

Collegeland O'Rahillys GAC



Chairman's address to AGM – Frank Donnelly.

The Club is issuing the Chairman's address and the Clar/Agenda) in advance of our AGM on Mon 30 Nov 2020 at 7.30pm. See Clar/Agenda on how to join Kieran Hayes on Zoom.

A Chairde,

28 November 2020

I started to think about my Chairman's address a few weeks ago and I was determined that it would not be dominated by Covid-19.

Unfortunately, circumstances have overtaken us. The death of my father and Club President Peter Donnelly, has brought the impact of Covid-19 to our door.

From the outset I want to say a big thank you to the club and community for everything they have done for myself and my family during this difficult period.

I am very proud of the fact that while always keeping to the Covid restrictions the club and community were able to give Daddy the send-off he deserved. During Daddy's funeral Mass Father Garrett reminded us of that special Sunday in September 2019 when the Club surprised us all with Daddy's club jersey with the number 90 as a birthday gift. Fr Garrett used this example as a reminder of the importance of celebrating milestones when we are alive. On behalf of myself and all my family, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



2020 will always be remembered as the year the pandemic struck. It was a very difficult year for so many in our community, and the GAA family suffered like all other parts of society. But we should all be very proud of how the GAA helped communities through the restrictions.

We also came to realise how indebted we all were to the NHS staff and carers. I want to thank Merrisa McGeary, who organised that final Thursday night drive though the area with a drive-by of Collegeland Nursing Home to show the Club's support for all the staff and residents within.

But against all the odds football and camogie resumed in the summer and players, young and old, were able to enjoy sport again for a few months.

I want to thank everyone who policed and complied with the strict Covid-19 rules.

This year was a reminder to us all of the vital role that sport plays in supporting good mental health, especially the well being of our youth.

I want to thank all on our committee and especially our Sub Committee Chairs.

Firstly the Finance Committee and its Chairperson Maeve Kelly. Maeve was new to this role and already has shown that she is a safe pair of hands.

The Coaching Committee and its Chairperson Colm Mitchell. Colm also was new to his role last year and again hit the ground running and I have no doubt the club can build on this committee's success next year.

The Camogie Committee and its Chairperson Kieran Hayes. Kieran has a natural love for camogie and hurling, that would be the county Cork in him. Again this year we the camogs continue to improve with the help of our coaches and volunteers.

The Development Group and its Chairperson Peter Murphy. A very useful consultation meeting was held in February led by Fergal O'Donnell and Tony Mackle prior to Club reps meeting with planning service in Banbridge.

The Football Committee and its Chairperson Pat Brannigan. Pat is no stranger to this role and his experience always shines through; this Committee set its target to stay in the Intermediate Division. I know the season was never finished, but with some of the performances notably Keady away and Carrickcruppen away, our senior team has shown that they are well fitted for the Intermediate and more.

The Maintenance Committee led by Eamonn McGeary and Patrick Donnelly showed that a dedicated group was one way to get things done.

Thanks to those with individual roles Mairead Mitchell, Children's Officer and Coach; Brian McGeary, Registrar and Coach; Eimear McGeary, Cultural Officer; Ruari McGeary, Players Rep; and Shane Murphy, Referee,

I want to thank our senior football management team of Seamus O'Callaghan, Brian Morris, John McGeary and Colm Mitchell for a job well done.

Thanks to our outgoing Secretary and PRO Tommy Mitchell. We all owe Tommy a huge debt of gratitude as he steps aside from the Club Secretary role. On a personal note I am very grateful to Tommy for mentoring me in my role as Chairman.

Lastly, I want to thank our Club Vice-Chairman Aiden Cullen. Aidan has been excellent all during the pandemic; his medical knowledge has been invaluable to the club. As Covid supervisor he has tried to keep us all safe.

I am looking forward to normal times again in 2021, when we can continue to develop and fundraise and we can all enjoy our club to the full. Just like that memorable night on 15th of February this year in Armagh City Hotel when we celebrated winning the 2019 Junior Championship and we also paid tribute to all our club Coaches.

As our Honorary Vice President Father Garrett reminded us, we should celebrate the club and community every chance we get, and the memory of Daddy receiving his specially commissioned club jersey on his 90th birthday will always be special to us.

Go raibh maith agat.

Proinsias Ó Donnghaile An Cathaoirleach