



**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 2018

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

<b>Chairperson</b>	Paddy Miskelly	<b>Ordinary Member</b>	Aidan Lillis
<b>Club Secretary</b>	Fergal McStay	<b>Ordinary Member</b>	Jay O'Toole
<b>Treasurer</b>	Richard Aslett	<b>Adult Football Rep</b>	Niall Guiden
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Mick Byrne	<b>Adult Hurling Rep</b>	Martín Meaney
<b>PRO</b>	Elaine Rooney	<b>Ladies Football Rep</b>	Anne Lawlor
<b>Child Officer</b>	Miriam Slattery	<b>Juvenile Boys Rep</b>	William Rooney
<b>Healthy Club Rep</b>	Sarahann Potts	<b>Registrar</b>	Eoin Farquharson
<b>Bar Committee</b>	Martin Morton		

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 a huge amount of their valuable time to the betterment of your Club. On behalf of the members I would like to thank all those who have served and dealt positively with various matters during the year, mostly doing so with the great appreciation from our members but unfortunately sometimes with unwarranted, personalised criticism, particularly on social media from a tiny minority of current members and ex-members.

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

## **Clubhouse Committee**

Martin Morton, Joe Duffy have shown huge dedication and worked extremely hard to not only ensure the daily running of the Clubhouse but also to expand our revenue stream with the expansion of the front bar, all done to budget. Along with Bar Manager Dave Potts, and many other staff they continue to provide great service to our Teams, Committees and members throughout the year. The successful running of the Clubhouse is vital to provide future revenues to aid the Club achieve its goals and on behalf of all members I would to thank this group and wish it success in their future developments.

## **Facilities Committee**

Eoin & Aidan have submitted a detailed report of all activities during the year. 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.

## **Disciplinary Committee**

Made up of representatives from Adult Football, Hurling, Ladies Football & Juvenile Boys as per our bye laws, they deal with any complaints from members which could not be settled through informal means. They have dealt with any issues put before them in a professional manner and the Club owe this group a debt of gratitude for their service.

## **Trustees**

Always on hand to help and guide, our Trustees are our custodians and fulfil their role with a great passion & love for our Club. The Officers would like to express their gratitude to the Trustees for all their continued support, particularly for their help in raising funds for the new All-Weather pitch.

## **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 7%. There is a timing issue this year on the Academy numbers as lot more have registered after financial year end with actual participating numbers on a par with last year. In our younger age groups growth is particularly strong, both boys & girls. Adult, both male & female, also enjoyed increased participation which is also vital in building a successful club. It is vital for insurance, team eligibility and indeed just good Club practice that all players & mentors are full members of the Club.

Category	2018	2017	2012	% increase ('17-'18)	% increase ('12-'18)
Nursery (U7)	251	301	151	(17%)	66%
CC1 (M)	319	293	185	9%	72%
CC2 (M)	183	192	122	(5%)	50%
Ladies Juv	333	234	97	42%	243%
Minors (M)	64	66	33	(3%)	94%
Adult (M)	198	186	124	6%	60%
Adult (F)	88	69	7	28%	1,157%
Total players	1436	1341	719	7%	100%
Non-players	1250	1191	666	5%	88%
Total members	2686	2532	1385	6%	94%

## Playing/Training Facilities

### **All Weather Broomfield Pitch 2**

As I'm sure you are aware, we are very near to completion of our All-Weather Facility. This is a huge milestone in the Clubs history and players for decades to come will benefit from this wonderful facility. The fact that it has been achieved 12 months ahead of schedule is testament to the hard work by our Chairperson, Fundraising Group, Technical Group and the huge generosity of members, local business' and benefactors from the locality. I'm sure you'll agree that this a stellar example of what can be done when positive, dedicated members & volunteers get together to achieve a common goal.

### **Broomfield Development Plan & Sports Capital Programme Application**

To continue with our Broomfield Development Plan, we have submitted an application to the latest Sports Capital Programme for funding the Floodlighting of Pitch1 Broomfield. We have also worked in conjunction with Fingal CC who have submitted an application to upgrade Pitch3 into top class grass pitches. These applications were made in conjunction with the local schools to ensure benefit to the wider community. A decision on allocations is due early next year and we are hopeful of a successful result.

### **Broomfield 1 &2**

Thanks to the excellent work by Ciaran O'Brien both pitches were in excellent condition all year and a credit to The Club.

## **Fingal CC Pitches**

This year saw the benefit of the upgrade of the Back of the Castle pitch by FCC in 2017, with drainage and pitch levelling which has proved successful. Along with the additional training area afforded to us behind the goal, teams got great use of this pitches over previous years. 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. Unfortunately, the roof badly needed repair and this took a huge proportion of the Facilities budget. Despite this through volunteers and twisting of arms both Aidan & Eoin have achieved huge progress in 2018 and have bigger plans for 2019.

## **Coaching**

With the establishment of new Committees for Football & Hurling a cornerstone for these groups is to establish a coaching pathway for our mentors to provide a sustainable panel of coaches to cater for the ever-increasing number of teams across all levels & codes. There is huge appetite within the mentors to upskill and it is very heartening to see 16 of our coaches currently completing Level1 Youth/Adult this week.

## **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.**

## **Mentor & Supporter Discipline**

Although our on-field discipline has been relatively good this year our discipline record of some mentors & supporters across all codes & sections requires improvement. This is an area that will be highlighted to all teams before the 2019 season.

## **Adult Football**

We had 6 teams competing in the League, AFL1, AFL3, AFL7, AFL10, MFL1 and MFL3N and 7 teams in Championships- Senior, Inter, Junior C & D, U21, Minor A&E. Our AFL1/Senior team had a disappointing year in the League, dropping to Div2. One more point would have secured their status, but it was a particularly tough year due to 3 teams being relegated and a very condensed summer programme stretching the injury ridden squad to the limit. As our Championship performances showed, when we had a near full squad with minimal injuries, we are extremely competitive, winning all our Group games and performing strongly in the QF against eventual winners Kilmacud. I'm sure the lads will

regroup and restore us to Div1 quickly. AFL3 /Inters had a similar experience. Very tough League campaign due to lack of squad numbers but strong Championship performance losing by a single point to Vinnies in the QF. AFL7 had a solid year after moving up a division and narrowly losing their Championship QF to eventual winners Cuala. AFL10 won their League convincingly but were unlucky not to get of their group in the Championship. Our Minors had a tough start to the season, missing 6 of the squad that were on Dublin duty but showed their capability in their Championship Group only losing to the 2 teams that have gone on to reach the Final. Our second Minor team contest their E Championship final against Raheny on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> and we wish them well in that. Our U21's had a great game v Ballinteer and narrowly lost out but great to see some of the faces that came back to play for it.

### **County representation**

We also had 5 players on the Dublin Minor Football squad, Sean Guiden, Josh Bannon, Dennis Smith, Euan Farquharson & Simon Murphy. We also had great representation at U14 & 15 development squads at regional & national blitzes.

### **Adult Hurling**

We had teams entered in Leagues at AHL3, AHL6, AHL8, MHL2 and MHL3NC and Senior, Junior C, Junior F and U21C in the Championships. Our top team, with a lot of hard work by both management and players had a positive year, obtaining promotion to AHL2 but had a flat day in the Championship QF but no doubt will go again next year to win it. Junior A's had a good start but stalled during the summer but maintained their league status and Junior B's finished midtable. The A's reached QF in Junior C and B's unlucky not to progress out of their group F championship. Our 2 Minor league teams competed well in a disrupted year due to CCC scrapping the Divisions after 2 games in and still have fixtures to play. In Championship our A& B teams nearly progressed out of their group. Our 21's had a tough draw against Ballinteer in the B Championship and acquitted themselves well.

### **County representation**

We had Darragh McLoughney proudly represent us at Minor and reached the All-Ireland SF.

### **Ladies Football**

A very successful year for the Ladies section on all fronts. Huge increase in numbers in both Adult and Juvenile and great to see the addition of Minor & Junior teams this year. The highlight of the year of course was having 6 of our Club -Sinead, Niamh, Ciara, Kate, Danielle & Nicole representing us at the highest level of all and again bringing the Brendan Martin Cup back to our village. A great & proud night for the Club and huge thanks goes to all involved in the home coming. Our Senior Ladies finished mid table in Div1 and put a formidable performance against eventual Dublin & Leinster Champions Foxrock -Cabinteely. Junior Ladies finished mid-table Div5 and got to SF in Championship. Our Minors won Div3 and had a heart-breaking loss in the Championship final. Our Juvenile section goes from strength to strength with representation now in all age groups and detailed individual team

reports available in the Ladies Report. Our G4MO continue to flourish and 59 in total took part this year. A new addition this year was Camogie for U8/9s and will compete in 2019 under Cillian Kirrane.

### **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 competed for the first time in several years with all teams from U12-16 in Div1 for 2018. Div1 Dublin is a tough place and we had varying degrees of success which is down to the hard work by all the mentors and well done to all. 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.

### **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 2018.

### **Child Welfare**

Our Children's Officer Miriam Slattery has 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. She has attended several CO workshops & conferences on our behalf and is constantly improving our procedures and communication in regard to Club awareness of the GAA code of behaviour. 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 and plans for 2019.

### **PRO & Communications**

Our PRO Elaine Rooney has 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.

### **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, this year's new addition- Oskars Night- raised over €40k and along with another successful Gala Ball provided the gap in funds to achieve completion of the All-Weather Facility. The energy, imagination and commitment from the organisers of these events is phenomenal along with member & volunteer participation make these nights without doubt the highlight of the social calendar within the Club. All involved please take a bow. Also, main Sponsors of the Ball & Oskars - Joe Duffy Motor Group, The Grand Hotel and Strandum contribute hugely to making these profitable & enjoyable evenings.

Our Club for All Seasons group led by Paddy, Jay O'Toole, Aidan Relihan and Shay Early have achieved a phenomenal feat in raising the funds for the All-Weather a whole year ahead of schedule. On behalf the members we congratulate and appreciate your efforts.

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.

Sponsors are an intrinsic part of financing our Club and we would like to mention in particular our main Sponsors Joe Duffy Motor Group, DAA, Aghadoe House, T.C. Matthews, Jones Engineering, Grant Thornton and indeed all other team sponsors mentioned from the playing section reports.

### **Lotto**

Each Thursday our Lotto team of John & Betty, Kevin, Pat, 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 has been selected for the GAA's Heath Clubs programme for 2018-2019. This is a great and deserving achievement by Healthy Clubs Project Team for all their hardwork during the year. Barbara & Sarahann have provided a detailed report on their activities during the year and their plans for 2019. The Club would encourage all members to support & participate in as many of their great initiatives as possible.

### **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 has have experienced the loss of loved members of their family during the last 12 months. In particular our thoughts remain with the McEvoy, Meade, Sweeney, Lynch, Hazley, Aslett, Miller, McCormack, Meehan, Hession-Murray, Miskelly, Collins, Foley, Gibney, Carney & Le Blanc families.

## Agus ar Deireadh

I would like to greatly thank my fellow Officer, Treasurer Richard Aslett who once again has given huge commitment, expertise and diligence to his role and has been a key supporter of all initiatives and always available to help in matters big or small. Although his selection as an Umpire for future games is under review.

I can only repeat my words from last year regarding our Chairperson Paddy Miskelly. He has gathered together many people from all sections of the Club to help him realise the vision & development plans that he has set to make this the best Club in our Community & County. His drive, commitment and work ethic is second to none and has been a pleasure and inspiration to work with. We are fortunate to have someone who is willing to devote so much of his personal time to our Club. However, according to reports, his role as coach to the G4M&O is subject to much debate after failing to bring any silverware this year.

I would also like to thank the other hard-working members of the Executive whose efforts in their particular sector bring together all that is good and encapsulate the true sense of the word "Club".

To my fellow hard-working Secretaries in Juvenile Boys & Ladies- Maria & Karen, again many thanks for all your co-operation during 2018. The unseen work load you get through each week is enormous and steadily growing but always carried out in a positive and helpful manner and deserves to be highlighted.

We achieved a lot this year but still a lot to do so again the onus is on all Committees, Players, Mentors, Parents & Supporters to work together in a positive fashion with respect shown to all to achieve our Clubs goals.

Is Mise,

Fergal Mc Stay  
Club Secretary