable manner among all Clubs.

Tickets for the Hurling finals were allocated to all forty football Clubs which made a request, with 39% of all tickets being distributed to the six hurling Clubs in the county.

For their assistance with the sorting, allocation and distribution of all these tickets, I am grateful to several members of an Coiste, in particular Proinnsias Mac Cathmhaoil and Gearóid Ó Brolcháin.

A breakdown of the ticket distribution is provided in the accompanying tables.

FOOTBALL FINAL	STAND	TERRACE
All Clubs	351	1585
Co. Committee	56	69
Referees	40	50
Sub-Committees	94	60
Players / Manager	185	165
Sponsors	49	28
Others	48	4
TOTALS	823	1961

HURLING FINAL	STAND	TERRACE
Hurling Clubs	114	60
Football Clubs	139	66
Co. Committee	18	0
Sub-Committees	17	0
Players / Managers	18	0
Others	9	5
TOTALS	315	131

SPONSORSHIP

The number of Clubs which obtained approval for sponsorship has increased slightly, up to thirty, in 1998. Of these, the great majority continue to attract the minimum amount of £300 in order to carry a business / company logo on its teams jerseys. The highest figure disclosed, by two Clubs, for a one-year sponsorship deal was £2 000, although several others have entered into arrangements that will be operative for up to three years. All sponsorship agreements must, of course, be approved on a yearly basis where the use of a jersey logo is concerned. It is probably worthwhile pointing out here that the figure of £300 was suggested as a minimum value for sponsorship when the concept was first established, back in 1993. Now, going into the seventh year of operation, Clubs should give serious consideration as to whether they are selling themselves short for this minimum amount.

Clubs whose sponsorships were approved in 1998: Achadh Lú, Achadh Uí Aráin, Árd Bó, Bearach, Bruachaile, Clann na nGael, Cluain Eo, An Cora Criche, Oileán a'Ghuail, Domhnach Mór, Dreagais, Droim Mhór, Droim Caoin, Dún Geanainn (P), Dún Geanainn (I), Aireagal Chiaráin, E.R. Uí Néill, Eiscreach, Fionntamhnach, Loch Mhic Ruairí, Baile na Móna, An Mháigh, An Baile Nua, An Omaigh (P), An Omaigh (I), Cabhán a'Chaortainn, An Charraig, An Chraobh, An Srath Bán, and Urnaí.

In the Spring of 1998 Coiste Chontae Thír Eoghain entered into a new three-year sponsorship deal with Aghyaran contracting company W. J. Dolan. Having just completed a series of four highly successful annual arrangements, it was mutually agreed that a longer term contract would be in the interest of both parties and should provide improved benefits for each. We are pleased that Willie John has shown such confidence in the Association in Tír Eoghain that he was prepared to commit his financial and personal support to it, for such an extensive period. We are deeply grateful to him, to his company and to his family for the renewal of his sponsorship and we trust that his business will benefit and prosper to a greater extent because of this association.

Also, we express sincere gratitude to the many other sponsors – individuals and companies - who have provided financial, and other forms of support to this Coiste during the past year; many of these contributed towards the preparation of teams, especially during the lengthy and successful campaign of the minor footballers, while others have assisted with, the coaching programmes, our use of teletext services and in the production of many of our publications.

COUNTY COMMITTEE

During the past year the County Executive met as a body on thirteen occasions to deal with the main, general affairs of the Association. These meetings were exceptionally well attended by all members, indicating the importance that each attaches to the responsibilities which they have been charged with. Additionally, each member would have attended the great majority of monthly meetings with Club delegates, to report on the affairs and developments within their own subcommittee or area of special responsibility.

COISTE AN CHONTAE - 1998	
Pól Ó Dubhrósa	(12)
Cuthbert Ó Donnaile	(10)
Damhnaic Mac Eochaidh	(13)
Proinnsias Mac Cathmhaoil	(13)
Gearóid Ó Brolcháin	(12)
Séamus Ó Treasaigh	(12)
Séamus Mac Dómhnaill	(11)
Séamus Mac Giolla Phádraig	(11)
Uinseann Ó Beig	(12)
Séamus Ó Corráin	(10)
Breandán Ó hEarcáin	(13)
Aine Nic Eochaidh	(12)
Peadar Ó Cinneide	(13)

As reported to last January's Chomhdháil, there is still some room for improvement in our subcommittee activities and structures. While there is nothing to be gained by holding meetings just for the sake of doing so, it is considered important that a

subcommittee should meet either on a regular basis or when the workload justifies a meeting. At the beginning of the year, it should be possible to set out objectives and indicate how these might be achieved in a programme of work; additionally, there will be matters which arise during the course of a year, which must then be accommodated. Hurling development in Tír Eoghain is a matter which requires continuing attention and where there is much scope for an enthusiastic subcommittee; in order for further success to be achieved here, there needs to be a significant input from the clubs which are involved in hurling, as well as more than just lip-service from the 46 football clubs. In this regard I would consider it to be beneficial if a member was elected, by all Clubs, to serve on the County Executive as a **Hurling Development Officer**. His role would be clearly defined and he could chair a subcommittee which would draw its membership, mainly but not exclusively, from the hurling clubs. Liaison with county hurling teams could be undertaken by this officer, who should also be involved with the Coaching subcommittee and the Youth Officer.

Also, it might now be an appropriate time for consideration to be given to the election of a member of the County Executive as a Commercial Officer. As stated earlier, Tír Eoghain has been relatively successful in attracting sponsorship, in support of many aspects including, county teams, travel, meals, match programmes, fixtures' booklet, County Annual and teletext services. At present there is general responsibility among the members of the Executive for securing these many forms of sponsorship, and while it may be argued that this is the best method of continuing, there should be some merit in deliberating on the adoption of a less disjointed approach to this task. The many forms and facets of sponsorship have grown significantly in recent times and while we might think that we are familiar with all of them, they should be explored more fully than it has been possible to do, to date. If a Commercial subcommittee with suitable expertise were established this investigation could be undertaken.

By giving this responsibility to one member of the Coiste it should be possible to adopt a more coherent and streamlined procedure for identifying potential sponsors, and matching them with our targetted funding requirements. This Commercial Officer would be able to assist the Cisteoir, by offloading some of his work especially in tracking and chasing up of funding, and he should also liaise with the present Millennium subcommittee.

For the work undertaken and completed by our sub-committees in 1998 we express our deep appreciation. In particular I thank the following who were in charge of committees, Frank Campbell and Shane Corr (Referees), Peter Kennedy and Frank Rodgers (GAC), Jimmy Treacy (Millennium), Gerard Bradley (Finance), Brendan Harkin (Communications), Vinny Beggs (Grounds), Anna McCaughey (Culture), Seamus McDonald (Coaching & Development), and Seamus Kilpatrick (Language).

We are grateful to Vinny Beggs and Jim Curran, our representatives on Comhairle Uladh, to Jimmy Treacy who serves on Coiste Bainistí and Árd Chomhairle, and to several other members who continue to serve the Association through its subcommittees and workgroups at both Provincial and National levels.

Here, also, we acknowledge with gratitude, the assistance and advice provided by Dónal Ó Murchú (Uachtarán Chomhairle Uladh), Liam Ó Maolmhichíl (Árd Stiúrthóir) and Seosamh Mac Donncha (Uachtarán), at many times throughout the year. We are particularly appreciative of the support provided by all three in the immediate aftermath of the Omagh bomb tragedy, and by their presence in the county at that difficult time.

I extend sincere thanks, again, to Cisteoir, Gerard Bradley and to Leas-Rúnaí Frank Campbell for the tremendous work that they have done for the Association in this county, and for the level of support which they have given to me, during this past year.

Finally I pay tribute to outgoing Cathaoirleach, Paul Doris, whose 3-year term of office concludes at this time. Paul has given generously of his time, as Cathaoirleach, and has always made himself available to deal with the Association's affairs. He has always faced up to his responsibilities during the past three years, and has always been totally forthright in his views and fair in his deliberations and judgements. For the major contribution that he has made to CLG in this county, firstly as Cisteoir back in 1982, then Leas-Chathaoirleach and finally as Cathaoirleach we owe him a deep debt of gratitude. I take this opportunity to thank him personally for his generous assistance and co-operation and I wish Paul, his wife Anne, and their family every success in the future. While his chairmanship ends at this Comhdháil it is hoped that his talents and experience are not lost to the Association's administration.

In conclusion, once again I sincerely thank the Clubs in Tír Eoghain for their co-operation throughout another very demanding season; in particular I express my gratitude to the Chairmen and Secretaries, with whom I had most direct contact, for their assistance on many issues in 1998.

PUBLICITY

A major portion of our promotional work is undertaken by Coiste Comhfhreagrais which is directly responsible for the annual Fixtures Booklet, Programmes for National League games, Programmes for County Finals and the Tír Eoghain Irisleabhar. All of these were published by their target dates and all have proved to be financial successes also, in the current year. The standards of these quality productions are a credit not only to this subcommittee but also to the contributors – both Clubs and individuals. We are particularly grateful to the several photographers who, so willingly, provide the important visual content of these publications, including Cormac McAleer, Oliver McVeigh, Gerard Ryan and Jackie Sloan.

Towards the end of the year it was pleasing to report the publication of another history, concerning some of the affairs of the Association in this county; the history of the West Tyrone GAA Board, which existed continuously from 1931 until 1974, was thoroughly researched and written by Michael McCaughey during 1998. We welcome his fine production and pay tribute to the author for the time and effort which he devoted to this work during the past year. Perhaps a corresponding history of the East Tyrone Board, which co-existed at that time, will be considered and undertaken, in the near future.

On the wider front our Association, as the largest sporting and cultural organisation in the country, continues to receive deserved major attention from all sections of the press and broadcasting media. The coverage and analysis of Gaelic games has increased further this year with a greater number of live broadcasts undertaken by *UTV* and *RTÉ*, and all of this seems to have little adverse affect on actual attendances.

RTE has also provided a well-received magazine type programme but it is disappointing that *UTV* and *BBC* do not develop further in this direction, for the benefit of the local network viewers. Recorded highlights of games are a regular feature of all three broadcasting companies, assisting well in the promotion of, and general interest in our sport. It would be helpful if *UTV* and *BBC*, again at local level could extend their teletext services to carry both fixtures and results, as well as general information, in a format similar to that of *Aertel*.

The local radio stations together with *Radio Ulster*, *Today FM* and *RTE Radio*, all make good contributions to the coverage of Gaelic games with their commentaries on the high-profile championship fixtures, their previews and reviews, and their comprehensive results services.

All the local sports journalists provide much favourable comment on the affairs of the Association in addition to the comprehensive coverage of fixtures which is afforded in their weekly issues. Their papers accept a huge volume of GAA information in the form of match reports, fixture lists and Club notes and there never seems to be any difficulty in finding space to accommodate this. To all these journalists and the sports editors we express our appreciation. We are also appreciative of the fixtures and results facilities made available to us by the *Irish News*; it is most willing to accept late changes in fixtures and it regularly accommodates notes of general interest on a daily basis. Coverage of club affairs, and the competitions in schools and colleges has been extended in a worthwhile and welcome manner also.

At national level, in general, reporting on the Association's affairs and games is of an exceptionally high standard by knowledgeable and well-informed writers. Where criticism of C.L.G. has been made, it is in most respects, done in a fair and well-intentioned manner, without simply striving to be contentious or because some one journalist is attempting to point score or grab a headline. Genuine criticism is always acceptable and can certainly lead to the Association questioning itself as to whether it has got an issue right.

During 1998 the Association achieved a major success with the establishment and opening of its own museum. This excellent and long overdue facility, housed in the New Stand at Croke Park, provides a brilliant insight into what Cumann Lúthchleas Gael represents; it establishes, in living sound and vision, where the Association came from, and it should be used to point the way forward for all members in the future. Every aspect of the GAA has been included in this technologically modern resource, where interactivity is one of the foremost features; it should be highly attractive to both genders and to all age groups from every region of this island as well as to overseas visitors. It should be one of the first stops on a visit to the capital city.

One point of some concern to us in Tír Eoghain, though, is the lack of quality information available on the database about our own Clubs. This is not the fault of the Museum, but rather, the difficulty lies within our Clubs, the majority of which have failed to respond to repeated requests to collate general basic information about themselves, and forward it to the Museum. Perhaps, now, in the period of reduced playing activity, each Club could request its PRO to attend to this matter, for its own benefit and that of the wider membership of the Association. All our publicity is valuable.

COMBHRÓN

In 1998, as in every other year, there were many sad losses of loved ones amongst the Clubs, the players, the officials and the general membership of the Association in Tír Eoghain.

However, 1998 will be remembered, not just in Tyrone but right across the world, for one particular date and for one particular event. That date is Saturday, 15th August and that event is the explosion of a bomb in Market Street Omagh, the heart of the county. The immediate outcome was the deaths of twenty-nine people and the injuring of over two hundred others from Tyrone, Donegal and Spain. This was a vicious attack perpetrated on the defenceless people of west Tyrone which could not be justified under any circumstances, or for any cause. It destroyed the lives of innocent men, women and children, the elderly, the young and the unborn, both Catholic and Protestant, those of every political persuasion, but mostly those of none. Those who planned, prepared and carried out this atrocity included as one of their aims, a united Ireland; it was somehow ironic that they achieved the aim of a united Ireland, but not in their sense. Ireland was united in sorrow and sympathy for its people, dead and injured, in Tyrone. Ireland was united in condemnation of those who would so ruthlessly attack its own people.

This Association suffered severely with many casualties in the Omagh attack. We offer sincerest sympathy, to Kevin Skelton, member of Coiste Riaracháin na gCluichí and referee, on the death of his wife Philomena, to Joe Marlow, Chairman of Eisceach, on the death of his daughter Jolene, to the Grimes and Monaghan families from Beragh and Augher on the deaths of Mary, Avril, baby Maura and their unborn twins, to the McCrory family Killyclogher on the death of Brian, to the Logue family Carrickmore on the death of their daughter Brenda, to the Conway family Loughmacrory on the death of their son Gareth, to the Devine family Aughabrack on the death their baby daughter Brenda. Our sympathy is also extended to all the other bereaved families and to the many who were so badly mutilated and injured.

As a mark of respect to the victims, the Association in Tír Eoghain postponed all games across the county for a period of seven days. In support of the victims' families Coiste Thír Eoghain was pleased to be able to organise two special fund-raising games in Healy Park Omagh on Saturday, 3rd October, featuring the All-Ireland winning minor team against an Ulster U-18 selection, and the Ireland team against an Ulster senior selection playing under international rules. Musical accompaniment for the occasion was provided by the Artane Boys' Band. Additionally, all Clubs throughout the county and across the country have been organising their own special events.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

AFFILIATED CLUBS - 1998

HURLING (6)

Carrickmore, Dungannon, Killyclogher, Naomh Colm Cille, Omagh, Shamrocks.

FOOTBALL

SENIOR (Division 1) (16)

Ardboe, An Charraig Mhór, Clonoe, Coalisland, Cookstown, Donaghmore, Dromore, Drumquin, Eglis, Edendork, Errigal Ciaran, Galbally, Killyclogher, Moortown, Omagh, Trillick.

INTERMEDIATE (Division 2) (16)

Aghaloo, Aghyran, Beragh, Brackville, Clann na nGael, Derrylaughan, Dungannon, Fintona, Gortin, Kildress, Killeeshil, Loughmacrory, Moy, Newtownstewart, Strabane, Urney.

JUNIOR (Division 3) (16)

Augher, Brockagh, Castlederg, Clogher, Derrytresk, Dregish, Drumragh, E. R. Uí Néill, Eskra, Glenelly, Greencastle, Killyman, Pomeroy, Rock, Stewartstown, Tattyreagh.

YOUTH (2)

Cappagh, Naomh Mhuire



Coiste Chontae Thír Eoghain - 1998

Back Row (l-r): Jim Curran, Brendan Harkin, Seamus Kilpatrick, Seamus McDonald, Vinny Beggs, Peter Kennedy, Jimmy Treacy.

Front Row (l-r): Frank Campbell, Gerard Bradley (Cisteoir), Paul Doris (Cathaoirleach), Dominic McCaughey (Secretary), Anna McCaughey, Cuthbert Donnelly.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS SUMMARY - 1998

SENIOR FOOTBALL

Round 1

Donaghmore	2-12	Errigal Ciaran	0-16	at Dungannon
Galbally	1-04	Dromore	0-14	at Rock
Omagh	0-10	Edendork	0-10	at Carrickmore
(Replay	3-11		0-11)	
Trillick	0-12	Coalisland	0-11	at Carrickmore
Moortown	0-08	An Charraig Mhór	0-08	at Edendork
(Replay	1-05		0-09)	
Ardboe	0-12	Drumquin	0-12	at Edendork
(Replay	0-14		0-06	at Omagh)
Cookstown	1-09	Eglisli	0-12	at Coalisland
(Replay	1-13		0-09)	
Clonoe	1-12	Killyclogher	0-09	at Carrickmore

Quarter-finals

Donaghmore	0-10	Dromore	1-06	at Omagh
Omagh	2-09	Trillick	1-08	at Dromore
Ardboe	0-11	An Charraig Mhór	0-09	at Omagh
Clonoe	1-07	Cookstown	1-12	at Coalisland

Semi-finals

Donaghmore	0-07	Omagh	1-11	at Carrickmore
Ardboe	0-07	Cookstown	0-05	at Edendork

Final

Ardboe	0-11	Omagh	0-08	at Pomeroy
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INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

Round 1

Beragh	1-08	Newtownstewart	1-08	at Omagh
(Replay	1-08		3-07)	
Derrylaughan	2-07	Moy	1-11	at Dungannon
Urney	1-08	Gortin	1-07	at Strabane
Killeeshil	0-10	Loughmacrory	1-07	at Coalisland
(Replay	1-06		2-11)	
Brackaville	2-05	Kildress	0-08	at Edendork
Aghaloo	1-03	Strabane	2-13	at Gortin
Aghyaran	0-11	Dungannon	1-10	at Omagh
Fintona	2-04	Clann na nGael	2-11	at Strabane

Quarter-finals

Moy	0-11	Newtownstewart	2-05	at Killyclogher
(Replay	2-13		3-06)	
Urney	0-06	Loughmacrory	0-10	at Omagh
Brackaville	1-10	Strabane	1-14	at Omagh
Dungannon	1-07	Clann na nGael	1-11	at Killyclogher

Semi-finals

Moy	1-12	Loughmacrory	1-12	at Dungannon
(Replay	0-10		0-09)	
Strabane	1-09	Clann na nGael	2-12	at Glenmornan

Final

Moy	0-06	Clann na nGael	0-08	at Carrickmore
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JUNIOR FOOTBALL**Round 1**

Brockagh	0-02	Drumragh	3-13	at Kildress
Eskra	1-05	Greencastle	0-15	at Carrickmore
Pomeroy	0-09	Killyman	1-07	at Carrickmore
E. R. Uí Néill	2-09	Dregish	0-11	at Strabane
Castlederg	2-08	Stewartstown	4-09	at Carrickmore
Glenelly	0-07	Derrytresk	0-05	at Kildress
Rock	2-10	Augher	0-03	at Beragh
Clogher	0-05	Tattyreagh	0-14	at Beragh

Quarter-finals

Drumragh	0-11	Greencastle	2-13	at Kildress
E. R. Uí Néill	0-08	Killyman	0-09	at Carrickmore
Glenelly	1-01	Stewartstown	2-13	at Carrickmore
Rock	1-09	Tattyreagh	0-11	at Kildress

Semi-finals

Greencastle	1-10	Killyman	1-07	at Carrickmore
Rock	1-10	Stewartstown	2-07	at Edendork
(Replay	1-17		1-10)	

Final

Rock	2-02	Greencastle	0-09	at Pomeroy
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SENIOR HURLING

Quarter-final

Naomh Colmcille	0-04	Omagh	5-12	at Rock
Carrickmore	2-09	Dungannon	1-09	at Rock

Semi-finals

Omagh	0-06	Carrickmore	0-13	at Killyclogher
Killyclogher	8-09	Shamrock's	0-02	at Omagh

Final

Killyclogher	0-08	Carrickmore	1-07	at Omagh
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ULSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Football

Round 1

Ardboe	1-07	St John's (Antrim)	1-07	at Pomeroy
Ardboe	1-05	St John's (Antrim)	2-08	at Belfast

Hurling

Shield Semifinal

An Charraig Mhór	4-19	Mullahoran (Cavan)	1-04	at Carrickmore
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Shield Final

An Charraig Mhór	0-08	Keady (Armagh)	0-06	at Armagh
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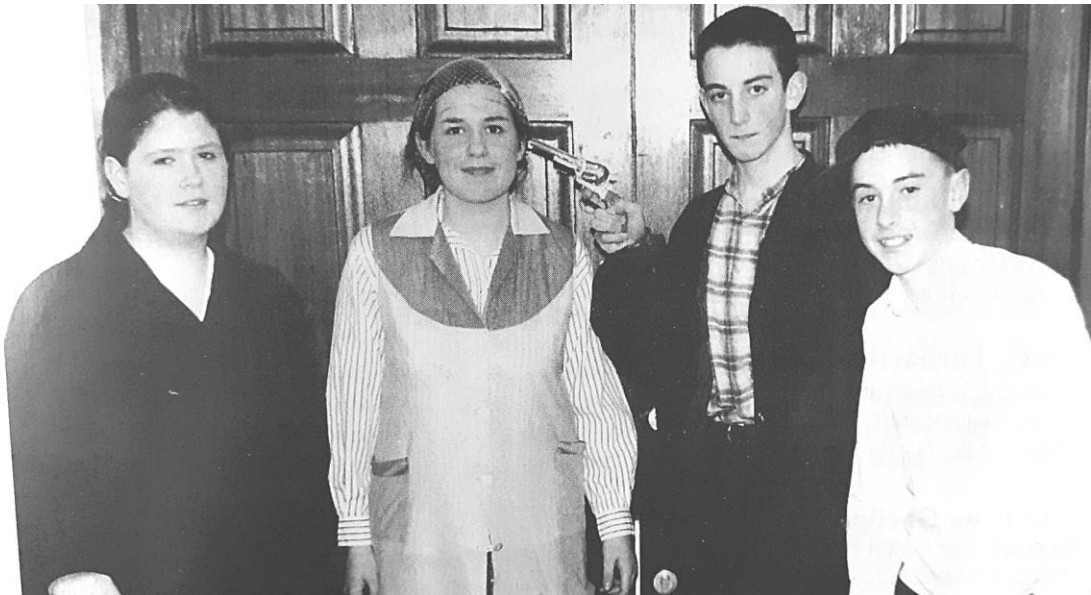
Ulster Semifinal

An Charraig Mhór	1-07	Ballycastle (Antrim)	5-15	at Carrickmore
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TUARASCÁLA NA FO-CHOISTI

(SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS)

- 1. Bórd na Réiteoirí**
- 2. Coiste Cultúir**
- 3. Oifigeach na nÓg**
- 4. Coiste na Gaeilge**
- 5. Coiste Oiliúna & Forbártha**
- 6. Millennium Committee**
- 7. Coiste na bPáirceanna**



**Clochar, Éire Óg
Scór na nÓg All-Ireland Finalists**

NA FO-CHOISTI - 1998

Coiste Riaracháin na gCluichí

Peter Kennedy (Cathaoirleach)
Frank Rodgers (Rúnaí)
Patsy Gallagher (Cisteoir)
Sean Begley
Sean McConnell
Eugene McConnell
Kevin Skelton
Gerry McElroy
Michael McCullagh
Oliver McSorley
John Gill

Coiste Cultúir

Aine Nic Eochaidh (Cathaoirleach)
Peter Kennedy (Rúnaí)
John Rice (Cisteoir)
Cormac McAleer
Seamus Kilpatrick
Johnny Timoney

Coiste Airgeadais

Gearóid Ó Brolcháin (Cathaoirleach)
Liam Nelis
Frank Campbell
Aidan O'Neill
Pól Ó Dubhrósa
Ciaran McKenna
Damhnaic Mac Eochaidh

Coiste Oiliúna & Forbártha

Séamas Mac Dónaill (Cathaoirleach)
(Cathaoirleach)
Pat McGivern
Bernie McGirr

Coiste Forbártha Iomána

Breandán Ó hEarcáin (Cathaoirleach)
Séamas McDónaill
Séamas Mac Giolla Phádraig

Coiste na Gaeilge

Séamas Mac Giolla Phádraig (Cathaoirleach)
Cormac Mac Giolla Uidhir

Bórd na Réiteoirí

Shane Corr (Cathaoirleach)
Frank Campbell (Rúnaí)
Patsy Taggart (Cisteoir)
Eamon Mullin
P. J. McDermott
Alan Richardson
Michael Hughes
Dessie Slater
Eugene McConnell

Coiste na bPáirc

Uinseann Ó Beig (Cathaoirleach)
Aodhán Ó hEarcáin
Vinny Donnelly
Dermot McCaughey
Kevin Teague

Coiste Comhfhreagrais

Breandán Ó hEarcáin (Cathaoirleach)
Oliver McSorley
Paddy Cullen
Frank Rodgers
Alan Rodgers
Eugene McConnell
Cuthbert Donnelly

Millennium

Séamas Ó Treasaigh
Mark Conway
Phelim O'Neill
Hugh McAleer
Cathy Colton
Pat Blee
Gearóid Ó Brolcháin

Bórd na Réiteoirí

Rúnaí: Proinnsias Mac Cathmhaoil

One of the highlights of the year was the success of the Tyrone minor side recapturing the Tom Markham Cup after a lapse of 25 years. I send congratulations to all the players and to the management team of Mickey Harte and Fr. Gerard McAleer. Indeed the refereeing family had a strong involvement in that Jim Curran was liaison officer to the team and I was fortunate to be given the job of assisting him; P.J. McDermott our Leas-Rúnaí and Kieran Kelly a prominent referee both had sons on the panel. All referees can be justifiably proud of the achievement, as they too had to make sacrifices with the disruption of games. Something worth highlighting here is the discipline and sportsmanship of the team. During the management's 8-year term of office only one player was ever sent off.

The above occurrences led to a massive disruption of fixtures. The fixtures committees played matches whenever they could, any day, time or place. This in itself made the appointing of referees extremely difficult. Reserve football was a definite sufferer; reserve games may not be all that important in some peoples eyes but just as the clubs use these games to bring on players they are also very useful as a vehicle to develop referees. Hopefully with the new league structure a full league programme will be played and on a regular basis. This will benefit referees in that they too will have games at least fortnightly.

Last year I made comment about notification of fixtures. Sadly the position did not improve. Notification, maybe by the nature of events, was short and consequently to referees was at the last minute. This problem was across the board and not confined to adult fixtures. The incoming Committee should seek a meeting with the various fixture secretaries and agree a policy regarding notification.

HURLING

The year in hurling proved something of a disappointment but maybe understandably, as we are predominately a football county. The fixing of hurling games in conjunction with football games on a Sunday creates enormous problems for referees. Most of our referees come from football clubs and their interest lies there. On that subject the hurling clubs are going to have to meet their responsibility and provide referees.

Altogether 70 appointments were made at hurling level. On 3 occasions referees arrived to find neither teams nor officials in attendance. This is something the County Committee will have to consider as a matter of urgency. I thank Alan Richardson for his excellent work in looking after hurling affairs

YOUTH

Over 1000 appointments were made at youth level. 182 of those appointed were not available for one reason or another. A total of 81 referees were used at U12/U14 level. 75 referees officiated at juvenile and minor grade. While those figures might portray a healthy situation it should be remembered that 32 of that number appeared just the once.

The U12 is a problematic area for referees who cannot be available and I have no doubt that the playing of games on a Saturday morning is most unsuitable. If games are to be played on Saturday mornings a condition of entry for clubs should be the provision of a suitably qualified referee.

To P.J.McDermott my heartfelt thanks for the effort he put in this year and indeed during the last 12 years.

ADULT

At adult level 68 referees officiated - a decrease of 3 on the previous year - but slightly more encouraging was that the number of inactive referees fell from 10 to 6. In the course of the year in excess of 1400 notifications were sent out from which 172 referees opted out of the appointment.

To sum up I believe the current refereeing position to be:

93 current referees of whom 21 are inactive. 62 referees are available on a regular basis for adult games. 46 referees can be counted on at youth level. In hurling the strength is 11 of which 8 are readily available. At adult level an active recruitment campaign is needed as there is a band of 10/15 referees who cannot continue for much longer.

CHAMPIONSHIP PANEL

The championship panel was again selected on the basis of the results of the fitness test and written examination provided the referee had the necessary experience. There were 53 major championship games during the year where 23 referees were used and in my opinion that is too many. One or two championship games in a season does not lend to the development of referees. The standard of refereeing in the championship was very good and thankfully our championship was devoid of any serious incidents, and all our referees and linesmen are to be congratulated for this.

INTER-COUNTY PANEL

Congratulations are extended to Jim Curran on being selected to take charge of the Ulster Championship Senior Football Final; both Jim Curran and Michael Hughes were appointed to National Football League games.

At minor championship level again there were double appointments for the county with Michael Hughes and Martin Kolbohm being appointed. Michael Hughes was also appointed at U21 level while Paddy O'Brien and Martin Kolbohm featured in the minor league.

At hurling level it is disappointing to report that Sean Quinn was not recognised at any adult level either within the province or at national level. John Devlin, Barney Cunningham and Alan Richardson all took charge of underage games at Ulster level.

ASSESSMENT

Overall the standard of assessment was fair and constructive. The standard of refereeing is improving and, slowly but surely the interpretation of rules is becoming more uniform. The lack of fitness was one aspect that appeared most often in Assessors Reports. Referees need to stick to a rigid training programme if they are to cope with the modern game. Indeed there may be merit in holding a second fitness test in the course of the year. Another area, which needs to be addressed, is the assessment of our hurling referees. The day has long passed that referees fear assessment and they now accept assessment as part and parcel of refereeing.

THE FUTURE

The National Referees are making a number of recommendations regarding the whole future of refereeing. They have already been accepted by Central Council and will eventually filter down to counties. Tyrone are fortunate in that they already carry out

some of the proposals. We carry out a recruitment campaign. We have a County Board who impose a strong sanction for clubs not providing referees. Training courses are organised but not to the intensity that will be required in the future. We do need to provide a clear Career/Classification structure. As the National Referees Committee are going to provide in depth training for national tutors help will be available to the county. We have an Assessment system, but there is need however for formal training for Assessors so that specific, practical and objective assessments can be carried out. A system of monitoring of Assessors needs to be established. The status of referees needs to be improved both within clubs and beyond. The referee must be given the same respect as any other county officer visiting a club. Only when clubs give the proper respect to referees will they themselves start to recruit the right people. Clubs must create the environment within their grounds for referees to perform without hostility. Interference or abuse must not nor can it be tolerated. Club Committees must educate their supporters and introduce a code of conduct to protect referees. Committees in charge of discipline have a part, indeed a very important part, to play in creating the right conditions for the referee to perform and in raising the status of the referee. If the standard of refereeing is to continue to improve referees have responsibilities also. They must maintain a high level of fitness; they must apply the rules. Referees committees also have a duty of care – referees who do not attend training course or who apply their own rules must be removed from the panel without fear or favour.

Coiste Cultúir

Cathaoirleach: Aine Nic Eochaidh

The first rounds of Scór na nÓg took place in Loughmacrory and Killyman on the 8th and 9th November 1997, followed by Drumquin and Eglisk on the next weekend. The Clubs which took part were, Cluain Eo, Doire Treasc, Éadan na dTorc, Oileán a'Ghuail, Cill na mBán, Doire Locháin, Árd Bó, An Taite Riabhach, Clann na nGael, Droim Ratha, An Dreagais, Droim Mór, Droim Caoin, An Charraig Mhór, Clochar, Eochar, Eaglais, Cill Íseal, Bearach, Domhanch Mór, Fionntamhnach, Loch Mhic Ruairí, An Gallbhaile, Aireagal Chiaráin, An Ómaigh, Coill an Chlochair and the camogie club from an Taite Riabhach.

The semifinals were set for the 21st and 23rd November in Killyclogher Community Centre and Edendork Hall; the County final took place in Galbally Community Centre a fortnight later, and was a wonderful event of dance, music, quiz and song.

The Ulster final was held in Swatragh on 17th January and here Tír Eoghain was represented by Cill Íseal (Ceol Úirlise), Clochar (Nuachleas) and Ronan McCaughey, Eochar (Aithriseoireacht). There was one success, with the young stars of Clochar – in the Novelty Act progressing to the All-Ireland final in Athlone. Here, they performed excellently but lost out to the Sixmilebridge team from Co. Clare

This year, there has been a fall in the number of Clubs taking part in Scór na nÓg and it is now down to half the total number of clubs in the county. Perhaps, now with only twelve months until the new millennium, the non-participating clubs will make a big effort to prepare for the Year 2000 and make it a year to be remembered in Scór circles.

The first three rounds of Scór Sinsear were held in Dromore (6th Feb. '98), Loughmacrory (8th Feb.) and Ardboe (15th Feb.) with twenty-three Clubs participating. These included, Doire Treasc, Oileán a'Ghuail, Árd Bó, Droim Ratha, An Dreagais, Droim Mór, An Charraig Mhór, Clochar, Eaglais, Fionntamhnach, An Gallbhaile, Aireagal Chiaráin, An Ómaigh, Loch Mhic Ruairí, Coill an Chlochair, An Srath Bán, An Chraobh, An Charraig Mhór Éire Óg.

Both semifinals took place the following weekend in Dún Uladh and in Ardboe with good performances and an excellent turnout of supporters. Again, the final was in Galbally on 1st March, and this provided an excellent night's entertainment, with the walls bursting at the seams! By the end of the night there were some happy and some disappointed people in the hall. The adjudicators, like referees, got their fair share of criticism, but, there were three adjudicators appointed to each section and their decisions were final.

Tír Eoghain won six of the eight sections in the Ulster semifinal, but surprisingly, won no titles in the final in Threemilehouse the following week. Clubs in Tír Eoghain must realise the very high standard required to grace the stage at All-Ireland level.

Ulster Convention and Congress

The Ulster Convention and Congress for Scór were held in April and May, respectively. Eight rule changes were introduced which are defined in the new rule book. The first, and most important of these, is that competitors must be registered members of the Club which they are representing; if not they are not covered by insurance.

By now all Clubs know that I have given up the position of Cathaoirleach of Scór after close on 15 years. It is time for someone with more energy, enthusiasm and foresight to bring Scór into the next century. At present Dermot McCaughey has been appointed; he and his team will do a wonderful job promoting our culture throughout Tyrone, Ulster and Ireland.

I thank all the lovely people I met during those 15 years travelling the county. I will be forever grateful to the person (unknown to me) who nominated me for a position on the County Board all those years ago. Had I not been chosen as Scór co-ordinator I would have missed so much; the fun, banter, mishaps, yarns, arguments, and above all the wonderful friendships forged over the years with club personnel, competitors, audience and adjudicators.

I thank most sincerely those with whom I worked closely in Scór. In the beginning, Paddy Ball, Brian McLernon and Peter Hughes, and more recently, Seamus Kilpatrick, Johnny Timoney, Peter Kennedy, John Rice and Cormac McAleer. I think of them as being my very good friends and I hope we will always remain so. Beannacht Dé ar obair an choiste úir agus go rabh maith ag gach aon duine a chuidigh liom agus mé i mo chathaoirleach ar choiste Scór.

COMPETITION Rince Fóirne	Scór na nÓg Éadán na dTorc	Scór Sinsear Coill an Chlochair
Amhránaíocht Aonair	Teresa Hughes, Doire Treasc	Claire Fee, Cill na mBán
Ceol Uirlise	Cill Íseal	An Ómaigh
Nuachleas	Clochar	Eochar
Tráth na gCeist	Aireagal Chiaráin	Droim Mór
Aithriseoireacht	Ronan McCaughey, Eochar	Seamus McQuaid, Droim Mór
Bailead Ghrúpa	An Gallbhaile	Aireagal Chiaráin
Rince Seit	Éadán na dTorc	Coill an Chlochair

Tír Eoghain Scór Champions - 1998

Oifigeach Na nÓg **Séamas Mac Domhnaill**

It is with great pleasure that I review the past year. Undoubtedly the highlight of 1998 was the winning of 3 youth All Irelands and our county and vocational teams winning all the Ulster titles while success just eluded one of our colleges. With careful planning and dedicated work County success at higher level may be achieved. However on the domestic front we should question how adequately and effectively do the existing competitions cater for the needs of the youth today. It is the responsibility of everyone to ensure that meaningful competitions are provided at all levels. Our U-12 and U-14 ensure that the youth have opportunities to practise the basic skills through competitive games over a sustained period thus ensuring a high standard of football is maintained. The present structure at U-16 and U-18 levels must be re appraised immediately to ensure that a comprehensive programme of games. We must work closely with the all the school committees to ensure that each programme of games can be run off without cancellation or overburden. Asking players to play several matches within a week, sometimes in bad weather, does little to enhance the competition and much less to develop players.

Recently some clubs have demonstrated the need for U-13, U-15 and U-17 competitions through their participation in other counties. Perhaps the time has come for competition at these age groups to be introduced. An U-15 competition would be an excellent stepping stone for those players who have played in three competitions at U-14 level and may not play competitive club football for two years until their last year as an U-16 player. This is too long a break to encourage skill development and

only the committed player will continue playing. In the past the Óg Sport may have provided an opportunity to keep players at that age level focused.

Sadly we continue to witness the demise of youth hurling. There may be genuine reasons for this but all officials must face up to our responsibilities and shoulder the blame. It is widely accepted that in a county such as ours that many hurlers are dual players. Officials should ensure that the demands on dual players must not be enormous otherwise they may be forced to choose or in some situations told to choose which game to play and inevitably hurling loses. Unfortunately often the good work of planning a comprehensive fixtures programme can be nullified through a series of cancellations and postponements.

I must pay tribute to the clubs for their work in promoting and coaching our native games. Most clubs have developed a youth policy which caters adequately for youth from U- 8 in many situations. However I feel that in some instances players over 14 are sometimes neglected. Clubs are to be commended for the growing practice of providing additional friendly games for these young players to develop their skills, but is permission sought from the relevant county committee.

Ill-discipline continues to feature in our games. Officials' task to ensure that the players in their control are disciplined is a difficult one. Today's youth are independent thinkers who, when motivated, can be very determined. Club officials have the added responsibility to give good example at all times. They should never become involved in disputes with any officials on the field. Such indiscretion undermines the position of the transgressing officials. Clubs must take stern action when such incidents occur. Some clubs, who have set up internal discipline committees, are to be complimented for their mature approach to this problem.

In conclusion I wish to thank the players for their commitment, the parents for their support, the teachers for their enthusiasm and the willing band of officials who ensure the games are played.

Coiste na Gaeilge

Cathaoirleach: Séamas MacGiolla Phádraig

Ag tús na bliana seo rinneadh amach scéim oibre do 1998 sa dóigh agus go dtiocfadh le Coiste na Gaeilge deontas a tharraingt as Pháirc an Chrócaigh agus, buíochas le Dia, d'eirigh leis an choiste teacht go ceann scríbe leis an obair seo.

Scéim Oibre '98

1. Seimineár Gaeilge d'oifigigh úra CLG roimh tús na gcomórtas.
2. Cúrsa 'Now You're Talking' Márta – Iúil do bhaill CLG.
3. Scéim na nDeontas
 - Foirmeacha iarratais sna scoileanna dara leibhéal i ndiaidh na Cásca.
 - Foirmeacha iarratais ag na fó-chumainn i mí na Bealtaine.
 - Agallaimh 'Cúpla Bomaite Chomhrá' i nOileán a'Ghuail, ar an tSrath Bán agus i gCabhán a'Chaorthainn ar 13ú Meitheamh.
4. Cúrsa Chomhairle Uladh sna Dúnaibh agus deontais do mhuintir Thír Eoghain a mbíonn ag freastal ar an chúrsa.
5. Scaipeadh na n-deontas.
6. Leathanach eolais do fhó-chumainn na condae a fhoilsiú agus a scaipeadh.
7. Fó-choiste forbartha na Gaeilge a bhunadh.

D'eirigh níos fearr le cuid d'ár gcuspóirí ná le cuid eile. Ní rabh éileamh ar bith ar an tseimineár d'oifigigh úra, rd a ghoinn go mór orm. Bhéarfadh sin le fios nach rabh suim dá laghad ag na cumainn sa Ghaeilge: nach rabh gá leis an chúrsa nó gur chuala siad go rabh leathanach eolais le cur amach ag an Choiste agus narbh fhiú freastal ar an tseiminear. Tá mé ag súil gurb é an tríomh rogha eadaru seo an fhírinne agus go mbainfear feidhm as an leathanach beag sin le linn na bliana seo chugainn.

Thoisigh an cúrsa 'Now You're Talking' i mí na Márta agus bhí seisear ar dtús ann, mar daltaí. Bhí briseadh ann do saoire an tsamhraidh i lár an chúrsa agus i ndeireadh na dála, chríochnaigh beirt an cúrsa go h-iomlán i mí Dheireadh Fomhair; Séamas Ó Treasaigh, ball Árd Chomhairle ina measc. Molaim go mór Ciste na Mílaoise i dTír Eoghain a thug £500 leis an chúrsa a chur ar bun.

Socraíodh £20 glan mar dheontas do'n scéim 'Cúig Bhomaite Comhrá' agus cuireadh na h-agallaimh ar siúl i nOileán a'Ghuail, ar an Ómaigh agus ar an tSrath Bán agus i gCabhán a'Chaorthainn. Tá mé fíorbhuíoch as an chomhoibriú a thug Cumainn Naoimh Éanna agus Mhic Siogair, Bunscoil Uí Néill agus Bunscoil Muire domh.

Scaipeadh 50 deontais £20 i mí na Samhna agus bhí méid céanna mar dheontas ag an fiche daoine fasta mhuintir Thír Eoghain a bhí i lathair ag cúrsa na nDúnaibh.

Chur an Coiste leis an pholsaí tacaíochta CLG Thír Eoghain do'n oideachas Gaelach agus bronnadh £500 ar Bhunscoil Uí Dhochartaigh ar an tSrath Bán. Tá súil agam nach ndeanfar dearmad do na bunscoileanna Gaelacha nuair a bhéas taisteal Chorn Mharkham agus an scéim oiliúna do bhunscoileanna á réiteach.

Níl ar an Choiste seo anois le fada ach beirt. Le cuidiú Dé tiocfaidh cúigear le chéile gan mhoill lesi an obair a chur chun cinn. Tugadh cuireadh do thriúir eile teacht agus cuidiú a thabhairt dúinn agus bhí siad toilteannach sin a dheanadh. Tá súil agam go gcuirfidh seo le h-éifeacht an choiste. Giorraíonn beirt bothar!.

Coiste Oiliúna agus Forbártha

Cathaoirleach: Séamas Mac Domhnaill

The committee over saw the coaching programme. During the year seven football foundation courses, one hurling foundation and one Level 1 course were held . I am indebted to the clubs and coaches for their support and commitment. If the coaches instil the qualities, which they have demonstrated to the players in their charge, we can look forward to a bright future. Once having participated in a course the club ensures that their qualified coaches are utilised in a meaningful way within their own club. Those who have participated in Level 1 courses must be used to coach minor or senior teams to ensure that these coaches achieve their qualifications through completion of the log book Sadly to date 53 participants have completed the theory but only 11 have achieved level 1.

Recently Croke Park have introduced new regulations for the organisation and completion of all award-bearing courses. Only courses organised by county boards will be acceptable and all administration when completed must be sent to the relevant provincial committee. No coach or tutor can organise these award-bearing courses. Clubs are reminded that they should only avail of official courses.

The committee monitor the coaching in the schools. This service continues to meet a demand in the schools but one disappointing aspect is that many clubs see the scheme as an opportunity not to be involved with its schools. Clubs have a very valuable role to perform through liaising with the school to assist in the development of harmonious relations and by supporting the coach promotion officer in his skills development programme. In too many situations the officer discovers that either no practice from one week to the next or no continuity at club level undoes his good work. This year those schools, which fall into the catchment of hurling clubs, are able to avail of both hurling and football.

This year a total of seventeen summer camps were organised, eleven in football and six in hurling. With three camps organised at different venues each week our resources were stretched to the limits. The numbers participating in the hurling camps was disappointing. We are deeply indebted this year to Club Orange for their sponsorship of our camps. So successful was this agreement that we look forward to continuing this in future years. Now having completed these for three years we must look at the present format of the camps to ensure that they are more challenging for the skilful player who has attended earlier camps. Perhaps these players could form the basis of a school of excellence.

Finally I thank the coach promotion officers for their untiring work in the schools and the camps. We in this county are fortunate to have tutors of the calibre of Enda Kilpatrick and Terry Mc Cann. Their enthusiasm for high standards and humour inspires us all. Without the assistance of the clubs the summer camps would not be a success. I thank all our sponsors Guinness, Bank of Ireland, Club Orange, Central Council, Ulster Council, the clubs and Tyrone County Board who have made our programme possible through their generous contributions. I am indebted to the members of the committee for their support and dedication throughout the year.

Millennium

Cathaoirleach: Séamas Ó Treasaigh

During the past year the Millennium Committee met regularly to:

- ❖ Monitor income to the fund
- ❖ Make arrangements to recruit new subscribers
- ❖ Flesh out the skeleton spending strategy which was presented to clubs at County Convention in Derrytresk in January '98.

Our estimation is that by the year's end just over £250 000 will have been subscribed to the fund and we are confident that our target will eventually be reached.

An analysis of contributions shows that approximately 20% of income comes from our GAA clubs and below are the details of the clubs' contributions at 31st October 1998.

Club Name	Start Date	Annual Contribution	No. of Payments	Total
Aghaloo O'Neill's*	Sept '97	£200	1	£200
Ardboe O'D. Rossa	Dec '96	£500	2	£1 000
Augher St Macartan's	July '96	£500	3	£1 500
Beragh Red Knights	July '96	£500	3	£1 500
B'ville Owen Roes	Dec '95	£500	4	£2 000
Brockagh Emmetts	Dec '96	£250	2	£500
C'more Éire Óg	Mar '96	£500	2	£1 000
C'more N Colmcille	Nov '95	£500	3	£1 500
C'derg St Eugene's	Oct '96	£500	3	£1 500
Clann na nGael	Sept '96	£500	2	£1 000
Clogher Éire Óg	Aug '96	£500	3	£1 500
Clonoe O'Rahilly's	July '96	£500	3	£1 500
C'island Fianna	Aug '96	£500	3	£1 500
C'town Fr Rocks	Oct '96	£500	3	£1 500
D'laughan K Barry's	Aug '96	£200	3	£600
D'tresk Fir a Cnoic*	June '97	£250	2	£500
D'more St Patrick's	Aug '96	£500	3	£1 500
Dregish Pearse Óg	Sept '97	£200	2	£400
Dromore St Dympna's	Oct '96	£500	3	£1 500
Drumquin W. Tones	Dec '96	£500	1¼	£625
D'ragh Sarsfields	Sept '96	£500	3	£1 500
D'gannon T Clarkes	Feb '97	£500	2	£1 000
D'gannon E Ruadh	Aug '96	£250	3	£750
E'dork St Malachy's	Oct '96	£500	2½	£1 250
Eglis St Patricks	Aug '96	£400	3	£1 200
Errigal Ciaran	Oct '96	£500	3	£1 500
Eskra Emmetts	Oct '96	£500	3	£1 500
Fintona Pearses	Oct '96	£500	3	£1 500
Galbally Pearses	Sept '96	£500	1	£500
Glenelly St Joseph's	Oct '97	£100	2	£200
Gortin St Patrick's	July '96	£500	3	£1 500
G'castle St Patrick's	Nov '97	£250	2	£500
Kildress W. Tones	Dec '95	£500	3	£1 500
K'eeshil St Mary's	Oct '96	£500	3	£1 500
K'clogher St Mary's	Dec '96	£500	1¾	£975
Killyman St Mary's	Sept '96	£500	3	£1 500
L'macrory St Teresa's	Dec '95	£500	2½	£1 250
M'town St Malachy's	Sept '97	£250	2	£500
Moy Tír na nÓg	Dec '95	£500	3	£1 500

N'stewart St Eugene's	Nov '96	£500	2	£1 000
Omagh St Enda's	Feb '98	£500	2	£1 000
Owen Roes	Apr '96	£500	3	£1 500
Pomeroy Plunketts	Aug '96	£500	3	£1 500
Rock St Patrick's	Dec '96	£500	2	£1 000
Stewartstown Harps	Oct '96	£500	2¼	£1 125
Strabane Sigersons	July '96	£500	2½	£1 250
T'reagh St Patrick's	July '96	£500	3	£1 500
Trillick St Macartan's	Nov '97	£500	1	£500
Urney St Columba's	Nov '96	£500	2	£1 000

These clubs have given an undertaken to pay the full contribution of £2 500 during the period of the scheme.

As a result of the deliberations and consultations with the County Board it appears that our spending plans will be broadly along the following lines, but all of this is subject to approval by clubs at a special with club chairmen and secretaries on 17-11-98.

The Millennium fund will be used to:

- Continue funding the employment of a fulltime coach for the full period of the scheme - £75,000
- Fund cultural and language programmes initiated by the Language/Cultural committee - £10,000
- Grant aid selected clubs which are prepared to develop top class training facilities which will be available to County teams on a shared basis - £40,000
- Grant aid selected clubs which are prepared to develop / upgrade spectator accommodation to facilitate inter-county/domestic competition - £100,000
- Contribute substantially towards the cost of covered, seated accommodation for up to 5 000 spectators at one of the top County grounds - £200,000
- Provide a reserve with a view to purchasing a site, which in the future could be developed as a County training centre and grant aid clubs which wish to install turnstiles at their grounds. - £75,000

Coiste na bPáirceanna

Cathaoirleach: Uinseann Ó Beig

At the beginning of the year the Ulster Council and Central Council agreed to participate with the Northern Ireland Sports Council in collating all Clubs property and facility details.

This action was completed and the information is now held by the County Secretary in computerised form. All Clubs in Tyrone fully co-operate with the Grounds Committee.

The continuing Physical Development during 1998 within Tyrone is commendable and indeed inspirational. Tangible evidence of the community spirit and action, which is the seed bed of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, is currently taking place within 21 Club Grounds.

Development falls into 3 categories:

- (1) Improvement of existing pitches
- (2) Provision of Training Pitches
- (3) Additional development – e.g. New Pitch, Turnstiles, Floodlights, Pavilions, Fencing.

Clubs completing/completed development in 1998, which were in contact with the Grounds Committee, are –

Sports Council Grant

1.		
Fintona	: Main Pitch Resurface	£ 30,000
Galbally	: Main Pitch Resurface	£ 50,000
2.		
Aghyaran	: Construction of Training Pitch	£ 70,000
Augher	: Construction of 2 Pitches	£ 60,000
Donaghmore	: Construction of Training Pitch	£ 60,000
Killyclogher	: Construction of Training Pitch	£ 75,000
Edendork	: Construction of Training Pitch	£ 30,000
Pomeroy	: Construction of Training Pitch	£ 80,235
Gortin	: Construction of Training Pitch	£ 64,000
Trillick	: Construction of Training Pitch	£ 63,960
3.		
Aghaloo	: Construction of Pavilion	£ 72,035
Carrickmore	: Floodlights	£ 58,000
Tattyreagh	: Pavilions	£ 58,497
Urney	: Construction of Pitch and Pavilions	£140,000
Drumquin	: Pavilions	£ 75,000

Total £986,727

GAA Grants

Brocagh – £1,700 (UC) + £1,850 (CC)
Pomeroy – £10,000 (UC) + £750 (CC)

The Total received from the NI Sports Council, since its inception, by Tyrone is £2,674,000 and if we accept the £ for £ concept then total development costs are in the region of £5.5 m.

Congratulations are extended to Clubs on reopening their facilities – Moy, Moortown, Killeeshil, Eglish, Rock, Strabane and Pomeroy. The example of Rock St Patricks in providing such wonderful facilities in such a confined geographic region has to be commended.

The standards set by the redevelopment at Plunkett Park, Pomeroy augurs well for future Grounds Development within the County. Strabane continues with its long term plan, whilst An Charraig Mhor has installed 'state of the art' floodlighting. Ardboe and Moy have completed terracing and covered accommodation, which will cater for local needs.

Tyrone will be prepared for the next millennium, no fewer than 12 Clubs can offer second pitches within the next 12 months. This should alleviate the problem of the lack of availability for training provision for the County Teams.

Augher, Carrickmore, Pomeroy, Coalisland and Dungannon will have central responsibility for County Training Provision.

Now that Clubs are in the final process of completing Physical Development, I would again appeal to the officers to address the perennial problem – the need to ensure that the grounds are properly registered and a Deed of Trust is in order. I would also highlight the need for the County Executive to have a clear Policy to ensure that no Grant/Funding is allocated unless and until a Ground/Property is fully vested in Cumann Lutchchleas Gael.

In conclusion, I wish to thank D McCaughey, V Donnelly, A Harkin and K Teague for their input during the past 12 months.



Tír Eoghain - Senior Football Team (1998)

MEMBERSHIP - 1998

CLUB	MEMBERS	CLUB	MEMBERS
Achadh Lú	175	An Gallbhaile	222
Achadh Uí Aráin	187	Gleann Éallaigh	99
Ard Bó	120	An Goirtín	175
Eochar	141	An Caisleán Glas	168
Bearach	100	Cill Dreasa	136
Bruach Áile	159	Cill Íseal	82
Brocach	115	Coill an Chlochair	90
An Charraig Mhór	265	Cill na mBán	77
Caisleán na Deirge	90	Loch Mhic Ruairí	100
Clann na nGael	171	Baile na Móna	90
Clochar	165	An Mhaigh	94
Cluain Eo	200	An Baile Nua	51
Oileán a'Ghuail	120	An Ómaigh	168
An Chorra Chríochach	240	Cabhán a'Chaorthainn	120
Doire Locháin	166	An Charraig	96
Doire Treasc	90	An Chraobh	62
Domhnach Mór	136	An Srath Bán	240
Deargais	52	Taite Riabhach	54
An Droim Mór	103	Trí Leac	234
Droim Caoin	160	Urnaí	122
Droim Ratha	99	An Charraig Mhór (H)	50
Dún Geanainn	125	Dún Geanainn (H)	106
Éadan na dTorc	110	Coill an Chlochair (H)	30
Eaglais	180	An Ómaigh (H)	50
E. R. Uí Néill	173	Na Seamroga (H)	27
Aireagal Chiaráin	180	Naomh Colmcille (H)	43
Eiscreach	159	Ceapach (Y)	30
Fionntamhnach	102	Naomh Mhuire (Y)	30
		TOTALS	6929

AINMNIÚCHAIN (Nominations)

Cathaoirleach: Vincent Beggs (Cabhán a'Chaortainn), Jim Curran (Árd Bó), Cuthbert Donnelly (Achadh Lú), Brendan Harkin (Coill an Chlochair), Liam McGrath (An Ómaigh).

Leas-Cathaoirleach: Vincent Beggs, Jim Curran, Cuthbert Donnelly (outgoing), Paul Doris (Dún Geanainn), Brendan Harkin, Eugene McConnell (Clochar), Sean McConnell (Gleann Aichle), Liam McGrath, Liam Nelis (Éadán na dTorc), James Treacy (Cluain Eo).

Rúnaí: Dominic McCaughey (Trí Leac) (outgoing).

Leas-Runaí: Frank Campbell (Cabhán a'Chaortainn), (outgoing), Michael Hughes (Domhnach Mór), Liam McGrath, Gerard Ryan (Doire Treasc).

Cisteoir: Gerard Bradley (An Goirtín) (outgoing), Oliver Gormley (An Ómaigh).

Ball Árd Chomhairle: Paul Doris, Brendan Harkin, James Treacy (outgoing).

Baill Chomhairle Uladh: Vincent Beggs (outgoing), Jim Curran (outgoing), Cuthbert Donnelly, Paul Doris, Brendan Harkin, Pat McCartan (An Bearach), Anna McCaughey (An Charraig Mhór), Eugene McConnell, Liam Nelis, Packie O'Neill (Doire Treasc).

Cathaoirleach Coiste Riaracháin na gCluichí: Vincent Beggs, Sean Begley (Cabhán a'Chaortainn), Peter Kennedy (Doire Locháin) (outgoing), Pearse Kilpatrick (An Cora Criche), Dermot McCaughey (Trí Leac).

Oifigeach na nÓg: Sean Begley, Aidan Harkin (An Srath Bán), Michael Kavanagh (An Mháigh), Dermot McCaughey, Eugene McConnell, Seamus McDonald (Coill an Chlochair) (outgoing).

Oifigeach na Gaeilge: Seamus Kilpatrick (Cabhán a'Chaortainn) (outgoing).

Baill an Choiste (2): Sean Begley, Jim Curran, Paul Doris, Brian Hackett (Eisceach), Brendan Harkin (outgoing), Pearse Kilpatrick, Cormac McAleer (An Charraig Mhór), Anna McCaughey (outgoing), Dermot McCaughey, Eugene McConnell, Liam Nelis, Sean Quinn (An Bruachaile), John Rice (Eochar), James Treacy.

U-21 Delegate: Catherine Darcy (An Taite Riabhach), Kevin Cunningham (An Ómaigh), Francis McCann (Naomh Colmcille), Eoghan McKenna, Noel Slane (An Charraig Mhór), Gavin Tracey (Cill Dhreasa).

NA RÚIN
(Motions)

1. That the County Tyrone Bye-Law No. 2 be amended to read:

The County Committee shall consist of the following officials:
Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, two Ulster Council delegates, one Central Council delegate, Youth Officer, Irish Language and Cultural Officer, Hurling Development Officer, Chairman of the Games Administration Committee and two other Committee members all of which shall be elected at the Annual Convention of all those affiliated Clubs entitled to attend and vote at Convention.

Coiste Thír Eoghain

2. That the County Tyrone Bye-Law No. 5 be amended to read:

- (a) A member of the County Committee shall act as Chairman of the following subcommittees: (i) Finance, (ii) Cultural Affairs, (iii) Grounds, Development and Licensed Social Premises, (iv) Communications, (v) Coaching.
- (b) A member of the County Committee shall serve as a member of the Referees' subcommittee.
- (c) The County Chairman and Secretary are ex-officio members of all subcommittees.

Coiste Thír Eoghain

3. That the County Tyrone Bye-Law No. 17 be amended to read:

The Games Administration Committee Officers to be elected at an Annual General Meeting of all the affiliated Clubs in the County will be: Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Assistant Secretaries (Youth Fixtures), Assistant Secretary (Adult Fixtures), Assistant Secretary (Hurling Fixtures) and three additional Members.

The Games Administration Committee will consist of,

- (a) these Officers,
- (b) the Chairman who will be elected at County Convention,
- (c) two delegates from each Club participating in League competitions, and,
- (d) a representative of each of the following Committees: County Handball, County Primary Schools, County Secondary and County Vocational Schools.

Coiste Thír Eoghain

4. That Rule 77 (c) O.G. (1997) be set aside, temporarily, to the extent that there would be no option for Playing Rules revision in 2005 and, therefore, no experimentation in the years immediately preceding 2005.

Coiste Thír Eoghain

5. That the All-Ireland Championship be played under an open draw system.

Clann na nGael

6. That Rule 42 O.G. (1997) be amended by the addition of the following, to become a new section (c); paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Rule to remain the same.

‘In exceptional circumstances, when it is clear that purpose is for fundraising for a charitable cause, Central Council may permit the use of GAA grounds for the playing of any game.’

An Ómaigh

7. That County Convention debate a new format for the Tyrone senior hurling championship and request the County Executive to bring forward motion(s) to allow for possible Rule or Bye-law changes.

Coill an Chlochair

8. That ticket prices for All-Ireland semifinals and finals be reviewed in view of their cost.

An Chraobh

9. (a) Amend County Bye-laws 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, and 15 as follows: replace the term ‘County Committee’ with the term ‘County Executive’.

(b) Amend County Bye-law 7 by replacing the phrase ‘no member of the Committee’ with the phrase ‘no member of the County Executive’.

(c) Amend County Bye-law 21 to read as follows: ‘An Appeal against a decision of the Games Administration Committee shall be to the County Executive and Appeals to the Ulster Council shall only be from decisions of the County Executive or County Committee.’

(d) Delete County Bye-law 20.

(e) The members of the County Executive as defined in County Bye-law 2 together with one delegate from each affiliated club and one delegate from the following committees (i) County Handball (ii) County Primary Schools (iii) County Secondary and Vocational Schools, will constitute the Tyrone County Committee.

(f) The Tyrone County Committee will meet on a fixed night each month at an agreed venue. Matters of a contentious or personal nature will be referred to a meeting of the County Executive.

An Goirtín

APPENDIX

Fixtures Workgroup Report

Membership: *Frank Campbell, Cuthbert Donnelly, Brendan Harkin, Frank Rodgers.*

This workgroup was set up in the autumn of last year and reported in November to the Clubs and the County Committee. The issues to be given consideration were:

- (i) Adult Football Leagues and Championships
- (ii) Youth Football
- (iii) Adult and Youth Hurling
- (iv) Secondary Competitions
- (v) Postponement Policy

Submissions were sought from Clubs, other units and individuals, and were appraised through a process which required five meetings. The findings together with proposals and recommendations were copied to each Club, to Coiste Riaracháin na gCluichí and to Coiste Thír Eoghain. Finally a meeting of these three groups took place for discussion and decision-making.

The following **general** recommendations were accepted:

1. It is the duty of the Club to provide football for as many players as possible.
2. It is the duty of Coiste Riaracháin na gCluichí to provide competitions on a regular basis.
3. A start / stop league with too many games in a short period, or, no games for an extended period does not meet the requirements of point 2.
4. The demands of club and county teams can best be met through a spirit of co-operation and compromise.
5. Reserve competitions enable the club to provide games for more players and such competitions can be very meaningful in their own right as well as providing a reservoir of players for the first team to draw on.
6. The custom of playing double league games is good for club spirit and unity.
7. To discharge its duty of point 1 the club should strive to avoid the practice of using players in both fixtures.

On **Postponements** it was agreed that:

1. County players can play for their clubs up to, and including the Friday week before any Ulster Senior Championship game, but this would not be applicable after the Ulster semifinal.
2. When the county progresses and a scheduled round of club league games has to be postponed, these games should be played the following Tuesday evening. Not operative after the Ulster semifinal.
3. There was a responsible attitude toward postponements due to deaths and this should continue.
4. The custom / practice of having a 'free Sunday' should be discontinued.

Recommendations on **Reserve Football** accepted were:

1. Eleven players should be registered at the April meeting.
2. Games should be of 50 minutes duration.
3. Division 2 & 3 games should be 13-a-side, unless there was agreement to play 15-a-side.
4. In the event of first team games being postponed for an extended period, Reserve games should proceed as single fixtures on original dates.
5. Reserve Knock-out competition should continue in present format.

Findings on **Youth football** were:

1. That there be no unnecessary postponements.
2. The schools' programme of games and coaching be taken account of before drawing up the programme for clubs.
3. Under 12, 14, 16, 18, 21 to take place from mid-March to mid September.
4. Féile na nÓg (U-13) take place from mid-September to 31st October.
5. An U-17 Sectional League running from mid-September to 31st October would facilitate county minor selection and help clubs for the following year's minor competitions.
6. Young players should have the opportunity to avail of coaching on a regular basis.
7. Young players should have the opportunity to participate in meaningful competitions on a regular basis.

Recommendations regarding **hurling** were:

1. Competitions should be organised with schools' football and club youth football in mind, so as to avoid clashes and, not to make excessive demands on players and club officials.
2. That there be no unnecessary postponements.
3. That the possibility of an inter-county adult club competition for Tyrone, Derry and Donegal should be explored.
4. Youth club teams should be brought together for coaching and promotional games using our own coaches and visiting personalities.
5. Participation in inter-county competitions raise the image of hurling within the county, and so it is important for club officials and players to support fully the efforts necessary to field well-prepared county teams.
6. Club and county players should have the opportunity to play in meaningful competitions at all levels on a regular basis.
7. Clubs should liaise closely with the Coaching Committee to ensure that schools in their area are receiving help in the promotion and coaching of hurling.

On **adult league and championship** football it was decided that:

1. Clubs would be divided into four divisions of 12 teams, to be identified as 1A, 1B, 2 and 3.
2. Promotion and relegation would be two up / two down, without playoffs but with championship winners' status to be guaranteed.
3. Senior championship to consist of 24 teams from Divisions 1A and 1B.
4. Intermediate championship to consist of the 12 teams of Division 2.
5. Junior championship to consist of the 12 teams of Division 3.
6. Intermediate winners to gain place in Division 1B and Junior winners to gain place in Division 2.

Discipline Workgroup Report

Membership: *Jim Curran, Peter Kennedy, James Treacy.*

If the highest standards of discipline are to be achieved and maintained it is essential that all parties concerned, players, team mentors, clubs, spectators referees, the G.A.C. and the County Committee face up to their responsibilities and act in partnership with the joint aim of promoting good discipline.

Clubs

A particular burden of responsibility rests upon clubs in a number of areas:

1. Establishing and implementing a club policy regarding the behaviour of its players, managers and supporters.
2. Appointing suitable personnel to take care of teams at all levels, and monitoring their work.
3. Appointing suitable personnel to officiate at games (referees, linesmen, umpires).
4. Assisting with the recruitment of a panel of good referees and co-operating with referees in discharging their duties.
5. Co-operating fully with Boards in dealing with disciplinary matters arising from incidents at games.

Referees

Referees are central to the partnership referred to earlier. They are the officially appointed representatives of the GAA and, it is their duty to ensure that games are played within the rules and that a full, factual report of the game is submitted promptly to the controlling committee.

The special status afforded referees is enshrined in Rule 1.1 of Rules of Control: 'The referee's decision on any question of fact and with regard to time shall be final'. This special status, in its own way, imposes additional responsibility on the referee in requiring that he be scrupulously fair in his refereeing and reporting of a game. Clubs are reminded of the special regulations in place in Tyrone for more than ten years, to demonstrate our further support for referees in the difficult task they undertake: Where a referee is struck by a player, official or supporter of a particular club, that club's grounds will be closed for all games with immediate effect, and remain closed while the case is being dealt with through whatever disciplinary / appeal channels are employed. A disciplinary committee may, depending on the gravity, and other circumstances, of the offence, decide upon a longer period of grounds closure.

Committees

Committees have a responsibility to players, clubs and the wider GAA community to discharge their disciplinary role in a firm, fair manner without fear or favour. In normal circumstances this will be on the basis of the referee's report, but there may be occasions when a committee will wish to invoke investigation powers enshrined in Rules 152-153.

There is a general concern in Tyrone, and throughout the country, about the increasing number of incidents, involving several players. These incidents have

marred our games. It is the recommendation of this workgroup that when such cases are being dealt with by the G.A.C. / Co. Board, that minimum sentences would not be appropriate. We did not, and could not, specify penalties for such offences as the committee responsible must be able to take account of such factors as, the gravity of the offence and the 'record' of the offending player / club, when determining sentences. However we do feel that there must be a strong element of consistency in sentencing, running through all such cases, at all levels so that no individual / club can have feelings of persecution. It is further recommended that steps be taken to ensure that both committees (G.A.C. / Co. Board) have access to up-to-date information on players' / clubs' disciplinary records, so that these can be reflected in sentencing.



Tír Eoghain - Senior Hurling Team (1998)