



Cumann Luthchleas Gael Naomh Sailbheastair
St. Sylvester's G.A.A. Club
Bothar na hEaglaise, Mullach Ide, Co. Átha Cliath
Church Road, Malahide, Co. Dublin

Secretary's Report 2019

A Chairde,

This report aims to summarise the activity of the Club both on and off the field during the past year. The various sections have submitted their own detailed reports for your review.

Administration

The Club is administered by the Executive Committee, the makeup of the committee is currently as follows

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---|------------------|
| Chairperson | Paddy Miskelly | Ordinary Member/Facilities | Aidan Lillis |
| Club Secretary | Fergal McStay | Ordinary Member/Sponsorship | Jay O'Toole |
| Treasurer | Richard Aslett | Adult Football Rep | Shane Cowley |
| Assistant Secretary | Mick Byrne | Adult Hurling Rep | Martín Meaney |
| PRO | Elaine Rooney | Ladies Football Rep | Anne Lawlor |
| Child Officer | Miriam Slattery | Vice Chair/Juvenile Boys Rep | William Rooney |
| Healthy Club Rep | Sarahann Potts | Registrar | Ailish Brady |
| Bar Committee | Martin Morton | Ordinary Member/Pitch Allocation | Eoin Farquharson |

All the members of this committee are volunteers and mostly have a specific brief in which they fulfil their roles. This is done with great dedication and they have given countless hours of their valuable time for the betterment of your Club. On behalf of the members I would like to thank all those who have served and enabled the Club to function during the year.

Several key sub-committees provide invaluable contributions to the daily running of the Club.

Facilities Committee

Eoin & Aidan have submitted a detailed report of all activities during the year. Once again they have received huge support from so many members & parents and we should be very proud of the Club spirit shown from all different sections of the Club. They are actively looking for volunteers who may have some time to spare to help them with their weekly duties so please, if you think you have either the available time and/or skill set, don't be shy in contacting them. Also our thanks must go to Ciaran O'Brien & Enda for preparing our pitches each week which are always a credit to the Club.

Clubhouse Committee

During the last 12 months significant activity has taken place to further upgrade the facilities on Church Road. These improvements helped optimise usage of the function room.

Significant funds have been re-invested over the course of the year & these investments have enabled the Club to build upon the advancements delivered over the last 5 to 6 years at Church Road. Martin, Joe, Gina, Karen, Orla and all those who give their time voluntarily to provide a great resource to our village & members. Also many thanks to Dave and all the staff.

Trustees

Always on hand to help and guide, our Trustees are our custodians and fulfil their role with great passion for our Club. The Officers would like to express their gratitude to the Trustees for all their continued support, particularly for their guidance in our quest to make this Club the best it possibly can be.

Membership/Registration

Continuing the trend of previous years, The Club has grown its membership in most sections (see table below) with a total registered player increase of 2%. In our younger age groups growth is still strong, both boys & girls. It is vital for insurance, team eligibility and indeed just good Club practice that all players & mentors are full members of the Club.

| Category | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2012 | % inc(dec) ('18 - '19) | % inc(dec) ('12 - '19) |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nusery (U7) | 287 | 251 | 301 | 151 | 14% | 90% |
| CCC1 (M) | 328 | 319 | 293 | 185 | 3% | 77% |
| CCC2 (M) | 188 | 183 | 192 | 122 | 3% | 54% |
| Ladies juv | 352 | 333 | 234 | 97 | 6% | 263% |
| Minors (M) | 56 | 64 | 66 | 33 | -13% | 70% |
| Adult (M) | 184 | 198 | 186 | 124 | -7% | 48% |
| Adult (F) | 66 | 88 | 69 | 7 | -25% | 843% |
| Total players | 1461 | 1436 | 1341 | 719 | 2% | 103% |
| Non players | 1285 | 1250 | 1191 | 666 | 3% | 93% |
| Total members | 2746 | 2686 | 2532 | 1385 | 2% | 98% |

Playing/Training Facilities

All Weather Broomfield Pitch 2

2019 saw our first year using this super facility. We have received numerous compliments from both County Board & visiting clubs and all members should feel very proud of what we have achieved. All teams have expressed the advantages gained in training their teams.

The pitch is currently used to its optimum and has had a huge gelling effect in bringing teams/coaches/supporters closer together. The real advantage of the pitch struck home on Sat Nov 9th when all DCC/FCC pitches were called off. Our first team took to the pitch at 9.00am and the last team walked off at 7.30pm with virtually no breaks in-between. 11 matches with over 300 players and to cap it all Syls won an U12 Football Div 1 final and an U16 Hurling Shield SF on the day.

Broomfield 1

Thanks to the excellent work by Ciaran O'Brien Pitch 1 was in excellent condition all year and a credit to The Club and saw Senior Championship in both Hurling & Football take place for the first time that we know of.

Broomfield Development Plan & Sports Capital Programme Application

To continue with our Broomfield Development Plan, we submitted an application to the Sports Capital Programme for funding the Floodlighting of Pitch1 Broomfield. We recently received the excellent news that we were successful in our application and allocated €58,000. Along with funds raised at this months Gala Ball we are well on our way to completing this project in time for Autumn season 2020. More hard work is required to get

there but we love a target. Many thanks to all involved in the Grant Application for their diligent & professional approach.

Fingal CC Pitches

Many thanks to FCC's Colin Gilhooley and his team for their hard work and excellent co-operation throughout the year.

Dressing Rooms/Gym

Several improvements made to both the dressing rooms and the gym over the year.

All lighting was changed to sensor LED energy saving fittings and gym flooring improved with extra equipment also provided.

Coaching

Both Football Committee and Hurling Development worked hard during the year to upskill our coaches and this will continue with even more emphasis during 2020. Continual Coach the Coaches sessions with added support during the weekly sessions are paramount to achieving our desired level whilst also promoting the correct cultures and values we expect from both players & coaches.

Games

Below is a short summary of Adult Football, Hurling, Ladies Football and Juvenile Boys section reports which are available in full, separate to this report. **Many thanks to all mentors and players involved and the commitment and dedication given to our Club over the year.**

Adult Football

We had 6 teams competing in the League, AFL2, AFL4, AFL7, AFL9, MFL1 and MFL5N and 7 teams in Championships- Senior, Inter, Junior C & D, U21, Minor A&D. Our AFL2/Senior team had a disappointing end to what looked for so long like a promising year in the League finishing on 24 pts but ultimately losing out in a playoff. In a rebuilding year with so many making their Championship debut it was always a difficult task when the groups were drawn. Unfortunately, we lost the Senior A playoff losing out to the guile & experience of Bernard Brogan. I have no doubt this squad, both players & management will bounce back in 2020 and bring us back to the topflight in both League & Championship.

AFL4 /Inters had similar year in the League with a great start but disappointing finish to League finishing mid table. Championship promised more after reaching QF but a tough

draw to eventual winners Kilmacud saw the end of their campaign. AFL7 had a tough year with players moving up to Intermediate and difficulty in securing permanent manager. A Championship QF defeat by 2 points still showed the potential of several players within this team. AFL9 was probably a step too far for our 4th team and struggled in League & Championship. Our Minor A team preformed well in Div1 and went close in a QF Championship defeat to Ballyboden. Our Minor B's won Div5 Final but a slow start to their Championship group put an end to their season. Our U21 had a heart-breaking defeat to Balinteer in extra time after a great fight back.

County representation

Special mention for Mick Shiel on a well-deserved call up to the Dublin Senior squad and we congratulate him & the team on their historic 5 in a row success.

We had 1 player on the Dublin Minor Football squad Ross Keogh and 2 on the U20 squad, Aaron Lynch & Dan Brennan. We also had great representation at U14/ 15/16 development squads at regional & national blitzes.

Adult Hurling

We had teams entered in Leagues at AHL2, AHL6, AHL8, MHL2 and Inter, Junior C, Junior E and U21B in the Championships. Our top team, with a lot of hard work by both management and players had a tough but resilient year, maintain their AHL2 status but a flat day in the Championship QF put an end to our hopes. Junior A's finished 8th in AHL6 and had tough JHC C campaign. Junior B's finished 5th in AHL8 & reached JHC E QF. Our Minor team competed well in MHL2 and fought well in QF Championship defeat. Our 21's had a good battle v Raheny but came up short.

Ladies Football

A case of so near but yet so far for many of the teams particularly in Adult Championships with the Seniors & Juniors reaching SF stage and Minors at Final stage but a title eluded us. A detailed account of all teams can be found in the Ladies report. Once again, it's great to report increase in numbers from girls' teams and reflects the great work being done in the section by both committee and mentors.

A special mention must go to Sinead, Niamh, Nicole & Kate for their involvement in their historic 3 in a row achievement with Dublin Seniors. We also had Caitlin Guiden with the Dublin Minors and were also well represented on development squads.

Our G4MO continue to go from strength to strength with a large & dedicated turnout each week.

Camogie also took big steps this year with 3 teams now formed.

Juvenile Boys

The boys section again showing more growth in the number of players and teams in both Hurling & Football. Their separate report details all achievements during the year.

In football we again competed with all teams from U12-16 in Div1 for 2019. Div1 Dublin is a tough place and we had varying degrees of success, highlighted by our U12&13s winning their Leagues. We also had encouraging signs with the performances of our 2nd & 3rd teams at U12&13 which reflect the great work that has taken place over the last few years. In Hurling great progress is being made at the younger age levels which will provide us with a stronger base for our adult teams in the future. Highlights include our U15s winning the C Championship and at the time of writing our U16s in Shield Final.

Academy

The Academy is constantly evolving and resourcing it adequately to deal with the growing numbers, both in terms of equipment, but more importantly personnel, is always a key priority for the Club. To all involved, the Club is truly appreciative of your efforts for 2019.

Child Welfare

Our Children's Officer Miriam Slattery has again been extremely active throughout the year ensuring the Club is compliant with The Children's Act 2015 and all GAA mandatory safeguards including Garda Vetting, Completion of Foundation Level 1 skills training/ FUNamentals/Camogie Level 1 training for mentors. We are fortunate to have somebody of Miriam's caliber and commitment to fulfil this vital role. Please read her attached overview of the year as it is vital that as a Club we ensure that we are not only compliant with all mandatory requirements but we also act in the spirit of Code of Behaviour in our weekly interactions as Coaches , Players, Parents, Referees and Supporters. .

PRO & Communications

Our PRO Elaine Rooney has once again done a super job this year highlighting major events, fixtures, match scores etc across all platforms keep the members up to date. Her separate report details all that happened and covered during the year and has brought coverage of the Club to a new level with more coverage in National & Local press. She also had a starring role as VAR in our U12F Div1 Final😊.

Fundraising

Again, another year of hard work bearing fruits with all the usual activities bringing in the much-needed funds to ensure the Club runs cost neutral. All-Ireland Forecasts, Know Your Sports, GAA National Club Draw etc only happen because of the hard work of our volunteers and I would like to thank all those who have contributed.

On the development side, the energy, imagination and commitment from the organisers of Our Gala Ball is phenomenal and along with member & volunteer participation made it

another great night and provided a kickstart for the Floodlighting project. This night is without doubt the highlight of the social calendar within the Club. All involved please take a bow. Also, main Sponsors of the Ball - Joe Duffy Motor Group, The Grand Hotel and Jones Engineering contribute hugely to making these profitable & enjoyable evenings.

Our Sponsorship group led by Jay O'Toole, Aidan Relihan and Shay Early have continued to raise funds for our ongoing Broomfield Project. On behalf the members we congratulate and appreciate your efforts. Sponsors are an intrinsic part of financing our Club and Jay in his report has outlined the contributors and supporters that have helped us throughout the year.

With all fundraising a lot of work goes into the design of flyers, tickets and other promotional material and once again I would like to send a special note of thanks to Ciaran Reilly who has been exceptionally good to the Club in this regard.

Lotto

Each Thursday our Lotto team of John & Betty, Kevin, John McCormack & Ciaran Goan preside over the Draw and this year the Lotto has again brought in over €12,000 to the Club. Many thanks to all.

Healthy Club Initiative

Syl's Healthy Club attended a ceremony in Croke Park which officially recognised the Club as part of this GAA initiative. The Club are delighted for all those who worked so diligently to get this status. During the year they have run numerous events bringing in people across the community and providing funding for valuable services particularly for our younger members. Please read their report to get a full view of all their activities.

Cycling Club

Our fledgling Cycling Club- Syls CC got off the ground this year and have big plans for 2020 with a special Feb event. All members welcome to join please contact Dave Kennelly 086 8311025.

Deceased Members

On behalf of all members of St Sylvester's GAA Club I would like to express my condolences to those in our club who have experienced the loss of loved members of their family during the last 12 months. In particular our thoughts remain with the O'Carroll, Miskelly, Doyle, Reilly, Coleman, Cowley, Kennedy, Hoyne, O'Sullivan, McGuirk, Curran, Deneher & Ryan families.

Agus ar Deireadh

To conclude, at times it has been a disappointing year on the playing fields for a lot of our teams in a year that at times promised so much.

On Adult Mens Football we are currently going through some pain but we must realise that our Senior team is quite young and, unlike most recent previous teams, is made up solely from players that have come from Syla's Juvenile teams. They need time to develop but have the potential to bring us back to where we belong. On a more positive note many of our younger teams are setting the standard and fill the Club with promise.

We must continue developing our players and our coaches to be the very best they can be while also keeping to the cultures & values we are instilling.

We should be a Club that aspires to have teams that compete at the highest level and also have teams that enable players to play the games they love at a level compatible with their skill and age profile. These are not mutually exclusive objectives, they just require hard work, focus and everybody pulling together.

The transformation in our facilities over the last few years is now being replicated by our younger teams both in numbers and success on the field. This has come by the continual hard work by our Juvenile mentors who have been able to operate in an environment where their main focus is on coaching their players while in the background they have in the main the support structures they require. Whilst these supports aren't always fully developed the Club Executive are intent in building & fortifying them to enable all teams achieve their goals.

Before signing off my last report as Club Secretary there are several people I must thank.

We in this Club are blessed with so many volunteers that look after so many facets of running a Club. So to name but a few Eoin, Aidan, Ciaran, Gina, Elaine, Miriam, John, you are the real meaning behind the word "Club".

To the Juvenile Boys & Ladies sections it has been a pleasure to work along with such dedicated and talented people. Maria, William, Anne, Karen and all mentors- "keep her lit".

To all the players in all codes enjoy every moment you have on the pitch, it goes away quicker than you think so continue to give it your all and remember when the day comes to hang up your boots don't forget to give a bit back, whether that's on the coaching field or at a committee table.

Many thanks to all those that have served on The Executives over the last few years and to preceding Exec's that had laid solid foundations for us to follow.

To my good friend & Assistant Sec Mick Byrne, the Club owes a deep gratitude for all the unseen and unselfish work you do behind the scenes on a weekly basis. Always a great sounding board and a model Clubman if there ever was one.

I have been lucky enough to work beside two fellow Officers who are the bedrock of the Club. The vision, energy, expertise and commitment they have brought to their roles is exemplary. There are always many challenging times in the life of a Club Sec but both Paddy & Richard have always been at hand to help, support & advise. Our Club has benefited so much over the years from your efforts and on behalf of the members we thank you both.

I wish the Club the very best for what I see is a very bright future and look forward in helping in any way I can to ensure it happens. Slán go Fóill.

Is mise le meas,

Fergal Mc Stay
Club Secretary